



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## MONTHLY PRESTORMING

## DECEMBER 2019

**Shankar IAS Academy™**

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**02-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)*

1. Every year best performing 1000 participants are given an annual scholarship of Rs 5,00,000 for 8 years to prepare them for international sporting events.
2. The 3rd edition of KIYG will be conducted by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) with Assam as host State.

Which of 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 Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)*

1. It is a national level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It was set up as a mandate of the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011.
3. It aims to carry out the activities for promotion of organ donation from deceased persons, putting systems in place for organ donation and transplantation and training the needed manpower etc.

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) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Start-up Awards 2020*

1. It is the first ever National Start-up Award instituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
2. It seeks to recognize and reward outstanding start-ups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative product demonstrating measurable social impact.

Which of 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) *Mitra Shakti* is a joint military exercise between India and \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Nepal
- b. France
- c. Sri Lanka
- d. Indonesia

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

1. CGA derives his/her mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution.
2. CGA in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government 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

6) The National Pollution Control Day is observed on every year December 2nd in India, in the memory of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy Victims, and to spread awareness to fight and prevent pollution. Which of the below diseases and health problems are caused by Air Pollution?

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Stroke, Tuberculosis, Lung Cancer
- Cataract, Low birth weight
- All of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to The Ganges River Dolphin

- They are the only freshwater dolphins in the world.
- They are listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List.
- They emit an ultrasonic sound to catch their prey.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

- It is a document that allows foreigners to visit or stay in a state in India that is protected under the ILP system.
- It is issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The system is in force today in Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram.

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

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only

- 1, 2 and 3
- None

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Operation 'Clean Art' which was in news recently,

- It was the first pan India operation by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to crackdown on the smuggling of mongoose hair.
- Mongoose are listed under schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 197

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 Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX)

- It is a special-purpose financial vehicle that allows Iran to continue to sell oil and import other products or services.
- It uses a barter system, without violating U.S. sanctions.

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

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

## Answers

1. c

- The *Khelo India programme* has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.

- The 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games will start from 10th January 2020 and will continue till 22nd January.
  - The event will be held in 20 disciplines with participation of 37 states and Union Territories.
  - Khelo India programme's inaugural edition was held in New Delhi in 2018, while Pune hosted 2nd edition in 2019.
  - 2020 Games will be conducted in partnership with **Indian Olympic Association (IOA), School Games Federation of India (SGFI) & Assam as host State.**
  - The event will see a participation of over 12000 athletes and officials from all over country.
  - Every year best performing **1000** participants are given an annual scholarship of **Rs 5,00,000 for 8 years** to prepare them for international sporting events.
2. d
- National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (**NOTTO**) is a National level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
  - Government of India has set up NOTTO as a mandate of the **Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011**, for carrying out the activities for promotion of organ donation from deceased persons, putting systems in place for organ donation and transplantation and training the needed manpower etc.
  - India performs the second largest number of transplants in the world, next only to USA as per data available on the Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation.
3. c
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has announced institution of the **first ever National Startup Awards.**
  - The National Startup Awards seek to recognize and reward outstanding startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.
- The National Start-up Awards will also reward exceptional Incubators and Accelerators as key building blocks of a robust start-up ecosystem.
  - The awards for start-ups will be given in 35 areas, classified into 12 broad sectors like agriculture, education, enterprise technology, energy, finance, food, health, Industry 4.0, space, security, tourism, and urban services.
  - In addition, there are **three special awards** for startups from educational institutions, making impact in rural areas and women entrepreneurs.
  - A cash prize of **Rs 5 lakh each** will be awarded to the winning startup in each area.
  - The winner and 4 runners-up will also be given opportunities to present their solutions to relevant public authorities and corporates for potential pilot projects and work orders.
  - They will also be given priority for participation in various national and international start-up events.
  - A cash prize of Rs 15 lakh each will be awarded to one winning Incubator and one winning Accelerator as well.
4. c
- The seventh edition of **Exercise MITRA SHAKTI- 2019** aimed at enhancing interoperability and operational efficiency amongst the armies of both **India and Sri Lanka** when deployed as part of United Nations peace keeping forces commenced on 01 December at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
  - The objective of the exercise is to build and promote positive relations between armies of India and Sri Lanka through focus on sub unit level training on counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in urban and rural environment under United Nations mandate.
  - The joint training exercise also signifies the strength of India-Sri Lanka relations in the field of military cooperation and engagement, which is vital for refining the interoperability and operational preparedness.

5. a
- Controller General of Accounts derives his mandate from **Article 150** of the Constitution.
  - **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, in the **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.
  - The Office of CGA prepares monthly and annual analysis of expenditure, revenues, borrowings and various fiscal indicators for the Union Government.
6. d
- **National Pollution Control Day** is observed every year on **December 2**.
  - The aim behind the celebration of this day is to commemorate the people who lost their lives in the unfortunate incident of **Bhopal Gas Tragedy** that occurred on this day **in the year 1984**.
  - Bhopal Gas Tragedy occurred after a **highly toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas** made its way into and around the area situated near the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal.
  - According to the National Health Portal of India, every year around 7 million people globally die due to air pollution.
  - **Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Stroke, Tuberculosis, Lung Cancer, Cataract, Low birth weight, Pneumonia, Laryngeal cancers** are all the diseases and health problems are caused by Air Pollution.
7. c
- At last count, the rivers of Assam and Uttar Pradesh respectively had 962 and 1,275 Gangetic dolphins, India's national aquatic dolphin.
  - These numbers were tabled in Parliament recently by Minister of State for Environment and Forest.
  - The Ganges river dolphin can only live in freshwater.
- It is **among the four freshwater dolphins in the world**, the other three are, the '**Baiji**' in the Yangtze River in **China**, the '**Bhulan**' of the Indus in **Pakistan**, and the '**Boto**' of the Amazon River in **Latin America**.
  - The **Gangetic Dolphins** are generally **blind** and catch their prey in a unique manner. They **emit an ultrasonic sound which reaches the prey**.
  - The dolphin then registers this image in its mind and subsequently catches hold of its prey.
8. d
- In the run-up to likely introduction of the **Citizenship Amendment Bill** during the current session of Parliament, Union Home Minister assured them that the Bill would provide protection to such regions and states where the **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** is applicable, and autonomous administration has been granted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
  - An Inner Line Permit is a document that **allows an Indian citizen** to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.
  - The system is **inforce today in three Northeastern states, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram**.
  - An ILP is **issued by the state government concerned**. It can be obtained after applying either online or physically.
9. d
- **Operation 'Clean Art'** was the first pan India operation to crackdown on the smuggling of **mongoose hair** in the country.
  - The raids were carried out in U.P, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Kerala.
  - **Mongoose hair** used for the making of brushes but it is considered as an "organised crime".
  - The **mongoose is listed in Schedule II Part 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act** and any smuggling or possession of its body part is a non-bailable offence.

- The operation was carried out by the **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)**, a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change**.

10. c

- Recently, six new European Nations join Iran Barter System Opposed By U.S.
- France, UK and Germany said that Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden joined INSTEX as shareholders.
- Israel and the US criticised the move.
- Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX)**, the **bartering system** developed to allow firms to **conduct business with Iran without violating U.S. sanctions**,
- INSTEX barter mechanism **does not use the U.S. dollar**.

**03-12-2019**

1) Who among the following are listed as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** of **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**?

- Onges
- Jarawas
- Sentinelese
- Shom Pens
- Great Andamanese

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 3 and 4 only
- 3 and 5 only
- All except 1 and 2
- All of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0**

- The IMI covers vaccines for diphtheria, whooping cough and six other vaccine preventable diseases.

- The programme focuses on all children up to 10 years of age and pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the immunisation programme.

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 **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill, 2019**

- It defines e-cigarettes as electronic devices that heat a substance, which may contain nicotine and other chemicals, to create vapour for inhalation.
- Under the Bill, an exemption has been provided for the use of e-cigarettes for medication purposes.

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 the **Third Schedule of the Indian Constitution**

- Form of oaths or affirmations for President of India is given under the third schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- It requires the taker of the oath to either swear in the name of God or to solemnly affirm to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution.

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

- 1 only



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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Operating Ratio*

1. It is a measure of expenditure against revenue.
2. Lower the ratio, healthier the finances are.

Which of 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 *Fundamental Duties*

1. A court may take Fundamental Duties into account while adjudicating on a matter.
2. The concept of Fundamental Duties is taken from the erstwhile USSR.
3. All the Fundamental Duties were incorporated into Constitution of India by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/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 with respect to *Anaemia*

1. It is a condition in which the number of white blood cells is insufficient to meet physiologic needs.

2. 90–90–90 is an ambitious treatment target focuses on Anaemia Mukht Bharat.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)*

1. It is an international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years.
2. It is coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Which of 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 country recently took over the *G20 presidency* from Japan?

- a. Germany
- b. Italy
- c. India
- d. Saudi Arabia

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)*

1. It is a coalition of small island and low-lying coastal developing states across the world.
2. It functions under UNFCCC.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

### PVTGs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- Great Andamanese
- Jarawas
- Onges
- Sentinelese
- Shom Pens

2. a

- Union Government is launching nationwide vaccination drive to prevent eight diseases under Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 across the country recently.
- The government's flagship scheme is aimed at immunizing children under the age of **2 years** and pregnant women against eight vaccine preventable diseases.
- The IMI covers vaccines for **diphtheria, whooping cough**, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles, meningitis and Hepatitis B.
- Vaccines for Japanese encephalitis and hemophilus influenza are also being **provided in selected areas**.
- The IMI 2.0 aims to achieve targets of full immunization coverage in 272 districts spread over 27 States.
- The IMI 2.0 will be carried out between December 2019 and March 2020.
- The IMI 2.0 aims to achieve targets of full immunization coverage in 272 districts in 27 States and shall be implemented in the block level (652 blocks) in **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar**.

3. a

- The bill defines electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) as electronic devices that heat a substance, which may contain nicotine and other chemicals, to create vapour for inhalation.
- The bill provides for imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine of up to one lakh rupees, or both to a first time violator.
- For any subsequent offence, it says that the crime will be punishable with an imprisonment of up to three years, along with a fine of up to five lakh rupees.
- Under the Bill, no person is allowed to use any place for the storage of any stock of e-cigarettes.
- If any person stores any stock of e-cigarettes, he will be imprisoned for up to six months, or slapped with a fine of up to fifty thousand rupees, or both.
- If an authorised officer believes that any provision of the Bill has been contravened, he can search any place where trade, production, storage or advertising of e-cigarettes is being undertaken.

4. b

### Third Schedule of the Indian Constitution

Forms of Oaths or Affirmations for:

- The Union ministers
- The candidates for election to the Parliament
- The members of Parliament
- The judges of the Supreme Court
- The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India
- The state ministers
- The candidates for election to the state legislature
- The members of the state legislature
- The judges of the High Courts
- The Third Schedule requires the taker of the oath to either "**swear in the name of God**" or to "**solemnly affirm**" to "**bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution**."

5. c
- **Operating Ratio** is a measure of **expenditure against revenue**.
  - The ratio shows how efficiently an organisation is operating and how healthy its finances are.
  - **Lower the ratio, healthier the finances are.**
  - The Indian Railways' operating ratio in 2017-18 was at 98.44 per cent, the worst in the last 10 years, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India said in a report tabled in Parliament recently.
  - An operating ratio of 98.44% means that the Railways spent Rs.98.44 to earn Rs.100.
6. a
- Over the last one week, the Prime Minister, President, Vice President and Law Minister have been stressing Fundamental Duties.
  - **Fundamental Duties are not a part of original constitution**, they are added into it by the **42nd amendment Act 1976**.
  - A new **Part IVA** was added in the constitution. It incorporated the fundamental duties by inserting a new **Article 51A**.
  - These are statutory duties, **not enforceable by law, but a court may take them into account while adjudicating on a matter**.
  - The **concept** of Fundamental Duties is **taken from the Constitution erstwhile USSR**.
  - The **11th Fundamental Duty** was incorporated by the **86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002**.
7. d
- Nearly 3 out of 5 babies and children in India are anaemic, based on the findings of the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS) IV (2015-16)**.
  - **Anaemia** is a condition in which the number of **red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient** to meet physiologic needs, which vary by age, sex, altitude, smoking, and pregnancy status.
  - Iron deficiency is thought to be the most common cause of anaemia globally, although other conditions, such as folate, vitamin B12 and vitamin A deficiencies, chronic inflammation, parasitic infections, and inherited disorders can all cause anaemia.
8. c
- The **"6X6X6 strategy"** (six target beneficiary groups, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms) of the programme has been highlighted for using anaemia testing and treatment as the entry point to provide information on healthy diets.
  - The Anaemia Mukht Bharat programme aims to strengthen the existing mechanisms and foster newer strategies for tackling anemia.
9. d
- **Saudi Arabia** became the **first Arab nation to take over the G20 presidency** from Japan.
  - It will become the first Arab nation to lead this intergovernmental body.
  - It will host world leaders for a global summit in its capital on 21-22 November in 2020.
10. a
- Recently, there was an informal meeting between **BASIC** countries and **AOSIS**.
  - The **AOSIS** group has reportedly given an ultimatum to BASIC, saying that it will not support BASIC unless the major economies

come up with some sort of ambitious mitigation targets.

- The **Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** is a coalition of 44 small island and low-lying coastal developing states, including five observers.
- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** and does not function under any UN organ.
- It was formed in 1990 and its **member states include islands** in the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, and the South China Sea.
- The **main purpose** of the alliance is to **consolidate the voices of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address global warming.**

**04-12-2019**

1) With respect to **Director Identification Number (DIN)** sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements

1. It is an 8-digit unique identification number allotted to any person intending to be a Director or an existing director of a company.
2. DIN once allotted is valid for lifetime of a director until cancelled, surrendered or deactivated.
3. DIN is not specific to a person and if one acts as a director for more than one company, he/she may also get more than 1 DIN.

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Prithvi-II**

1. It is an indigenously developed surface-to-air nuclear-capable missile.
2. It is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kilograms of warheads and is powered by solid propulsion twin engines.

Which of 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 **Carbon offsetting**

1. It allows a country to help reach its own emissions reduction targets by funding emission reductions in another country.
2. The first major offsetting scheme, the U.N.'s clean development mechanism (CDM), was set up under the 1987 Montreal Protocol.

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

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

4) Which one of the following is the main objective of **Restore-L Mission** of NASA?

- a. To better understand how much water plants need and how they respond to stress
- b. To provide robotic satellite servicing to extend the lifetime of mission operations
- c. To study the dynamics of the Earth's magnetotail over a wide range of distance
- d. To accurately mapping the variations in Earth's gravity field and help in climate experiment



5) With respect to India's exercises with other countries, consider the following pairs

*Exercises – Country*

1. Surya Kiran – Nepal
2. Ekuverin – Seychelles
3. Ajeya Warrior – USA

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the 'Power of Siberia' project

1. It is the first cross-border gas pipeline between Russia and China to pump natural gas to China and Russia's far-east regions.
2. The pipeline will pass through the deltas of the Yangtze and Amur rivers in China.

Which of 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 'Artemis 1' mission

1. It is an uncrewed lunar exploration mission.
2. It will be the first integrated test of Israel's deep space exploration systems.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)*

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.
2. The World Anti-Doping Code provisions are enforced by the UNESCO's Convention.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Non-Performing Asset (NPA)*

1. A NPA is a loan or advance for which only the interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.
2. An asset which remains as NPAs for for a period of more than 12 months is termed as Doubtful assets.

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

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

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

1. It is a contagious disease that spreads easily.
2. Rotavirus Vaccine is included in Universal Immunisation Programme.
3. Rotovac 5D is a new Rotavirus Vaccine to tackle Diarrhoea.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- DIN is a unique Director Identification number allotted by the Central Government to any person intending to be a Director or an existing director of a company.
- It is an **8-digit unique identification number** which has **a lifetime validity**.
- Through DIN, details of the directors are maintained in a database.
- DIN is **specific to a person**, which means **even if he is a director in 2 or more companies, he has to obtain only 1 DIN**.
- And if he leaves a company and joins some other, the same DIN would work in the other company as well.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has deactivated 19,40,313 Director Identification Numbers (DINs) in the MCA21 Database due to non-filing of Know Your Client (KYC), as on 28.11.2019.*

2. d

- India has successfully test-fired its **indigenously developed surface-to-surface nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile** off Odisha coast recently.
- The Strategic Forces Command of the Indian Army conducted the user trial of the 350 km range missile from a mobile launcher.
- Defence sources said the missile weighs about 4,600 kg, is capable of carrying **500 to one thousand kilograms of warheads** and is thrust by **liquid propulsion twin engines**.
- Already inducted into the armoury of the defence forces in 2003, the nine-metre-tall, **single-stage liquid-fuelled**

**"Prithvi"** is the **first missile to have been developed by the DRDO** under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**.

3. b

- Carbon offsetting** allows a country to help reach its own emissions reduction targets by funding emission reductions in another country.
- Companies are also increasingly using carbon credits to offset their emissions.
- The first major offsetting scheme, the U.N.'s clean development mechanism (CDM), was set up under the **1997 Kyoto Protocol**, in which 190 countries agreed country-by-country emission reduction targets.
- The scheme was designed to help fund emission reduction projects in developing countries, while also providing offset credits to the developed world to help meet its Kyoto targets.

4. b

- NASA's Restore-L mission** is an ambitious, technology-rich endeavor to launch a robotic spacecraft to refuel a live satellite.
- The mission -- the first of its kind in low-Earth orbit -- will demonstrate a carefully curated suite of **satellite-servicing technologies**.
- It will extend satellite's lifespan – even if they were not designed to be serviced on orbit.
- These on-orbit solutions for autonomous, on-orbit satellite rendezvous and grasping, with telerobotic-enabled refueling and satellite repositioning, could dramatically reduce or eliminate the need for crewed servicing flights from Earth.

5. a

- The 14th edition of bilateral annual military exercise **SURYA KIRAN-XIV** between **Indian and Nepal** Army commenced recently at Nepal Army Battle School (NABS), Salijhandi, Rupendehi district of Nepal.
- The 13th edition of the joint military exercise was held at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand in June last year.

- Ekuverin – Maldives
  - Ajeya Warrior – UK
6. c
- Recently, Chinese and Russian Presidents inaugurated the **first cross-border pipeline between their countries, called the “Power of Siberia”**.
  - The **central aim of this gas pipeline is to pump natural gas to China and Russia’s far-east regions**.
  - **For China**, the significance of the pipeline project is that it will feed its industries, which are mostly situated in the north.
  - **For Russia**, on the other hand, the pipeline project signals the country’s pro-China sentiment.
  - From **Siberia to China’s Yangtze River delta** in Shanghai, the massive pipeline will cover 8,000 km, with 5,111 km inside China, passing through nine provinces and municipalities.
7. a
- ‘**Artemis 1**’ is the **first in a series of missions that will enable human exploration on both Moon and Mars**.
  - This **crewless NASA test mission** is integral to the US plan to land the first woman and the next man on the Moon by 2024.
  - It will be the **first integrated test of NASA’s deep space exploration systems**, the Orion spacecraft, Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and the ground systems at Kennedy Space Center.
  - ‘**Artemis 2**’, which is expected to take off in 2022 **will have an actual crew**, though it will **not be landing on the Moon**, but will take the crew around the Moon.
  - ‘**Artemis 3**’ is expected to **bring the astronauts to the lunar surface** in 2024.
  - ‘**Artemis 4**’, which is expected to take place in 2025, is to **develop a sustainable human lunar presence**.
8. b
- With around 8 months to go for the Tokyo Olympics and Indian hopes soaring with a string of impressive performances in various World Championships this year, the number of cases of doping involving Indians continues to be alarming.
- In a list released by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), bodybuilders are the prime offenders, with 60 positive tests.
  - **National Anti Doping Agency (NADA)** was set up as registered ‘**Society**’ under the **Societies Registration Act of 1890**.
  - The **primary objectives** are to **implement** anti-doping rules as per **WADA code**, regulate dope control programme, to promote education and research and creating awareness about doping and its ill effects.
  - The **World Anti-Doping Code** provisions are enforced by the **UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport**.
  - The Convention represents the first time that governments around the world have agreed to apply the force of international law to anti-doping.
  - The Convention provides the legal framework under which governments can address specific areas of the doping problem that are outside the domain of the sports movement.
  - As such, the Convention helps to formalize global anti-doping rules, policies and guidelines in order to provide an honest and equitable playing environment for all athletes.
9. b
- With NPAs on the rise, public sector banks go slow on Mudra.
  - According to the latest government data, Small business loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana have slowed down this year.
  - A **Non Performing Asset (NPA)** is a **loan or advance** for which the “**principal or interest payment**” or **both remained overdue for a period of 90 days**.
  - **Banks** are required to **classify NPAs** further into **Substandard, Doubtful and Loss assets**.

- **Substandard assets:** Assets which has remained NPA for a period **less than or equal to 12 months.**
- **Doubtful assets:** An asset would be classified as doubtful if it has remained in the substandard category for **a period of more than 12 months.**
- **Loss assets:** As per RBI, an asset is loss assets were the loan has been identified either by the bank itself or an external auditor or internal auditor that the loan amount collection is not possible, and a bank has to take a dent in its balance sheet.
- The Bank, in this case, has to write off the entire loan amount outstanding or need to make a provision for full amount which needs to write off in future.

10. d

- Recently, Bharat Biotech launched **new Rotavirus Vaccine Rotovac 5D to tackle Diarrhoea.**
- **Rotovac 5D** will be affordable and potent even at higher temperatures.
- It has been developed with close coordination with the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.
- **Rotaviruses** are the **most common cause of severe diarrhoeal disease** in young children throughout the world.
- It is very **contagious, spreading easily** from children who are already infected to other children and sometimes adults.
- **Rotavirus Vaccine is included in Universal Immunisation Programme.**

**05-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)**

1. It will be a basket of bonds issued by **Central Public Sector Undertakings/ Enterprises/ Financial Institutions/ any other government organization Bonds.**
2. **Bharat Bond ETF would be the first corporate Bond ETF in India.**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)**

1. **It is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India.**
2. **It is tasked with detecting and curbing smuggling of contraband, including drug trafficking and illicit international trade in wildlife.**
3. **It works under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance.**

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

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

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

1. **It is an intergovernmental alliance among 29 independent member countries across North American and European states.**
2. **Its headquarters is located in Brussels, Belgium.**
3. **The fundamental role of NATO is to safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by political as well as military means.**

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

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



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

4) *Global Climate Risk Index* was published annually by?

- a. UN Environment
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. Global Footprint Network
- d. None of the above

5) With respect to *India Corruption Survey 2019* released recently, consider the following statements

1. According to the survey, Rajasthan has been adjudged as the least corrupt state in India.
2. It was conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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

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

6) *State of Global Climate 2019 Report* was recently published by?

- a. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- b. World Meteorological Organization
- c. German Watch
- d. None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Formation of a New Country*

1. Anyone can declare itself a country.
2. A nation-hopeful must meet the criteria decided in Montevideo Convention.
3. UN as a body has to recognise a country.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)*

1. It is a food-grade alcohol that does not have any impurities.
2. It serves as an essential ingredient in the manufacture of cosmetics and personal care 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

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

1. It is caused by the *Falciparum* virus.
2. It is transmitted by male *Anopheles* mosquitoes.
3. *World Malaria Report 2019* is released by the WHO

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshhan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)*

1. In Price Support Scheme (PSS), physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and

**Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies.**

- 2. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme this scheme (PDPS), covers all oilseeds only for which MSP is notified.**

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

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

## Answers

1. c

- *The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently given its approval for creation and launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).*
- It will create an additional source of funding for Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Central Public Financial Institutions (CPFIs) and other Government organizations.
- Bharat Bond ETF would be the first corporate Bond ETF in the country.

### Features of Bharat Bond ETF:

ETF will be a basket of bonds issued by CPSE/CPSU/CPFI/any other Government organization Bonds (Initially, all AAA rated bonds)

- Tradable on exchange
- Small unit size Rs 1,000
- Transparent NAV (Periodic live NAV during the day)
- Transparent Portfolio (Daily disclosure on website)
- Low cost (0.0005%)

2. c

- The **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence** is the apex **anti-smuggling agency of India**, working under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes &**

**Customs, Ministry of Finance,**  
Government of India.

- It is tasked with detecting and curbing smuggling of contraband, including **drug trafficking** and **illicit international trade in wildlife** and environmentally sensitive items, as well as **combating commercial frauds** related to international trade and **evasion of Customs duty.**

3. d

- The leaders of NATO are going to meet in London to mark the 70th birthday of the organisation.
- NATO is an intergovernmental **political and military alliance** among 29 independent member countries across **North American and European states.**
- HQ - **Brussels, Belgium.**
- It was founded in 1949 for the collective defence of its members, linking the security of the United States with its European allies against the Soviet Union.
- In accordance with the Treaty, the fundamental role of NATO is to safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by **political and military means.**
- NATO is playing an increasingly important role in crisis management and peacekeeping.

