



IAS PARLIAMENT

Information is a Blessing

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

MONTHLY PRESTORMING

FEBRUARY 2020

Shankar IAS Academy™

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



INDEX

01-02-2020	3
03-02-2020	5
04-02-2020	11
05-02-2020	16
06-02-2020	21
07-02-2020	26
08-02-2020	31
10-02-2020	36
11-02-2020	40
12-02-2020	45
13-02-2020	50
14-02-2020	55
15-02-2020	59
17-02-2020	63
18-02-2020	66
19-02-2020	71
20-02-2020	75
21-02-2020	81
22-02-2020	85
24-02-2020	89
25-02-2020	92
26-02-2020	96
27-02-2020	100
28-02-2020	105



01-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) - Anticipatory Bail**

1. When any person has reason to believe that he may be arrested on an accusation of having committed a bailable offence, he may apply to the Court and that Court may, if it thinks fit, direct that in the event of such arrest, he shall be released on bail.
2. The provision empowers only the Sessions Court and High Court to grant anticipatory bail.

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) The term **Yellow rust** sometimes seen in news is related to

- a. The new image of the Sun which reveal its small magnetic structures
- b. A fungal disease which turns leaves yellowish and affects the photosynthesis process
- c. A pests attack on Sunflowers
- d. None of the above

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Trade Agreement**

1. The USMCA replaces the NAFTA into a high-standard agreement
2. The U.S.M.C.A. has a special system of arbitration that allowed companies to sue governments for unfair treatment.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

c. Both 1 & 2

d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to the term **Thalinomics** which was in news recently

1. It is an economics of a plate of food in India which quantifies what a common person pays for a Thali across India.
2. It takes into account the price data from the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for the analysis.

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to **The Tyler Prize**

1. The Tyler Prize is described as the Nobel Prize for the Environment.
2. It is awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme.

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. b

- The **Supreme Court** recently ruled that **no time restriction should ordinarily be fixed for anticipatory bail** and that it can continue even until the end of the trial.
- The **protection granted under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure**

(CrPc) “should not invariably be limited to a fixed period”, a **5-judge Constitution bench**, deciding a reference made to it following “conflicting views” of some other benches of the court.

- As opposed to **Ordinary bail**, which is **granted to a person who is under arrest**, in **anticipatory bail**, a **person is directed to be released on bail even before arrest** made.
- **Section 438** of the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc)** lays down the law on anticipatory bail. Sub-section (1) of the provision reads: “When any person has reason to believe that he may be arrested on an accusation of having **committed a “non-bailable offence”**, he may apply to the High Court or the Court of Session for a direction under this section; and that Court may, if it thinks fit, direct that in the event of such arrest, he shall be released on bail.”
- The provision **empowers only the Sessions Court and High Court** to grant anticipatory bail.

2. b

- Recently, the **Punjab Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Department issued an advisory about Yellow Rust disease in wheat crops**.
- It is a **fungal disease which turns leaves yellowish and affects the photosynthesis process**.
- Yellow Rust disease appears as yellow stripes of powder or dust on leaves and leaf sheaths of the wheat crop.
- This yellow powder comes out on clothing or fingers when touched.
- The **disease can spread rapidly under congenial conditions and affects crop development**, and eventually the yield.
- In **India, it is a major disease in the Northern Hill Zone and the North-Western Plain Zone**.
- It spreads easily in those region during the onset of cool weather and when wind conditions are favourable.

- Rain, dew and fog favour the disease’s development.
- Last year, a **new variety of wheat called HD-3226** or Pusa Yashasvi was **released by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute**, which had higher levels of resistance against major rust fungi such as the yellow/stripe, brown/leaf and black/stem.
- According to the IIWBR advisory, if farmers observe yellow rust in patches in their wheat fields, they should spray fungicides.

3. a

- Recently, the **United States, Mexico, and Canada** have reached an **agreement to modernize the 25-year-old NAFTA**.
- The new **United States – Mexico - Canada Agreement (USMCA)** will support mutually beneficial trade.
- The **USMCA replaces** the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- The new deal includes stronger labor and environmental provisions. American labor groups have backed the new trade deal.
- It provides **strong and effective protection and enforcement of IP rights** critical to driving innovation, creating economic growth, and supporting American jobs.
- In a **major change**, the **U.S.M.C.A. rolls back a special system of arbitration that allowed companies to sue governments** for unfair treatment.
- The provision was criticized both by the Trump administration, which said it encouraged outsourcing, and by Democrats, who said it gave corporations too much power to challenge environmental and consumer regulations.

4. d

- The recently released **Economic Survey dedicated a full chapter to “Thalinomics”**.
- **Thalinomics: the economics of a plate of food in India** is an attempt to **figure out how much a meal costs in India**.
- The price of a meal, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, is modelled for 25 States/UTs.



- **Price data from the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers** for around 80 centres in 25 States/UTs from April 2006 to October 2019 **is used**.
- Across India, **it is found that the absolute prices of a vegetarian Thali have decreased significantly since 2015-16 though the price has increased in 2019**.
- As a result, an average household of 5 individuals that eats 2 vegetarian Thalis a day gained around Rs.10,887 on average per year while a non-vegetarian household gained Rs.11,787, on average, per year.
- It is also found that **affordability of vegetarian Thalis improved 29%** from 2006-07 to 2019-20 while that for non-vegetarian Thalis improved by 18%.
- **Affordability of 'thali' in relation to a worker's daily pay has improved over time**, indicating improved welfare of the common person, the survey concluded.

5. a

- **Tyler Prize 2020** has been awarded to **Indian economist who formulated Green Economy**.
- It has been awarded to conservation biologist **Gretchen C. Daily**, and environmental economist **Pavan Sukhdev**, both **pioneers in illuminating and quantifying the economic value of our natural environment**.
- **Pavan Sukhdev** is a renowned environmental economist and UN Environment Programme Goodwill Ambassador.
- He was also appointed as the study leader of a global UNEP-hosted study on 'The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity' from 2008 to 2010.
- The first report of the study was published during the peak of the 2008 global financial crisis.
- The **report** went on to **become a foundation** for the **Global Green Economy movement**.
- The **Tyler prize** is one of the **first international premier**

environmental awards, described as the '**Nobel Prize for Environment**'.

- The **award was constituted** in 1973 by the late **John and Alice Tyler**.
- President Ronald Reagan, then Governor of California, helped inaugurate the **John and Alice Tyler Prize in 1973**.
- The goal was to create an international award that would recognize those working to preserve and enhance our world, and inspire others to understand the importance of the environment.
- Recipients of the Tyler Prize are honored in an illustrious ceremony, presented with the Tyler Prize medallion and awarded USD\$200,000.

03-02-2020

1) With respect to *Economic Survey 2019-20*, consider the following statements:

1. It has stated that access to Nutrition and Electricity resulted in higher growth rate in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
2. New firm creation in Service Sector is far greater than that in Manufacturing, Infrastructure or Agriculture.

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) *Paraquat* often seen in the news, is?

- a. a herbicide used in agricultural fields
- b. a device similar to a Quantum computer
- c. a method of drilling oil wells
- d. None of the above



3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Commonwealth of Nations*

1. The membership of the modern Commonwealth depends on formerly being part of the British Empire.
2. A Commonwealth member state that has withdrawn or was expelled from the Commonwealth would not be eligible for rejoining.

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 *Medaram Jatara*

1. It is a tribal festival celebrated biennially to honour the goddesses celebrated in the state of Telangana.
2. It commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
3. It was recently granted the UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage of humanity tag.

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) 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action' often seen in the news, is?

- a. a strategy to tackle the regional terrorism, an outcome of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

b. a plan of action for sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific Region, an outcome of deliberations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum

c. an agenda for women's empowerment, an outcome of a World Conference convened by the United Nations

d. a strategy to combat wildlife trafficking, a declaration of the East Asia Summit

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *South Asia Conference*

1. The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) has been organising the annual South Asia Conference.
2. All the SAARC countries participate in the conference.

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 *Adichnallur Archaeological site*

1. It is an iron-age urn-burial site.
2. It is situated on the banks of Vaigai river.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *The SDG India Index 2019-20*

1. It has been developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the United Nations in India, and the Global Green Growth Institute.

2. The Index has been constructed spanning across 16 out of 17 SDGs.

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 term *Fireball* sometime seen in news

- It is a very bright meteor, which is as bright as Venus in the morning or evening sky.
- A 'bolide' is a special type of Fireball that is accompanied by an explosion.

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 *Credit Rating Agencies (CRA)* in India

- These are companies that rates creditors on the basis of their ability to pay back their interests and loan amount on time and the probability of them defaulting.
- They provide credit ratings only to organisations and not to individual consumers.

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 Survey was tabled by the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Parliament recently.
- The Economic Survey 2019-20 has stated that the **access to Nutrition and Electricity** resulted in higher growth rate in India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and new firm creation in **Service Sector** is far greater than that in **Manufacturing, Infrastructure or Agriculture**.

2. a

- Paraquat is an **herbicide** used in agricultural fields.
- The chances of survival are dim for anyone who consumes the herbicide.
- Paraquat consumption leads to pulmonary fibrosis and patients find difficulty in respiration.
- It affects the **lungs, liver and kidney**.
- No antidote** is available for the paraquat herbicide.
- Even if a person survives, he will not be fully fit as pulmonary fibrosis worsens with the passage of time.
- 38 countries having already banned the sale of paraquat and in India, it is also banned in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

3. d

- The Maldives has recently **re-joined** the Commonwealth, more than three years after it quits the association.
- In 2016, the Maldives pulled out of the Commonwealth terming "unjust" the grouping's decision to penalise the country over former President Mohamed Nasheed's controversial ouster in 2012.
- It followed the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)'s warning to Maldives of suspension from the bloc, voicing "deep disappointment" over the country's lack of

progress in resolving the political crisis during former President Abdulla Yameen's presidency, whose authoritarian slant sparked concern domestically and internationally.

- However, months after President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won the 2018 presidential elections, promising to restore democracy, he wrote to the Commonwealth, requesting to re-join the bloc.

Commonwealth of Nations

- The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries.
- Its roots go back to the British Empire, but membership of the modern Commonwealth **does not depend** on formerly being part of the British Empire.
- A Commonwealth member state that has withdrawn or was expelled from the Commonwealth would need to **reapply for membership**.
- Commonwealth member countries benefit from being part of a mutually supportive community of independent and sovereign states, aided by more than 80 Commonwealth organisations.