4. d

- The **Global Climate Risk Index** was released recently by international environmental think tank **Germanwatch.**
- It shows that India has fallen from its 15th rank of countries hit most by climate change-induced weather phenomena in 2017, to number five in 2018.
- Japan topped the list followed by the Phillipines and Germany.
- The report says that in India, it was the 2018 monsoon that severely affected the country and contributed to its sliding to the number 5 position.

5. d

- **Gujarat** has been adjudged as the least corrupt state in India according to the **India**

**Corruption Survey-2019**, conducted by **Transparency International India (TII) and LocalCircles**.

- **Rajasthan** tops the corruption chart in India, according to the Survey.
- As per the survey, 78 per cent people in Rajasthan, participating in the survey, admitted to paying a bribe to get the work done.

6. b

- The global mean sea level of the oceans reached its highest-ever level since records began in January 1993, according to the **World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) State of Global Climate 2019 report**.
- The report was released at the Conference of Parties 25 (CoP 25) in Madrid recently.
- The report blamed the rise on the continued melting of ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland as well as climate phenomena like El Nino and La Nina.

8. c

- Alcohol manufacturers have written to NITI Aayog asking for reduction in import duty to make it cost-effective for them to import **Extra Neutral Alcohol** from global markets.
- **Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)** is the primary raw material for making alcoholic beverages.
- It is a **colourless food-grade alcohol that does not have any impurities**.
- It has a neutral smell and taste, and **typically contains over 95% alcohol by volume**.
- It is derived from different sources, sugarcane molasses and grains and is used in the production of alcoholic beverages.
- ENA also serves as an **essential ingredient in the manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products** such as perfumes, toiletries, hair spray, etc.
- It also finds industrial use and is **utilised in the production of some lacquers, paints and ink for the printing industry**, as well

as **in pharmaceutical products** such as antiseptics, drugs, syrups, medicated sprays.

9. c

- Seven states account for about 90% of the burden of malaria cases in India, according to the **World Malaria Report 2019** released by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Malaria is caused by the 'Protozoan parasite Plasmodium'**.
- **Protozoa** are **one-celled organisms** contain a nucleus and other cell structures, making them more similar to plant and animal cells.
- The **protozoa** that causes malaria grows inside red blood cells, eventually destroying them.
- Human malaria is caused by four different species of Plasmodium, P. falciparum, P. malariae, P. ovale and P. vivax.
- It is **transmitted by female Anopheles mosquitoes**, which bite mainly between dusk and dawn.

10. c

- Less than 3% of this season's sanctioned amount of pulses and oilseeds have actually been procured so far under the PM-AASHA scheme, Agriculture Ministry data show.
- **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)** is an umbrella scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.
- There are **three components** outlined under the scheme.
- **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** - Under the PSS, physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies.
- **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)** - Under the PDPS, the Centre proposes to cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified.
- **Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)** - Under this, a private



player can procure crops at MSP when market prices drop below MSP.

**06-12-2019**

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

1. Navy whose operations are restricted close to the shore, where the water is muddy, is called Blue-Water Force.
2. A navy that has the capacity to project itself over a much bigger maritime area than its maritime borders, is called Brown-Water Force.

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Parker Solar Probe**

1. It holds the second closest ever mission to the Sun after Helios 2 spacecraft.
2. WISPR instrument on the probe provides unprecedented detail on structures in the corona, solar wind, including coronal mass ejections.

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to GOAL (Going Online as Leaders)**

1. It is for empowering tribal youth to become leaders for tomorrow in the respective fields.
2. It is a digitally-enabled mentorship initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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

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

**4) 'Mekong River' flows through which of the following countries,**

1. China
2. Bhutan
3. Myanmar (Burma)
4. Laos,
5. Thailand
6. Cambodia
7. Vietnam

**Choose the correct option**

- a. 1,2,3,4,6, and 7 only
- b. 1,3,5,6 and 7 only
- c. 1,3,4,5,6 and 7 only
- d. 1,3,5,6 and 7 only

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to Heat Waves in India**

1. It is considered as heat wave when the maximum temperature crosses 40°C and 30°C in the hills and plains respectively.
2. In places where the maximum temperature reaches 45°C or more, the IMD declares a heat wave irrespective of the normal.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019*

1. It seeks to grant Indian Citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and Parsis who fled Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan due to religious persecution.
2. States protected by Inner Line Permit (ILP) and tribal areas by Fifth Schedule of the Constitution have been exempted from the Bill's ambit.

Which of 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) Which of the following is/are correct with respect to ideological differences between *Gandhi and Ambedkar*?

1. Ambedkar advocated parliamentary system of government for independent India, but Gandhi had very little respect for the parliamentary system of governance.
2. Ambedkar denounced the Vedas and other Hindu scriptures whereas for Gandhi, caste and varna are different and caste is perverse degeneration.

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution*

1. It deals with the administration and control of tribal states except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

2. Under the 6th schedule, Governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Platform of Science-based Ocean Solutions (PSBOS)*

1. It aims to promote the necessity of addressing ocean and climate issues synergistically and to encourage the incorporation of the ocean in country climate commitments and strategies.
2. It was launched during the 25th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP25).

Which of 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) *Sukapaika River* sometimes seen in the news recently is one of the several distributaries of the mighty river \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_?

- a. Feni & Tripura
- b. Mahanadi & Odisha
- c. Gantak & Uttar Pradesh
- d. Brahmaputra & Arunachal Pradesh

## Answers

1. d
- On Navy Day, the office of Defence Minister posted that, “**Indian Navy is the Formidable Blue Water Force**”.
  - In a video presentation about its capabilities, **the Navy too**, called itself a “**Formidable Blue Water Force**”.
  - **Blue Water Navy/Force** - has the capacity to project itself over a **much bigger maritime area than its maritime borders**.
  - Simply put, it is a Navy that can **go into the vast, deep oceans** of the world.
  - **Brown Water Force**- A navy whose **operations are restricted close to the shore**, where the water is muddy.
  - **Green Water Force**- A navy that can **go farther out**, ability to sustain operations on the open ocean.
2. b
- NASA's Probe Soaring near Sun reveals surprises about Solar Wind.
  - The information gathered by **NASA's Parker Solar Probe** during its first two close passes of the sun was released recently.
  - It is a **NASA's robotic spacecraft**, with the **mission of probing** and making observations **on the outer corona of the Sun**.
  - This is the **closest ever mission to the Sun** has discovered dynamic structures in the solar wind.
  - **Parker Solar Probe** now **holds the record for closest approach to the Sun by a human-made object**.
  - The **previous record** for closest solar approach was set by the German-American **Helios 2 spacecraft in April 1976**.
  - **Wide-Field Imager for Solar Probe (WISPR)** is an imaging instrument, captures solar winds, shocks and solar ejections.
- **WISPR** instrument provides unprecedented detail on structures in the corona, solar wind, including coronal mass ejections.
3. a
- **GOAL (Going Online as Leaders)** is for **empowering tribal youth to become leaders** for tomorrow in the respective fields.
  - The Project is stated to aim at identifying and mobilizing renowned people from industry (policy makers and influencers), known for their leadership skills or roles, to digitally empower and personally mentor tribal youth from tribal communities across multiple locations of India.
  - It is a **digitally-enabled mentorship initiative of Facebook** and Ministry of Tribal Affairs was not associated with the project.
4. c
- The **Mekong River** has recently acquired an **aquamarine color** that may beguile tourists but also indicates a problem caused by upstream dams, says the experts.
  - The river usually has a yellowish-brown shade due to the sediment it normally carries downstream.
  - The dam blocks much sediment from moving further downstream, which accounts for the water becoming clear, less sediment means less nutrition for plants and fish in the river, threatening the ecological balance.
  - The Mekong River connects six countries in Southeast Asia and flows through six distinct geographical regions.
  - It originates on the **Tibetan Plateau** and **flows through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam**.
  - It finally drains into the **South China Sea**.
5. b
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Govt. of Karnataka, is conducting a two-day **national workshop on Preparedness, Mitigation and Management of Heat Wave** in Bengaluru.

- A **Heat Wave** is a period of **abnormally high temperatures**, more than the normal maximum temperature.
  - **No standardized definition** of a heat wave exists and classifying a heat wave varies from country to country.
  - **WMO definition:** If 5 or more consecutive days during which the daily maximum temperature surpasses the average maximum temperature by 5 °C or more, it is called heat wave.
  - The **India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies heat waves.**
  - It **does not consider a heat wave unless the maximum temperature crosses 40°C in the plains and 30°C in the hills.**
  - Where the **normal maximum is 40°C or less,**
    1. Heat wave departure from normal – 5°C to 6°C
    2. Severe heat wave departure – 7°C or more.
  - Where the **normal maximum is more than 40°C,**
    1. Heat wave departure from normal – 4°C to 5°C
    2. Severe heat wave departure – 6°C or more.
  - In **places where the maximum temperature reaches 45°C or more, the IMD declares a heat wave irrespective of the normal.**
6. a
- The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill-2019 will provide Indian citizenship to the six minority communities from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.
  - These six communities are - Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, Christian and Sikhs.
  - The new draft of the Citizenship Amendment Bill has left out areas mentioned in the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution** in Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura, along with areas requiring Inner Line Permit, that is, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
7. c
- The two leaders differed over the nature and scope of democracy as a method of government.
  - Ambedkar advocated parliamentary system of government for independent India, but Gandhi had very little respect for the parliamentary system of governance. Gandhi believed that democracy tends to get converted into mass democracy with a propensity for domination by leaders.
  - Ambedkar was inclined towards mass democracy as it could act as a pressure on the government with the advancement of the oppressed people.
  - Ambedkar denounced the *Vedas* and other Hindu scriptures.
  - He believed that the Hindu scriptures do not lend themselves to a unified and coherent understanding, and reflect strong contradictions within and across sects.
  - And the caste system and untouchability were the manifestations of the Hindu religious scriptures.
  - On the contrary, Gandhi held that caste system in Hinduism has nothing to do with religious precepts and spirituality.
  - For Gandhi, caste and varna are different, and caste is pervasive degeneration.
8. b
- 6th schedule deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.**
  - The **Governor** is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
  - If there are different tribes in an autonomous district, the governor can divide the district into several autonomous regions.
9. c
- **Chile**, in its role as the Presidency of the **25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25)** to the **UNFCCC**, launched the **Platform for Science-Based Ocean Solutions (PSBOS).**

- The Platform aims to promote the necessity of addressing ocean and climate issues synergistically and to encourage the incorporation of the ocean in country climate commitments and strategies.
- The platform builds on the momentum of an IPCC Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) earlier this year.

10. b

- Sukapaika is one of the several distributaries of the mighty Mahanadi river in Odisha.
- It branches away from the Mahanadi at Ayatpur village in Cuttack district and flows for about 40 kilometres (km) before rejoining its parent river at Tarapur in the same district.
- Sukapaika is being choked to death gradually due to embankments.

**07-12-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)***

- 1. It is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- 2. India is not a member to UPOV.**

**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 *Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)***

- 1. It is so named since it is located around the Taj Mahal and is shaped like a trapezoid.**
- 2. The TTZ comprises monuments including three World Heritage Sites the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Qutub Minar.**
- 3. It spreads over the state of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan.**

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Exercise INDRA***

- 1. It is a joint Tri-services exercise between India and Russia.**
- 2. The Indra series of exercise began in 2003 and the first joint Tri Services Exercise was conducted in 2017.**
- 3. INDRA 2019 will be conducted simultaneously at Babina (near Jhansi), Pune, and Goa.**

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

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

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Coffee in India***

- 1. Arabica and Robusta are the two main varieties of coffee grown in India.**
- 2. There is no Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Coffee in India.**

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

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

5) Which of the following is not a Stringed Instrument?

- Kamaicha
- Tanpura
- Kanjira
- Santoor

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)*

- It is a statutory body which can only make recommendations.
- It was established in conformity with the Paris Principles.
- Prime Minister appoints the chairperson and members of the NHRC on the recommendation of a committee.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)*

- It is a nation-wide payment system facilitating one-to-one funds transfer, for even such individuals who do not have a bank account.
- A minimum of Rs 2 lakh must be transferred through the NEFT service.

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 *Ebola virus disease*

- The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and do not spreads through human-to-human transmission.
- An experimental Ebola vaccine rVSV-ZEBOV proved highly protective against the deadly virus.

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

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

9) '*Madhu app*' which was in news recently was launched in?

- Delhi
- Andhra Pradesh
- Telangana
- Odisha

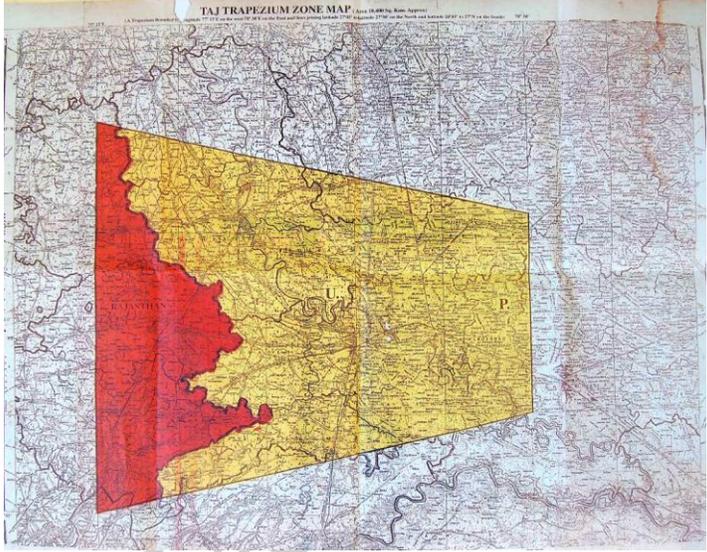
10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)*

- It is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and climate change.
- It assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per governing policy.

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

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

## Answers

1. c
- The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - UPOV was established in 1961 by the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (the “UPOV Convention”).
  - The mission of UPOV is to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society.
  - India is not a member** to UPOV.
2. a
- Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) is a defined area of 10,400 sq km around the Taj Mahal to protect the monument from pollution.
  - The Supreme Court of India delivered a ruling on December 30, 1996 regarding industries covered under the TTZ, in response to a PIL seeking to protect the Taj Mahal from environmental pollution.
  - It banned the use of coal/ coke in industries located in the TTZ with a mandate for switching over from coal/ coke to natural gas, and relocating them outside the TTZ or shutting down.
  - The TTZ comprises monuments including three World Heritage Sites the **Taj Mahal, Agra Fort** and **Fatehpur Sikri**.
  - TTZ is so named since it is located around the Taj Mahal and is **shaped like a trapezoid**.
  - The TTZ is an area of about 10,400 sq km spread over the districts of Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras and Etah in **Uttar Pradesh** and Bharatpur district of **Rajasthan**.
- 
3. d
- It is a **joint Tri-services exercise** between **India and Russia**.
  - The Indra series of exercise began in 2003 and the first joint Tri Services Exercise was conducted in 2017.
  - INDRA 2019 will be conducted simultaneously at Babina (near Jhansi), Pune, and Goa.
4. c
- In India, coffee is **traditionally** grown in the Western Ghats spread over **Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.
  - Coffee cultivation is also being expanding rapidly in the **non-traditional areas** of **AP and Odisha** as well as in the **North East states**.
  - The two main varieties of coffee viz., **Arabica and Robusta** are grown in India.
  - Arabica is mild coffee, but the beans being more aromatic, it has higher market value compared to Robusta beans.
  - On the other hand Robusta has more strength and is, therefore, used in making various blends. Arabica is grown in higher altitudes than Robusta.
  - As aggravating distress triggers suicides in the coffee heartland of Chikkamagaluru in Karnataka, growers have stepped up demand for a loan waiver and want the commodity **to**

*be brought under* the ambit of the *minimum support price (MSP) regime*.

5. c

Kanjira



6. a

- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** took cognisance of the killing of 4 men accused of raping and murdering a woman veterinarian in Hyderabad and ordered an inquiry into the police encounter.
- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** of India was established on 12 October, 1993.
- The statute under which it is established is the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993** as amended by the **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006**.
- It is a **statutory autonomous body** created under provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- In 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted the **Paris Principles on Human Rights**.
- This led to the constitution of national human rights institutions in almost every country.
- **NHRC** was established in conformity with the **Paris Principles**.
- It can **only make recommendations, without the power to enforce decisions**.

- **Selection Committee** - Tasked with appointing the chairperson and the members, the committee is dominated by the ruling party.
- It consists of the **PM, Home minister, Leaders of the Opposition in both houses, the Speaker and the Deputy-Chairman**.
- **'President'** appoints the chairperson and members of the **NHRC** on the recommendation of a committee.

7. a

- In a bid to promote digital transactions, the RBI said round-the-clock transactions will be allowed under the **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** system from December 16.
- **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** is a **nation-wide payment system** facilitating **one-to-one funds transfer**.
- Under this Scheme, individuals, firms and corporates can electronically transfer funds from any bank branch to any individual, firm or corporate having an account with any other bank branch in the country participating in the Scheme.
- **Even such individuals who do not have a bank account (walk-in customers) can also deposit cash at the NEFT-enabled branches with instructions to transfer funds using NEFT.**
- There is **no limit, either minimum or maximum**, on the amount of funds that could be transferred **using NEFT**.
- For individuals who do not have a bank account, cash remittances are restricted to a maximum of Rs. 50,000/- per transaction.
- **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** also allow individuals, companies and firms to transfer funds from one bank to another.
- A **minimum of Rs 2 lakh** must be transferred **through the RTGS** service. There is **no cap on the maximum** amount.

8. b
- A team of University of Tokyo researchers set to begin **1st Ebola vaccine clinical study in Japan**.
  - Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans.
  - The **virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission**, via direct contact.
  - It is thought that **fruit bats** of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts.
  - Burial ceremonies that involve direct contact with the body of the deceased can also contribute in the transmission of Ebola.
  - The World Health Organization (WHO) today prequalified an Ebola vaccine **rVSV-ZEBOV** which is proved highly protective against the deadly virus.
  - Hand hygiene is the most effective way to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus.
9. d
- **Odisha** Government launches '**Madhu App**' for School Students.
  - This app is aimed at helping school students in learning their lessons through videos and tutorials.
  - It is a smart e-learning app in which the students will be provided with access to video explanations of the topics they study at school.
  - It consists of video lectures in Odia language by leading subject experts and educationists.
10. d
- In 2018, 388 cases of wildlife-related crimes were registered under the **Wildlife Protection Act**, according to a reply tabled in Parliament by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
  - **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is a statutory multi-disciplinary body** established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and climate change.
- It was set up to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.
  - It also **assists and advises the Customs authorities** in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy governing such an item.
- 09-12-2019**
- 1) How a *Scheduled Commercial Bank* differs from *Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)*?
1. Unlike commercial banks, UCBs are only partly regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
  2. Unlike commercial banks which are structured as joint stock companies, UCBs are structured as co-operatives.
  3. While there is a clear distinction between a commercial bank's shareholders and its borrowers, in a UCB borrowers can double up as shareholders.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a. 1 and 2 only
  - b. 2 and 3 only
  - c. 1 and 3 only
  - d. 1, 2 and 3
- 2) Consider the following statements with respect to *PARAM Brahma*
1. It is a state of the art Super Computer built in India under National Super Computing Mission (NSM).
  2. It was deployed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- a. 1 only
  - b. 2 only
  - c. Both 1 and 2
  - d. Neither 1 nor 2

3) In which state is the Buddhist site *Kirti Jheypa Monastery* located?

- Karnataka
- Himachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Jammu and Kashmir

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tyre Pyrolysis*

- Tyre Pyrolysis refers to a technique of breaking down used tyres in the absence of oxygen.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2014 banned this practice because of the toxic emissions.

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 *Virtual Autopsy*

- In a virtual autopsy, doctors use radiation to examine the innards to reach a conclusion about the cause of death.
- A CT or an MRI machine could be used in this process.
- The practice is currently in developing mode and not in use in any other country.

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

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

6) International Mountain Day is observed on December 11 every year to spread the critical role that mountains play. Which countries does the Andes Mountains, world's longest above-water mountain range, pass through?

- Argentina, Bolivia and Ecuador
- Chile and Venezuela
- Colombia and Peru
- All of the above

7) Consider the following statements

- The armed rebellion took place in Khurda of Odisha in 1817.
- It briefly shook the foundations of British rule in the eastern part of India.
- It took place under the leadership of Baxi Jagabandhu.

Identify the revolt that correctly matches the above description

- Peasant Uprising of Rangpur, Bengal
- Santhal Rebellion
- Munda Uprising
- Paika Rebellion

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Business-to-C onsumer (B2C) E-commerce Index*

- It has been released by the World Economic Forum.
- According to the index, the Netherlands boasts the highest readiness to engage in and benefit from e-commerce.

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

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

9) 'FrogPhone' which was in news recently is,

- AI-powered drone to track and collect information about Frogs
- A Frog-like Robot to tease apart the evolution of frogs
- A solar-powered remote survey device to monitor frogs in the wild
- None of the above

10) Consider the following statements

- It is located midway along the course of the Zambezi River.
- It is a World Heritage Site.
- Locally it is known as 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' or 'The Smoke That Thunders'.

Identify the Waterfalls that correctly matches the above description

- Blue Nile Falls
- Lumangwe Falls
- Victoria Falls
- Niagara Falls

**Answers**

1. d

There are three key points of difference between scheduled commercial banks and urban co-operative banks (UCBs).

- Unlike commercial banks, UCBs are only **partly regulated by the RBI**. While their banking operations are regulated by the RBI, which lays down their capital adequacy, risk control and lending norms, their management and resolution in the case of distress is regulated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies either under the State or Central government.
- Unlike commercial banks which are structured as **joint stock companies**, UCBs are structured as **co-operatives**, with their members carrying unlimited liability.
- While there is a clear distinction between a commercial bank's shareholders and its

borrowers, in a UCB borrowers can **double up as shareholders**.

2. c

- PARAM Brahma** is a supercomputer offering a computational power of 850 TeraFlop with 1 PetaByte storage capacity.
- It is one of the supercomputers built in India under National Super Computing Mission (NSM), co-funded by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Department of Science and Technology.
- Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** and Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, are steering this mission.
- Recently, Indian PM visited the Super Computer PARAM Brahma in IISER, Pune, Maharashtra.
- The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs) are a group of premier science education and research institutes in India.

3. b

- A function which marks the 25th year of the *Kirti Jheypa Monastery* in exile was celebrated recently.
- The monastery was located in **Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh**.
- Tibetan leader Dalai Lama participated in the event.

4. a

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has pulled up 270 tyre pyrolysis units in 19 States for employing technology that is polluting and harmful to the health of workers employed.**
- Tyre pyrolysis** refers to a technique of breaking down used tyres in the **absence of oxygen**.
- Shredded tyres, at temperatures between 250° C and 500° C, produce liquid oil and gases.
- While this is considered a **safer technique than burning tyres**, pyrolysis leaves fine carbon matter, pyro-gas, oil as residue and the **inadequate management of these by-products poses health risks**.

- The **National Green Tribunal** in 2014 **prohibited** used tyres from being **burnt in the open** or being used as fuel in brick kilns, because of the toxic emissions.
  - The authority asked the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to look at ways to dispose used tyres safely.
  - Subsequently, the board issued a set of guidelines, in which **pyrolysis was recommended** as an acceptable mode.
  - More than 40% of tyre pyrolysis units were not complying with rules, the NGT observed in April 2019, after it sought a report from the CPCB.
5. b
- In a virtual autopsy, doctors use radiation to examine the innards to reach a conclusion about the cause of death.
  - A **CT or an MRI machine** could be used, in the same way that they are used to scan a living human's body.
  - According to a 2016 article titled 'The Rise of Virtual Autopsy' in the Journal of Forensic Pathology, virtual autopsy began in Sweden, but is now a "standard technique" in major centres in **Japan, the US, Australia**, and many European countries.
6. d
- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** proclaimed December 11th to be **International Mountain Day**.
  - **Mountain conservation** is a key factor for sustainable development and is **part of Goal 15 of the SDGs**.
  - '**Mountains Matter for Youth**' is the theme of this year's International Mountain Day.
  - **The Andes** is the **longest above-water mountain range** in the world and boasts some of the highest peaks.
  - **Located along the entire western coast of South America**, the Andes mountain range is about 7,242 kilometers long.
  - The **mountain range spans 7 countries**, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.
7. d
- The **majority of the Andes mountain chains are volcanic**.
  - The **highest active volcano in the world, Ojos del Salado**, which stands at 6, 900m, is found here in a remote location along the Chilean – Argentina border.
  - The **Amazon River originates** in the **Andes Mountains**.
  - **Potatoes and tomatoes**, two of the most widespread crops on our planet, **originated from the Andes**.
  - The Andes is home to **Lake Titicaca**, the highest navigable lake on the planet.
  - The **largest gold mine** in the world is Peru's Yanacocha, and almost half of the world's mined **copper** are located in the Andes.
  - The Andes Mountains comprise **3 different main climatic zones**, known as the Tropical Andes (in the north), Dry Andes (in the centre) and Wet Andes, in the south.
  - President of India recently laid the foundation stone for a memorial to mark **200 years of the Paika Rebellion**.
  - **The Paika Memorial will come up in a 10-acre plot at the bottom of Barunei Hill in Odisha's Khurda district**.
  - **The Paikas** (pronounced "paiko", literally 'foot soldiers'), were a class of military retainers had been recruited since the 16th century by kings in Odisha from a variety of social groups.
  - They render martial services in return for hereditary rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles.
  - The advent of the British and establishment of colonial rule brought new land revenue settlements, which led to the Paikas losing their estates.
  - They unfurled the banner of rebellion against the British **under the leadership of Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara** as early as 1817 to throw off the British yoke.
  - They briefly shook the foundations of British rule in the eastern part of India.

- The Paikas attacked British symbols of power, setting ablaze police stations, administrative offices and the treasury during their march towards Khurda, from where the British fled.
- The Paikas were supported by the rajas of Kanika, Kujang, Nayagarh and Ghumusar and zamindars, village heads and ordinary peasants.
- The British were initially taken aback and then tried to regain lost ground but faced stiff resistance from the rebelling Paikas.
- Many a battle ensued with some victories to the rebels, but the British finally managed to defeat them within three months.

8. b

- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) 'Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index' 2019** has been **topped by the Netherlands** for the second consecutive year.
- It measures an economy's preparedness to support online shopping.
- **India ranks 73rd** in UN index assessing e-commerce readiness.
- **Switzerland is ranked 2nd** on the list, followed by Singapore, Finland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Ireland, Germany and Australia.
- Countries are scored on the access to secure internet servers, the reliability of postal services and infrastructure, and the portion of their population that uses the internet and has an account with a financial institution or mobile-money-service provider.
- The Index shows how real and worrying the digital gap is between developed and developing countries.

9. c

- Researchers have developed a **device** that will allow scientists to **monitor frogs in the wild**.
- With **FrogPhone**, researchers can simply "call" a frog habitat.
- It is described as the **world's first solar-powered remote survey device**.

- It can be **installed at any frog pond** and which receives a 3G or 4G cellular network.
- It can send text messages with water and air temperature and battery data.
- It will reduce costs and risks, including the negative impact of human presence on the field site.
- These devices also allow for monitoring of local frog populations more frequently than before, which is important because these populations are recognised as indicators of environmental health.



The FrogPhone in its natural habitat.

10. c

- The falls, one of southern Africa's biggest tourist attractions, but now one of the **worst droughts of the century** has reduced its flow to a trickle triggering fears that climate change might destroy a major tourist attraction.
- The news comes amid the ongoing 2019 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that is being held in Madrid, Spain.
- The **Victoria Falls** also referred to as "**The Smoke that Thunders**" (locally known as 'Mosi-oa-Tunya') are fed by the **Zambezi river**.
- It is the **largest waterfall in the world**.
- It **define the boundary between Zambia and Zimbabwe** in southern Africa.
- It was declared a **World Heritage Site** in 1989.



Victoria Falls

- Due to the spray from the Falls, the Victoria Falls Rain Forest is the only place on earth that receives rainfall 24/7.
- Species of acacia, teak, ivory palm, fig, and ebony are characteristic of the forests, and the alluvial flatlands are dominated by mopane.

**10-12-2019**

**1) White Island which was recently in news is located in,**

- a. Island of Hawaii
- b. Reunion Island
- c. Australia
- d. New Zealand

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Human Development Index (HDI)**

1. The HDI reflects on inequalities, poverty, human security, and empowerment.
2. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

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

1. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is legally and functionally independent from the UN.
2. The Rome Statute, a multilateral treaty, is the foundation and governing document of the ICJ.

**Which of 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 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)**

1. The objective of EMRS is to provide quality education to Scheduled Caste(SC) and Scheduled Tribe(ST) students in remote areas.
2. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs conducts review on the progress of the EMRS.

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

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

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG)**

1. It is a global network for conservation of Asian Elephants under World Wide Fund for Nature.
2. It acts as the Red List Authority for the Asian Elephant, carrying out Red List assessments for inclusion in the IUCN Red List.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Skills Build Platform*

- It is a digital platform developed by Google.
- India is the first country where this platform has been launched.
- It will focus on personalised coaching and aims to open roles to individuals often excluded from the labour market.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Training (PMMMNMTT)*

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme with All India coverage launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD).
- It aims to universalise access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children.

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

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

8) *Jahan Jhuggi, Wahan Ghar initiative* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- Ganga Rejuvenation
- In situ slum Redevelopment
- Feeder Zone Policy
- Energy efficient homes

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

- It was established in 1999 as an international independent agency composed and funded equally by the sport movement and governments of the world.
- It is headquartered in Montreal, Canada.
- Its key activities include scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code).

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

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

10) Which of the following schemes was implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for Scheduled Tribe students in India?

- Pre-Matric Scholarships for ST students
- Post-Matric Scholarships for ST students
- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
- Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. d

- Recently White Island volcano erupted.
- It is New Zealand's most active cone volcano built by more than 150,000 years of volcanic activity.
- It is also dubbed as one of the most accessible active volcano.

2. b

- **India** climbs one spot to **129th in 2019 Human Development Index** released by UNDP.
- The **HDI** was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone.
- The **HDI** is a summary measure of average achievement in **key dimensions** of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living.
- The HDI is the '**geometric mean**' of **normalized indices for each of the three dimensions**. Earlier HDI report used the Arithmetic Mean (AM).
- The HDI simplifies and captures only part of what human development entails.
- It **does not reflect on inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, etc.**
- The report says that around 27.1 crore people in India were lifted out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16.
- However, India is the largest country constituting to 41% of world's poor according to the report.

3. d

- The Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in The Hague, defending Myanmar against charges of carrying out a genocide against its Muslim Rohingya minority.
- The Gambia, which is predominantly Muslim, went to the **ICJ** in November 2019, accusing Myanmar of genocide.
- The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** was established in 1945 after half a century of international conflict in the form of two World Wars.
- It is the **principal judicial organ of the UN**. Established through the adoption of the UN Charter and Statute of the ICJ in 1945.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- Its **official languages are English and French**.
- **ICJ** is different from the **ICC (International Criminal Court)** which is a permanent tribunal created to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.
- While ICJ is the primary judicial organ of the UN, the **ICC is legally and functionally independent from the UN**.
- The **Rome Statute**, a multilateral treaty, is the foundation and **governing document of the ICC**.

4. b

- Recently the 2nd National Level Sports Meet for students of **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** was inaugurated in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- The **objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to "Scheduled Tribe (ST)" students** in remote areas. (Not to Scheduled Caste).
- Wherever density of ST population is higher in identified Sub-Districts (90% or more), it is proposed to set up Eklavya Model Day Boarding School (EMDBS).

- The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students.
- As per the budget 2018-19, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School by the year 2022.
- The progress of implementation of the scheme are reviewed by the **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs** through periodic reports from the State Government/implementing agencies.
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** conducts review meetings during which States/UTs would be required to make presentations on the progress of their EMRSs.

5. b

- Recently, **10th Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG)** Meeting started at Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, Malaysia.
- The **IUCN -AsESG** is a global network of voluntary specialists (both scientists and non-scientists) concerned with the study, monitoring, management, and conservation of Asian Elephants.
- The overall aim of the AsESG is to promote the long-term conservation of Asia's elephants and, where possible, the recovery of their populations to viable levels.
- The **AsESG acts as the Red List Authority for the Asian Elephant**, carrying out Red List assessments for inclusion in the **IUCN Red List**.
- There are currently over 110 volunteer members from 18 countries.
- Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) that exist in 13 States.

6. a

**Scheme:**

- **Skills Build** is a digital platform developed by **IBM** enabling **holistic learning** and aligning it with Skills India initiative by Government of India.
- India is the **4th country** where this Skills Build platform has been launched, in alliance with the Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development &

Entrepreneurship (MSDE), after being launched in **UK, Germany and France**.

**Aim:**

- Skill Build will focus on personalised coaching and experiential learning and will help develop the skills required to join the workforce in these "New Collar" roles.
- Also bring untapped talent to the fore, opening roles to individuals often excluded from the labour market due to disadvantaged backgrounds, or because of lack of knowledge, skill or experience that has seen them become under-employed or unemployed.
- This Skill Build platform will also provide personal assessment for cognitive capabilities and personality via MyInnerGenius to youths/students.
- It will be accessible online through bharat skills (<https://bharatskills.gov.in>) – a Learning Management System for ITI/NSTI Students and Teachers) and free to use.

7. d

- The Central Sector Scheme of **Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers & Teaching (PMMMNTT)** was launched in December, 2014.
- It will continue till March 2020.
- The aim of this mission is **to provide quality teachers in schools and colleges, attract talented people in the education sector and improve quality in teaching**.
- The mission aims to set the teaching standard so that an organized cadre of professional teachers can be created.
- The objective of this mission is to develop innovative teaching method and high level institutional facilities in all the constituent areas of education.
- There is no international collaboration with any approved School of Education under the Scheme.

8. b

- The government has taken a decision for **in situ redevelopment** of over 378 JJ clusters

in Delhi, with a “**Jahan Jhuggi, Wahan Ghar**” initiative.

- Under the initiative, clusters located on land owned by the DDA and the land and development office would be redeveloped under **in-situ slum redevelopment (ISSR)** component of the PMAY(U).

9. d

- The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** was established in 1999 as an international independent agency composed and funded equally by the sport movement and governments of the world.
- Its key activities include scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) – the document harmonizing anti-doping policies in all sports and all countries.
- *The World Anti-Doping Agency, WADA, has recently banned Russia for four years, from participation in global sporting events, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, after accusing Moscow of falsifying data from an anti-doping laboratory.*

10. d

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** implements the following schemes for **Scheduled Tribe students** in the States/UTs in the country:-

1. **Pre-Matric Scholarships for ST students**
2. **Post-Matric Scholarships for ST students**
3. National Fellowship & Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students
4. National Overseas Scholarships for ST students for studying abroad
5. Grants in aid to Voluntary Organizations Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes
6. Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts
7. **Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India**
8. **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**

9. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)
10. Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

**11-12-2019**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Institute of Animal Health**

1. It was established by department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, under Ministry of Agriculture in 2010.
2. It will act as a nodal institute to recommend licensing of veterinary vaccines in the country

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

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

**2) Which of the following organization releases “Climate Change Performance Index”**

- a. UNFCCC
- b. United Nations Environment Assembly
- c. UNEP
- d. German Watch

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to “Definition of Farmer”**

1. It was defined in the National Policy for Farmers, drafted by M.S. Swaminathan Committee.
2. It will include all agricultural operational holders, cultivators, agricultural laborers and sharecroppers.
3. It excludes tribal families or persons who involves in shifting cultivation.

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



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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Registration Committee.

1. It is established under Insecticides Act, 1968, and works under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. The Registration Committee registers pesticides for use in the country only after satisfying about their efficacy and safety to human health, animal and environment.

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

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

5) Consider the following pairs with respect to Waterfalls and their locations

Waterfall      Location

1. Victoria      -      Zambia
2. Angel          -      USA
3. Nohkalikai   -      India

Which of the above pairs are matched correctly?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)

1. The index evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of all the parties to UNFCC.

2. Germanwatch, the NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network publish the index annually.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to UN-Habitat

1. UN-Habitat assembly is a universal body composed of the 193 member states and convenes every four years.
2. JAGA Mission won the 2019 World Habitat Award.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

1. It is not only economic but also a political alliance of countries in the Arabian Peninsula.
2. The presidency of the Supreme Council of the GCC rotates periodically among the Member States in alphabetical order.
3. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the only members of the alliance.

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

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

**9) Consider the following**

1. Aureofungin,
2. Kasugamycin,
3. Validamycin
4. Streptomycin and Tetracycline

**Which of these combination are antibiotics registered under the Insecticide Act 1968?**

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

**10) Consider the following statements with respect to Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority**

1. It provides to implement TRIPs in a way to supports the specific socio-economic interests of all the stakeholders including private, public sectors and research institutions, as well as resource-constrained farmers.
2. It is a statutory body created by an act of Parliament under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

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

**Answers**

1. c

- Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (now known as Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying) established national Institute of Animal Health in 2010.
- It aims make available facilities for quality control of veterinary vaccines and diagnostics

and to make available standards for veterinary biologicals and diagnostics

- Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) is being implemented by this Institution
- The Institute has got itself registered with statutory bodies like
  1. Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments in Animals (CPCSEA),
  2. Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC),
  3. Registration and consent renewal with UP Pollution Control Board,
  4. Institutional Bio-Safety Committee (IBSC).

2. d

- The **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** is an instrument designed by the German environmental and development organization German Watch.
- It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics.
- The Climate Change Performance Index was first published in 2005 and an updated version is presented at the UN Climate Change Conference annually.
- German watch publishes the index in cooperation with the New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network International.
- The index evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of 56 countries and the European Union (EU), which are together responsible for more than 90% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

3. a

**Definition of Farmer under National Policy for Farmers 2007**

- The term "FARMER" will refer to a person actively engaged in the economic and/or livelihood activity of growing crops and producing other primary agricultural commodities.
- It will include all agricultural operational holders, cultivators, agricultural laborers, sharecroppers, tenants, poultry and livestock rearers, fishers, beekeepers, gardeners,

pastoralists, non-corporate planters and planting laborers.

- It will also include persons engaged in various farming related occupations such as sericulture, vermiculture, and agro-forestry.
- The term will also include tribal families / persons engaged in shifting cultivation and in the collection, use and sale of minor and non-timber forest produce.

4. b

- **Registration Committee** was established under Insecticides Act, 1968, and works under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It registers insecticide after scrutinizing their formulae and verifying claims made by the importer or the manufacturer, as the case may be, as regards their efficacy and safety to human being and animals; and
- It also specifies the precautions to be taken against poisoning through the use or handling of insecticides

5. a

- Angel waterfalls is located in Venezuela

6. b

- **India among top 10** countries with higher climate performance, in this year's **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** presented at the COP25 climate summit.
- The **CCPI** is an independent monitoring tool of countries' climate protection performance.
- It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables the comparability of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.
- The index evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of **"56 countries" and the EU**.
- They together responsible for more than 90% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- **Germanwatch, the NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network** publish the index **annually**.

7. c

- **Odisha** government was awarded **'World Habitat Award 2019'** for **JAGA Mission**.
- **JAGA Mission aims at transforming the slums into liveable habitat** with all necessary civic infrastructure.
- The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, **UN-Habitat**, is the United Nations agency for human settlements.
- **UN-Habitat Assembly is a universal body** composed of the **193 member states of the United Nations** and **convenes every 4 years**.
- The **annual award** is given by **World Habitat**, a UK-based organisation, **in partnership with UN-Habitat**, in recognition of innovative, outstanding and revolutionary ideas, projects, and programmes from across the world.

8. d

- Recently, the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** leaders held their **40th Summit in the Saudi** capital Riyadh.
- **Qatar** skipped the Gulf summit, dampening hopes of a reconciliation between Doha and a Saudi-led bloc.
- The **GCC is a political and economic alliance of 6 countries** in the **Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates**.
- Established in 1981, the **GCC promotes** economic, security, cultural and social cooperation between the six states and **holds a summit every year** to discuss cooperation and regional affairs.
- The **Supreme Council** is the **top decision-making** and the **highest authority** of the organization.
- Its **presidency rotates periodically** among the Member States **in alphabetical order**.

9. c

- **Aureofungin, Kasugamycin, Validamycin and Streptomycin & Tetracycline** combination are **antibiotics**

in crops which are registered under the **Insecticide Act 1968**.

- It is for use as **pesticides to combat certain fungal and bacterial diseases in plants**.
- The use of above pesticides is regulated under the **Insecticide Act 1968**.

10. a

- Recently, a document which **PepsiCo** India cited to support its charges against **Gujarat potato farmers** earlier this year is being revised by the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA)**, following complaints from major farmers groups.
- In order to provide for the establishment of an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants it has been considered necessary to recognize and to protect the rights of the farmers in respect of their contributions made at any time in conserving.
- The Govt. of India enacted "**The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001**" adopting sui generis system.
- The legislation is in conformity with **International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), 1978**.
- The legislation recognizes the contributions of both commercial plant breeders and farmers in plant breeding activity.
- It also provides to **implement TRIPs** in a way that supports the specific socio-economic interests of all the stakeholders including private, public sectors and research institutions, as well as resource-constrained farmers.
- To implement the provisions of the Act the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, '**Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**' established the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority** in 2005.

- It is a **statutory body** created by an act of Parliament under **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

**12-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **RISAT-2BR1**

1. It is a radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg.
2. It will provide services in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management.
3. It was launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

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

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

2) Consider the following statements

1. He was the editor of the weekly "India" which had the motto of the three slogans of the French Revolution, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.
2. He also published and edited journals like Vijaya.
3. He was against the caste system and declared that there were only two castes men and women.

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above descriptions:

- a. B.R. Ambedkar
- b. Jyotiba Phule
- c. Subramania Bharathi
- d. Raja Ram Mohan Roy

3) **USMCA trade deal** sometimes seen in the news recently aims to replace which of the following?

- North American Free Trade Agreement
- Trans Pacific Partnership
- MERCOSUR Agreement
- South Asian Free Trade Agreement

4) Which of the following activities is/are *not* the main sources of heavy metal pollution in rivers of India?

- Mining
- Milling
- Plating and surface finishing industries

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) In order to simplify documentation for exports and imports through digitization, Department of Revenue, CBIC have taken several initiatives. Which of the following is not among them?

- PCS 1X
- E-Sanchit
- PRAGATI
- UMANG
- Single Window Interface for Trade (SWIFT)
- Import Data Processing and Management System (IDPMS)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 2, 3 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 5 and 6 only
- 1, 2, 4 and 6 only
- All of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rare Earth Elements*

- All rare earth elements are Metals.
- They have many similar properties and are referred as "rare earth oxides".

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 *Nehru-Liaquat pact*

- It is also known as the Delhi Pact, signed between India, Pakistan and the British.
- It solemnly agreed that each shall ensure complete equality of citizenship, irrespective of religion.

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 *Delhi Dialogue XI*

- It is an annual event to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and SAARC countries.
- The theme for this year's Dialogue is "Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific".

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 *The Arctic Council*

1. It is a high level intergovernmental body set up by the Ottawa declaration.
2. The Membership and the Observer status in the Arctic Council is limited to only Arctic states.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi)*

1. It is an app based calling experience in smartphones which uses high speed Internet connection, available via broadband.
2. The calls can be made using the mobile phone number.
3. It helps to connect when cellular service is not available or in areas having poor signal issues, like dropped calls.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## Answers

1. d

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its fiftieth flight (**PSLV-C48**), successfully launched RISAT-2BR1 along with nine commercial satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota recently.

- It is an important milestone in the history of PSLV by successfully launching its **50th mission**.
- RISAT-2BR1 is a **radar imaging earth observation satellite** weighing about **628 kg**.
- The satellite will provide services in the field of **Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management**.
- The mission life of RISAT-2BR1 is **5 years**.

2. c

- **C. Subramaniya Bharathiyar** was a poet, freedom fighter and social reformer from Tamil Nadu.
- He was known as **Mahakavi Bharathiyar** and the laudatory epithet Mahakavi means a great poet.
- He is considered as one of India's greatest poets. His songs on nationalism and freedom of India helped to rally the masses to support the Indian Independence Movement in Tamil Nadu.
- Bharathi was essentially a lyrical poet. "*Kannan Pattu*" "*Nilavum Vanminum Katrum*" "*Panchali Sabatam*" "*Kuyil Pattu*" are examples of Bharathi's great poetic output.
- He published the sensational "**Sudesa Geethangal**" in 1908.
- He was also **against caste system**. He declared that there were only two castes—men and women and nothing more than that.
- "*India*" was the first paper in Tamil Nadu to publish political cartoons.
- "**India**" saw the light of the day in May, 1906. It declared as its motto the three slogans of the French Revolution, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.
- It blazed a new trail in Tamil Journalism. In order to proclaim its revolutionary ardour, Bharathi had the **weekly** printed in red paper.
- He also published and edited a few other journals like "**Vijaya**".

- Above all, he himself had removed his sacred thread. He had also adorned many Dalits with sacred thread.
  - He used to take tea sold in shops run by Muslims. He along with his family members attended church on all festival occasions. He advocated temple entry of Dalits.
3. a
- **USMCA (United States Mexico Canada Agreement)** is considered to be a “new” **NAFTA** because it updates the trade agreement that was signed for the U.S., Canada and Mexico way back in 1994.
  - NAFTA spelled out all the rules for trade among the three North American nations.
  - Now, USMCA updates that agreement.
  - While USMCA is expected to create some new jobs by strengthening the rules of engagement for doing business across the borders, it also boosts intellectual property protections for creators and businesses, especially for digital products.
4. d
- Samples taken from two-thirds of the water quality stations spanning India’s major rivers showed contamination by one or more heavy metals, exceeding safe limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards.
  - Iron emerged as the most common contaminant with 156 of the sampled sites registering levels of the metal above safe limits. None of the sites registered arsenic levels above the safe limit.
  - The other major contaminants found in the samples were lead, nickel, chromium, cadmium and copper.
  - The main sources of heavy metal pollution are **mining, milling, plating and surface finishing industries** that discharge a variety of toxic metals into the environment.
5. b
- **UMANG** (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is envisaged to make e-governance.
  - It is developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to drive Mobile Governance in India.
- In order to simplify documentation for exports and imports through digitization, Department of Revenue, CBIC have taken several initiatives like
1. SWIFT ( Single Window Interface For Trade )
  2. Adoption of Digital Signature
  3. 24x7 Customs Clearance – for facilitated Bills of Entry and factory stuffed containers and goods exported under free Shipping Bills at select ports
  4. Import Data Processing and Management System (IDPMS) – jointly launched with RBI to facilitate efficient data processing for payment of imports and effective monitoring
  5. E-Sanchit
  6. Two new IT Modules ICEDASH (Ease of doing business monitoring dashboard) and ATITHI app for electronic filing by passengers for baggage
  7. PCS 1X which is a platform for port related processes developed by Indian Ports Association.
6. c
- The **United States Army** plans to fund the construction of a **Rare Earths processing facility** to secure the domestic supply of minerals that are used to make military weapons and electronics.
  - The decision comes after China threatened to stop exporting Rare Earth materials to the US.
  - Rare earth elements are a **group of 17 chemical elements** that occur together in the periodic table.
  - The group consists of yttrium and the 15 lanthanide elements (lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, samarium, europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, and lutetium).
  - The **rare earth elements are all metals**, and the group is often **referred to as the "rare earth metals."**
  - These metals **have many similar properties**, and that often causes them to be found together in geologic deposits.