4. a

Sammakka Saralamma Jatara or Medaram Jatara

- It is a **tribal festival** of honouring the goddesses celebrated in the state of Telangana, India.
- The Jatara begins at Medaram in Tadvai Mandal in Mulugu district.
- It commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter, **Sammakka and Saralamma**, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- It is celebrated in Medaram during the time the goddesses of the tribals is believed to visit them.
- Medaram is a remote place in the **Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary**, a part of Dandakaranya, the largest surviving forest belt in the Mulugu.
- Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is the time for the largest tribal religious congregation in the world, held **every two years (biennially)**.

- The Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is a **State Festival of Govt. of Telangana**.
- It is a festival with no vedic or brahmanic influence.

Jampanna vagu

- Jampanna vagu is a tributary to River Godavari.
- According to the history, Jampanna is the tribal warrior and the son of Tribal Goddess Sammakka.
- The Jampanna vagu took his name as he died in a battle fighting against Kakatiyan Army in that stream.
- The Jampanna vagu is still red in colour marked with the blood of Jampanna (Scientifically the red colour of the water is attributed to the soil composition).
- Tribal's believe that taking a holy dip in the red water of Jampanna Vagu reminds them the sacrifice of their gods who save them and also induces courage into their souls.
- There is a bridge constructed on top of Jampanna Vagu, known as Jampanna Vagu bridge.

5. c

- To mark of **25 years** of the adoption of **Beijing Platform for Action**, Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD), the National Commission for Women (NCW) and UN Women organized a **National Consultation on the Review of Beijing+25**, to galvanize all stakeholders to implement actions that remove the most conspicuous barriers to gender equality.

National Consultation on the Review of Beijing+25

- The aim of the consultation was to bring together civil society and the women and youth of India, gender equality advocates from all walks of life, in a national public conversation on the urgent actions that need to be taken for the realization of gender equality.
- The objectives of the Consultation were to assess progress and challenges to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in India over the past 5 year, discuss lessons learned, priority actions

required to realized gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030, discuss emerging areas that have impact on women's empowerment.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

- The **1995 Fourth World Conference on Women**, held in **Beijing**, was one of the largest ever gatherings of the United Nations, and a critical turning point in the world's focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- 2020 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), (Beijing + 25).
- A quarter of a century on, several innovations and progress has been made on many fronts across the 12 critical areas of concern of the BPfA.

Steps Taken by GoI

- Under the helm of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was expanded to all 640 districts resulting in a 13-point improvement in the sex ratio from 918 (2014-15) to 931 (2018-19).
- The female net enrolment ratio of 93.55 percent at the elementary level and a significant decline in the overall drop-out rate to 19.8% for boys and girls.
- Over 17.43 lakh women were reached out under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY Maternity Benefit Programme) and over 18.6 lakh were addressed through Women Helpline Number (181) across country as on September 2018.
- To improve the overall gender responsiveness of the police and encourage participation of women in the force, advisory have been issued to increase representation of women to 33 percent resulting in extension of reservation in 15 additional States in the last 5 years.
- Further, to strengthen the ecosystem for working women and encourage economic participation, extension of maternity leave duration from 12 to 26 weeks and compulsory establishment of creche in work spaces have been effectuated through legislative amendment.

6. c

- Recently, the **Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)** organised the **12th South Asia Conference**.
- The **theme** of the **South Asia Conference 2020** is India's **"Neighbourhood First" Policy: Regional Perceptions**.
- **IDSA** has been **organising** the **annual South Asia Conference** since 2007.
- The flagship conference has dealt with a number of important issues, such as, economic cooperation for development, changing political context in India's neighbourhood, common challenges of terrorism in South Asia and prospects of regional cooperation.
- It provides an important platform for academics, policymakers, intellectuals, semi-government and government officials from participating countries to discuss issues of mutual concern and explore avenues of cooperation.
- **All SAARC** (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) **countries and Myanmar participate** in the IDSA conference.
- Outside of SAARC, **Myanmar has been a regular invitee** as an important member of India's extended neighbourhood and engagement with it has been very productive.
- The **Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)** is a non-partisan, **autonomous body** dedicated to objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defence and security.
- Its **mission is to promote national and international security** through the generation and dissemination of knowledge on defence and security-related issues.

7. a

- **Recently, the Government mentioned 5 'iconic' archaeological sites in the Budget.**
- **Government proposes to set up an Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation under the Ministry of Culture, and develop 5 archaeological**



sites as “iconic museums in, sites” with onsite

1. Rakhigarhi (Haryana),
 2. Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh),
 3. Sivsagar (Assam),
 4. Dholavira (Gujarat) and
 5. Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu).
- Adichanallur lies in the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
 - It is an iron-age urn-burial site and was first brought to light during a haphazard excavation by a German archaeologist in 1876.
 - Following this, an Englishman Alexander Rae excavated the site between 1889 and 1905.
 - Over the years, the site has gained attention because of three important findings,
1. The discovery of an ancient Tamil-Brahmi script on the inside of an urn containing a full human skeleton,
 2. A fragment of a broken earthenware, and
 3. The remains of living quarters.
- It is situated on the banks of Thamiraparani river.
 - The artefacts, including urns, potsherds, red and black pots, earthenwares, iron pieces, bones, hero stones, stone inscriptions and vattezhuthukal are excavated.

8. b

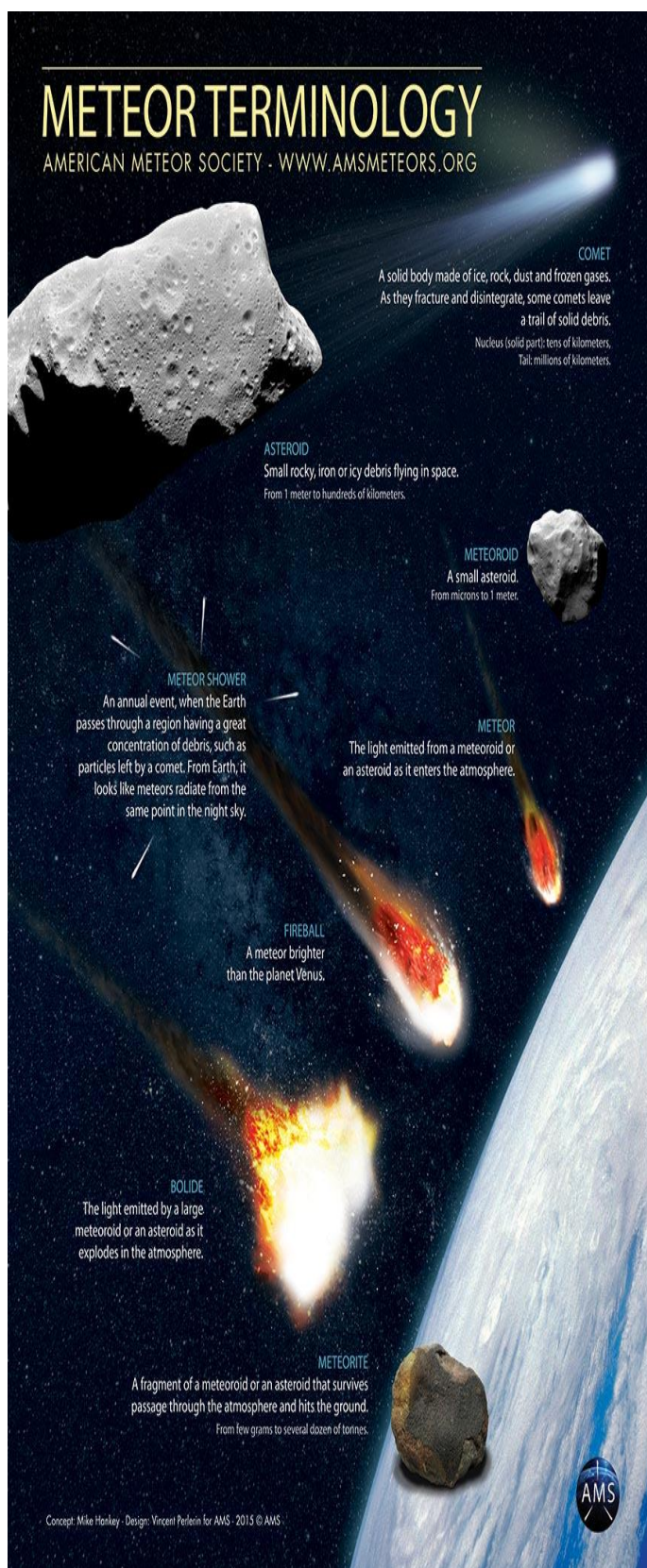
- Telangana has emerged as the best performing state in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index 2019, according to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India.
- The SDG India Index 2019-20, developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI),

the United Nations in India, and the Global Green Growth Institute.

- The Index has been constructed spanning across 16 out of 17 SDGs with a qualitative assessment on SDG 17.
- It tracks the progress of all the States and Union Territories (UTs) on a set of 100 National Indicators derived from the National Indicator Framework, measuring their progress on the outcomes of interventions and schemes of the Government of India.
- It is intended to provide a holistic view on the social, economic and environmental status of the country and its States and UTs.

9. c

- Recently, a Spectacular **Fireball** lights up the Cornish Sky (near UK).
- The Meteor was so bright that it lit up the Atlantic surface and the lobster traps in the foreground.
- The term “Fireball” classified by the American Meteor Society as “a very bright meteor, generally brighter than magnitude -4”, which is the same brightness as Venus in the morning or night sky.
- Some meteors have the added notoriety of being classified as **Bolides**.
- A **Bolide** is a **Fireball** that is accompanied by an explosion.
- **Bolide** explodes or breaks up (usually accompanied by a sonic boom) before reaching the ground.



10. b

- Recently, **Bank of Baroda partners CARE Ratings** to assess credit quality of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- The rating agency will evaluate the credit quality of existing and prospective SME customers of the bank.
- A **Credit Rating Agency (CRA)** is a company that **rates “debtors”** on the basis of their ability to pay back their interests and loan amount on time and the probability of them defaulting.
- These agencies may also analyse the creditworthiness of debt issuers and **provide credit ratings to only organisations and not individual consumers.**
- Individuals** are given ‘**credit scores**’, while **corporations and governments** receive ‘**credit ratings**’.
- Individual customers are rated by specialised agencies known as Credit Bureaus.**
- National Governments, not countries, are assigned credit ratings.
- Rating is denoted by a simple alphanumeric symbol. E.g. AA+ etc.
- In India, **CRAs are regulated by SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999** of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

04-02-2020

1) “**Find the Incredible You**” Campaign is associated with which of the following ministries?

- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
- Ministry of Human Resource & Development
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)*

1. The aim of SATHI is to provide a shared, professionally managed services and strong Science and Technology infrastructure/facilities.
2. The program will be implemented by NITI along with McKinsey & Company and IPE Global consortium.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)*

1. It is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country.
2. Under PMMVY, a cash incentive of Rs. 3,000 is provided to the Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) for the first living child of the family.
3. Under the scheme, the beneficiaries will get the incentive within 18 months to 3 years.

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

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

4) Which one of the following is not an objective of the *Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)*?

- a. To develop clusters of traditional industries in the country over a period of five years

b. To develop an Ecosystem for Zero Defect Manufacturing in MSMEs

c. To make traditional industries more competitive, market-driven, productive and profitable

d. None of the above

5) *Santusht Portal* often seen in the news is a grievance redressal portal planned to be launched by?

- a. Ministry of Civil Aviation
- b. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- c. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- d. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)*

1. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India.
2. It insures bank deposits including Central/State Governments and Inter-bank deposits.

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 *Finance Commission (FC)*

1. The 15th FC has considered both the 1971 and 2011 population census along with forest cover, tax effort, area of the state, and demographic performance to arrive at the states' share in the divisible pool of taxes.
2. The share of tax revenues that the Centre shares with the states remains at 42% under the 15th FC recommendation.

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

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

8) Consider the following

- 1. Jordan
- 2. Kuwait
- 3. Armenia
- 4. Saudi Arabia
- 5. Azerbaijan

Which of the countries shares border with Iraq?

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

9) The *Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF)* sometime seen in news is associated with which of the following place?

- a. Jaipur
- b. Prayagraj
- c. Mumbai
- d. Surajkund

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Global Misery Index*

- 1. It is equal to the sum of the inflation rate and the unemployment rate.
- 2. The higher the index, the less is the misery felt by average citizens.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

Answers

1. a

- The "*Find the Incredible You*" campaign of the **Tourism Ministry**, has won the **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award, 2019**.

About the Campaign:

- The Campaign focuses on the promotion of niche **tourism** products of the Country on digital and social media.
- It was part of the **Incredible India Campaign** of **Ministry of Tourism**.
- It focuses on transformative experiences brought alive through unique storytelling in the format of autobiographies of travellers, with the tagline 'Find the Incredible you'.

About the PATA Gold Awards

- The awards are given to tourism industry organizations and individuals making an outstanding contribution towards the successful promotion of the travel industry throughout the **Asia Pacific Region**.
- The PATA grand awards are presented to outstanding entries in four principal categories: **Marketing; Education and Training; Environment and Heritage and Culture**.
- India won the award in '**Marketing** – Primary Government Destination' category.

2. b

Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)

- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** is initiating of setting up a shared, professionally managed, Science and Technology infrastructure facility, which can be readily be accessible to academia, start-ups, manufacturing units, industries and R&D Labs.

- Such S&T infrastructure will be known as ***Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institute (SATHI)***.
- These Centres will be equipped with major analytical instrument and advanced manufacturing facility, which is usually not available at Institutes / Organisations.
- The aim is to provide professionally managed services with efficiency, accessibility and transparency of highest order under one roof to service the demands of industry, start-ups and academia.
- In the first phase SATHI facilities are being located at IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kharagpur and BHU-Varanasi.
- It is planned to set up ***five SATHI Centres every year*** for the ***next four years***.
- SATHI will address the problems of accessibility, maintenance, redundancy and duplication of expensive equipment in our Institutions, while reaching out to the less endowed organizations in need, e.g., industry, MSMEs, startups and State Universities.
- This will also foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions and across disciplines to take advantage of developments, innovations and expertise in diverse areas.

3. a

- The ***Pradhan Mantri Matru VandanaYojana (PMMVY)*** is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country from 01.01.2017.
- Under PMMVY a cash incentive of ***Rs. 5000*** is provided directly to the bank/ post office account of ***Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM)*** for the first living child of the family subject to fulfilling specific conditions relating to maternal and child health.
- PMMVY is implemented through a centrally deployed web based ***MIS software application*** and the focal point of implementation is Anganwadi Centre (AWC) and ASHA/ANM.
- PMMVY is different from the previous Scheme as beneficiaries get the money ***directly in their accounts*** and they can claim benefits of the Scheme from anywhere in the country as

it is linked with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

- In the earlier scheme, it would take 18 months to 3 years for the beneficiaries to get the money whereas in the PMMVY it is ***instantaneous, transparent*** and based on good governance practices.
- *Union Minister of Women & Child Development recently gave away the **Pradhan Mantri Matru VandanaYojana (PMMVY)** awards to States, Union Territories and Districts for best performance at a function in New Delhi.*
- *In the category of best performance since inception of the Scheme to States/ UTs having population of more than 1 crore the first position was awarded to the State of Madhya Pradesh, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Haryana was in the third position.*
- *In the same category, among States/ UTs having population of less than 1 crore Dadra & Nagar Haveli is in the first position. Himachal stood second and Chandigarh is at the third position.*

4. b

- ***Ministry of MSME*** is implementing a '***Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries***' (***SFURTI***) ***Scheme*** under which financial support is being provided for setting up of traditional industries clusters viz. Khadi, Coir & Village industries clusters.

The objectives of the SFURTI Scheme are:

1. To develop clusters of traditional industries in the country over a period of five years.
2. To make traditional industries more competitive, market-driven, productive and profitable.
3. To strengthen the local governance system of industry clusters, with active participation of the local stakeholders, so that they are enabled to development initiatives.
4. To build up innovated and traditional skills, improved technologies, advanced processes, market intelligence and new models of public-private partnerships, so as to gradually replicate similar models of cluster-based regenerated traditional industries.

5. b
- The **labour ministry** has chalked out a plan to launch a new portal '**Santusht**' for speedy redressal of worker as well as employer grievances and ensuring effective implementation of labour laws at the grassroot level.
 - '**Santusht**' - Implementation Monitoring Cell (IMC) has been constituted in the Office of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment in January 2020.
 - The objective of 'Santusht' is to promote transparency, accountability, effective delivery of public services and implementation of policies, schemes of Ministry of Labour and Employment at grassroot level through constant monitoring.
 - Online portal under 'Santusht' for public grievances has not been started so far.
6. a
- The government, in the Union Budget, **proposed to increase the insurance cover on bank deposits** from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.
 - The proposal is expected to instill more confidence and trust of the public in the banking system, leading to a rise in savings by depositors.
 - The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**, a **wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI**, gives insurance cover and it is **governed by the RBI**.
 - When a bank collapses, depositors will get Rs 5 lakh from the Corporation as per the proposal.
 - DICGC insures all bank deposits**, such as saving, fixed, current, recurring, etc. **except** the following types of deposits,
 - Deposits of Foreign Governments;
 - Deposits of Central/State Governments;
 - Inter-bank deposits
 - Deposits of the State Land Development Banks with the State co-operative banks;
 - Any amount due on account of and deposit received outside India
6. Any amount which has been specifically exempted by the corporation with the previous approval of the RBI.
- The **functions of the DICGC are governed by** the provisions of
 - 'The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961' (DICGC Act) and
 - 'The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation General Regulations, 1961' framed by the Reserve Bank of India.
7. d
- The **report of the 15th Finance Commission (FC)**, along with an Action Taken Report, was tabled in Parliament recently.
 - The **Finance Commission is a constitutionally body** that **decides**, among other things, the **sharing of taxes between the Centre and the states**.
 - Article 280 (1)** requires the President to constitute, "within two years from the commencement of this Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of every fifth year or at such earlier time as the President considers necessary", an FC "which shall consist of a Chairman and four other members".
 - Under **Article 280(3)(a)**, the Commission must make recommendations to the President as the distribution between the Union and the States.
 - The **15th Finance Commission (FC)** has **considered the 2011 population** along with forest cover, tax effort, area of the state, and "demographic performance" to arrive at the states' share in the divisible pool of taxes.
 - The **previous FC used both the 1971 and the 2011 populations** to calculate the states' shares, giving greater **weight to the 1971 population (17.5%)** as compared to the **2011 population (10%)**.
 - The **15th Commission has reduced the vertical devolution**, the share of tax revenues that the Centre shares with the states **from 42% to 41%**.

- The **1% decrease** in the vertical devolution is roughly equal to the share of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, which would have been 0.85% as per the formula described by the Commission.
- The shares of the southern states, except Tamil Nadu, have fallen with Karnataka losing the most.
- The **weight** assigned to state area was unchanged at 15%, and that of forest cover was increased from 7.5% to 10%

8. c

- After 2 months of political deadlock, Iraqi President appointed **Mohammed Allawi** as new **Prime Minister**.
- Earlier the caretaker Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned in the face of **widespread anti-government protests**.
- But his choice was instantly rejected by protesters who have for months defied a bloody crackdown to demand a complete overhaul of the country's ruling class.
- **Iraq shares international borders with 6 countries**, Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.



9. c

- The **Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF)** is the **India's largest multi-cultural street festival**.
- It is held annually since 1999 in February in **Mumbai**.
- It is **organized by Kala Ghoda Association**, which was formed in 1998 with the **objective of maintaining and preserving the heritage and art district of South Mumbai**.

10. a

- Recently, there has been a **demand to measure Indian economy on 'Misery Index'**.
- The first misery index was created by Arthur Okun in 1960's.
- It was **equal to the sum of inflation and unemployment rate** figures, to provide a snapshot of the US economy.
- The **higher the index, the more is the misery** felt by average citizens.
- It has broadened in recent times to include other economic indicators, such as bank lending rates.
- In recent times, variations of the original misery index have become popular as a means to gauge the overall health of the global economy.
- A variation of the original misery index is the Bloomberg Misery Index, developed by the online publication.