- They are **also referred to as "rare earth oxides"** because many of them are typically sold as oxide compounds.
7. b
- The debate on the **Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB)** in Parliament has included multiple references to the **Nehru-Liaquat Pact**.
  - The Nehru-Liaquat Pact, also known as the **Delhi Pact**, was a **bilateral agreement signed between India and Pakistan**.
  - It was **signed between India and Pakistan on April 8, 1950**.
  - The **Governments of India and Pakistan solemnly agree that each shall ensure**, to the minorities throughout its territory,
    1. complete equality of citizenship, irrespective of religion,
    2. a full sense of security in respect of life, culture, property and personal honour,
    3. freedom of movement within each country and
    4. freedom of occupation, speech and worship, subject to law and morality.
  - Members of the minorities shall have equal opportunity with members of the majority community to participate in the public life of their country, to hold political or other office, and to serve in their country's civil and armed forces.
  - Both Governments declare these rights to be fundamental and undertake to enforce them effectively.
8. b
- The Ministry of External Affairs will host the **6th Indian Ocean Dialogue** and **Delhi Dialogue XI** at the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi on December 13 and 14, 2019.
  - For the first time, these two Track 1.5 dialogues, which are key elements of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and the India-ASEAN calendars respectively will be held consecutively.
  - **Delhi Dialogue is an annual event** to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement **between India and ASEAN**.
- The **theme** for this year's Delhi Dialogue is "**Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific**".
  - It is being organized **organised by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** in partnership with the **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**.
9. a
- The Arctic Sea Ice, Greenland's ice sheet melting seven times faster than in 1990s, according to data by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
  - That means sea level rises are likely to reach 67cm by 2100, about 7cm more than the IPCC's main prediction.
  - Such a rate of rise will put 400 million people at risk of flooding every year, instead of the 360 million predicted by the IPCC, by the end of the century.
  - **The Arctic Council is a high level intergovernmental body set up in 1996 by the Ottawa declaration**.
  - It is to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States together with the indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants.
  - **The Council has the 8 circumpolar countries** - Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), Canada, US and Russia) **as member states**.
  - It is mandated to protect the Arctic environment and promote the economies and social and cultural well-being of the indigenous peoples whose organizations are permanent participants in the council.
  - **Observer status** in the Arctic Council is **open to Non-Arctic states, Non-governmental organizations, Non-littoral states** as well as to Intergovernmental and Inter-Parliamentary organizations.
  - With 6 new countries inducted as observers in May 2013 the Arctic Council currently has 12 observers.

- **India was re-elected as an Observer** to the Arctic Council in its recent ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi, Finland in May 2019.
- 13 other intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary organisations like the UN Environment Programme, UN Development Programme and 12 other NGOs also enjoy the Observer status.

10. b

- **Bharti Airtel**, has introduced **Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi)**, a first for India.
- **Airtel Wi-Fi calling** claims to enhance indoor voice calling experience for smartphone customers.
- At the moment the service is limited to Delhi-NCR users with compatible devices.
- Wi-Fi Calling is **aimed especially for areas where cellular networks are not strong**.
- It uses **high speed Internet connection, available via broadband**, to make and receive high definition (HD) voice calls.
- Users don't have to pay extra for these calls as it is using a Wi-Fi network.
- The **call can be made from one mobile number to another** (like normal calls), and **not using an app**.
- Keeping VoLTE switched on is not essential.
- Wi-Fi calls are free, even while traveling internationally.

**13-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian spiny-tailed lizard*

1. It is found mainly in the Western Ghats region.
2. Unlike any other lizard in the Indian subcontinent, spiny-tailed lizards are vegetarians.
3. Unlike most other lizard species which live in colonies, these creatures lead independent solitary lives.

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

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

2) **Rajya Sabha Chairman has recently converted an informal group of MPs in to an adhoc committee to study which of the following issues?**

- a. Fake Encounters
- b. Anglo Indian Reservation
- c. Predatory Pricing in e-commerce
- d. Pornography in Social Media

3) **With respect to Ad Hoc Committees, consider the following statements**

1. They are appointed only to consider and report on a particular Bill.
2. They cease to exist as soon as they complete the task assigned to them.

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

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

4) **The autonomous region of Bougainville which has recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of becoming independent from which of the following countries?**

- a. Falkland
- b. Tasmania
- c. Suriname
- d. Papua New Guinea

5) *V.S. Sirpurkar Commission* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- Gujarat Riots 2002
- Hyderabad Encounters 2019
- Keezhadi Excavation 2019
- Unnao Rape Case 2019

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

- IIP data is compiled and published by CSO on quarterly basis.
- It uses primary data which is sourced entirely by the CSO.
- Electricity generation from renewable energy sources has not been included under the 'Electricity' sector.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Assam Accord*

- "Implementation of Assam Accord Department" is the nodal Department for the implementation of the various clauses of Assam Accord.
- The entrants between 1961 and 1971 were denied voting rights for ten years but would enjoy all other rights of citizenship.

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 *Trakea* which was in news recently

- It is a software aimed at ensuring security and a tamperproof tracking system for forensic reports.
- The system uses barcoding features to maintain the secrecy of the samples.
- Tamil Nadu police is the first in India to adopt Trakea to make forensic reports tamper-proof.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

9) '*DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver*' which was in news recently is,

- The Tesla's new Cybertruck
- Mercedes-Benz battery-powered articulated bus
- All-electric commercial aircraft
- None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Anglo-Indian* in the Constitution of India

- The Parliament has recently passed 126th constitution amendment bill which removed the provision for nomination of Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- Anglo-Indian is a citizen of mixed Indian, through both Paternal and Maternal lines.

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

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

## Answers

1. a

- The Indian spiny-tailed lizard is found mainly in the **Thar desert in Rajasthan**.
- Unlike most other lizard species which lead independent solitary lives, these creatures **live in colonies**.
- Unlike any other lizard in the subcontinent, spiny-tailed lizards are **vegetarians**, an unusual dietary specialisation in a desert with scant rainfall and sparse plant life.
- Unlike other herbivores, the spiny tailed lizards lack the teeth to chew their greens.



2. d

- Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu has recently converted an informal group of MPs constituted to study issues related to **pornographic content on the Internet and social media platforms** into an **ad hoc committee**.

3. b

- *Ad hoc* committees can be divided into two categories, that is, **Inquiry Committees** and **Advisory Committees**.
- **Inquiry Committees** are constituted from time to time, **either by the two Houses** on a motion adopted in that behalf, or by **the Speaker / Chairman**, to inquire into and report on specific subjects.
- **Advisory Committees** include select or joint committees on bills, which are appointed to consider and report on **particular bills**.
- These committees are distinguishable from the other ad hoc committees in as much as they

are concerned with bills and the procedure to be followed by them is laid down in the Rules of Procedure and the Directions by the Speaker / Chairman.

4. d

- The Autonomous Region of **Bougainville**, a chain of islands that lie 959 kilometres northwest of **Papua New Guinea's** (PNG) capital, Port Moresby, has voted unequivocally for independence.
- The referendum saw 85 per cent voter turnout during three weeks of voting, with 97.7 per cent of voters choosing independence from Papua New Guinea over the second option, which was remaining, but with greater autonomy from PNG.
- The referendum, however, is **non-binding**.
- The ultimate outcome will be determined by a vote in Papua New Guinea's National Parliament following negotiations between the Papua New Guinean government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.



5. b

- The Supreme Court has recently set up an inquiry commission led by its former judge, **Justice V.S. Sirpurkar**, to probe the circumstances of the police 'encounter' killing of four persons accused in the gang-rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad.

6. d
- Index of Industrial Production data or IIP is an index that tracks manufacturing activity in different sectors of an economy.
  - The IIP measures the industrial production for the period under review and is compiled and published by **CSO, every month.**
  - The Central Statistical Organisation (**CSO**) operates under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
  - Electricity, crude oil, coal, cement, steel, refinery products, natural gas, and fertilisers are the **8 core industries** that comprise about 40% of the weight of items included in the IIP.
  - **Electricity generation from renewable energy sources has been included under the 'Electricity' sector.**
  - Mining, manufacturing, and electricity are the **3 broad sectors in which IIP constituents fall.**
  - The **CSO uses secondary data** to reach the monthly IIP number.
  - The **data is sourced from various agencies in different ministries or departments** of the government.
  - The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) is the source for the major chunk of data for the calculation.
7. b
- The debate on the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) passed by Parliament has repeatedly flagged the alleged violation of **the Assam Accord** by the new law.
  - The **Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement** signed by the Governments of India and Assam, and the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) in New Delhi on August 15, 1985.
  - All those foreigners who had entered Assam between 1951 and 1961 were to be given full citizenship, including the right to vote.
  - Those who had done so after 1971 were to be deported.
- The **entrants between 1961 and 1971 were to be denied voting rights for ten years but would enjoy all other rights of citizenship.**
  - For recognition as citizens, the **Accord sets March 24, 1971 as the cutoff date.**
  - As per **clause 15** of the **Assam Accord** the **"Ministry of Home Affairs"** is the **nodal Ministry** for the **implementation** of the **various clauses of Assam Accord.**
  - To implement the various Clauses of Assam Accord a new Department has been established in the name of **"Implementation of Assam Accord Department"** during the year 1986.
  - The **Implementation of the Assam Accord Department "only monitors"** the works implemented under various clauses of the Assam Accord.
8. a
- **Haryana Police** claims it is the **country's 1st police force to have adopted a unique barcoding software "Trakea"**.
  - It to ensure that thousands of forensic reports that form the backbone of the criminal investigation system and subsequent trials in the courts of law, are not tampered with.
  - **"Trakea"** ensures foolproof security of the samples collected from the scene of crime, and the forensic analysis reports.
  - The system uses the feature of **two-stage barcoding to maintain the secrecy of the samples.**
  - Due to the unique barcoding, only the authorised investigating officers and forensic science experts shall be able to track the crime exhibits and scientific examination reports, reducing the chances of tampering/leakage of the report at any stage.
9. c
- The **"world's first all-electric commercial aircraft", 'de Havilland Canada DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver'** has completed a short flight.

- The “ePlane” operated by Harbour Air, North America’s largest seaplane operator, and magniX, took off from Vancouver in Canada.
  - The 6-passenger DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver seaplane, with a 750-horsepower propulsion system **produces zero emissions**.
  - According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA),
    1. Air transport contributes up to 2% of global manmade carbon dioxide emissions.
    2. Existing technologies cannot help the aviation industry make significant reductions in emissions and,
    3. This is where electric and hybrid-electric systems comes in.
10. d
- Recently, Parliament passed the **Constitution (126th Amendment) Bill**, extending reservation for SC/STs but **doing away with the provision for nomination of Anglo Indians to Lok Sabha and some state Assemblies**.
  - The term Anglo-Indian first appeared in the Government of India Act, 1935.
  - In the present context, **Article 366(2) of the Constitution Of India states**: “An Anglo-Indian means a **person whose father** or any of whose **other male progenitors** in the **male line** is or was of European descent but who is domiciled within the territory of India and is or was born within such territory of parents habitually resident therein and not established there for temporary purposes only.”
  - It is **traced only through Paternal (male) lines**.
  - According to the **10th Schedule of the Constitution**, Anglo-Indian members of Lok Sabha and state Assemblies can take the membership of any party within 6 months of their nomination.
  - But, once they do so, they are bound by their party whip.
  - The Anglo-Indian members enjoy the same powers as others, but they can not vote in the Presidential election because they are nominated by the President.

- Under the article 331, the President of India is authorised to nominate 2 members of the Anglo Indian community (if not adequately represented).
- In the same way the Governor of the state is authorised to nominate 1 Anglo Indian in the lower house of the State Legislature (in case of under representation).

**14-12-2019**

**1) Which of the following is not one among the three main components of Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)?**

- a. Built Environment Accessibility
- b. Transportation System Accessibility
- c. Good education and employment Accessibility
- d. Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility

**2) Consider the following statements**

1. **Article 371 K grants special status to the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh.**
2. **To meet the aspirations of the people of backward regions of the respected state is the only intention behind granting special status to some states.**

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

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

**3) SEAD initiative sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?**

- a. Energy Efficiency
- b. Genetically Modified Crops
- c. Nuclear Weapon free world
- d. Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Economic Census*

1. It is conducted every six years.
2. 7th National Economic Census is being conducted entirely on a digital platform for the first time in India.
3. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in collaboration with Common Service Centres Network (CSCN) carry out the 7th census.

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

5) *Talabira village* sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following states?

- a. Sikkim
- b. Odisha
- c. Karnataka
- d. Madhya Pradesh

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)*

1. It is established as a Registered Society under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860.
2. It provides consultancy services even to other countries of 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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *The Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019*

1. The bill provides for awarding death sentence for offences of rape and gangrape and expediting trials of such cases to within 4 months.
2. There is no such provision in cases of harassment of women through email, social media, or in digital mode in this bill.

Which of 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 *Citizenship Amendment Law*

1. Section 6 of the Citizenship Act states a certificate of naturalisation can be granted to a person who is not an illegal immigrant and has resided in India continuously for 12 months before making an application. Additionally, the person must have lived in India for at least 5 years.
2. For those who came after December 31, 2014, the regular route of seeking refuge in India will apply.

Which of 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) 'Virtual Police Stations' in educational institutions was inaugurated recently in,

- a. Delhi
- b. Kerala

- c. Andhra Pradesh
- d. Punjab

10) Consider the following statements with respect to UNESCO Convention on World Heritage

1. On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention, the Committee adopts the Budapest Declaration on World Heritage.
2. “Nuad Thai massage” added as a part of its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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

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

## Answers

1. c

- *The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has recently informed the Lok Sabha that the deadline for the government’s Accessible India campaign that aims at making public spaces friendly for persons with disabilities has been extended due to its slow progress.*
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide Campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

It has the following three important components:

1. **Part A: Built Environment Accessibility**
2. **Part B: Transportation System Accessibility**
3. **Part C: Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility**

- The original deadlines under the Accessible India campaign were July 2016 for conducting an accessibility audit of 25-50 of the most important government buildings in 50 cities and making them completely accessible and March 2018.

2. d

- *The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is recently holding consultations with the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh to grant them “special status” on the lines of Article 371 of the Constitutions.*
- **Special Provisions for Some States**
- Articles 371 to 371-J in Part XXI of the constitution contain special provisions for twelve states viz., Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka.
- The intention behind them is **to meet the aspirations** of the people of backward regions of the states or **to protect the cultural and economic interests of the tribal people** of the states or **to deal with the disturbed law and order condition** in some parts of the states or to protect the interests of the local people of the states.
- Originally, the constitution did not make any special provisions for these states.
- They have been incorporated by the various subsequent amendments made in the context of reorganisation of the states or conferment of statehood on the Union Territories.

3. a

- The **Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) Initiative** is a **voluntary collaboration** among governments working to promote the manufacture, purchase, and use of energy-efficient appliances, lighting, and equipment worldwide.
- SEAD is an initiative under the **Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM)** and a task of the **International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC)**.
- As part of “Energy Conservation Week”, being celebrated from 9th to 14th December 2019,

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, conducted an International Workshop on 12-13th December 2019 on “**Energy Efficient Cooling**” at Scope Convention Centre, New Delhi.

- The two-day international workshop was organised in association with International Energy Agency (IEA) under **SEAD initiative of Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM)**.

4. c

- The seventh economic census was recently launched in the national capital territory of Delhi.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has tied up with **Common Service Centres Network (CSCN)**, a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, to carry out the census.
- **For the first time**, the entire census is being conducted on a digital platform by the use of an application which will ensure high accuracy and data security.
- The national economic census is conducted **every five years** and is crucial for framing of policies and planning for the government and other organisations.
- The process of the economic census was first held in 1978.
- This is the **seventh census** which will provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural aspects of all establishments in the country.
- The census will provide valuable insights into geographical spread and clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern and persons engaged of the establishments.

5. b

- Around 40,000 trees have been recently cut in the **Talabira village** of **Odisha’s** Sambalpur district to make way for a coal mine.
- The project is being steered by the **Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC)** India Ltd in Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts.

- The village residents had formed an organisation called **Talabira Gramya Jungle Committee** and had appointed a guard, paying him three kilograms of rice per family for protecting the forest.
- The large-scale felling of trees in Sambalpur and Jharsuguda Forest Divisions has sparked debates among environmentalists.

6. c

- **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** is one of the largest heritage organizations of the world with over 190 chapters across India.
- It was founded in 1984 in New Delhi with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India.
- It is established as a **Registered Society** under the **Societies’ Registration Act, 1860**.
- Its motto is ‘**Dedicated to Conservation.**’
- It was awarded a **special consultative status** for **United Nations Economic and Social Council** in 2007.
- **INTACH to provide consultancy services for Post-Earthquake reconstruction of Cultural Heritage sites in Nepal.**
- The government of India has deployed INTACH to provide consultancy services for Post-Earthquake reconstruction of 11 Cultural Heritage sites in Nepal.

7. d

- The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the **Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019** (Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2019).
- The bill provides for awarding **death sentence for offences of rape and gangrape and expediting trials of such cases to within 21 days** (from the existing 4 months).
- The AP Disha Act also prescribes **life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children** and includes Section 354 F and 354 G in IPC.
- At present, no such provision exists in the Indian Penal Code.

- In the AP Disha Act, 2019, **in cases of harassment of women through email, social media, digital mode or any other form**, the guilty shall be **punishable with imprisonment**.
  - The imprisonment will be for a term which may extend to two years on first conviction and with imprisonment for a term which may extend to four years on second and subsequent conviction.
  - A **new Section 354E** 'Harassment of Women' is being **added in Indian Penal Code, 1860**.
8. c
- The Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) became law after receiving the President's assent.
  - At least three states Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal have said they will not implement the new citizenship law, and legal challenges have been made in the Supreme Court.
  - **Section 6 of the Citizenship Act** states a certificate of naturalisation can be granted to a person who is not an illegal immigrant and has resided in India continuously for 12 months before making an application. Additionally, in the 14 years before the 12-month period, the person **must have lived in india for at least 11 years (relaxed to 5 years for the categories covered under the new amendment)**.
  - For those **who came after December 31, 2014, the regular route of seeking refuge in India will apply**.
  - If they are regarded as **illegal immigrants**, they **cannot apply for citizenship through naturalisation, irrespective of religion**.
9. c
- **Virtual Police Station** has been inaugurated in **Andhra Pradesh**.
  - This is the first such facility set up at **Andhra University**.
  - The initiative is expected to **help bridge the gap between students and the police department**.
- This is a friendly policing initiative which brings students closer to the police. Students can send their complaints through an email.
  - This has been initiated, as many students, especially girls are falling prey to different forms of crimes, and are not approaching the police due to social stigma.
  - The AU facility is seen as a pilot project and will later be replicated at other educational institutions.
10. d
- UNESCO, the United Nations agency for education, culture and science has recognised the **"Nuad" Thai massage** as part of its **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** on its recent meeting held in Bogota, Columbia.
  - The form of massage is one among over **20 elements that have been chosen for inclusion in the list this year**.
  - The other elements include Irish harping, Portugal's Carnival of Podence, traditional Turkish archery and Slovakia's wire craft and art.
  - Till date, this **list includes 13 intangible cultural heritage items from India**, the **most recent** addition was made in 2017 when **Kumbh Mela** was added to the list.
  - The Nuad massage teachings focus on directing blood circulation around problem areas that help in solving muscle aches.
  - As per the UNESCO website, Nuad is regarded as part of the art and science of traditional Thai healthcare.
  - It is a non-medicinal, manual therapy that involves bodily manipulations.
  - In 2002, on the occasion of the **30th Anniversary of the Convention**, the Committee adopts the **Budapest Declaration on World Heritage**.
  - It invites all stakeholders to support World Heritage conservation through **4 key Strategic Objectives** (the '4Cs'): **Credibility, Conservation, Capacity building and Communication**.



**16-12-2019**

1) “*StrandHogg*” sometimes seen in the news recently is?

- Dwarf Planet orbiting in the Kuiper Belt
- An Epidemic rapidly spread in East African region
- The World’s fastest Super Computer
- None

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Ganga Council*

- The council was constituted in 2016 to oversee the cleaning of the Ganga and is supposed to meet at least once a year.
- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation will be the ex-officio Chairperson of National Ganga Council.

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 *Great Pacific garbage patch*

- It is a gyre of marine debris particles in the North Central Pacific Ocean.
- The Eastern Garbage Patch lies between Hawaii and California, and the Western Garbage Patch extending eastward from Japan to the Hawaiian Islands.

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

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

4) “*Nightingale Site*” sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following?

- Russia
- Antarctica
- Asteroid Ryugu
- Asteroid Bennu

5) Consider the following statements

- Meteorites – Objects in space ranges from dust grains to small asteroids
- Meteoroids – Fireballs or Shooting stars
- Meteors – Survived meteoroid which hits the ground.

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

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

6) Consider the following about *Hydrogen Fuel Cell*

- Hydrogen is a clean fuel that, when consumed in a fuel cell, produces only water.
- It relies on the constant supply of fuel and oxygen and does not store energy.

Select the correct code

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

7) Which of the following is correct about Asset Reconstruction Company?

- ARCs are in the business of buying bad loans from banks.

2. **The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up ARCs in India.**
3. **ARCs have to maintain a capital adequacy ratio of 10% of its risk weighted assets.**

Select the correct code

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

8) **Which of the following is INCORRECT about Bharat Bond Exchange Traded fund (ETF)?**

- a. Bharat Bond ETF is an open ended Target Maturity Exchange Traded Bond Fund that seeks to track the returns provided by Nifty BHARAT Bond Index
- b. The move will help public-sector companies raise funds through debt instruments and further develop domestic capital markets
- c. Bharat Bond ETF is the first corporate bond ETF in the country
- d. It doesn't have a fixed maturity date

9) **Match the following**

1. **Beirut – Syria**  
2. **Mindanao Island – Indonesia**  
3. **Whanganui – Thailand**

Select the correct code

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

10) **Easter Island sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following?**

- a. Pacific Ocean  
b. Atlantic Ocean

- c. Arctic Ocean  
d. Indian Ocean

### Answers

1. d

- The **Union Home Ministry** has recently sent an alert to all States warning them about the vulnerability of the Android operating system to a **bug** called '**StrandHogg**' that **allows real-time malware applications to pose as genuine applications and access user data of all kind.**
- While all versions of Android, including Android 10, are vulnerable to this bug, it may not be apparent to the affected users that malware applications are already on board their device.
- These malware can then potentially listen to their conversations, access photo album, read/send messages, make calls, record conversations and get login credentials to various accounts.
- This apart, things that such malware can access include private images, files, contact details, call logs, and location information.

2. a

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently chaired the **first meeting** of the **National Ganga Council** in Kanpur.
- The council was constituted in 2016 to oversee the cleaning of the Ganga and is supposed to meet **at least once a year** with the **Prime Minister chairing the session.**

3. c

- The **Great Pacific garbage patch**, also referred to as the **Pacific trash vortex**, is a gyre of marine debris particles in the **North Central Pacific Ocean.**
- The collection of plastic and floating trash originates from the Pacific Rim, including countries in Asia, North America, and South America.
- The patch is actually "two enormous masses of ever-growing garbage" -- the "**Eastern**

**Garbage Patch**" lies between **Hawaii and California**, and the "**Western Garbage Patch**" extending eastward from **Japan to the Hawaiian Islands**.

- An ocean current connects the two patches.
- The vortex is characterized by exceptionally high concentrations of plastic, chemical sludge, wood pulp, and other debris trapped by the currents of the North Pacific.

4. d

- **NASA** have recently identified the target area, known as the "**Nightingale site**" to collect samples from an asteroid and return to Earth.
- The site is just 16 metres across and sits inside a large crater in **Bennu's northern hemisphere**.

#### **Asteroid Bennu**

- The Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) was launched by NASA in 2016.
- Its target is Near-Earth Asteroid called Bennu.
- It will be NASA's first to collect samples from an asteroid and return to Earth.
- It will help scientists investigate how planets formed and how life began, as well as improve our understanding of asteroids that could impact Earth.

5. d

- **Meteoroids** are objects in space that range in size from dust grains to small asteroids. Think of them as "space rocks."
- When meteoroids enter Earth's atmosphere (or that of another planet, like Mars) at high speed and burn up, the fireballs or "shooting stars" are called **Meteors**.
- When a meteoroid survives a trip through the atmosphere and hits the ground, it's called a **Meteorite**.

6. c

- Fuel Cell electric vehicles uses hydrogen as a source of fuel and an oxidant to create electricity by an electrochemical process.

- The fuel cell combines hydrogen and oxygen to generate an electric current, water being the only by-product.
- Like conventional batteries, it converts chemical energy into electrical energy.
- It gets differed from battery operated vehicles which stores energy whereas fuel cells rely on a constant supply of fuel and oxygen.
- It is similar to the combustion engines with constant supply of fuel (petrol or diesel) but there will be no moving parts as in the combustion engines.

7. d

- Asset Reconstruction - It refers to conversion of non-performing assets into performing assets.
- An Asset Reconstruction Company is a specialized financial institution that buys the NPAs or bad assets from banks and financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets.
- SARFAESI Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up ARCs in India.
- It should have a minimum net owned fund of Rs 2 crore and have to maintain a capital adequacy ratio of 15% of its risk weighted assets.

8. d

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for creation and launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).
- It is to create an additional source of funding for Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Central Public Financial Institutions (CPFIs) and other Government organizations.
- Bharat Bond ETF would be the first corporate Bond ETF in the country.
- ETF will be a basket of bonds issued by CPSE/CPSU/CPFI/any other Government organization Bonds (Initially, all AAA rated bonds)
- Each ETF will have a fixed maturity date. As of now, it will have 2 maturity series - 3 and 10 years.