05-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Economic Survey 2019-20*

1. The Survey affirms that disinvestment improves CPSE's performance and overall productivity, and unlocks their potential to create wealth.
2. As a proportion of GDP, the expenditure on social services has registered a decrease of 1.5 percentage points during the period 2014-15 to 2019-20.

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 *Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme*

1. It is launched as a part of the BetiBachaoBetiPadhao campaign.
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme to empower adolescent girls of 11-18 years and it is implemented through the State Governments/UTs.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)*

1. It aims to enhance infrastructure in identified sectors for a period of five years from 2018-23.
2. The funding of the NIP will be jointly made by the Central Government and State Governments alone.

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) Which one of the following is not a duty/function of the *Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)* which was established recently?

- a. To head the Department of Military Affairs in Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary
- b. To function as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee
- c. To function as the Military Advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority
- d. None of the above

5) With respect to *Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a New Delhi based UNESCO's Category 1 Research Institute that focuses on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7.
2. It was maintained wholly by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

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 *Adolescence Education Programme (AEP)*

1. It aims to provide young people with accurate, age appropriate and culturally relevant information to enable them to respond to real-life situations effectively.
2. It is co-ordinated by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) at the national level.
3. It has been supported by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

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

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

7) Which of the following services is/are not provided under the *Anganwadis* or *Day-care centres* set up under the *Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)*?



1. Health Check-up
2. Immunisation
3. Referral services
4. Supplementary nutrition
5. Nutrition and Health education
6. Pre-school non-formal education

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 3 and 4 only
- b. 5 and 6 only
- c. 3, 4 and 6 only
- d. None

8) *Burhi Dihing River*, sometimes seen in the news recently is located in?

- a. Assam
- b. Tripura
- c. Mizoram
- d. Arunachal Pradesh

9) With respect to *Gharials*, consider the following statements:

1. The species is endemic to India along the Chambal, Girwa, and Son Rivers.
2. The International Union for Conservation of Nature classifies the species as critically endangered.
3. In India, the state of Madhya Pradesh is having the highest number of Gharials.

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

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

10) Which State does the dance *Dollu Kunitha* belong to?

- a. Assam
- b. Karnataka
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Answers

1. a

- The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2019-20 in Parliament recently.

Disinvestment:

- The Survey affirms that disinvestment improves firm performance and overall productivity, and unlocks their potential to create wealth.
- This would have a multiplier effect on other sectors of the economy.
- Aggressive disinvestment, preferably through the route of strategic sale, should be utilized to bring in higher profitability, promote efficiency, increase competitiveness and to promote professionalism in management in CPSEs, the Survey advocates.
- The Survey notes that there are about 264 CPSEs under 38 different Ministries/Departments.
- Of these, 13 Ministries/Departments have around 10 CPSEs each under its jurisdiction.
- It is evident that many of the CPSEs are profitable.
- However, CPSEs have generally underperformed the market as is evident from the average return of only 4 percent of BSE CPSE Index against the 38 percent return of BSE SENSEX during the period 2014-2019.
- The aim of any privatization or disinvestment programme should, therefore, be the **maximisation of the Government's equity stake value.**

- The Survey suggests that the Government can transfer its stake in the listed CPSEs to a separate corporate entity.
- This entity would be managed by an independent board and would be mandated to divest the Government stake in these CPSEs over a period of time.
- This will land professionalism and autonomy to the disinvestment programme which, in turn, would improve the economic performance of the CPSEs.

Trends in Expenditure on Social Services

- As per the Economic Survey, the expenditure on social services by the Centre and States increased from 7.68 lakh crore in 2014-15 to 15.79 lakh crore in 2019-20 (Budget Estimate).
- As a proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the expenditure on social services has registered an increase of 1.5 percentage points during the period 2014-15 to 2019-20 from 6.2 to 7.7 per cent.
- The expenditure on education, as percentage of GDP increased from 2.8 per cent to 3.1 per cent between 2014-15 and 2019-20 (BE).
- Similarly, expenditure on health increased from 1.2 per cent to 1.6 per cent during the same period as percentage of GDP, the pre-Budget document notes.

2. d

Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme

- The objective of the scheme is **to empower rural women through community participation.**
- **Mahila Shakti Kendra** was proposed under the umbrella scheme of **Mission for protection and Empowerment of Women.**
- Improving the child sex ratio, survival of new born girl child, girl education and empower them through several initiatives are the main motives.
- Under the scheme, community engagement through student volunteers is envisioned in the backward districts at block level.
- Student volunteers will help in awareness generation regarding various important

government programmes as well as social issues.

- It will be implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** for the duration of 2017-18 to 2019-20.

3. d

- **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** is the investment plan unveiled by the Central Government recently for enhancing infrastructure in identified sectors for a period of **five years** from **2020-25**.

Aim:

- It is estimated that India would need to spend \$4.5 trillion on infrastructure by 2030 to sustain its growth rate.
- The endeavour of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), is to make this happen in an efficient manner.

Funding Pattern

- As per the NIP, **Central Government (39 per cent)** and **State Government (39 per cent)** are expected to have equal share of funding of the projects followed by the **private sector (22 per cent).**

4. d

The duties and functions of the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** include the following:

1. To head the Department of Military Affairs in Ministry of Defence and function as its **Secretary.**
2. To act as the Principal Military Advisor to Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on all Tri-Service matters.
3. To function as the **Permanent Chairman** of the Chiefs of Staff Committee
4. To administer the Tri-Service organizations/agencies/commands.
5. To be a member of Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri.
6. To function as the Military Advisor to the **Nuclear Command Authority.**
7. To bring about jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, etc of the three Services.

8. To ensure optimal utilisation of infrastructure and rationalise it through jointness among the Services.
9. To implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans, as a follow up of Integrated Capability Development Plan.
10. To assign inter-services prioritisation to capital acquisition proposals based on the anticipated budget.
11. To bring about reforms in the functioning of three Services with the aim to augment combat capabilities of the Armed Forces by reducing wasteful expenditure.

5. c

- **India and UNESCO** has recently signed the *Operational Agreement extending the presence of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) for a further period of 5 years.*

MGIEP

- It is a **New Delhi** based UNESCO's Category 1 Research Institute, maintained wholly by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** that focuses on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) **4.7** towards education for building peaceful and sustainable societies across the world.
- In line with its vision of 'Transforming Education for Humanity', the institute's programmes and products are designed to mainstream social and emotional learning in education systems, innovate digital pedagogies and to put youth as global citizens at the center of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. d

- The Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) is an important initiative that aims to **empower young people with accurate, age appropriate and culturally relevant information**, promote healthy attitudes and develop skills to enable them to respond to real life situations in positive and responsible ways.
- **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** co-

ordinates the program and works through both curricular and co-curricular formats to contribute toward holistic development of young people in pursuance of the National Curriculum Framework, 2005.

- The programme has been supported by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)** and **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** since 2005.
- The programme is also implemented through the **State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)** that caters to schools run by the State Governments under the **National Population Education Project (NPEP)**.
- The Programme is being implemented by 6 national agencies: National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Council of Boards of School Education (COBSE), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS).

About the Programme

- The guiding principles of Adolescence Education clearly articulate that adolescents should be recognised as a positive and valuable resource that needs to be respected and appreciated rather than being treated as a problem, AEP should contribute towards realising the transformational potential of education and that the programme should enable adolescents to articulate their issues, know their rights, counter, shame and fear, build self-esteem and confidence, and develop ability to take on responsibility for self, relationships and (to an extent) the society around them

7. d

Anganwadis or Day-care centres Scheme

- They are set up under the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** by the **Women and Child Development Ministry** to provide a package of six services.

The **services** include

1. Supplementary nutrition
2. Pre-school non-formal education



3. Immunisation
4. Nutrition and Health Education
5. Health Check-up
6. Referral Services

Aim:

- The aim of the scheme is to reduce infant mortality and child malnutrition.
- Beneficiaries include children in the age group of six months to six years, and pregnant women and lactating mothers.

8. a

- A stretch of the eastern **Assam's Burhi Dihing River** was on fire due to a leakage in the underwater oil pipeline.



9. b

- **Madhya Pradesh**, which regained the coveted '**Tiger State**' tag last year, has added another feather to its cap by emerging on top in the count of gharials (fresh water crocodiles) this year.
- As per the recent report of the Wildlife Trust of India, there are 1,255 gharials in the Chambal river of Madhya Pradesh and 255 in the Gandak river of Bihar.



10. b

- Renowned for being both "entertaining as well as spiritual" is an Indian folk dance known as **Dollu Kunitha**.
- This "Drum dance" is said to have originated from the southern state of **Karnataka**.

**06-02-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Agrinnovate India**

1. It is a for profit company owned by Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture.

2. It is mandated to act as an interface between ICAR and the Stakeholders of agricultural sector for securing, sustaining and promoting global agricultural development.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE) Scheme*

- 1. It is an initiative to promote research, innovation and competitiveness of Indian startups and small enterprises including MSMEs.
- 2. The scheme is one among the initiatives under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

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) Arrange the following countries in descending order based on its *Crude steel production*

- 1. USA
- 2. India
- 3. China
- 4. Japan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

- d. 2-3-4-1

4) *CHaracterizing ExOPlanet Satellite (CHEOPS)* often seen in the news recently is associated with?

- a. Roscosmos
- b. European Space Agency
- c. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- d. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

5) Which of the following is the purpose of *Terminator Tape* sometimes seen in the news recently?

- a. To extract thorium
- b. To remove Space Debris
- c. To remove Nuclear Wastes
- d. Driver less transport technology

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Cooperative Banks*

- 1. Cooperative banks are currently under the dual control of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies and RBI.
- 2. They are registered under the Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.

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 *Commonwealth of Nations*

- 1. It is a voluntary association of 54 independent countries and any country can join the modern Commonwealth irrespective of its root in British Empire.
- 2. All members have an equal say regardless of size or wealth.

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 *Human body Temperature*

1. It is a measure of the body's ability to generate and get rid of heat.
2. A raise in body temperature, fever shows that body is working to fight off the infection.

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) A massive natural gas discovery named *Jebel Ali gas field* which was in news recently was discovered in?

- a. Qatar
- b. Turkmenistan
- c. Iran
- d. United Arab Emirates

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bhutan's New Tourism Fee*

1. Bhutan will impose a Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) on all foreign tourists in Bhutan, with the exception of Indians, Bangladeshis, and Maldivians.
2. No Visa is required for Indians to visit Bhutan.

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

Agrinnovate India Ltd. (AgIn)

- It was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 on 2011.
- It is a "**for profit**" **Company** owned by **Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture**, Government of India.
- It is to act as an effective interface between **Indian Council of Agricultural Research** (ICAR- an autonomous organization under DARE) on one side and the **Stakeholders of agricultural sector** (Farmers; Public & Private Sector firms; R&D organizations; Educational Institutions- all of these at National and International level) on the other side, for a significant purpose of securing, sustaining and promoting global agricultural development.

Objectives:

- Protection, management, commercialization and distribution of Intellectual Property for Public Benefit.
- Production, marketing and popularization of ICAR's products, processes and technologies in agriculture and allied sectors such as seed, planting material, vaccines, diagnostics, biotechnological products, other value added inputs and products and farm implements and machinery.
- Providing consultancies, contract research, contract service, customized capacity building.
- Setting up of research and production farms outside India and undertaking global brand building initiatives.
- Providing technical support for turnkey projects on production and processing plants in agriculture and allied sectors.
- Creation of public-private partnerships in research, education and other capacity

building endeavors in agriculture and allied sectors.

- Carrying out activities to integrate proficiencies in agricultural sciences with management, such as market intelligence, pricing and valuation issues, to nurture demand-driven research.

2. c

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- It is a Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- It's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country.

Initiatives under AIM:

1. **Atal Tinkering Labs** – Creating problem solving mindset across schools in India.
2. **Atal Incubation Centers** – Fostering world class startups and adding a new dimension to the incubator model.
3. **Atal New India Challenges** – Fostering product innovations and aligning them to the needs of various sectors/ministeries.
4. **Mentor India Campaign** – A national Mentor network in collaboration with public sector, corporates and institutions, to support all the initiatives of the mission.
5. **Atal Community Innovation Center** – To stimulate community centric innovation and ideas in the unserved /underserved regions of the country including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
6. **ARISE** – To stimulate innovation and research in the MSME industry.

Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE)

- It is an initiative to promote research, innovation and competitiveness of Indian startups and small enterprises including Micro, Small, and Medium enterprises (MSMEs).

- The program's objective is to catalyze research, innovation, find solutions to the sectoral problems and subsequently trigger creation of new industrial sectors, through support of Central Government Ministries / Departments, who will become the first buyer of the solutions / products innovated under the ARISE program by start-ups and small enterprises.

- It aims to inculcate a culture and mindset of engaging and co-creating amongst the industry as well as the government, to improve India's import substitution capabilities, develop export leadership in nation-critical sectors, and provide indigenous solutions for challenges in India.

3. b

- As per **World Steel Association** data, **India** became **the second largest steel producer of crude steel after China** in 2018 and 2019, by **replacing Japan**.
- The details of five leading crude steel producers in the world during 2018 and 2019

TOP 5 Crude Steel Producers in the World: 2018, 2019*		
RANK	2018	2019*
1	CHINA	CHINA
2	INDIA	INDIA
3	JAPAN	JAPAN
4	USA	USA
5	SOUTH KOREA	RUSSIA

are listed below:-

Source: Worldsteel, (* Provisional)

- Steel being a deregulated sector, the Government does not set any annual targets for steel production.
- Decision on quantity of steel production is taken by individual companies based on

commercial considerations and market requirements.

4. b

- In 2019, the **European Space Agency (ESA)** had launched the **CHaracterizing ExOPlanet Satellite (CHEOPS)** – its first mission focused on **exoplanets**.
- Tasked with finding new information about already-discovered planets, CHEOPS has finally opened its eyes to observe the universe for the first time.
- Ever since its launch in December, ESA's CHEOPS satellite has been orbiting the Earth at an altitude of 700 kilometres (435 miles).

5. b

Terminator Tape

- To tackle the problem of **Space Debris**, a company called Tethers Unlimited has demonstrated an easy solution to get rid of satellites once they are of no use.
- The solution involves a 230-foot long strip of conductive tape, which is delightfully called the **Terminator Tape**.
- The Terminator Tape is a small module about the size of a notebook.

How it Works?

- Weighing less than two pounds, it is designed to attach to the exterior of a satellite which deploys the 230-foot long conductive tape through an electric signal from either the satellite or an independent timer unit when the satellite completes its mission and is ready to get disposed.
- This tape interacts with the space environment to create a drag force on the satellite that lowers its orbit far more rapidly than it would if it were simply abandoned in orbit

6. a

- The **Union Cabinet** approved **amendments** to the **Banking Regulation Act** to bring **Co-operative banks** under the **regulatory mechanism** of **Reserve Bank of India**.

- The government has taken this move in the wake of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank crisis.
- Cooperative banks are **currently under the dual control** of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies and RBI.
- Co-operative banks are financial entities established on a co-operative basis and belonging to their members.
- This means that the customers of a co-operative bank are also its owners. These banks provide a wide range of regular banking and financial services.
- Broadly, co-operative banks in India are divided into two categories - Urban and Rural.
- In India, **Co-operative banks are registered under the States Cooperative Societies Act**.
- They also come under the **regulatory ambit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under two laws**, namely,
 1. The Banking Regulations Act, 1949, and
 2. The Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.
- They were brought under the RBI's watch in 1966, a move which brought the **problem of dual regulation** along with it.

7. c

- Recently, **Maldives** has **rejoined the Commonwealth**, bringing the **total number of nations to 54**.
- Maldives quit the Commonwealth in 2016 after being threatened with suspension over its human rights record and lack of progress on democratic reform.
- The Commonwealth is a **Voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries**.
- The Commonwealth's roots go back to the British Empire. But **today any country can join the modern Commonwealth**.
- Rwanda joined the Commonwealth in 2009.
- **All members have an equal say** regardless of size or wealth.

- This makes sure even the smallest countries have a voice in shaping the Commonwealth.

8. c

- A **new study**, published in the journal eLife, that **concluded the average human body temperature has never been constant**.
- The thermometer reading of **98.6°F** has been a gold standard for a century and a half, ever since a German doctor laid it down as the **"normal" human body temperature**.
- Now, **new research** has **found** that **body temperatures** have, in fact, been **declining over the last two centuries**.
- **Different studies have found the human body temperature averaging out differently**, including at 97.7°, 97.9° and 98.2°F.
- **Body temperature** is a **measure of the body's ability to generate and get rid of heat**.
- A **fever is usually a sign that we are sick**; however, it can be very beneficial.
- A **raise in body temperature is a good sign** that the **body is working to fight off infection**.
- It **raises the body temperature** and makes it **harder for invading bacteria to survive**.
- Medicines like most **antibiotics raise the body temperature directly** to fight off infection.

9. d

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** recently **announced the discovery of a massive natural gas field**.
- The new **Jebel Ali field** contains 80 trillion standard cubic feet (tscf) of gas **between Abu Dhabi and Dubai**.
- At 80 tscf, the **new reservoir would now be ranked the 4th largest** by size in the Middle East, behind the North Field in Qatar, South Pars in Iran, and the Bab field in Abu Dhabi.
- The **gas field discovery, reportedly the largest in the world since 2005**, holds

the **potential of helping UAE's gas self-sufficiency**, reducing its reliance on neighbouring Qatar.

10. b

- **Bhutan will now impose a Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) on Indian, Bangladeshi and Maldivian tourist**.
- The decision has been taken **to protect the ecology of the country**, amid a spike in visitors from India.
- **As of now, all foreign tourists** in Bhutan, **with the exception of Indians, Bangladeshis, and Maldivians**, pay **US \$250 per person per day in the high season**, and **US \$200 per person per day in the low season**.
- There has **been concern in Bhutan** over the **impact** that the **massive influx of tourists** can have on the **country's fragile Himalayan ecosystem**.
- The bulk of the tourist inflow is from India, of the 2,74,000 tourists to Bhutan in 2018, over 1,80,000, or roughly 66%, were from India.
- **No Visa is required for Indians to visit Bhutan**.
- Indian nationals intending to visit Bhutan are required to carry any of the 2 valid 'Travel Documents'
- (a) Valid Indian Passport having validity of minimum 6 months; and/or
- (b) Voter Identity Card, issued by the Election Commission of India.

07-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Section 124A (Sedition) of IPC**

1. The act of Sedition includes even an attempt to bring into hatred by visible representation or by signs.
2. The act of sedition shall be punished with imprisonment for life.

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

- b. INSEAD
- c. Both a and b
- d. US Chamber of Commerce

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)*

1. It is the partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for medical reasons.
2. The theme for this year is 'Unleashing Youth Power: One Decade of Accelerating Actions for Zero Female Genital Mutilation by 2030'.

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 *Fiscal Policy in India*

1. It refers to the policy of the central bank with regard to the use of fiscal instruments under its control to achieve the goals specified.
2. The primary objective of Fiscal policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

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) *International Intellectual Property Index (IP Index) 2020* which was in news recently was released by

- a. World Intellectual Property Organization

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

1. Mineral water comes from natural sources and contains large quantity of dissolved minerals such as calcium carbonate, magnesium sulfate, potassium.
2. Reverse Osmosis process removes minerals from water by using pressure to push it through specialized membranes.

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

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

6) Which of the following portals is/are working under the Ministry of Women and Child Development?

1. Shagun
2. Saubhagya
3. TrackChild
4. Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Adoption Regulations in India*

1. Once a child is adopted in India, he/she cannot be returned through any means.



2. In India, a single male shall not be eligible to adopt a girl child, whereas a single female can adopt a child of any gender.

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 *Second National Judicial Pay Commission*

- 1. The Commission was headed by Justice P Venkatarama Reddy.
- 2. The commission was set up on the directions of the apex court during the hearing All India Judges Association case, 2017.

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

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

9) *Lucknow Declaration* often seen in the news is associated with?

- a. India-Africa relations
- b. Prohibits deadly explosives
- c. India-Bangladesh relations
- d. Neglected Tropical diseases

10) The Chairpersons of which of the following Commissions are *Ex-Officio Member of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)*?