- Each series will have a separate index of the same maturity series.

9. d

- Beirut – Capital of Lebanon
- Mindanao Island – Phillipines
- Whanganui – New Zealand

10. a

- The enigmatic statues seen in **Rapa Nui**, popularly called **Easter Island**, may have been built by ancient carvers with a belief that the '**Moai**' **monoliths** could boost agricultural fertility and critical food supplies, according to a study.
- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** had named Easter Island a **World Heritage Site** in 1995, with most of the island's sacred sites protected within the Rapa Nui National Park.

**17-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Indian pangolin**

1. Of the eight extant species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin and Chinese Pangolin occur in India.
2. The species is understood to occur only in tropical evergreen forests.

3. The species also occurs in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Pradhan Mantri Matrutva Vandana Yojna (PMMVY)**

1. Under the scheme, the mother is entitled to a cash incentive of Rs. 5,000 in three instalments.
2. The scheme covers all Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.
3. It was implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the provisions of Maternity benefit (amendments) Act, 2017.

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

3) **Article 6 of Paris Agreement** sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Emissions trading system
- b. Global stocktake Process
- c. Capacity building activities
- d. Principle of common but differentiated responsibilities

4) **Global Gender Gap Report 2020** was released recently by which of the following?

- a. UNESCO
- b. World Economic Forum

- c. UN Development Programme
- d. Organization for economic cooperation and development

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre*

1. It would deal with cybercrimes such as financial frauds, circulation of communal and pornographic contents.
2. It works under 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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Compensation Cess in GST*

1. It is levied only on products considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods.
2. The collected Compensation cess flows directly into the Consolidated Fund of respective states' as compensation.

Which of 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 *Samagra Shiksha*

1. It is an overarching programme which treats school education holistically without any segmentation from Pre-school to Class 12
2. It is a Central sector scheme by the Department of School Education & Literacy, MHRD.

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Destruction of public property* as directed by the Supreme Court

1. The prosecution should be required to prove that public property had been damaged in direct action called by an organisation.
2. The burden of proof can be shifted to the accused to prove his innocence.
3. The Nariman Committee dealt with extracting damages for destruction of public properties.

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

9) '*CROWN Act*' which was in news recently is related to?

- a. To protect the indigenous tribes of Africa against discrimination
- b. Call to respect and protect LGBTQ rights
- c. To protect people of colour from being discriminated against for their natural hair
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sexed Semen*

1. Sexed Semen is specially processed semen of bulls which ensure that a female calf is always born.
2. It gives 100% accuracy as compared to conventional semen straws where male: female ratio is about 50:50.

Which of 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

- In a bid to deter traffickers from trying to trade the pangolin, the **Odisha Forest department** has announced a cash reward for people who provide information about the smuggling of the species in the state.
- A cash reward of Rs. 10,000 will be given to people providing leads.
- The Forest department has meanwhile started placing posters at different places to encourage locals to participate in pangolin rescue operations.

### Indian pangolin

- It has been categorised as **endangered** by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature**.
- The species is understood to occur in **various types of tropical forests** as well as **open land, grasslands** and **degraded habitats**, including in close proximity to villages.
- The species can adapt well to modified habitats, provided its ant and termite prey remains abundant.
- Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East.
- It can be found at elevation up to 2500 m.

- The species also occurs in **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka**.

2. a

- Pradhan Mantri **Matru Vandana Yojana** (PMMVY) or Pradhan Mantri **Matritva Vandana Yojana**, was formerly known as **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)**.
- It is a social welfare maternity benefit programme implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** under the provisions of **National Food Security Act, 2013**.
- The programme is run by the Government of India and was introduced in 2016.
- All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), **excluding those in regular employment with the Government or PSUs** or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being are eligible.
- Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers who are eligible will receive a cash benefit of Rs.5,000/- in three instalment.
- The cash incentive is payable in three instalments for the **first live birth**, as normally, the first pregnancy of a woman exposes her to new kind of challenges and stress factors.

3. a

- **Article 6** of the **Paris Agreement** talks about setting up a market mechanism for **trading of carbon emissions**.
- A carbon market allows countries, or industries, to earn carbon credits for the emission reductions they make in excess of what is required of them.
- These carbon credits can be traded to the highest bidder in exchange of money.
- The buyers of carbon credits can show the emission reductions as their own and use them to meet their own reduction targets.
- Article 6 creates two types of **Carbon market**.

- Article 6.4 creates a centralised global market referred to as the Sustainable Development Mechanism (SDM).
  - This is a successor to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol.
4. b
- **World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, 2020** was released recently.
  - According to the report, India **moved down** the ladder **from its 108th** position last year to rank below countries like China (106th), Sri Lanka (102nd), Nepal (101st), Brazil (92nd), Indonesia (85th) and Bangladesh (50th).
  - India is **112th** among nations ranked in terms of the gap between genders, and it was among the bottom five for women's health and survival and economic participation.
  - **Iceland** remained the **world's most gender-neutral country**.
  - Yemen is ranked the worst (153rd), while Iraq is 152nd and Pakistan 151st.
1. **Gender Inequality Index – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
  2. **Global Gender Gap Index – World Economic Forum**
  3. **Gender Parity Index – UNESCO**
  4. **Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Report – Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD)**
5. c
- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre** works under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
  - It would deal with cybercrimes such as financial frauds, circulation of communal and pornographic contents.
  - The centre would maintain a list of suspects and the leads generated during investigations in cybercrime cases.
  - This would be shared with law enforcement agencies through a "secured internal network".
6. a
- As per reports, there's high expectation among State Finance Ministers that the issue of **Compensation Cess** will be discussed at length in the **GST Council meeting** this week.
  - **Compensation cess** was **introduced as relief for States** for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST.
  - States, in lieu of giving up their powers to collect taxes after local levies were subsumed under the GST, were guaranteed a 14% tax revenue growth in the first 5 years after GST implementation by the Central government.
  - **Compensation cess is levied on 5 products** considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods.
  - The sin or luxury goods list will be notified from time to time.
  - The **collected compensation cess flows into the Consolidated Fund of India**.
  - Then it is transferred to the **Public Account of India**, where a GST compensation cess account has been created.
  - **States are compensated bi-monthly** from the accumulated funds in this account.
7. c
- **Samagra Shiksha** - an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.
  - It **treats school education holistically without segmentation** from pre-nursery to Class 12.
  - It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, through a single State Implementation Society (SIS) at the State/UT level.
  - At the National level, there would be a Governing Council headed by Minister of Human Resource Development.
  - The **fund sharing pattern** for the scheme between Centre and States is at present in the ratio of 90:10 for the 8 North-Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States, 60:40 for all other States and Union Territories with Legislature.

- It is 100% centrally sponsored for Union Territories without Legislature.
- It **subsumes the three erstwhile Schemes** of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

8. d

- While agreeing to hear petitions on alleged police excesses on students in Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University, a Supreme Court Bench headed by **CJI expressed displeasure over rioting and destruction of public property.**
- The **Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984** punishes anyone “who commits mischief by doing any act in respect of any public property” with a jail term of up to five years and a fine or both.
- However, the **Supreme Court** has on several earlier occasions found the law inadequate, and has attempted to fill the gaps through guidelines.
- Supreme Court issued **guidelines based on the recommendations of the 2 expert Committees.**
- The **Thomas Committee recommended reversing the burden of proof against protesters.**
- Accepting the suggestion, the court said that the prosecution should be required to prove that public property had been damaged in direct action called by an organisation, and that the accused also participated in such direct action.
- From that stage the **burden can be shifted to the accused to prove his innocence.**
- Such a reversal of the burden of proof is applicable in cases of sexual violence, among others.
- Generally, the law presumes that the accused is innocent until the prosecution proves its case.
- The **Nariman Committee’s recommendations dealt with extracting damages for destruction.**
- Accepting the recommendations, the court said **the rioters would be made strictly**

**liable for the damage**, and compensation would be collected to “make good” the damage.

9. c

- In July this year, **California** became the first state in the **US** to make discrimination over natural hair illegal.
- **New York** followed suit and now **New Jersey** has become the latest US state to pass such a legislation, called **Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act.**
- **CROWN aims to protect people of colour from being discriminated against for their natural hair**, especially at the workplace.
- A study conducted recently by Unilever-owned brand Dove concluded that black women were 80% more likely to change their natural hair in order to meet social norms or expectations at work.
- It also said that black women are 50% more likely to be sent home or to know of another black woman who has been sent home from the workplace because of her hair.

10. d

- During the recently held **14th Progressive Dairy Farmers Association (PDFA), International Dairy and Agri Expo 2019**, Union Minister for Animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries had said that, the **plan is to provide dairy farmers with “Sexed semen”** for cattle for as cheap as Rs 100 per straw by 2020.
- Semen having **sperms to produce more progenies of a ‘desired sex’** either female or male is known as **Sexed semen.**
- Sexed semen is **specially processed semen of bulls** from which ‘Y’ chromosomes in sperm cells, which lead to the birth of a male calf are either removed through a ‘sorting’ process or killed.
- Semen which has only ‘X’ chromosomes can ensure that a female calf is born.
- **Cows carry XX chromosomes while bull semen carries both X and Y.** If the egg fertilises with an ‘X’ chromosome, a female calf is born and if with ‘Y’, a male is born.

- There are **2 techniques** to produce sexed semen: One is the '**sorting process**' in which 'X' and 'Y' chromosomes are separated. 'X' are retained and 'Y' discarded or vice versa.
- The other is in which 'Y' chromosomes are altogether killed.
- Cows are impregnated using sexed semen through the artificial insemination process with consumption of one straw per cow.
- Considered a financial burden, male calves are either killed or abandoned on the roads by farmers as they do not give milk.
- This had led to an increasing number of cattle roaming the streets, which has caused fatal road accidents as well.
- The **guarantee of a desired calf being born is never 100%**.
- It is reported that use of **Sexed semen gives 80-90% accuracy** as compared to conventional semen straws where male: female ratio is about 50:50.
- However, as sperm concentration in sexed semen straw is far less than the conventional semen straw and the sorting procedure itself damages the sexed sperm, conception rate is 10 to 20 % less with sexed semen as compared to normal semen.

**18-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements

1. It is also called as the "*Himalayan Gold*" and locally known as "*Kira Jari*" in India.
2. It is a fungal parasite of larvae that belongs to the ghost moth.
3. It is endemic to the Tibetan Plateau, including the adjoining high Himalayas.
4. It has seemingly been used in traditional Tibetan and Chinese medicine as a therapeutic medicine for lung, liver and kidney problems.

Identify the species that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Caterpillar fungus

- b. Fungal Mushroom
- c. Himalayan Grand Duchess
- d. Common Yellow Swallowtail

2) Which of the following is *not* one among the objectives of the *National Broadband Mission (NBM)*?

- a. Broadband access to all villages by 2022 and significantly improve quality of services for mobile and internet
- b. To connect all Gram Panchayats in the country through optical fibre cables (OFCs)
- c. Address policy and regulatory changes required to accelerate the expansion and creation of digital infrastructure and services
- d. Facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services for across the country and especially in rural and remote areas

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)*

1. It is the Nation's custodian for Measurement Standards of Mass, Distance, Time, Temperature, Current etc.
2. It also created and is the custodian of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).
3. It works under the administrative supervision of Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Solar Eclipse*

1. It occurs on a new moon day when the Moon comes in between the Earth and

the Sun and when all the three objects are aligned.

2. An annular solar eclipse will occur when the angular diameter of the Moon falls short of that of the Sun so that it cannot cover up the latter completely.

Which of 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 *GEM Samvaad*

1. It is an integrated online platform aimed at redressing consumer grievances in Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of commerce and Industry.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

1. It is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration which is not a related organization of the UN.
2. India holds a Observer Status to the IOM.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are not 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 *Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC)*

1. It is the cost one operator pays to another operator when any outgoing call is made, only outside their own network.
2. Each telecom operator fixes their own IUC.

Which of 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 *CHEOPS (CHARacterising ExOPlanet Satellite)*

1. It is the first mission dedicated to searching for exoplanetary transits by performing ultra-high precision photometry on bright stars already known to host planets.
2. It is a joint project of NASA and ESA.

Which of 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) 'Tansen Samaroh' a music festival which was in news recently is celebrated in?

- a. Madhya Pradesh
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Karnataka
- d. Uttar Pradesh

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)*

1. It is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. Its membership is open to any Company or Firm in India engaged in manufacturing activity or providing consultancy services (Engineering/Technical/Management).

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

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

## Answers

1. a

**'Himalayan gold'**

- **Caterpillar fungus** (*Ophiocordyceps Sinensis*) is a fungal parasite of larvae (caterpillars) that belongs to the ghost moth.
- It is **endemic to the Tibetan Plateau**, including the adjoining high Himalaya (3,200-4,500 metres above sea level).
- It is locally known as **Kira Jari (in India)**, Yartsagunbu (in Tibet), Yarso Gumbub (Bhutan), Dong Chong Xia Cao (China) and Yarsagumba (in Nepal).
- In the Indian Himalayas, the species has been documented in the region from the alpine meadows of protected areas such as Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, Askot Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanchendzonga Biosphere Reserve and Dehan-Debang Biosphere Reserve.
- For centuries, caterpillar fungus has seemingly been used in traditional **Tibetan and Chinese medicine** as a tonic, as a therapeutic medicine for lung, liver and kidney problems.
- In recent time the species has been widely traded as an aphrodisiac and a powerful tonic, often called the **'Himalayan Viagra'**.

- There are also reports that caterpillar fungus possesses a range of more specific therapeutic properties; including action against asthma and bronchial inflammation, cure of renal complaints, irregular menstruation and stimulation of the immune system.
- *Trade and collection of 'Himalayan Gold' – caterpillar fungus has become extremely popular in recent decades, surpassing all other species in terms of revenue.*

2. b

- Union Minister for Communications has recently launched the **National Broadband Mission (NBM)**.
- The vision of the NBM is to fast track growth of digital communications infrastructure, bridge the digital divide, facilitate digital empowerment and inclusion and provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all.
- The Mission is structured with strong emphasis on the three principles of **universality, affordability and quality**.

Some of the objectives of the Mission are:

1. **Broadband access to all villages by 2022**
2. **Facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services for across the country and especially in rural and remote areas**
3. Laying of incremental 30 lakhs route km of Optical Fiber Cable and increase in tower density from 0.42 to 1.0 tower per thousand of population by 2024
4. **Significantly improve quality of services for mobile and internet**
5. Develop innovative implementation models for Right of Way (RoW) and to work with States/UTs for having consistent policies pertaining to expansion of digital infrastructure including for RoW approvals required for laying of OFC
6. Develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) to measure the availability of digital communications infrastructure and conducive policy ecosystem within a State/UT.

7. Creation of a digital fiber map of the Digital Communications network and infrastructure, including Optical Fiber Cables and Towers, across the country.
8. Investment from stakeholders of USD 100 billion (Rs 7 Lakh Crore) including Rs 70,000 crore from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
9. **Address policy and regulatory changes required to accelerate the expansion and creation of digital infrastructure and services.**
10. Work with all stakeholders including the concerned Ministries / Departments/ Agencies, and Ministry of Finance, for enabling investments for the Mission.
- **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) aims to connect all Gram Panchayats in the country through optical fibre cable (OFC)** by bridging the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks for providing broadband.
3. d
- The **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)**, set up in 1942 as an autonomous body, is now the largest publically funded multi-disciplinary industrial R&D organization in India under the administrative supervision of **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
  - CSIR covers a wide spectrum of science and technology – from radio and space physics, oceanography, earth sciences, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nano technology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology.
  - CSIR is the **Nation's custodian for Measurement Standards** of Mass, Distance, Time, Temperature, Current etc.
  - CSIR has **created** and is the **custodian of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** which is a powerful weapon against unethical commercial exploitation of Indian traditional knowledge.
  - CSIR maintains Microbial Type Culture Collection (MTCC) and Gene Bank.
4. c
- A solar eclipse occurs on a **new moon day** when the **Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun** and when all the three objects are aligned.
  - An annular solar eclipse will occur when the angular diameter of the Moon falls short of that of the Sun so that it cannot cover up the latter completely.
  - As a result a ring of the Sun's disk remains visible around the Moon.
  - Eclipsed Sun should not be viewed with the naked eye, even for a very short time.
  - It will cause permanent damage of the eyes leading to blindness even when the moon covers most portion of the Sun.
5. b
- A national outreach Programme, **GeM Samvaad**, was recently launched by the Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
  - The **outreach programme** will take place with stakeholders across the country and with local sellers to facilitate on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace.
6. c
- On 4 December 2000, the General Assembly, taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world, proclaimed **18th December as International Migrants Day**.
  - On that day, in 1990, the Assembly adopted the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**.
  - Established in 1951, **IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration** and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.
  - With 173 member states, a further 8 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries.
  - In 2016 Member States of the **United Nations (UN)**, through the **General**

Assembly, unanimously adopted a resolution approving the Agreement to make the International Organization for Migration (IOM) a Related Organization of the UN.

- India is a Member State to the IOM.
- IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

7. a

- Recently, TRAI deferred the implementation of the zero-Interconnect usage charges (IUC) regime by a year till January 1, 2021.
- IUC is the cost one operator pays to another operator when any outgoing call is made, outside their own network.
- The regulator, TRAI, addresses the various issues related to interconnection arrangements. It also regulates the IUC.
- TRAI fixes the IUC rates and it is now 6 paise per minute.

8. a

- CHEOPS (CHAracterising ExOPlanet Satellite) is scheduled to launch on a Soyuz-Fregat rocket from the European spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.
- It's the second try after first launch attempt was delayed.
- It is the first mission dedicated to searching for exoplanetary transits by performing ultra-high precision photometry on bright stars already known to host planets.
- The mission's main science goals are to measure the bulk density of super-Earths and Neptunes orbiting bright stars and provide suitable targets for future in-depth characterisation studies of exoplanets in these mass and size ranges.
- It is a mission of European Space Agency (ESA).
- Unlike previous missions focusing on exoplanets, such as NASA's Kepler and Tess missions, ESA said that CHEOPS was not a "discovery machine" but rather a follow-up mission that would be able to determine

planet sizes and other information accurately and precisely.

9. a

- The Tansen Music Festival or the Tansen Sangeet Sammelan or the Tansen Utsav is held every year in order to celebrate the memory of one of the greatest artists in Indian history, 'Tansen'.
- Tansen was one of the nine gems in the court of one of the greatest Mughal rulers of India, Emperor Akbar.
- This is popular classical music festival, held every year in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, near the tomb of Tansen at Behat.
- The department of culture, Madhya Pradesh government organizes annual four day.
- Tansen Award was instituted by Madhya Pradesh government to honour the individual artists with significant contribution to Hindustani Classical Music.
- This award carries a cash prize of Rs. 2 Lakh along with a memento.
- Pandit Vidyadhar Vyas will be honoured with this year's prestigious Tansen Samman award.

10. b

- CII organized the 2019 Steeling India in New Delhi.
- The aim of the meeting is to increase metal intensity in key sectors.
- It aimed to enhance the steel intensity in key user sectors, especially in rural India.
- CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India's development process.
- Founded in 1895, India's premier business association has more than 9100 members, from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 291 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

- **Its membership is open to**, Any Company or Firm in India engaged in manufacturing activity or providing consultancy services (Engineering/Technical/Management) or present in the services sector including Banks, Financial Institutions, Law Firms, Hospitals, Travel/Tourism & Hospitality, Films, Media: Print and Electronic, Digital Entertainment, Advertising, Publishing, Fashion are eligible.

**19-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project*

1. The project involves diverting water from Mahadayi river into Malaprabha river.
2. The project was undertaken by the Government of Karnataka to improve drinking water supply.

Which of 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 *Sahitya Akademi*, consider the following statements:

1. Besides the 22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi also gives awards to the languages English and Nepali.
2. It also gives special awards called Saraswati Samman to significant contribution to the languages not formally recognized by the Akademi.

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

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

3) Which of the following is the agency responsible for coordinating Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) in the Indian Search and Rescue Region (ISRR)?

- a. Indian Navy
- b. Indian Coast Guard
- c. Ministry of Home Affairs
- d. National Disaster Response Force

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *United Nations Convention against Torture*

1. It aims to protect the human rights of refugees and was adopted in 1967.
2. The core principle of the convention is non-refoulement, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.
3. India signed and ratified the convention in 1997.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Feni River*

1. It forms the part of the Indo-Nepal border.
2. It originates from Tibet, passes through India and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)*

1. It was constituted under Section 410 of the SEBI Act.
2. It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

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

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

7) Consider the following statements

1. Stagflation is when economic growth is stagnant but there still is price inflation.
2. Creeping Inflation is when inflation rises to 10% or more.

Which of 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 *Right to Information (RTI)*

1. It is an initiative taken by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to provide a gateway to the citizens for quick search of information.
2. RTI act extends to the whole of India except the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
3. The RTI (Amendment) Bill 2019 seeks to amend the provisions to state that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central

and state CIC and ICs will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Election Commissioners and the Chief Secretary to the state government, respectively.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Houbara Bustard*

1. The population of the Asian Houbara Bustards extends from northeast Asia, across central Asia, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula to reach the Sinai desert.
2. It is classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN red list.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Goods & Services Tax (GST) Council*

1. It is a statutory body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to GST.
2. The Central Government provides adequate funds for meeting the recurring and non-recurring expenses, the entire cost of the GST Council Secretariat.

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

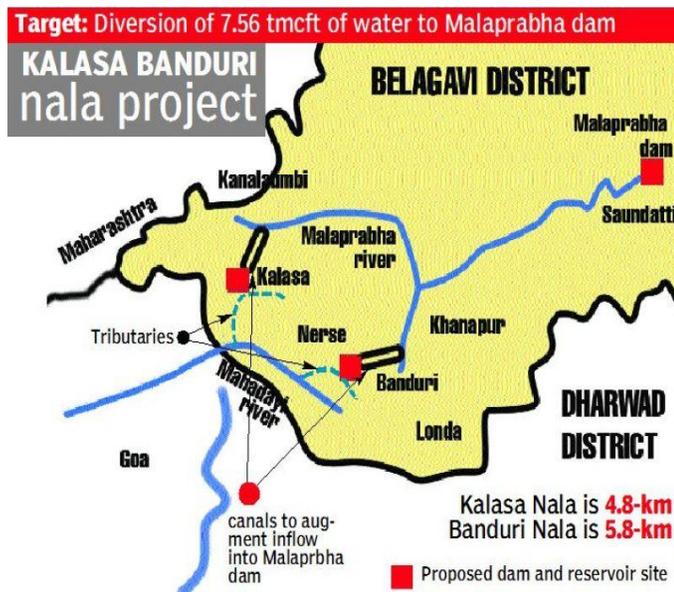
- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

## Answers

1. c

- The **Kalasa-Banduri Nala** is a project undertaken by the **Government of Karnataka** to improve drinking water supply to the Districts of Belagavi, Dharwad and Gadag.
- It involves building across Kalasa and Banduri, two tributaries of the **Mahadayi river to divert water to the Malaprabha river.**
- **Goa and Karnataka are locked in a dispute over the sharing of Mahadayi waters.**



2. d

- Sahitya Akademi, **India's National Academy of Letters**, is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country.
- **Sahitya Akademi** gives **24 awards annually** to literary works in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India.
- Besides the **22 languages** enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has recognised **English and Rajasthani** as

languages in which its programme may be implemented.

- It also gives special awards called **Bhasha Samman** to significant contribution to the languages not formally recognized by the Akademi as also for contribution to classical and medieval literature.
- *Sahitya Akademi has recently announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 23 languages. Award for Nepali will be announced later.*
- *The Award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- towards cash content.*

3. b

- India is a signatory to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979, ratified in May 2001.
- **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** is the agency responsible for coordinating **Search and Rescue (SAR)** in the Indian Search and Rescue Region (ISRR).
- Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG) has been designated as the National Maritime Search and Rescue Coordinating Authority (NMSARCA) and is also the Chairman of the National Maritime Search and Rescue Board.
- The Indian Coast Guard is also the Nodal Agency for marine oil spill response coordination and has, therefore, formulated the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP).
- *The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has recently organised the 18th National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB) meeting to discuss policy issues, formulate guidelines & procedures and assess the efficacy of National Search and Rescue Plan.*

4. c

- The **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (the "Torture Convention") was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1984.
- The Convention entered into force on 26 June 1987 after it had been ratified by 20 States.

- Though **India had signed** the U.N. Convention against Torture in 1997, it is **yet to ratify** it.