- 1. National Commission for Backward Classes
- 2. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

3. Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answers

1. c

- Recently, a Sessions court in Mumbai rejected the anticipatory bail application of a student booked under Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC along with 50 others.
- The sedition charge was filed on the basis of slogans that the student had raised in favour of another student who has already been booked for sedition.
- The court said the slogan “attracts the ingredients of sedition”.
- **Section 124A IPC** states: “Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which a fine may be added; or, with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which a fine may be added; or, with fine.”
- **Section 124A**, and was introduced by the British colonial government in 1870.
- It was actually brought to suppress the freedom struggle prevalent then.
- It was first used to prosecute Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1897.
- Mahatma Gandhi, too, was later tried for sedition for his articles in Young India.
- The Constituent Assembly debated to include sedition as a ground for restricting free speech.

2. b

- Every year, **February 6** is observed as the **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**.
- **Female genital mutilation (FGM)** involves the **partial or total removal of external female genitalia** or other injury to the female genital organs for **“non-medical” reasons**.
- The practice has no health benefits for girls and women.
- FGM can cause severe bleeding and problems urinating, and later cysts, infections, as well as complications in childbirth and increased risk of newborn deaths.
- FGM is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15. It is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.
- WHO is opposed to all forms of FGM, and is opposed to health care providers performing FGM (medicalization of FGM).
- The **theme** for this year’s International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting, **“Unleashing Youth Power: One Decade of Accelerating Actions for Zero Female Genital Mutilation by 2030”**.
- In 2018, a study on FGM in India said that the practice was up to 75% across the Dawoodi Bohra community.
- The Dawoodi Bohra community, maintained that the practice should be allowed since the Constitution grants religious freedom under Article 25.
- **WHO classifies 4 types of FGM:**
 1. Type 1 (partial or total removal of the clitoral glans);
 2. Type 2 (partial or total removal of the external and visible parts of the clitoris and the inner folds of the vulva);
 3. Type 3 (infibulation, or narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal),
 4. Type 4 (picking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterising the genital area).

3. b

- Recently, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced its 6th bi-monthly **Monetary policy** statement for 2019-20 in which the **repo rate was left unchanged**.
- **Monetary policy** refers to the **policy of the central bank (RBI)** with regard to the **use of monetary instruments** under its control to achieve the goals specified in the Act.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is **vested with the responsibility of conducting monetary policy**.
- This responsibility is explicitly mandated under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- Price stability is a necessary precondition to sustainable growth.
- **Fiscal policy** is a mean by which the **Government** adjust its spending levels along with tax rates to influence and **monitor the nation’s economy**.
- Through the fiscal policy, the government of a country controls the flow of tax revenues and public expenditure to navigate the economy.
- The **objective of both the policy is to maintain price stability** while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

4. d

- **India slips to 40th position** on **International Intellectual Property Index (IP Index)** which was released recently.
- It was **released by the Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC)** of the **US Chambers of Commerce**.
- **GIPC** is the **premier institution** of the **United States Chamber of Commerce**.
- The survey was conducted in 53 countries.
- India scored 38.46% (19.23 out of 50) in 2020. In 2019, the score was 36.04% (16.22 out of 45).

- As per the report, India has shown improvement in terms of scores when it comes to the protection of IP and copyright issues.
- The **report identified several challenges for India** including compulsory licensing, patentability requirements, patent enforcement, patent opposition, regulatory data protection, transparency in reporting seizures by customs, Singapore Treaty of Law of Trademarks and Patent Law Treaty.

5. c

- Recently the **Environment Ministry** has issued a **draft notification** that seeks to **ban membrane-based water purification systems (MWPS), primarily Reverse Osmosis (RO), in areas where the water supplied meets Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms.**
- NGT had said RO filters led to wastage of water and essential salts were filtered out during the purification process.
- The **Expert committee report** said that, "BIS standards clearly state that RO system is not recommended for treatment of raw water having Arsenic level above 0.1 mg/l and Fluoride level above 8.0 mg/l."
- The Expert Committee Report examined the **issue of deficiencies caused on account of RO system removing important minerals** such as calcium, magnesium, etc, which adversely affects the health of consumers of demineralised water.
- **Mineral water comes from natural sources which contains large quantity of dissolved minerals** such as calcium carbonate, magnesium sulfate, potassium.
- **Reverse Osmosis (RO)** is a process that **removes foreign contaminants, solid substances, large molecules and minerals** from water by using pressure to push it through specialized membranes.

6. a

Track Child

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)** is hosting a web portal "**TrackChild**" to track the missing and found children.

- The TrackChild Portal is implemented in association with various stakeholders including Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Railways, State Governments/UT Administrations, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and National Legal Services Authority.

Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS)

- It is an Online Portal of **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), Ministry of Women and Child Development.**

7. b

- Over 1,100 children adopted across the country have been **returned** to child care institutions by their adoptive parents in the last five years, according to the nodal adoption body CARA.
- Most of the children were returned due to **adjustment issues** which are seen mainly in case of older children (over 8 years of age).

Eligibility criteria for prospective adoptive parents according to Adoption Regulations, 2017:

1. The prospective adoptive parents shall be physically, mentally and emotionally stable, financially capable and shall not have any life threatening medical condition.
2. Any prospective adoptive parents, irrespective of his marital status and whether or not he has biological son or daughter, can adopt a child subject to following, namely:-
 - the consent of both the spouses for the adoption shall be required, in case of a married couple
 - **a single female can adopt a child of any gender**
 - **a single male shall not be eligible to adopt a girl child**

8. c

- The **Second National Judicial Pay Commission** has recommended raising pay of officers by up to nearly **three times** besides increasing pension and allowances with effect from 2016.

- The recommendations, to be applicable to judicial officers throughout the country, will be implemented once the Supreme Court gives appropriate directions in this regard, after hearing the stakeholders.
- The commission, set up on the directions of the apex court in May 2017 during the hearing **All India Judges Association case**, submitted its final report recently on proposals to revise the pay, pension, and allowances of judicial officers across the country.
- **Justice P.V. Reddi**, former Judge of the Supreme Court is the **Chairman** of the Commission.

9. a

- The first **India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave** held recently in Lucknow on February 06, coinciding with DefExpo-2020, adopted the **Lucknow Declaration**.

10. d

- The recent amendment in the **Protection of Human Rights Act** adds Chairpersons of National Commission for **Backward Classes**, National Commission for **Protection of Child Rights** and the Chief Commissioner for **Persons with Disabilities** as the new deemed Members of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.
- The Chairpersons for National Commissions for **Minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes** and **Women** were already the deemed Members of the Commission.

08-02-2020

1) "**Peace to Prosperity Plan**" often seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- Middle East Oil Crisis
- US-Mexico Refugee Issues
- Novel Corona Virus Response Plan
- None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE)**

1. It is a Central sector scheme, funded 100% by the Union government.
2. The Programme is an articulation of the International commitments of the Government as envisaged under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
3. It was implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **International Gandhi Award**

1. The award was instituted by the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation (GMLF) in 1986.
2. The Award is presented every year to a Leprosy Worker or an Institution who/which has undertaken work in the field of leprosy.

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 **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**

1. The CAS has the task of resolving legal disputes in the field of sport through arbitration or mediation.
2. The seat of CAS is located in The Hague, Netherlands.

3. It is placed under the administrative and financial authority of the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS).

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) With respect to *Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019*, consider the following statements:

- 1. It will facilitate the assessment of ease of living of citizens across three pillars which aimed at providing a holistic view of Indian cities.
- 2. It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Jal Jeevan Mission*

- 1. It aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) only to every rural household by 2024.
- 2. Every functional tap connection is to be linked with the Aadhar number of the head of the household.

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 *Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)*

- 1. FSSAI has been mandated by the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006.
- 2. The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 extends to the whole of India.
- 3. FSSAI issued the Orange Book.

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 *Botswana*

- 1. Botswana shares borders with Angola and Zambia.
- 2. It is the home to the world's largest elephant population.

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) *Sharang* which was recently seen in news is a/an?

- a. Artillery gun
- b. Light Specialist Vehicle (LSV)
- c. Armoured Personnel Carrier
- d. Anti tank missile

10) Recently the Union Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for setting up a *Major Port at Vadhavan* which is located in?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Visakhapatnam

- c. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- d. Maharashtra

Answers

1. d

- **Peace to Prosperity:** A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People, commonly known as the **Trump peace plan**, is a proposal by the Trump administration to resolve the **Israeli–Palestinian conflict**.
- The plan was authored by a team led by Trump's son-in-law, Senior Advisor to the President of the United States **Jared Kushner**.
- The US Peace Plan for the Middle East unveiled said that Israel would retain control of the disputed city of Jerusalem as its undivided capital and annex settlements on Palestinian lands.

2. c

National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE)

- The Programme is an articulation of the International and national commitments of the Government as envisaged under the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**, **National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP)** adopted by the Government of India in 1999 and Section 20 of “**The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007**” dealing with provisions for medical care of Senior Citizen.
- It was implemented by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

Objectives:

- Main objective of the programme is to provide preventive, curative and rehabilitative services to the elderly persons at various level of health care delivery system of the country.
- Other objectives are, to strengthen referral system, to develop specialized man power and to promote research in the field of diseases related to old age.

Funding Pattern:

- The **Centre** will bear **75%** of the total budget and the **State Government** will contribute **25 %** of the budget.

3. a

- *President Ram Nath Kovind has recently presented the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy to Dr N.S. Dharmashaktu and the Leprosy Mission Trust in New Delhi.*

International Gandhi Awards

- **Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation (GMLF)**, a pioneering organisation established in 1951 in the field of leprosy in India, has instituted the award titled “**International Gandhi Award**” in 1986.

Background:

- Mahatma Gandhi had evinced keen interest for over 50 years in mitigating the sufferings of persons affected by leprosy.
- The need to shed stigma against leprosy and adopt a humanitarian approach were amply demonstrated by the Father of Nation by nursing and caring leprosy patients.
- Leprosy work was accorded importance by Gandhiji by including it in his 18 point constructive programme.
- To perpetuate memory of this service and scientific approach of Gandhiji, the GMLF has instituted the "International Gandhi Award" in 1986.

Periodicity:

- The Award is presented **once in two years** and consists of Rs. 2 lakhs as cash award, a Medallion and a Citation.

Number of Awards:

- **Two awards** are presented either to individuals or institutions.

Eligibility:

- The Award is given to a **Leprosy Worker or Institution** who/which has undertaken work in the field of leprosy for a period of not less than 10 years and made significant contribution in any aspect of leprosy work, resulting in the amelioration of the suffering of leprosy patients and enabling them to lead normal life.

4. b

- The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** has recently sent its case for the exclusion of Russia from International sporting competitions to the **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**.
- CAS, the **world's highest sport court**, must decide whether to confirm the four-year ban WADA imposed on Russia last month or consider Russia's case against the epic sanction.

Background:

- In December, WADA imposed a four-year ban on Russia over what it considers a **state-sponsored doping scheme**, prohibiting Russia from participating in such events as this year's Tokyo Olympics.
- Under the sanctions, Russians would be allowed to compete in the Tokyo Olympics only if they can demonstrate they were not part of the doping network.
- The World Anti-Doping Agency also asked the Court of Arbitration for Sport for a **public hearing** on its case for Russia's exclusion from international sporting competitions.

About CAS:

- The **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)** is an institution independent of any sports organization which provides for services in order to facilitate the settlement of sports-related disputes through **arbitration or mediation** by means of procedural rules adapted to the specific needs of the sports world.
- The CAS was created in 1984 and is placed under the administrative and financial authority of the **International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS)**.

Functions of CAS:

- The CAS has the task of resolving legal disputes in the field of sport through **arbitration**.
- It does this pronouncing arbitral awards that have the same enforceability as judgements of ordinary courts.

- It can also help parties solve their disputes on an amicable basis through **mediation**, when this procedure is allowed.

5. b

- To help assess the progress made in cities through various initiatives and empower them to use evidence to plan, implement & monitor their performance, two Assessment Frameworks, viz. **Ease of Living Index (EoLI)** and **Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019** have been launched by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**.

Municipal Performance Index, 2019

- With the Municipal Performance Index 2019, the Ministry has sought to assess the performance of municipalities based on **five enablers** namely **Service, Finance, Planning, Technology** and **Governance** which have been further divided into 20 sectors which will be evaluated across 100 indicators.
- This will help Municipalities in better planning and management, filling the gaps in city administration, and improving the liveability of cities for its citizens.

Ease of Living Index, 2019

- It is aimed at providing a **holistic view of Indian cities** - beginning from the services provided by local bodies, the effectiveness of the administration, the outcomes generated through these services in terms of the liveability within cities and, finally, the citizen perception of these outcomes.

The key objectives of the Ease of Living Index are **four-folds**, viz.

1. generate information to guide evidence-based policy making
 2. catalyse action to achieve broader developmental outcomes including the SDG
 3. assess and compare the outcomes achieved from various urban policies and schemes
 4. obtain the perception of citizens about their view of the services provided by the city administration.
- **EoLI 2019** will facilitate the assessment of ease of living of citizens across **three**

pillars: Quality of Life, Economic Ability and Sustainability which are further divided into 14 categories across 50 indicators.

6. c

- Every Rural Household to receive Piped Water By Dec 2021 in Jammu And Kashmir.
- J&K Administration Council approved the implementation of the **Jal Jeevan Mission** and plans to achieve 100% coverage of piped water supply by December 2021.
- The National **Jal Jeevan Mission** aims to **provide every rural household of the country with piped water supply by 2024.**
- For targeted delivery and monitoring of specific outcomes, **every functional tap connection is to be linked with the Aadhar** number of the head of the household subject to statutory provisions.
- Every **asset created under JJM will be geo-tagged.** States will carry out inspections by empanelled third party agencies for all infrastructures created under the JJM.
- GoI will carry out functionality assessment of schemes, based on which fund will be made available to States/UTs based on their performance.

7. d

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, which is in the process of overhauling the labelling regulations for packaged food products, has begun a nutrient threshold study to assess the current market scenario.
- The draft regulations propose colour-coded labelling to enable consumers to identify products that are High in Fat, Salt and Sugar (HFSS) products.
- **FSSAI is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.**
- **FSSAI issues Orange Book** for ensuring safe and nutritious food at workplace, an initiative to launch '**SNF@Workplace**' (Safe and Nutritious Food at Workplace).

- **FSSAI** has been mandated by the **Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006** which **extends to the whole of India.**
- The **Orange Book** serves as guide for general practices recommended for ensuring safe and nutritious food at workplace.

8. b

- Recently, **Botswana** auctions off permits to **hunt elephants.**
- **Botswana** is a **landlocked** country located in **Southern Africa**
- It **shares borders with 4 other countries**, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Namibia.
- Botswana held its first auctions for the right to hunt elephants since lifting a ban last year.
- The country has some 130,000 elephants, the **largest elephant population in the world.**
- The government issued a quota for the killing of 272 elephants this year.



9. a

- Army to get **indigenous Sharang Artillery gun.**
- Sharang is an upgraded version of the M-46 field guns.
- It was developed by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

10. d

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has given its 'in-principle' approval



for setting up a **Major Port** at **Vadhavan near Dahanu** in **Maharashtra**.

- Vadhavan port will be developed on "**land lord model**" and this will be 13th major port in India.
- In **landlord port model**, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and as landlord while private companies carry out port operations mainly cargo-handling activities.
- A **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** will be formed with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT).
- The **SPV** will develop the port infrastructure including reclamation, construction of breakwater, besides establishing connectivity to the hinterland.
- All the business activities would be undertaken under PPP mode by private developers.

10-02-2020

1) SPICe+ often seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- Ease of doing Business
- Doubling Farmers Income
- Incredible India Campaign 2.0
- Know your Fertilizer limit Campaign

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Biological Safety Levels (BSL)*

- They are a series of protections designed to protect laboratory personnel, as well as the surrounding environment and community.
- BSL is ranked from one to four and BSL-1 refers to the lowest biosafety lab level whereas BSL-4 refers to the highest and most stringent lab level.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

3) Which of the following countries are members of *European Union*?

- Italy
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- United Kingdom

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- All except 2
- All except 4
- All except 2 and 4
- All of the above

4) "Addu Atoll" often seen in the news is located in?

- Maldives
- Australia
- Indonesia
- Seychelles

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP)*

- It is a code which bars pharmaceutical companies and their sales representatives from giving gifts and free trips to doctors.
- The code is mandatory and binding on all pharmaceutical companies.
- The code was issued by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

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

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



6) Consider the following statements *Fermentation process*

1. Fermentation is a chemical process by which molecules such as glucose are broken down aerobically.
2. It is used to produce cheese, chocolate, wine and yogurt.

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 *Police system in India*

1. Police in India are generally subjected to dual control.
2. The Commissioner of Police (CP) is drawn from the Deputy Inspector General rank or above.

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 *Genome India Project*

1. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will serve as the nodal point of this project.
2. A Genome is defined as an organism's complete set of RNA including all of its genes.

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

1. Marwari
2. Kathiawari
3. Zanskari
4. Manipuri
5. Spiti

Which of these belongs to the *indigenous horse breed of India*?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Loktak Lake*

1. It is the largest freshwater lake in India and unique for its phumdi ecosystem.
2. Keibul Lamjao National Park is an integral part of Loktak Lake.
3. The park is the home to endangered Sangai deer.

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. a

- Continuing efforts to further improve the *Ease of Doing Business*, the government will introduce an integrated electronic form for incorporating new companies from February 15, 2020 wherein EPFO and ESIC registration numbers will also be allotted at the same time.

- The Corporate Affairs Ministry would introduce the form — **SPICE+** — to offer 10 services.
- Currently, the Ministry has the electronic form SPICE (**Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Company Electronically**) and that would be replaced with SPICE+.
- The 10 services offered through the new form would help in “saving as many procedures, time and cost for starting a business in India,” the Ministry said in a public notice.
- The incorporation of companies are made through the Corporate Affairs Ministry portal MCA21. The new form would be available on this portal.

2. c

- *The Indian government has sharply censured the U.S. government’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for funding an “unapproved” Indian laboratory in Manipal, and not securing the necessary permissions for undertaking training in India for work on Nipah virus, considered a potential bio-weapon.*
- *A Union Health Ministry communication to CDC said the work was undertaken despite knowing that high risk pathogens can be tested only in **BSL4 lab**.*
- *As the highest level of biological safety, a BSL4 lab consists of work with highly dangerous and exotic microbes.*
- *Infections caused by these microbes, including Ebola and Marburg viruses, are frequently fatal.*

Biological Safety Levels (BSL):

- **Biological Safety Levels (BSL)** is a series of protections relegated to autoclave-related activities that take place in particular biological labs.
- They are **individual safeguards designed to protect laboratory personnel**, as well as the **surrounding environment and community**.
- These levels, which are ranked from **one to four**, are selected based on the agents or organisms that are being researched or worked on in any given laboratory setting.

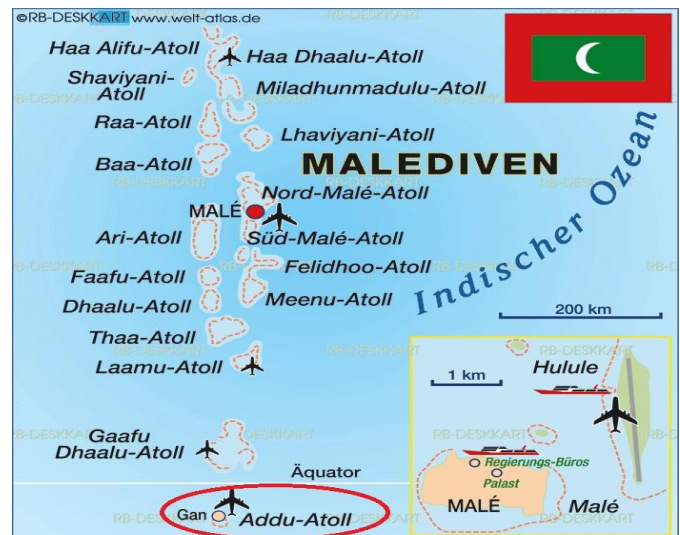
- For example, a basic lab setting specializing in the research of nonlethal agents that pose a minimal potential threat to lab workers and the environment are generally considered **BSL-1**—the **lowest biosafety lab level**.
- A specialized research laboratory that deals with **potentially deadly infectious agents** like Ebola would be designated as **BSL-4**—the **highest and most stringent level**.

3. b

- **United Kingdom (UK)**, which had been a founding member of the European Union **formally gave up its membership** recently.
- With this, the EU has now 27 member countries.

4. a

- **India and Maldives** has recently signed five MoUs for establishing the Addu Tourism zone in five islands of **Addu atoll** located in Maldives at a cost of 2.49 million dollars.
- A 6th MoU to set up a bottled water plant in Hoarafushi was also signed.
- All six projects are grant projects falling under India’s High Impact Community Development Scheme (HICDP).
- These projects are driven by the needs of communities on the islands.