5. d

- The Feni river forms part of the **India-Bangladesh border**.
- It originates in the South Tripura district, India.
- The river passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and **meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh**.
- **Bangladesh has not sent a delegation for the Joint River Commission (JRC) meeting with India that was scheduled to be held recently.**



6. b

- Recently, NCLAT reinstates Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman Tata Group.
- **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** was constituted under **Section 410 of the 'Companies Act, 2013'** for hearing appeals against the orders of **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**, with effect from 1st June, 2016.
- It is also the **Appellate Tribunal** for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**, with effect from 1st December, 2016.
- It is also the **Appellate Tribunal for** hearing appeals against the orders passed by **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of**

**India** under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.

- It is also the **Appellate Tribunal to hear** and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or **decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, as per the amendment brought to Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 by Section 172 of the Finance Act, 2017, with effect from 26th May, 2017.

7. a

- Finance Minister refused to comment on queries on **Stagflation**.
- According to reports, with fast decelerating economic growth and sharply rising inflation, there is a growing murmur about India facing stagflation.
- **Stagflation** is a portmanteau of **stagnant growth and rising inflation**.
- It is when **economic growth is stagnant but there still is price inflation**. In other words, the **worst of both worlds**.
- That's because with stalled economic growth, unemployment tends to rise and existing incomes do not rise fast enough and yet, people have to contend with rising inflation.
- So people find themselves pressurised from both sides as their purchasing power is reduced.
- **Creeping or Mild inflation** is when prices rise **3% a year or less**.
- **Walking Inflation** is when price rise is between **3-10% a year**.
- **Galloping Inflation** is when inflation rises to **10% or more**.
- **Hyperinflation** is when prices **skyrocket more than 50%**.

8. d

- Chief Justice of India called for a "filter" to check "abuse" of the **Right to Information (RTI) Act**.
- It came a month after the Supreme Court declared the **office of the CJI a public authority under the ambit of the RTI**.

- **Right to Information Act 2005** mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information.
- It is an **initiative taken by Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.**
- Following the revoking of **Article 370** and ending of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, the central **Right to Information Act, 2005 would now apply to the two new union territories of J&K and Ladakh.**
- The RTI Act 2005 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 **RTI (amendment) Bill 2019** 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.**
- The central government will also to notify the term of office for the CIC and the ICs.

9. c

- Recently, the Government of Pakistan has issued special permits to the Emir of Qatar and nine other members of the royal family to hunt the **Houbara Bustard.**
- Bustards are large, terrestrial birds that belong to several species, including some of the largest flying birds.
- The **Houbara Bustard**, which lives in **arid climates**, comes in **two distinct species** as recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, one residing in **North Africa (Chlamydotis undulata)** and the **other in Asia (Chlamydotis macqueenii).**
- The population of the Asian houbara bustards extends from northeast Asia, across central

Asia, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula to reach the Sinai desert.

- According to IFHC, the main reasons for the houbara's decline are poaching, unregulated hunting, along with degradation of its natural habitat.
- It is classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN red list.



10. b

- The 38th meeting of the **GST Council** chaired by Finance Minister is being held in New Delhi.
- It is a **constitutional body** (as per **Article 279A** of the amended Constitution) for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to GST.
- The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.
- The **Central Government provides adequate funds** for meeting the recurring and non-recurring expenses, **the entire cost of the GST Council Secretariat.**
- The GST Council Secretariat shall be manned by officers taken on deputation from both the Central and State Governments.

**20-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue 2019**

1. It is the highest-level institutional mechanism between U.S.A and India held annually.
2. It was the second 2+2 meeting and the first to be held in New Delhi.

Which of 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 **Pinaka Missile System**

1. It is an Artillery Missile System capable of striking into enemy territory up to a range of 250 kilometres with high precision.
2. It was jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russian Defence Research Agency (RDRA).
3. The navigation system of the missile is aided by the GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN), which is also used in civil aviation applications in India.

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

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

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

1. It is an online module available to law enforcement agencies at all levels- National, State, District and Police Station.

2. It allows State to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in 2 months.
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs and it leverages the existing CCTNS data base.

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

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

4) "**Operation Twist**" sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Reserve Bank of India
- b. Indian Coast Guard
- c. Defence Research and Development Organisation
- d. Ministry of Home Affairs

5) "**Jalsathi programme**" sometimes seen in the news recently was launched recently by which of the following states?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to **Section 144 of the Code Of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973**

1. It can be used to restrict even a single individual.
2. It authorises only the district magistrate to issue orders to prevent and address urgent cases of apprehended danger or nuisance.

Which of 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 *Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)*

1. It is an attached office of the Ministry of Finance.
2. It has been assigned the role of 'facilitator', to promote and facilitate exports/imports, of 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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gay conversion therapy*

1. It purports to cure homosexuality by turning gay people, straight.
2. It uses psychotherapeutic means or counselling to eliminate an individual's desire for members of their own sex.
3. It sees homosexuality as a mental disorder.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

9) 'Kambala' an annual traditional sport is being held in?

- a. Kerala
- b. Telangana

- c. Karnataka
- d. Odisha

10) *Uzbekistan* shares its land border with which of the following countries

1. Tajikistan,
2. Afghanistan,
3. Turkmenistan,
4. Kazakhstan,
5. Kyrgyzstan

Choose the correct option

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

### Answers

1. a

- Union Defence Minister and External Affairs Minister met US Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State in **Washington DC** recently for the **second annual India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**.
- This 2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries and provides for a review of the security, defence and strategic partnership between India and the United States.
- This was the second 2+2 meeting and the first in US.

2. c

- Upgraded version of **Pinaka** guided rocket system was successfully test-fired from base on Odisha coast recently.
- **Pinaka** is an **artillery missile system** capable of striking into an enemy territory up to a **range of 75 km** with high precision.
- The Pinaka Mk-II rocket is modified as a missile by integrating with the navigation,

control and guidance system to improve the end accuracy and enhance the range.

- The navigation system of the missile is also aided by the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** also called as **NAVIC**.
- The mission achieved all the objectives including enhancing the range, accuracy and sub-system functionality.
- The guided Pinaka system was **developed indigenously**.
- The missile system has been jointly developed by **various Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories** viz Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Proof & Experimental Establishment (PXE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).

3. c

- *To enhance women safety in the country, Government has formulated a multi-pronged action plan and initiated a series of measures.*
- *ITSSO is one of such measures developed by MHA towards Smart Policing.*
- The Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) is an online module available to **law enforcement agencies at all levels**- National, State, District and Police Station.
- It allows State to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in 2 months.
- It leverages the existing CCTNS data base, which covers nearly 15000 police stations in the country.
- ITSSO would greatly strengthen States ability for analytics and prognosis for timely investigation and prosecution in rape cases.

4. a

- In a first, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a simultaneous sale and purchase of government bonds under the Open Market Operations mechanism, on lines of

the **“Operation Twist”** that was last adopted by the US Federal Reserve in 2013.

- Operation Twist is a move taken by U.S. Federal Reserve to make long-term borrowing cheaper.

5. a

- **Odisha** has recently launched the '**Jalsathi' programme** to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state.

6. a

- As protesters against the Citizenship Amendment Act hit the streets in large numbers in several states, state governments sought to tamp down on the demonstrations by issuing prohibitory orders under **Section 144** of the **Code Of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973**.
- **Section 144 CrPC**, a law retained from the colonial era, **empowers a district magistrate, a sub-divisional magistrate or any other executive magistrate specially empowered by the state government in this behalf** to issue orders to prevent and address urgent cases of apprehended danger or nuisance.
- The magistrate has to pass a written order which may be directed against a particular individual, or to persons residing in a particular place or area, or to the public generally when frequenting or visiting a particular place or area.
- In emergency cases, the magistrate can pass these orders without prior notice to the individual against whom the order is directed.
- **It can be used to restrict even a single individual.** The magistrate can direct any person to abstain from a certain act.
- Such an order is passed when the magistrate considers that it is likely to prevent, or tends to prevent, obstruction, annoyance or injury to any person lawfully employed, or danger to human life, health or safety, or a disturbance of the public tranquility, or a riot, of an affray.
- **No order** passed under **Section 144 can remain in force for more than 2 months** from the date of the order, unless the state government considers it necessary.

- Even then, **the total period cannot extend to more than 6 months.**
7. b
- The New Foreign Trade Policy will come into effect by April 1, 2020 – office of the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).**
  - **DGFT is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade.
  - With the liberalization in the economic policies of the Government, **DGFT has since been assigned the role of “facilitator”.**
  - The shift was from prohibition and control of imports/exports to **promotion and facilitation of exports/imports**, keeping in view the interests of the country.
8. d
- Recently, the German government signed off a new law banning **"Gay conversion therapies"**
  - The **idea of conversion therapies** is linked to the one that **sees homosexuality as a mental disorder.**
  - This is a view that mental health professionals reject.
  - It purports to **“cure” homosexuality by turning gay people, straight.**
  - It typically **use psychotherapeutic means or counselling** to eliminate an individual's desire for members of their own sex.
  - The **American Psychiatric Association (APA) has opposed any psychiatric treatment** “that is based on the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or is based on the a priori assumption that the patient should change his or her homosexual orientation”.
9. c
- **Kambala (slush-track buffalo race)** organisers are **planning to establish a museum** on this traditional sport.
  - It is an **annual buffalo race** conducted in **Coastal belt of Karnataka.**
  - It is a traditional bull sport similar to Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu.
  - The **'track' used for Kambala is a slushy paddy field.**
  - It is conducted in both competitive and non-competitive manner.
  - The **Kambala season generally starts in November and lasts till March in the following year.**
10. d
- **Uzbekistan has won the “Country of the year” award from “The Economist”.**
  - The **edition annually awards the states achieving the biggest progress in democracy.**
  - The selection criteria include not the financial situation, influence, cuisine of the country, but **the improvements the country demonstrated.**
  - It shares its **land border with its 5 neighboring countries: Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.**
  - According to ‘The Economist’, Uzbekistan still has a long way to go, but no other country travelled as far in 2019.





**21-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Quality Council of India (QCI)*

1. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI.
2. It was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the premier industry associations.
3. Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Human Solidarity Day*

1. Solidarity is identified in the Millennium Declaration as one of the fundamental values of International relations.
2. The UN General Assembly, by Resolution 377A, proclaimed International Human Solidarity 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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Astronomical Union (IAU)*

1. It was founded in 1919 and serves as the internationally recognized authority for

assigning designations to celestial bodies and surface features on them.

2. IAU recently named a new star 'Sharjah' and its planet 'Barajeel'.

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

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

4) *India's first 'Waste Exchange Platform'* was launched in,

- a. Kochi
- b. Indore
- c. Mysuru
- d. Chennai

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *European Green Deal*

1. The overarching objective of the European Green Deal aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
2. It includes a chemical strategy for a toxic-free environment.
3. Building renovation is meant to be one of the flagship programmes of the Green Deal.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *EChO Network*

1. It aims to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India.

2. It was launched by Microsoft in association with 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

7) "Green Channel Clearance" sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following agency?

- Airports Authority of India
- Competition Commission of India
- Securities and Exchange Board of India
- Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)*

- It is an officially recognized book of standards as per the Drugs Price Control Order 1995 and rules 2005 thereunder.
- Afghanistan is the first country to recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia.

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

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

9) "Mole lander" sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following missions?

- NASA's InSight Mission
- ISRO's Mangalyaan 2
- NASA's Juno Mission
- ESA's Rosetta Mission

10) With respect to *Macau*, consider the following statements

- Macau is a special administrative region of China, on the country's western coast. .
- It uses the same political model as Hong Kong - "One country, Two systems".

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

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

### Answers

1. d

- Recently, **Quality Council of India (QCI)** along with PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (**PHDCCI**) organized **11th Regional Quality Conclave (RQC)**.
- The theme of the **RQC** is 'Advance Manufacturing with Quality, Innovation & Technology Interventions.'
- The Conclave aims to create awareness about the significance of quality culture in businesses.
- QCI** is an **autonomous organization** under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- It was **set up in 1997 jointly** by the **Government of India** and the Indian Industry represented by the **3 premier industry associations** i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (**ASSOCHAM**), Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**).
- It was set up to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign.

- **Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister** on recommendation of the industry to the government.
2. a
- **Human Solidarity Day or International Human Solidarity Day** is annually celebrating on 20th December by UN.
  - The **General Assembly**, on 22 December 2005, by “**Resolution 60/209**”, **identified solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values** that should underlie relations between peoples in the 21st century, and in that regard decided to proclaim 20th December of each year **International Human Solidarity Day**.
  - By **Resolution 57/265** the General Assembly, established the **World Solidarity Fund**, its objective is to eradicate poverty and promote human and social development in developing countries, in particular among the poorest segments of their populations.
  - Solidarity is identified in the **Millennium Declaration** as one of the fundamental values of international relations.
3. d
- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** has announced the names of **newly discovered star** as ‘**Sharjah**’ and its planet ‘**Barajeel**’.
  - A **barajeel** is a wind tower used to direct the flow of the wind so that air can be recirculated as a form of air conditioning.
- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** was founded in **1919**.
  - Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through international cooperation.
  - It serves as the **internationally recognized authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies and surface features** on them.
  - The key activity of the IAU is the organization of scientific meetings.
  - The **IAU Symposium Proceedings** series is the **flagship of the IAU publications**.
4. d
- **Chennai Corporation** launched **India’s 1st Waste Exchange platform** namely “**Madras Waste Exchange**”.
  - The **Madras Waste Exchange**, is both a **web portal and an application**, has been conceptualised by the **Smart City Mission**, with **support from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
  - **Chennai residents can now buy and sell reusable and recycled products online.** ([www.madraswasteexchange.com](http://www.madraswasteexchange.com))
  - It has a variety of products made from dry and wet waste such as school bags, slippers, vermicompost, manure, coconut powder, lemon dishwash among other products.
  - All the products are priced suitably and is available in **210 Resource Recovery Points (RRPs)** across the city.
5. d
- The **European Union (EU)** launched its flagship economic policy, the **European Green Deal**.
  - ‘**Climate neutral**’ **Europe**, this is the overarching objective of the European Green Deal.
  - The **EU will aim to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**.



**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

**NATIONAL CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW**

Number of proposals received in the country:  
**55**

Number of votes received in the country:  
**2558**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF SYSTEM**

Constellation:  
**Scorpius**

Star Identification:  
**HIP 79431**

Host star type:  
**red, dwarf**

Coordinates:  
**RA 16h12m41.77s**  
**DEC -18d52m31.8s**

**RESULTS**

Name of Star:  
**Sharjah**

Brief explanation Name Star:  
Sharjah is the cultural capital of United Arab Emirates, and considered the city of knowledge due to its many educational centers, institutes, museums, libraries and heritage centers.

Name of Exoplanet:  
**Barajeel**

Brief Explanation Name of Exoplanet:  
A barajeel is a wind tower used to direct the flow of the wind so that air can be recirculated as a form of air conditioning.

**THEME**

Names associated with the landmarks and architecture of the historical city of Sharjah in United Arab Emirates.

www.iau100.org  
www.nameexoworlds.iau.org

- A new circular economy action plan will be tabled in March 2020, as part of a broader EU industrial strategy.
  - **Building renovation** is meant to be **one of the flagship programmes of the Green Deal**.
  - The key objective is to “at least double or even triple” the renovation rate of buildings, which currently stands at around 1%.
  - **Zero-pollution:** Whether in air, soil or water, the objective is to reach a “pollution-free environment” by 2050.
1. New initiatives includes a **chemical strategy** for a “**toxic-free environment**”.
- **Farm to fork strategy**, the new strategy will aim for a “**green and healthier agriculture**” system.
  - “**Sustainable alternative fuels**”, biofuels and hydrogen, will be promoted in aviation, shipping and heavy duty road transport where electrification is currently not possible.
  - An ambition to mobilise **€100 billion** precisely targeted to the most vulnerable regions and sectors.
  - The **proposed €100bn instrument has 3 legs:**
    1. A just transition fund that will mobilise resources from the EU’s regional policy budget;
    2. The “**InvestEU**” programme, with money coming from the European Investment Bank;
    3. EIB funding coming from the EU bank’s own capital.
  - One measure likely to attract attention and controversy is a **proposal for a carbon border tax**.
6. a
- **EChO Network** is a national program launched by the **Government of India (GoI)** recently.
  - It aims to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India with the specific focus of increasing research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment.
- EChO Network would develop a national network to catalyse a new generation of Indians who can synthesize interdisciplinary concepts and tackle real-world problems in medicine, agriculture, ecology, and technology. With no precedent for such a network anywhere in the world, EChO Network establishes a new platform to change how science is embedded in our modern society.
  - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Hindustan Unilever Limited, RoundGlass, India Climate Collaborative, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) are the founding partners of the EChO Network.
7. b
- *The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently received three **Green Channel combinations** for **automatic approval** under the competition law.*
- Green Channel Clearance**
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** introduced an automatic system of approval for combinations under 'Green Channel'.
  - Under this process, the combination is deemed to have been approved upon filing the notice in the prescribed format.
  - This system would significantly reduce time and cost of transactions and thereby contributing towards ease of doing business in India.
8. b
- *The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) has been recently recognised formally by the National Department of Regulation of Medicines and Health Products of the Ministry of Public Health of Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan**.*
  - It will also be used based on the requirement as reputable pharmacopoeia in the laboratory of medicines and health products quality.
  - With this, a new beginning has been made and **Afghanistan** has become the **first country** to recognize IP pursuant to the efforts of Department of Commerce and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)

- IP is an officially recognized book of standards as per the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** and Rules 1945 thereunder.
- The IP specifies the standards of drugs manufactured and marketed in India in terms of their identity, purity and strength.

9. a

- **NASA's InSight** touched down in November 2018 on a quest to understand the interior of the **Mars** – The Red Planet.
- Two of its crucial tools for that task were a burrowing heat probe nicknamed the **"mole"** and a super-sensitive seismometer to study motion within the planet.
- But soon after spacecraft personnel told the mole to get digging, something went wrong, and scientists and engineers affiliated with the mission have been strategizing ways to get the instrument moving ever since.
- The troubled "mole" on NASA's InSight Mars lander is moving again announced NASA recently.

10. c

- Macau, a tiny former Portuguese colony, is marking the 20th anniversary of its return to China.
- **Macau, special administrative region of China**, on the country's **southern coast**.
- Macau is located on the south-western corner of the Pearl (Zhu) River (Chu Chiang) estuary (at the head of which is the port of Guangzhou) and stands opposite the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, which is located in the eastern side of the estuary.
- The Special Administrative Region, which measures 12 sq miles (31 sq km), uses the same political model as **Hong Kong - "one country, two systems"**.

**23-12-2019**

### 1. "The Nagpur Resolution" adopted by the Government of India is related to

- a. Improving Horticulture techniques in the country

- b. Increasing the number of MSMEs in the rural India
- c. Improving Public Service Delivery
- d. Fighting Drought conditions in a holistic manner

### 2. Consider the following statements regarding European Council

1. It is one of the European Union's legislating institutions by negotiating or adopting EU laws.
2. The members of the council are Heads of State/Government of 28 member states, European Council President and the President of European Commission.

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

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

### 3. Consider the following statements regarding "Hunar Haats"

1. It is an exhibition organised by the Ministry of Culture to provide international market for master artisans to sell their products.
2. Hunar Hub provides training to master artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts according to modern needs.

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding “E-MASIHA”

1. It is e-Medical assistance system launched by Ministry of Minority Affairs for Indian Pilgrims abroad.
2. It is an online system developed to maintain the complete health database of Indian pilgrims to deal with any emergency in Mecca-Medina.

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

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding “Peregrine Falcon”

1. It is a raptor and live on all continents except Antarctica.
2. Its population were in steep decline during the mid-20th century and IUCN listed it as “Endangered” in red list.
3. It has the fastest vision in the animal kingdom and register nearly 130 frames per second.

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

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

6. Consider the following statements with respect to *Minorities rights in India*

1. Constitution of India has provisions related to protection of the minorities interest in India.
2. The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a Statutory body.
3. The minorities in India includes only Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis).

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

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

7. Consider the following statements with respect to *Winter Solstice*

1. December 22, the Winter Solstice marks the shortest day of the year in both Northern and Southern Hemisphere.
2. On the Equator, day and night are equal, the closer one moves towards the poles, the more extreme the variation.

Which of 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 *Kudankulam nuclear power plant (KKNPP)*

1. It is the first Indian NPP to use Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) technology.
2. ‘Core Catcher’ is a device designed to localise and cool the molten core material in case of a meltdown accident.

Which of 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. 'Mission Shat Pratishat' which was in news recently was launched in**

- Delhi
- Andhra Pradesh
- Telangana
- Punjab

**10. Consider the following statements with respect to *Mountain Gorilla***

- They live in the most extreme environment of Amazon forest.
- They are listed as Critically Endangered in 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

**Answers**

1. c

- The resolution was adopted on Improving Public Service Delivery by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- It is to empower citizens by policy interventions for better service delivery.
- Previously, Shillong Declaration and Jammu Resolution have been adopted for good governance.

2. a

- The European Council brings together EU leaders to set the EU's political agenda and represents the highest level of political cooperation between EU countries.
- It defines the EU's overall political direction and priorities.
- It is not one of the EU's legislating institutions, so does not negotiate or adopt EU laws.

- European Commission is alone responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.
- The members of the European Council are the heads of state or government of the 28 EU member states, the European Council President and the President of the European Commission.
- Mr. Charles Michel of Belgium have recently been elected to be the president of the European Council.

3. b

- It is an exhibition programme organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs to provide international market for master artisans of minority communities to sell their products.
- Hunar hubs provides training to master artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts according to modern needs.
- Government is targeting to establish "Hunar Hubs" in every state of the country in the next five years.

4. c

- India has become the first country in the entire world which has made the entire Haj 2020 process 100 per cent digital.
- Online application, E-Visa, Haj mobile app, "E-MASIHA" health facility, "E-luggage pre-tagging" have been provided to Indian Muslims going for Haj.
- "E-MASIHA" (E Medical Assistance System for Indian Pilgrims Abroad) is an online system to create and maintain the complete health database of Indian pilgrims to deal any emergency in Mecca-Medina.
- The database contains doctors' prescriptions, medical treatment as well as medicine disbursements.

5. b

- It is a raptor and live on all continents except Antarctica.
- They prefer wide-open spaces, and thrive near coasts where shorebirds are common, but they

can be found everywhere from tundra to deserts.

- Its population were in steep decline during the mid-20th century and in the United States it became an endangered species.
- IUCN listed it as “Least Concern” in its red list of threatened species.
- As per the recent study, it has the fastest vision in the animal kingdom and register nearly 130 frames per second.

6. a

- **Minorities Rights Day** is observed on **18th December** in India.
- The day aims to remind about the rights of minorities and to educate people about it.
- It focuses on the religious harmony, respect, and better understanding of all minorities' communities in India.
- **Minorities Rights Day** is celebrated by the **National Commission for Minorities**.
- **Constitution of India** through Articles 29 to 30, 350 A to 350 B has afforded protection to the minorities in the country.
- The framers of the Constitution were quite conscious of the importance of these provisions.
- The Union Government set up the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**.
- The **minorities in India** include **Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains**.
- **Jains** have been notified as minority community through a notification in 2014.

7. b

- **December 22, is Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.**
- In Delhi, the Sun rose at 7.09 am, and will set at 5.29 pm, making the day 10 hours, 19 minutes, and 17 seconds long.

- In the **Southern Hemisphere**, conversely, it is **Summer Solstice**.
- In places like Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa, **December 22 is the year's longest day**.
- The Earth's axis of rotation is tilted at an angle of 23.5 degrees away from the perpendicular.
- This tilt combined with factors such as Earth's spin and orbit leads to variations in the duration of Sunlight that any location on the planet receives on different days of the year.
- **On the Equator, day and night are equal.** The closer one moves towards the poles, the more extreme the variation.
- It is at latitudes higher than 66.5° (in either direction) that days of constant darkness or light occur.

8. c

- Recently, the Moscow-based **Rosatom State Corporation Engineering Division** installed a '**Core Melt Localisation Device**' (CMLD) or "**Core Catcher**" at Unit 3 of **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP)**.
- **KKNPP** is **India's first nuclear plant to use Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) technology**.
- The existing nuclear power plants in India use pressurised heavy water reactor or boiling water reactor technology.
- **Core Catcher** is the device is designed to **localise and cool the molten core material in case of a meltdown accident**.
- Molten core material, is lava-like material that gets formed in the core of a nuclear reactor in the event of a meltdown accident.
- Such an accident occurs when the nuclear fission reaction taking place inside a reactor is not sufficiently cooled, and the buildup of heat causes fuel rods to melt down.
- In the past, meltdown accidents have occurred at Chernobyl in Russia in 1986 and at Fukushima in Japan in 2011.
- The **Core catcher** is installed at the bottom of the nuclear station's protective shell, and is designed to save as well as exude radioactive

emission in the environment in case of a serious accident.

- In 2011, the device was first installed at the Tianwan nuclear power plant in China, which is of Russian design.

9. d

- The **Punjab** Education Department recently launched **Mission Shat Pratishat**.
- It aims to achieve 100% result in classes 5, 8, 10, and 12 of government schools.
- The department has coined a slogan: 'Asambhav Nu Sambhav Banaiye, Shatpratishat Natija Liyaiye' (Make impossible possible and secure 100% results).
- **WhatsApp groups** of teachers, students, and parents by different subject teachers have been formed to ensure proper coordination as well as sharing of good practices.
- The teachers and students are being sensitised about the structure of the question papers through **Edusat** (Education Satellite).
- Model question papers have been prepared for every subject and students are being made to solve them.
- The government school teachers have voluntarily been taking extra classes not only during working days but also on Sundays and holidays.

10. d

- New survey of mountain gorillas reveals increase in its population.
- Teams conducted the survey in the Bwindi-Sarambwe ecosystem straddling the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The **Mountain gorilla lives in the mountains of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda** at altitudes of 8,000 to 13,000 feet.
- They are **unique to a small section of central Africa**.
- They are **only found** in the **Virunga Massif**, which is comprised of 3 parks that are found in the countries

of **Rwanda** (Volcanoes National Park) **Uganda** (Mgahinga National Park) and **DR Congo** (Virunga National Park) and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, located in Uganda.

- The **Mountain Gorilla** has now been downlisted to **Endangered** from **Critically Endangered** in the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**.

**24-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Green Corps (NGC) 'Ecoclub' programme**

1. It aims to inculcate proper attitude towards environment and sensitize children on issues related to environment and development.
2. It was initiated under the Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT) Scheme of Ministry of Human Resources and Development.

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

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

2) "**Zero Day Vulnerability**" sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Cyber Attacks
- b. Drinking Water Crisis
- c. Aids Control Programme
- d. Production and Distribution mismatches

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF)**

1. It provides concessional finance to the eligible entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs for

development of identified fisheries infrastructure.

2. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NARBAD) is one of the Nodal Loaning entities (NLEs) to provide concessional finance under the FIDF.

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

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

4) AIS-155 sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Aviation Safety Systems
- b. Motor Vehicle Standards
- c. Agriculture Information System
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Microdot Technology*

1. It involves spraying the body and parts of a vehicle with microscopic dots.
2. These dots are permanent and easily visible to the naked eye.
3. It helps to check vehicle theft and use of fake spare parts.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Financial Action Task Force (FATF)*

1. It is an inter-governmental 'policy-making body'.

2. Its recommendations are recognised as International standards.
3. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Commission (EC) are also its members.

Which of the statements given above 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 with respect to *Outer Space Treaty*

1. The framework includes the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.
2. United States is not a signatory to this treaty.

Which of 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 a *currency 'Eco'* which was in news recently

1. It is a newly announced common currency of the Gulf countries.
2. The currency will be pegged to the US dollar.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to, *Galapagos Islands*

1. The Galapagos Islands are part of the country of Ecuador.
2. It is a United Nations World Heritage Site and it is one of the most active hot spots of 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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *WHO report on Global Tobacco use trends*

1. Use of Electronic cigarettes are also covered in the report.
2. India is on track to achieve 30% reduction in tobacco use by 2025 as compared to 2010 levels.

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

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

## Answers

1. a

- **Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT)** is an established central sector scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change continuing since 1983-84 and aims to promote environmental awareness and mobilize student's participation for environment conservation.
- Under the scheme, **National Green Corps (NGC) 'Ecoclub' programme** was initiated in 2001-2002 with the objective to impart knowledge to school children through hands on experience, about their immediate

environment, interactions within it and the problems therein.

- The programme aims to inculcate proper attitude towards environment and sensitize children on issues related to environment and development.
- *In a first, Annual Meet of the State Nodal Agencies implementing the National Green Corps 'Ecoclub' programme of the Environment Ministry, organized by the Ministry's Environment Education Division, in collaboration with the GEER Foundation was held recently in Kevadia, Gujarat.*

2. a

- *Cyber security experts have recently found a **zero-day vulnerability** in Windows, allowing attackers to gain higher privileges on the target machine and dodging protection mechanisms in the Google Chrome browser.*
- The newly discovered exploit was used in the malicious Wizard Opium operation.
- A zero day exploit is a **cyber attack that occurs on the same day a weakness is discovered in software.**
- At that point, it is exploited before a fix becomes available from its creator.
- Zero-day vulnerabilities are basically bugs in software, which leaves the doors open for cyber criminals to break into the system.

3. d

- **Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF)** is a dedicated fund with a total of Rs. 7522.48 crore to address the infrastructure requirement for **fisheries sector.**
- FIDF provides concessional finance to the eligible entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs for development of identified fisheries infrastructure.
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and all scheduled banks are **Nodal Lending entities (NLEs)** to provide concessional finance under the FIDF.
- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

under the FIDF provides interest subvention up to 3% per annum for providing the concessional finance by the NLEs at the interest rate not lower than 5% per annum.

- *The first tripartite Memorandum of Agreement was recently signed between the department of Fisheries Government of India, NARBARD and the Government of Tamil Nadu for the implementation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF).*

4. b

- To enhance vehicle safety, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has recently amended the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, thereby allowing motor vehicles and their parts, components, assemblies and sub-assemblies to be affixed with permanent and nearly invisible microdots.
- As per the new notification, manufacturers who are affixing microdot identifiers in the motor vehicles and their parts, components, assemblies, sub-assemblies shall conform to **Automotive Industry Standards (AIS)-155** as amended from time to time.

5. a

- Microdot technology involves spraying the body and parts of a vehicle – or any other machine – with microscopic dots.
- The **permanent and nearly invisible** microdots can be read physically **with a microscope** and identified **with an ultra violet light source**.
- Use of this technology helps to check vehicle theft and use of fake spare parts.
- To enhance vehicle safety, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has recently amended the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, thereby allowing motor vehicles and their parts, components, assemblies and sub-assemblies to be affixed with permanent and nearly invisible microdots.

6. d

- The global terror financing watchdog, **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has asked Pakistan more questions on the action it has taken against madrassas run by proscribed outfits.

- It has kept Pakistan on the Grey List until February 2020.
- It is an inter-governmental body, working to “set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system”.
- It developed a series of **recommendations that are recognised as the international standard** for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- The **FATF's decision making body**, the FATF Plenary, **meets three times per year**.
- It is a “**policy-making body**” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- It has **38 members** that include all 5 permanent members of the Security Council, and other countries with economic influence.
- The **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Commission (EC) are also its members**.
- Saudi Arabia and Israel are “observer countries”.
- **India** became a full member in 2010.

7. a

- China calls Trump's **Space Force** a 'direct threat to peace' and 'serious violation of international consensus'.
- **Outer Space Treaty**, formally **Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, “Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies”**, (1967), **international treaty binding the parties** to use outer space only for peaceful purposes.
- Presently more than 100 countries are signatories to it. **United States is also one of the signatories**.

- The treaty forbids countries from deploying "nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction" in outer space.
- The term "**weapons of mass destruction**" is **not defined**, but it is commonly understood to include nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

8. d

- Eight **West African countries** have announced a **new common currency "Eco"** to end French dominance from the region.
- These 8 countries are, **Mali, Niger, Senegal, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, and Ivory Coast.**
- The **French-backed currency 'CFA Franc'** was established in 1945 and initially pegged to the French franc but has been linked to the euro for about two decades.
- Former French colonies Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo still use the currency.
- Critics say that '**CFA Franc**' is a '**colonial relic**' that preserves the dominance of Paris and French companies in the region and fiscal independence.
- The new currency "**Eco**" will **remain pegged to the euro**, guaranteeing its stability.



9. c

- **Ecuador declared a state of emergency** after a barge carrying nearly

2,300 liters of diesel fuel sank at the **Galapagos Islands.**

- The **Galapagos**, which are **part of Ecuador**, is a **United Nations World Heritage Site.**
- It is one of the globe's most fragile ecosystems and **active hot spots of the world.**
- The islands emerged from the bottom of the sea in the form of astonishing volcanic upheavals.



10. c

- **WHO launched a new report on global tobacco use trends.**
- For the first time, the WHO projects that the number of males using tobacco is on the decline, indicating a powerful shift in the global tobacco epidemic.
- The **report covers use of** cigarettes, pipes, cigars, waterpipes, smokeless tobacco products (like cheroots and kretek) and heated tobacco products.
- **Electronic cigarettes are not covered in the report.**
- The report supports the monitoring of **SDG Target 3.a**, which calls for strengthening implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).
- Despite a decline in tobacco use, **India is off track to achieve 30% reduction by 2025** as compared to 2010 levels.



- Based on current progress, India can achieve 23% reduction by 2025.

**26-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Locust Swarms*

- They are usually found in the Horn of Africa, West Asia and in the Indian Subcontinent.
- Locust invasions usually occur in areas that receive less than 200mm of rain annually.
- The primary method of controlling locust swarms is by spraying small amounts of concentrated insecticide.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Digital Village*

- It is a village where citizens can avail various e-services of the central and the State governments, as well as of private players.
- It was conceptualised by the Common Service Centre (CSC) SPV under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

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

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

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

- Individuals who identify as Intersex have a gender that is different from the one traditionally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.
- Tamil Nadu government has recently banned sex normalisation surgeries on intersex children except in life-threatening circumstances.

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 *Saptamatrikas*

- They are a group of seven female deities worshipped in Jainism.
- The earliest epigraphic evidence so far for the Saptamatrika cult was issued by the Satavahana king Vijaya in 207 A.D.

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 *Good Governance Index*

- It is a uniform tool to assess the status of governance and impact of various interventions taken up by State governments and Union Territories.
- The index divides the country in to three categories and assessed its performance in 10 governance sectors.
- The rankings were launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms



and Public Grievances, and the Centre for Good Governance.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Eat Right Movement'

- It was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) railway station is the first station to get 'Eat Right Station' certification.

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 *Atal Tunnel*

- It provided all-weather connectivity between Guwahati in Assam and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It will be the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres.
- The project is being implemented by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- 3 only
- None

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Hypersonic weapons*

- It incorporate the speed of a ballistic missile with the maneuvering capabilities of a cruise missile.
- It can travel faster than Mach 5 and has the capability to maneuver during the entire flight.

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

- A social reformer and a successful legislator, served as a member of the Imperial Legislative Council for 11 years (1909–20).
- Also called as 'Mahamana'.
- Supported free and compulsory primary education, and the nationalisation of Railways.
- Acted as a bridge between the Moderates and the Extremists in the Congress.

Choose the leader for whom the above statement matches

- Annie Besant
- Pandita Ramabai Sarasvati
- Lala Lajpat Rai
- Madan Mohan Malaviya

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

- They are endemic to Madagascar.
- They are named the World's most Endangered Mammals.
- They are very social creatures and live in groups.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## Answers

1. c

- **Locust Swarms**, which are usually **found in the Horn of Africa, West Asia and the Indian Subcontinent**, have the potential to damage the livelihood of a tenth of the world's population.
- The current locust invasion in Gujarat is the highest in recent times.
- Locust invasion usually occur in **areas that receive less than 200mm of rain annually**.
- This is an area of about 16 million sq km, consisting about 30 countries.
- Locusts travel at 16-19 kmph, and swarms can cover 130 km or more in a day.
- Usually, there are 40 million, and sometimes as many as 80 million locust adults in each sq km of a swarm.
- The last major upsurge in India occurred in 1993, which saw the incursion of 172 locust swarms.
- India has only one locust breeding season – from July to October.
- **The primary method of controlling locust swarms is by spraying small amounts of concentrated insecticide using vehicle mounted and aerial sprayers.**
- A total of 3,10,548 hectares have been treated up to the December 15, 2019.
- *Sharing borders with neighbouring Pakistan, Gujarat is under attack from hoppers – new-born locusts – that have flown in across the international border.*

- *As the swarms mature, they have ravaged farms in north Gujarat, devastating farms in the three border districts – Banaskantha, Patan and Kutch.*
- *The locusts, known as **tiddis** locally, have wreaked havoc on standing crops including castor, cumin, jatropha and cotton, and fodder grass in around 20 talukas.*
- *Gujarat has not witnessed such an invasion of locusts since 1993-94.*
- *According to local experts, the State administration has been caught napping despite an alert from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of a massive locust attack in South Asia, covering Pakistan and India.*

2. c

- **Digital Village**, which was conceptualised by the Common Service Centre (CSC) SPV under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, is a village where citizens can avail various e-services of the central and the State governments, as well as of private players.
- These include banking, insurance, tele-medicine, pension and e-governance services.
- Such villages are also equipped with LED bulb assembly unit, sanitary napkin unit, and rural-Wifi infrastructure.
- The government is aiming to convert at least 15% of the total villages to digital village in the next 3-4 years.

3. b

- The term intersex is often confused with transgender, the two in-fact have very different meanings.
- Individuals who identify themselves as transgender or transexual have a gender that is different from the one traditionally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth, while **intersex** refers to people born with biological or physical characteristics that are more diverse than stereotypical male or female bodies.
- For example, a person might be born appearing to be female on the outside, but having mostly male-typical anatomy on the inside.

- Or a person may be born with genitals that seem to be in-between the usual male and female types—for example, a girl may be born with a noticeably large clitoris, or lacking a vaginal opening, or a boy may be born with a notably small penis, or with a scrotum that is divided so that it has formed more like labia.
  - *Tamil Nadu government has recently banned sex normalisation surgeries on intersex children except in life-threatening circumstances.*
  - *If adopted nationally, India could become only the third country after Malta and Taiwan, to have a legal regime which protects the rights of intersex children.*
4. b
- In a significant find, the Epigraphy Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India has recently discovered the earliest epigraphic evidence so far for the Saptamatrika cult.
  - It is also the earliest Sanskrit inscription to have been discovered in South India as on date.
  - **Saptamatrikas** are a group of **seven female** deities worshipped in **Hinduism** as personifying the energy of their respective consorts.
  - The inscription is in **Sanskrit** and in **Brahmi** characters and was issued by **Satavahana king Vijaya in 207 A.D.**
  - It was discovered in Chebrolu village in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
5. c
- Tamil Nadu topped the **Good Governance Index** launched by the Centre recently.
  - Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh followed among the 'Big States'.
  - Among the 'Big States', the poor performers are Odisha, Bihar, Goa, and Uttar Pradesh with Jharkhand coming last.
  - The States and UTs are divided into **three groups – Big States, North-East and Hill States, and Union Territories.**
  - Among the North-East and Hill States, Himachal Pradesh was ranked first, followed
- by Uttarakhand, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim.
  - The worst performers in this group are Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, with Arunachal Pradesh coming last.
  - Puducherry is the best governed Union Territory followed by Chandigarh and Delhi. Lakshwadeep is the worst performing UT.
  - The rankings were launched by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, and the Centre for Good Governance.**
  - The Index was scientifically designed based on various parameters of governance and is a uniform tool to assess the status of governance and impact of various interventions taken up by State governments and Union Territories.
  - The States are assessed on performance in **10 sectors**— agriculture and allied sectors, commerce and industries, human resource development, public health, public infrastructure and utilities, economic governance, social welfare and development, judicial and public security, environment, and citizen-centric governance.
  - These ten Governance Sectors are measured on total **50 indicators.**
6. c
- Iconic **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) railway station** has been **conferred with 'Eat Right Station' certification** with the **5-star rating** by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for food safety and hygiene.
  - The **CSMT in Mumbai** is the **first station** on the Central Railway to get **this certification.**
  - It has been **judged on the basis of** compliance of food safety and hygiene, availability of healthy diet, food handling at preparation, transshipment and retail/serving point, food waste management, promotion of local and seasonal food and creating awareness on food safety and healthy diet.
  - '**Eat Right India**' movement is built on **two broad pillars of 'Eat Healthy' and 'Eat Safe'.**

- It aims to engage, excite and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being.
- Led by FSSAI, it is a collective effort to make both the demand and supply-side interventions through the engagement of key stakeholders.

7. b

- The government named the **strategic tunnel under 'Rohtang Pass'** in Himachal Pradesh after **former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee** in a tribute to him on his 95th birth anniversary.
- **Rohtang Tunnel** has been renamed as **Atal Tunnel**.
- The foundation stone for the Access Road to the South Portal of the tunnel was laid on May 26, 2002.
- **The 8.8-kilometre long tunnel is the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres.**
- It will **reduce the distance** between **"Manali and Leh"** by 46 kilometres and save crores of rupees in transport costs.
- The completion of the tunnel will also provide **all weather connectivity** to remote areas of Lahaul and Spiti Valley.
- The project is being implemented by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.

8. c

- **President Vladimir Putin** claims **Russia** is the **only country** in the world to **deploy Hypersonic Weapons**.
- Putin says Russia has surpassed the U.S. in Hypersonic Weapons.
- Hypersonic weapons **incorporate the speed** of a **ballistic missile** with the **maneuvering capabilities** of a **cruise missile**.
- Hypersonic weapons refer to weapons that **travel faster than Mach 5** (~3,800mph) **and have the capability to maneuver during the entire flight**.
- As a pentagon report stated, While the designed speed of the hypersonic missile is

faster than that of sound, its advantage lies in its enhanced maneuverability and smooth flight path, which is much harder to track than that of traditional missiles.

- Hypersonic missiles are delivered in two ways:
    1. They can be fired from the last stages of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) or Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBM) and skip along the top of the atmosphere using specialized jet engines to accelerate to hypersonic speeds; or
    2. They can be launched independently or released from a bomber similar to cruise missiles before accelerating to ultra-high speeds.
  - The United States, China, and Russia are designing and testing hypersonic missiles.
  - Lockheed Martin is developing a hypersonic vehicle called the **Falcon Hypersonic Technology Vehicle 2 (HTV-2)**, which is a maneuverable rocket-launched aircraft that glides through the Earth's atmosphere at speeds up to Mach 20 (13,000 mph).
9. d
- December 25 is the birth anniversary of **Madan Mohan Malaviya, the famed Indian educationist and freedom fighter**.
  - He is **also called as 'Mahamana'**.
  - He is **known for founding the Banaras Hindu University** and for becoming one of the torchbearers of the freedom struggle.
  - He acted as a bridge between the Moderates and the Extremists in the Congress.
  - Malaviya **supported free and compulsory primary education**, opposed the system of indentured labour in the British Empire, and **supported the nationalisation of railways**.
  - In the freedom struggle, **Malaviya was midway** between the Liberals and the Nationalists, the Moderates and the Extremists.
  - In 1930, he participated in it and courted arrest in Salt Satyagraha and the Civil Disobedience Movement.

- In 2015, the government bestowed Malaviya with the “Bharat Ratna”, India’s highest civilian honour.
- In 2016, the Indian Railways started the Varanasi-New Delhi “Mahamana Express” in the leader’s honour.

10. d

- Madagascar’s famous ‘Lemurs’ could lose their rainforest by 2080.
- Deforestation and climate change could wipe out much of the island’s rainforests, a new model says.
- Lemurs only live in one place in the world, Madagascar and the nearby Comoro Islands, which are off the coast of Mozambique in Africa.
- They occupy many different habitats: dry deciduous forests, spiny forests, rain forests, wetlands and mountains.
- Lemurs named World’s Most Endangered Mammals beating out all other mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and bony fish for the dismal distinction.
- There are very social creatures and live in groups called troops.

**27-12-2019**

1) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, which will be launched annually have been developed by?

- United Nations in India
- Global Green Growth Institute
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- All of the above

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

- It is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It will be implemented over a period of 2 years (2020-21 to 2021-22).

- It aims to improve ground water management through community participation across India.

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

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

3) Which of the following is/are not the eligibility criteria for Nari Shakti Puraskar?

- The award is given annually to individuals, groups and institutions for outstanding work towards empowerment of women.
- Individual applicant must be at least 25 years of age.
- In case of Institutions, it must have at least 5 years of relevant experience.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Cabinet Committees

- They are not mentioned in the Constitution.
- Non-cabinet Ministers are debarred from the membership of these committees.
- The recently formed Cabinet Committee on Investment & Growth is headed by the Prime Minister whereas the Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development is headed by the Minister of Skill Development.

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

- 1 only



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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Socio-Demographic Index (SDI)*

1. It is a composite measure of per-capita income, mean education, and fertility rate in women younger than 25 years.
2. It is expressed on a scale of 0 to 5.

Which of 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 the *5G Technology*

1. It uses radio millimetre waves for transmission of signals.
2. It uses shorter wavelengths, so the antennas are much larger than existing 4G antennas.
3. AJ Paulraj committee was set up to prepare a roadmap for rollout of 5G telephony in India.

Which of the statements given above 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 with respect to *The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955*

1. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, lays down the law for divorce, which applies only to Hindus, Buddhists, and Sikhs.

2. The Act does not include 'irretrievable breakdown of marriage' as a ground for divorce.

Which of 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 *ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)*

1. It is an autonomous organisation under Minister of Commerce and Industry.
2. The GoI authorizes ASSOCHAM to issue certificates of origin, recommend business visa and certify commercial invoices.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to, *BrahMos missile*

1. It is a supersonic cruise missile capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea-based targets.
2. It operates on the "Fire and Forget" principle.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Eurasian Economic Union

1. It is a group of members of European Union and Asian Countries to promote greater regional economic cooperation.
2. Free Trade agreement is signed between India and EAEU.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

- **NITI Aayog** will launch the second edition of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index**, which documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets, on 30 December 2019 at NITI Aayog, New Delhi.
- The SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019–20 have been developed in collaboration with the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the United Nations in India, and the Global Green Growth Institute.**

2. a

- Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is a **Central Sector Scheme** under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** recently approved by the Cabinet.
- It will be implemented over a period of **5 years** (2020-21 to 2024-25).
- It aims to improve ground water management through community participation in identified priority areas in **seven States**.
- The states are **Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.**

- It will promote panchayat led ground water management and behavioural changes with primary focus on demand side management.
- It has two major components such as,
  1. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Component
  2. Incentive Component for the States
- The total outlay of Rs 6,000 crore, 50% shall be in the form of World Bank loan and will be repaid by the Central Government.
- The remaining 50% shall be through Central assistance from regular budgetary support.

3. d

- **Nari Shakti Puraskar** is given **annually** to individuals, groups, institutions in recognition of their exceptional work towards the cause of women empowerment, especially for vulnerable and marginalized women.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Open to individuals, groups and institutions for outstanding work towards empowerment of women.
- Individual applicant must be **at least 25 years** of age.
- Institutions must have **at least 5 years** of relevant experience.

4. a

- They are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are **not mentioned in the Constitution**. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.
- They are of two types—standing and *ad hoc*. The former are of a permanent nature while the latter are of a temporary nature.
- The *ad hoc* committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed.
- They are **set up by the Prime Minister** according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition varies from time to time.

- Their membership varies from **three to eight**.
  - They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the **non-cabinet Ministers** are **not debarred** from their membership.
  - They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.
  - They are **mostly headed by the Prime Minister**.
  - Sometimes other Cabinet Ministers, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also acts as their Chairman.
  - But, in case the Prime Minister is a member of a committee, he invariably presides over it.
  - **Cabinet Committee on Investment & Growth** is the newly formed cabinet committee with **Prime Minister** as the chairman.
  - The panel has 4 members - Home Minister, Highways and MSME Minister, Finance Minister and Commerce & Railways Minister.
  - **Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development** with **Prime Minister** as the head and 10 panel members was also constituted.
  - Ministers from the following ministries are members - Home, Finance, Commerce & Railways, Agriculture, Petroleum, Skill Development, Labour, Housing & Urban Development and HRD.
  - These committees were formed in response to growth slowing down and a rise in unemployment.
5. a
- The SDI is a composite measure of **per-capita income, mean education, and fertility rate** in women **younger than 25 years** and is calculated on a scale of one.
  - It is expressed on a scale of 0 to 1.
6. c
- The Government is planning to auction spectrum of millimetre bands of 24.75 to 27.25 GHz, which are strong for **5G technology**, by the end of next year.
- **5G technology** is the next generation of wireless communications.
  - It is expected to provide Internet connections that are least 40 times faster than 4G LTE.
  - One fundamental difference is **5G uses unique radio frequencies**, a new **radio millimetre waves** for transmission to achieve what 4G networks cannot.
  - It uses **shorter wavelengths**, which means that **antennas can be much smaller** than existing antennas while still providing **precise directional control**.
  - **AJ Paulraj committee** was set up to **prepare a roadmap for rollout of 5G telephony in India**, expects the service to be operational by 2020.
7. b
- Last week, the **Supreme Court** used **extraordinary powers** under **Article 142** of the Constitution to **grant divorce** in a case of **“irretrievable breakdown of marriage”**.
  - **The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**, lays down the **law for divorce**, which **applies to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs**.
  - Under **Section 13 of the Act**, the grounds for divorce include: “voluntary sexual intercourse with any person other than his or her spouse”; “cruelty”; desertion “for a continuous period of not less than two years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition”; “ceas(ing) to be a Hindu by conversion to another religion”; and being “incurably of unsound mind”.
  - **Section 13B** provides for “divorce by mutual consent”.
  - **Section 27 of The Special Marriage Act, 1954** provides the grounds for grant of divorce in the case of marriages solemnised under that Act.
  - However, **neither of the 2 Acts provide for “irretrievable breakdown of marriage” as a ground for divorce**.

- The law does not include “irretrievable breakdown of marriage” as a ground for divorce.
- In its order passed on December 17, a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K M Joseph said: “We may note that in a recent judgment of this Court, in ‘**R. Srinivas Kumar vs R. Shametha**’, to which one of us (Sanjay Kishan Kaul, J.) is a party, **divorce was granted on the ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage.**”
- In the present case, the court said that it believed that “not only is the continuity of this marriage fruitless, but it is causing further emotional trauma and disturbance to both the parties”.
- **Article 142**, the court said, “provide(s) a **unique power to the Supreme Court**, to do “complete justice” between the parties, i.e., where at times law or statute may not provide a remedy, the Court can extend itself to put a quietus to a dispute in a manner which would befit the facts of the case.
- Earlier **SC invoked Article 142** of the Constitution of India, **prohibiting the sale of liquor.**

8. b

- Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (**ASSOCHAM**), leading Indian trade association.
- It was **established** as the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India and Ceylon in 1920 **by a group of chambers of commerce** led by the Calcutta Traders Association.
- In the early 21st century ASSOCHAM claimed a membership of more than 300,000 corporations, chambers of commerce, trade and industry associations, and individuals.
- It is the **apex trade association of India**. The goal of the organization is to promote domestic and international trade.
- It helps to formulate policy decisions intended to boost the growth and competitiveness of Indian trade and industry in national and international markets.
- The GoI authorizes and has given the power for ASSOCHAM to issue certificates of origin,

recommend business visa and certify commercial invoices.

9. c

- Recently, **DRDO** carried out two successful tests of the latest variant of the **BrahMos missile**, one from the land platform and the other from air.
- **BrahMos**, developed through a **collaboration between India and Russia**, is one of the most advanced weapons in India’s armoury.
- With a capability to attain speeds 2.8 times that of sound (Mach 2.8), BrahMos is classified as **supersonic cruise missile**.
- A newer version under development is aimed at flying at speeds greater than Mach 5. These are called hypersonic cruise missiles.
- The missile is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea-based targets.
- It operates on the “Fire and Forget” principle i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.

10. c

- The Eurasian Economic Union is an international organization for regional economic integration.
- It provides for free movement of goods, services, capital and labour, pursues coordinated, harmonized and single policy in the sectors determined by the Treaty.
- The Member-States are Republic of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz and Russian Federation.
- It is being created to promote stable development and living standards of the nations of the Member-States.
- Russia is looking forward to India concluding a new Free Trade Agreement with the EAEU.

**28-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements regarding Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB)

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It offers renowned Ramanujan Fellowship for scientist and engineers from all the world to take up scientific research in India.
3. It gives special attention to young scientists below the age of 35 years to undertake independent research in frontier areas of science and engineering.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements regarding National Anthem

1. National Anthem was first sung in the Bombay Session of INC on December 27, 191
2. The Hindi version was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on January 24, 1950.
3. It was translated in English in 1919 with the title "Morning Song of India"

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

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

3) Consider the following statements regarding "SnowEx"

1. It is a 5-year programme launched by NASA in 2016-17.

2. It uses computer modelling, ground and airborne measurements to assess the snow and the amount of water it contains.
3. Currently, NASA has no global satellite mission to track and study Snow Water Equivalent (SWE).

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

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

4) The first ever naval drill among Iran, Russia and China launched in?

- a. Persian Gulf
- b. Gulf of Oman
- c. Gulf of Bohai
- d. Gulf of Cremia

5) Consider the following statements regarding *Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India*

1. It is a special purpose vehicle setup by the Ministry of Railways.
2. It will implement six broad gauge dedicated freight corridors (DFC) traversing the country.
3. Western DFC runs from Dadri to Dankuni in West Bengal.

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

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

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

1. It is a drought resistant crop ideal for arid climates.
2. India is one among the Cotton-4 (C-4) Countries.
3. SUVIN is the finest quality of extra long staple cotton produced in Maharashtra.

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

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

7) *Shehri Samridhi Utsav (SSU)* and *SPARK Awards* are associated with which of the following schemes?

- a. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- b. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
- c. Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- d. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – (NULM)

8) Match the following with respect to *recent cyclones*

**Cyclones – Regions**

1. Sarai – a. U.S.A
2. Phanfone – b. Japan
3. Lekima – c. China
4. Dorian – d. Fiji
5. Hagibis – e. Philippines

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

9) *alkB homolog 3 (ALKBH3)* sometimes seen in the news recently is?

- a. A malware that blocks the internet access of the computer
- b. A protein that repairs damaged DNA
- c. An enzyme that edits parts of genome
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Container Corporation of India*

1. It is a Maharatna public sector undertaking company.
2. It comes under Ministry of shipping.

Which of 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

- All the above statements are true.
- Recently, Researchers from IIT Hyderabad has unravelled the functioning of a “DNA Repair Proteins” that repairs a damaged DNA in humans and helps prevent diseases like cancer.
- The research was funded by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).

2. a

- It was originally written in Bengali by India’s first Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.
- The parent song, ‘BharotoBhagyoBidhata’ is a Brahma hymn which has five verses and only the first verse has been adopted as National Anthem.
- It was first sung in the Calcutta Session of INC on December 27, 1911.

3. d

- NASA has launched a seasonal campaign, part of a five-year programme called SnowEx, initiated in 2016-17 to better understand how much water is contained in each winter's snowfall.
- NASA's overall target is optimal strategies for mapping global snow water equivalent (SWE) with remote sensing and models leading to a Decadal Survey "Earth System Explorer" mission.
- NASA currently has no global satellite mission to track and study SWE.
- SnowEx assesses where snow has fallen, how much there is and how its characteristics change as it melts.
- It uses airborne measurements, ground measurements and computer modelling.
- The airborne campaign will fly radar and lidar (light detection and ranging) to measure snow depth, microwave radar and radiometers to measure SWE, optical cameras to photograph the surface, infrared radiometers to measure surface temperature, and hyperspectral imagers for snow cover and composition.
- Ground teams will measure snow depth, density, accumulation layers, temperature, wetness and snow grain size
- This year, real-time computer modelling will be integrated into the campaign as well.

4. b

- Russia, China and Iran launched their first joint naval exercises in the Gulf of Oman in a direct challenge to US influence in the Middle East.

5. a

- Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) project is a broad gauge freight corridor being constructed by the Indian Railways.
- It aims to provide an efficient and reliable transportation system through construction of **six freight corridors** traversing the entire country.
- Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) is a special purpose vehicle of

the railways which has been entrusted with the job to develop DFCs in the country.

- Western DFC runs from Dadri near Delhi to Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai.
- It covers the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- It is funded by World Bank.
- Eastern DFC is from Ludhiana in Punjab to Dankuni in West Bengal.
- It covers the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- It is funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- All the freight traffic that is currently on the rail routes between Delhi and Mumbai and Delhi and Kolkata would be moved to these corridors in parts to decongest the existing lines.
- Other DFC - East-West DFC (Kolkata-Mumbai), North-South DFC (Delhi-Chennai), East Coast DFC (Kharagpur-Vijaywada) and the Southern DFC (Chennai-Goa).

6. a

- Cotton is a global commodity that is produced all over the world and a single tonne of cotton provides year-round employment for five people on average.
- It is a **drought – resistant crop** ideal for arid climates, it occupies just 2.1 % of the world's arable land, yet it meets 27% of the world's textiles need.
- In addition to its fibre used in textiles and apparel, food products are also derived from cotton like edible oil and animal feed from the seed.
- **SUVIN**, the finest quality of Extra Long Staple Cotton produced in **Tamil Nadu** having the highest fibre length.

#### **Cotton – 4 countries**

1. Benin
2. Burkina Faso
3. Chad
4. Mali

7. d
- **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** is promoting **Shehri Samridhi Utsav** as a platform of making a more significant, out of the ordinary impact in the lives of beneficiaries under DAY-NULM.
  - **Systematic Progressive Analytical Real Time Ranking (SPARK)** awards 2018-19 will be presented to the winning States for their excellent performances in implementation of DAY-NULM during the FY 2018-19.
2. It aims to auction assets attached by various state-run banks and provides a single-window access to information on all the properties up for e-auction.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
8. d
- Sarai – a. Fiji
  - Phanfone – b. Philippines
  - Lekima – c. China
  - Dorian – d. U.S.A
  - Hagibis – e. Japan
9. b
- In a significant development, a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) has discovered the working of a protein that repairs damaged Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) in the body.
  - IIT-H have discovered the mechanism of action of a protein called, **alkB homolog 3 (ALKBH3) that repairs damaged DNA.**
- 2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Aditya - L1 Mission**
- It is the first Indian mission to study the Sun.
  - It was conceived as a 400kg class satellite carrying one payload, the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC).
  - It was planned to launch in an 800 km low earth orbit.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 1 and 2 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
10. d
- **Container Corporation of India (Concor)** – a profit making unit designated as a “**Navratna**” (Jewel) company under **the Ministry of Railways** – has a 72% share of container traffic in India.
  - Against its current holding of 54.8% equity, the Indian government will disinvest 30.8%, according to the cabinet’s decision made on November 21.
- 3) Consider the following statements with respect to **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)**
- It is the percentage of the digital transaction that a merchant pays to banks.
  - The merchant discount rate is expressed in percentage of the transaction amount.
  - It is also applicable for online transactions and QR-based transactions.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
- 30-12-2019**
- 1) With respect to **eBkay**, consider the following statements
- It is a common e-auction platform launched by the Ministry of Finance.



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

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

- a. Economic Statistics
- b. Tribal Talent Development
- c. Foreign Portfolio Investors
- d. Local militancy in Jammu and Kashmir

5) Consider the following statements

1. It resides on the extreme north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh and the northern edges of the Satpura mountain ranges.
2. The upper slope of the reserve is filled with the mixed forest of Sai, Dhobin and Saja along with Sal.
3. For the first time, the reserve gets its first elephant colony.

Identify the protected area that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Kanha
- b. Bandhavgarh
- c. Satpura
- d. Tadoba-Andhari

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Preamble in the Constitution of India*

1. The Preamble is based on the Objective Resolution moved by Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly.
2. Since its adoption by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, the preamble has been amended only once.
3. India constitution is the first in the world to begin with a preamble.

Which of the statements given above 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 with respect to *Drake Passage*

1. It is a deep waterway which connects the Atlantic and the Pacific ocean between Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands.
2. The waters of the Drake Passage are rich in plankton.

Which of 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 *Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)*

1. It is an autonomous body registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860.
2. Minister of Science and Technology is the ex-officio president of CSIR.

Which of 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) India's first *University for Transgender community* to come up in?

- a. Kerala
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Uttar Pradesh

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Dadasaheb Phalke Award*

1. It is presented annually by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
2. It is not awarded posthumously.

Which of 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

- **eBkraj**, a common e-auction platform to auction assets attached by various state-run banks was launched recently by the **Union Finance Minister**.
- The platform is equipped with property search features and navigational links to all PSB e-auction sites, provides single-window access to information on properties up for e-auction as well as facility for comparison of similar properties, and also contains photographs and videos of uploaded properties.

2. d

- The **Aditya-1 mission** was conceived as a 400kg class satellite carrying one payload, the **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)** and was planned to launch in a 800 km low earth orbit.
- A Satellite placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/ eclipses.
- Therefore, the Aditya-1 mission has now been revised to “Aditya-L1 mission” and will be inserted in a halo orbit around the L1, which is 1.5 million km from the Earth.
- The satellite carries additional six payloads with enhanced science scope and objectives.

3. d

- **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** is the cost paid by a merchant to a bank for accepting payment from their customers via digital means.
- The merchant discount rate is expressed in percentage of the transaction amount.
- It is also applicable for online transactions and QR-based transactions.
- The amount that the merchant pays for every transaction gets distributed among three stakeholders – the bank that enables the transaction, vendor that installs the point of sale (PoS) machine and the card network provider such as Visa, MasterCard, RuPay.
- *Union Finance Minister has recently announced that from 1 January, 2020, businesses with annual turnover of more than Rs. 50 crore will have to offer low cost digital payment options to customers and Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will not be levied on either customers or merchants.*

4. a

- The statistics ministry has constituted a 28 member **Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES)** chaired by **former Chief Statistician Pronab Sen** to improve quality of data amid criticism of the government over political interference.
- The first meeting of the SCES is scheduled on January 6, 2020.
- The panel will review and develop the country's surveys on employment, industry and services sector amid criticism of official statistics.

5. b

- For the first time, Bandhavgarh reserve forest in Madhya Pradesh has a colony of elephants.
- It is an unusual occurrence in Bandhavgarh, which has, over the years, played host to herds of elephants that arrive to graze and forage and subsequently travel back to neighbouring Chhattisgarh.
- While India is home to 50 per cent of the Asian elephant population, and according to 2017 elephant census there are 27,312 elephants in the country – a decrease, however, of nearly

3,000 from the 2012 census – there are no elephants in Madhya Pradesh.

- Bandhavgarh National Park resides on the extreme north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh and the northern edges of the Satpura mountain ranges.
- Due to the tropical monsoon climatic zone, the park has been characterized by well defined winters summers and rains and the sprouted weather definitely makes the whole environment more lush and unabridged.

6. a

- The Constitution, particularly **Preamble** has frequently been at the centre of the ongoing debate over the Citizenship Amendment Act.
- The **original Preamble**, adopted by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, declared India a **“Sovereign Democratic Republic”**.
- By the **42nd Amendment of 1976**, enacted during the Emergency, the words **“Socialist” and “Secular” were inserted**.
- This **42nd Amendment** is the **only amendment to the Preamble**.
- The **Preamble now reads “Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic”**.
- The **Preamble is based on the Objective Resolution** moved by Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly on Dec 13, 1946.
- The Resolution was adopted on January 22, 1947.
- **Constitution of the United States** was the **first constitution in the world to begin with a preamble**. India, like some other countries, also followed this practice.

7. c

- As per the **Guinness World Records**, 6 rowers become 1st to cross perilous **Drake Passage** unassisted.
- The project was dubbed **“The Impossible Row”**, for which the team departed from Cape Horn in Chile on December 13 and arrived at Primavera Base on San Martin Land on the Antarctic Peninsula on December 25.
- **Drake Passage**, deep waterway, 600 miles (1,000 km) wide, **connecting the Atlantic**

**and Pacific oceans between Cape Horn** (the southernmost point of South America) and the **South Shetland Islands**, situated about 100 miles (160 km) north of the Antarctic Peninsula.



- The Drake Passage defines the zone of climatic transition separating the cool, humid, subpolar conditions of Tierra del Fuego and the frigid, polar regions of Antarctica.
- The **waters of the Drake Passage are rich in plankton**, particularly the shrimplike crustaceans called krill.
- Such organisms define the essential food source for blue and fin whales, squid, emperor penguins, and crabeater seals.

8. a

- Scientists from the **“Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants” (CSIR-CIMAP)**, developed a new **low-cost technology to prepare ‘Geranium saplings’** and make this available for the farmers too.
- The new technology will help to boost the production of **Geranium** under **Aroma Mission**.

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** is the largest **Research and Development (R&D)** organisation.
- It was **established in 1942 as an autonomous body**, though **mainly funded by Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- It is **registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- **Prime Minister** is the **ex-officio President** and **Minister of Science and Technology** is the **ex-officio Vice President of CSIR**.
- The **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** was **established by CSIR** in 1958, named after its founder.
- The research categories - Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth Sciences, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary, Engineering, Mathematical Sciences, Medical Sciences & Physical Sciences are eligible for the prize.

9. d

- The **country's first University For Transgender Community will be opened in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district**.
- It is to facilitate Transgender community members to study right from class one to PG and even do research and get PhD degree.
- The university, which will come up in Fazilnagar block of Kushinagar district, is **being built by the Akhil Bhartiya Kinnar Siksha Seva Trust (All-India transgender education service trust)**.

10. a

- Actor Amitabh Bachchan awarded the prestigious '**Dadasaheb Phalke Award**'.
- '**Dhundiraj Govind Phalke**' is the **pioneering filmmaker** who **gave India its first film, 'Raja Harishchandra', in 1913**.
- The **Award is named after him** and it is the **Indian cinema's highest honour**.
- The Award is a part of the 'National Film Awards', themselves a highly coveted collection of honours in the film industry.

- It is awarded for "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema".
- It is **presented annually by the 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'**.
- It consists of a 'Swarna Kamal' (Golden Lotus), a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a certificate, a silk roll, and a shawl.
- The award is **presented by the President of India** in the presence of Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting and others.
- **It is awarded posthumously**, last year, it was awarded posthumously to the legendary late actor 'Vinod Khanna'.
- Actor Prithviraj Kapoor (1971) was also a **posthumous** recipient.

**31-12-2019**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to the **Urban Co-Operative Banks (UCBs) of India**

1. UCBs are only partly regulated by the RBI.
2. In the event UCBs fail, deposits with them are covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India up to a sum of Rs 1 lakh per depositor.

Which of 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

1. Turkmenistan
2. Uzbekistan
3. India
4. Tajikistan
5. Pakistan

6. China

7. Iran

**Afghanistan shares Border with which of the Countries?**

- 1,2,3,5, and 6 only
- 1,2,4,5,6 and 7 only
- 2,3,4,5,6 and 7 only
- All of the above

**3) Rabung Bridgewhich was in news recently was inaugurated in**

- Assam
- Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Union Territory of Ladakh

**4) Consider the following statements**

- The Andaman is separated from the Nicobar group of islands by the Nine Degree Channel.
- Indira Point is the location of the southernmost point of India.

**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 RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil)**

- It is an initiative of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel.
- Total Polar Compounds (TPC) beyond 25% in the cooking oils considered unfit for human consumption.

**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 India State of Forest Report (ISFR)**

- It is a biennial report published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
- Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh.
- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, Mizoram tops the list followed by Arunachal Pradesh.

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

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

**7) Consider the following statements with respect to Forest Survey of India (FSI)**

- It is a premier national organization under the union Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- It is responsible for the creation and updation of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment.

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

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

8) With respect to *e-BCAS Project*, consider the following statements

1. The project envisaged to achieve a paperless office under e-Governance initiative of Government of India.
2. The project was launched by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)*

1. CDS will ensure coordination in joint operations and key in operational role and military command.
2. CDS will also head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), created within the Ministry of Defence.
3. CDS will not be eligible to hold any government office after demitting as the CDS.

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index*

1. Kerala achieved the first rank in the composite SDG Index followed by Himachal Pradesh.
2. The second edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index was released by NITI Aayog.
3. The SDGs, constituted through an unprecedented consultative process,

have 18 goals and 169 related targets to be achieved by 2030.

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

### Answers

1. c

- In a proposal possibly aimed at nudging **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** to convert into Small Finance Banks (SFBs), the RBI has cut their limits on exposure to single and group borrowers
- RBI prescribed that at least 50% of their loan portfolio should comprise loans that do not exceed more than Rs 25 lakh per borrower/party.
- Co-operative banks, were born out of the concept of co-operative credit societies where members from a community band together to extend loans to each other, at favourable terms.
- Credit co-operatives (or co-operative banks) are broadly classified into urban or rural co-operative banks based on their region of operation.
- **UCBs are only partly regulated by the RBI.**
- While their **banking operations are regulated by the RBI**, which lays down their capital adequacy, risk control and lending norms, **their management and resolution** in the case of distress is regulated by the **Registrar of Co-operative Societies** either under the State or Central government.
- In the event **UCBs fail**, deposits with them are covered by the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India** up to a sum of **Rs 1 lakh per depositor**, the same as for a commercial bank.

2. d
- Afghanistan has been debating the preliminary results of its election
  - Preliminary poll results have returned President Ghani to power but have been challenged by his rival.
  - **Afghanistan is a landlocked country that is bordered by Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, China, India and Iran.**
  - India shares 106 kilometres border with Afghanistan.
3. c
- The strategically important **Rabung bridge** on the **Migging-Tuting road** in **Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Siang district** was inaugurated.
  - The bridge is **strategically important for the Indian Army and ITBP** as the **Migging-Tuting road is the only line of communication to border areas and posts at Gelling and Bishing**, ahead of Tuting.
4. b
- On December 29, 1943, 76 years ago Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose arrived in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
  - During the visit, he would hoist the Indian Tricolour at the Gymkhana Ground, today's Netaji Stadium at Port Blair.
  - The Islands were under Japanese occupation during World War II for three years (1942-45), and were formally handed over to Bose's Azad Hind government on this day, although effective control remained with Japan.
  - The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are strategically located in the Indian Ocean between the Indian mainland, Myanmar, and Indonesia.
  - The Andaman is separated from the Nicobar group of islands by the **Ten Degree Channel**.
  - **Indira Point**, located in the Nicobar District of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is the **southernmost point of India**.
- Formerly known as **Pygmalion Point**, it was renamed after Indira Gandhi on October 10, 1985.
  - The **southernmost Point in mainland India is Cape Comorin**, also known as KanyaKumari, it is located in the KanyaKumari District of Tamil Nadu.
5. b
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** launched **RUCO** (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) initiative to **enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel**.
  - Under RUCO project plans are to convert vegetable oils, animal fats or restaurant grease that has already been used in cooking into biodiesel for running diesel vehicles, or indeed any equipment that uses diesel.
  - **FSSAI** has notified the limit of **Total Polar Compounds (TPC)** used in cooking at 25%.
  - **TPC is used to measure the quality of oil**, and its level increases every time oil is reheated.
  - **TPC beyond 25% is considered unfit for human consumption**.
  - According to FSSAI, India has potential to recover 220 crore litres of used cooking oil for production of biodiesel by 2022.
  - It will reduce India's oil import bill by a tiny bit.
6. d
- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recently released the **biennial "India State of Forest Report (ISFR)"**, in New Delhi.
  - The report is published by the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** which has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country including wall-to-wall forest cover mapping in a biennial cycle.
  - Starting 1987, 16 assessments have been completed so far. ISFR 2019 is the 16th report in the series.
  - Area-wise **Madhya Pradesh** has the **largest forest cover** in the country

followed by **Arunachal Pradesh**, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

- In terms of forest cover as **percentage of total geographical area**, the top five States are **Mizoram (85.41%)**, **Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%)**, Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%).

7. b

- **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**.
- In addition, it is also engaged in providing the services of training, research and extension.

8. c

- The **'e-BCAS' project** envisaged to achieve a **"paperless office"** under e-Governance initiative of GoI.
- It is aimed at facilitating external stakeholders to access BCAS system by digital automation of all internal office procedures in 2016, the project was approved by **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** at an estimated cost of Rs.21.69 crore.
- The e-BCAS project included Training module, Quality Control and Operational module and Administration etc.

9. c

- **General Bipin Rawat** has been named **the country's first Chief of Defence Staff**.
- The **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** will be a **four-star General**, the principal military advisor to the defence minister, and **head the new Department of Military Affairs** to ensure jointness in training, logistics and procurement of the three services.
- The Chief of Defence Staff, however, **will not have any operational role and military command**.
- But, will ensure coordination in joint operations.
- He will also **not be eligible** to hold any government office after demitting as the CDS.

10. b

- India has improved its composite score from **57** in 2018 to **60** in the Sustainable Development Goals Index 2019-20.
- This has been achieved due to better works in water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy and industry, innovation, and infrastructure.
- **Kerala achieved the first rank** in the composite SDG Index with a score of 70, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 69.
- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu ranked at the third position with the score of 67.
- The states showing biggest improvement since 2018 are Uttar Pradesh which has moved from the 29th position to the 23rd, Odisha from 23rd to 15th and Sikkim from 15th to 7th position.
- While Bihar improved its score from 48 in 2018 to 50 in 2019, it still has a long way to go in achieving the targets.
- This was revealed in the second edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index which was released by **NITI Aayog**.
- The SDGs, constituted through an unprecedented consultative process, have **17 goals** and 169 related targets to be achieved by 2030.