5. b

- The Union government has recently asked drug makers and their associations to adhere to current guidelines for marketing drugs i.e. **Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP)**.
- **UCPMP** is a **voluntary code issued by the Department Of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** relating to marketing practices for Indian Pharmaceutical Companies and as well medical devices industry.
- Under the code, pharmaceutical companies and their sales representatives are barred from giving gifts and free trips to doctors.
- Even if a doctor goes for a conference, they will have to do so at their own cost, as per the code.
- But the recent order by Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) was criticized as rather than taking steps towards instituting statutory regulation of unethical marketing and promotion, the DoP is still requesting companies to abide by a toothless, unenforceable UCPMP.

6. b

- Recently, a research has shown that the the chemical processes of **Fermentation can be used to create spontaneous tunes**.
- The researcher built an art exhibits called **Fermentophone** to showcase how Fermentation can make music.
- **Fermentation** chemical process by which molecules such as glucose are broken down **anaerobically**.
- It is used to produce cheese, chocolate, wine, beer and yogurt.
- The chemical breakdown of a substance is by microorganisms such as bacteria or yeasts.

7. c

- The Uttar Pradesh government recently introduced the **Police Commissioner system in Lucknow and Noida**.
- **Police in India** are generally **subject to dual control** although their **administration under The Police Act, 1861** is vested in the police hierarchy,

the **District Magistrate exercises general control** within his jurisdiction.

- The **Commissionerate system** is a **Unified command** structure with the **Commissioner of Police as the sole head** of the force within the city.
- It allows for quicker responses to law and order situations.
- The **office also has magisterial powers**, including those related to regulation, control, and licensing.
- The **CP is drawn from the Deputy Inspector General rank or above**, and is assisted by Special/Joint/Additional/Deputy Commissioners.
- Almost all states barring Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, UT of J&K, and some Northeastern states have a commissionerate system.

8. d

- Recently, the Government has given clearance to an ambitious Gene-mapping project called **Genome India Project**.
- The Project will involve 20 leading institutions including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru and a few IITs.
- The **IISc's Centre for Brain Research**, an autonomous institute, **will serve as the nodal point of the project**.
- Its aim is to ultimately build a grid of the Indian "reference genome", to understand fully the type and nature of diseases and traits that comprise the diverse Indian population.
- Studying and understanding both diversities would provide the bedrock of personalised healthcare for a very large group of persons on the planet.
- The first stage of the project will look at samples of "10,000 persons from all over the country" to form a "grid" that will enable the development of a "reference genome".

9. d

- Recently, as a measure of conservation of **Manipuri pony, one of India's 5 indigenous horse breeds**, the **Manipur state** hosts an international polo tournament.

- India has **5 indigenous horse breeds**: Marwari, Kathiawari, Zanskari, Manipuri and Spiti.
- Of them, the **Marwari** and **Kathiawari** are the **most well-known**, their "lyre" ears which bend inwards and can be rotated 180 degrees being the only sort in horse breeds around the world.
- The **Manipuri horse is the quintessential polo horse** and is easily manoeuvrable, while the **Zanskari** and **Spiti** breeds **are strong ponies** adept at work in mountainous terrain.
- The **Manipuri horse** is considered as the **descendants of the Asian wild horse**.
- These horses once enjoyed special status in Manipuri society, and were used only for sport and rituals.
- A **Pony sanctuary** is also being **set up** at Heingang **to preserve the breed**.

10. b

- The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC)'s **105 MW multipurpose hydroelectric project** had drastically **affected the scenic beauty of the Loktak Lake** in Manipur.
- Many people lost their precious agricultural lands and homes after the lake was flooded following the implementation of the project.
- The project was more of a nightmare for the people that had inhabited near the Loktak Lake.
- The fishing community of Karang claimed to have spotted a new kind of unknown aquatic insects around the island in the recent past besides experiencing rise of mosquito population.
- **Loktak Lake** is the **largest freshwater lake in Northeast India** and is **famous for the phumdis** floating over it.
- **Phumdis** are the **heterogeneous mass of vegetation**, soil and organic matter at various stages of decomposition.
- **Keibul Lamjao National Park** is the **only floating national park** in the world and is **an integral part of Loktak Lake**.

- It is the last natural refuge of **endangered Sangai deer**.
- The **Sangai deer** is a **Schedule-1 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and **Endangered** on **IUCN Red List**.

11-02-2020

1) With respect to *Conference of Parties - 13 (COP-13)* often seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention.
2. The conference is going to be hosted by India at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
3. The theme of CoP-13 is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home".

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

2) Consider the following statements

1. It covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans.
2. Indian sub-continent is a part of the Flyway.
3. It is the shortest flyway in the world and lies entirely within the Northern Hemisphere.

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

- a. East Asian Flyway
- b. East African Flyway
- c. East Atlantic Flyway
- d. Central Asian Flyway



3) India is home to which of the following migratory species?

1. Dugongs
2. Amur falcons
3. Snow leopard
4. Bar headed Geese
5. Black necked cranes

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

- a. 2 only
- b. All except 1 and 3
- c. All except 1, 3 and 5
- d. All of the above

4) “Limiting Factor” – one of the world’s most advanced submersibles used to explore inhospitable depths is associated with which of the following missions?

- a. Mission Arabia
- b. Mission Maven
- c. Nekton Mission
- d. Operation Ice Bridge

5) Consider the following statements with respect to “Midnight Zones”?

1. It is a region between one and four kilometres deep.
2. In this zone, light barely reaches and life forms does not exists.

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 *Jet Streams*

1. Jet streams are narrow bands of strong winds that flow over thousands of kilometres from west to east.
2. Jet streams are stronger in winter in the northern and southern hemispheres.

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 *Solar Orbiter (SolO)*

1. This is the first medium-class mission to investigate the Sun’s uncharted polar regions to learn more about how the Sun works
2. It is a collaborative mission between the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA.

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

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

1. It is a part of NASA’s Artemis program.
2. It is laser-toting robot for studying mineralogy, chemistry and soil types to find the signs of past microbial life on Moon.

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 *Mount Aconcagua* sometime seen in news

1. It is a part of the Andes mountain range and the highest peak in South America.
2. Its peak is located in Chile.

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 *Guru Ravidas*

1. He was a mystic poet of the Bhakti movement and Guru Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on Magh Purnima.
2. The *Adi Granth* of Sikhs and the *Panchvani* are two of the oldest documented sources of the literary works of Guru Ravidas.
3. Mirabai was a disciple of Guru Ravidas.

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

- The **13th Conference of Parties (COP)** of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) (also called as the **BONN Convention**), an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme, is going to be hosted by India during 17th to 22nd

February 2020 at **Gandhinagar** in **Gujarat**.

- As the host, India shall be designated the President for the next three years.
- The Government of India is Signatory to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory wild Animals (CMS) since 1983.
- The Government of India has been taking necessary actions to protect and conserve migratory marine species.
- Seven species that include Dugong, Whale Shark, Marine Turtle (two species), have been identified for preparation of Conservation and Recovery Action Plan.
- The theme of CMS COP13 in India is, **"Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home"**.
- "The CMS COP 13 logo is inspired by '**Kolam**', a **traditional artform from southern India**."
- In the logo of CMS COP-13, Kolam art form is used to depict key migratory species in India like Amur falcon, humpback whale and marine turtles.
- The mascot for CMS COP13, **"Gibi - The Great Indian Bustard"** is a critically endangered species which has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

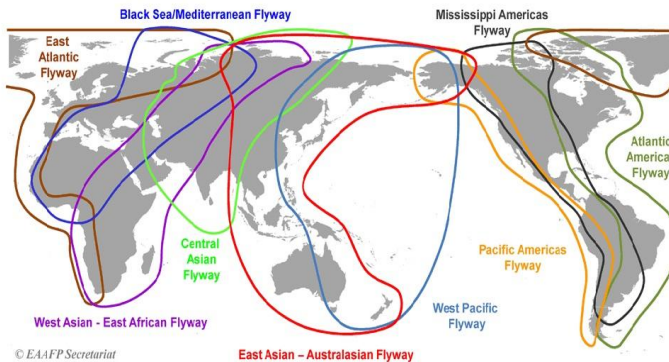
2. d

Flyway

- A flyway is a geographical region within which a single migratory species, a group of migratory species – or a distinct population of a given migratory species – completes all components of its annual cycle (breeding, moulting, staging, non-breeding etc.)

Central Asian Flyway (CAF)

- It covers areas between the **Arctic and Indian Oceans**, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory water bird species, including 29 globally threatened species.
- The Indian sub-continent is also part of the flyway network.



3. d

- India is home to several migratory species of wildlife including **snow leopard, Amur falcons, bar headed Geese, black necked cranes, marine turtles, dugongs, humpbacked whales**, etc. and has signed non legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).
- Migratory species of wild animals move from one habitat to another during different times of the year, due to various factors such as food, sunlight, temperature, climate, etc. The movement between habitats, can sometimes exceed thousands of kilometers/miles for some migratory birds and mammals.
- A migratory route will typically have nesting sites, breeding sites, availability of preferred food and requires the availability of suitable habitat before and after each migration.

4. c

- A team of scientists is preparing to dive deep into the depths of the Indian Ocean — into a “**Midnight Zone**” where **light barely reaches but life still thrives**.
- Scientists from the British-led Nekton Mission plan to survey wildlife and gauge the effects of climate change in the unexplored area.
- Working with the Seychelles and Maldives governments, the five-week expedition is targeting seamounts — vast underwater mountains that rise thousands of meters from the sea floor.
- To explore such inhospitable depths, Nekton scientists will board one of the world’s most

advanced submersibles, called “**Limiting Factor**”.

5. a

- “**Midnight Zone**” (**Bathypelagic Zone**) – It is a zone where light barely reaches but life still thrives.
- The ocean’s **midnight zone** is a region between one and four kilometres deep, where no sunlight at all penetrates the frigid water.
- With no light, there is no growth of plants or phytoplankton - all animals are thus predators or scavengers.

6. c

- Recently, a **British Airways flight broke the subsonic speed record** during its New York-to-London journey, surpassing the previous record by 17 minutes, and completing the trip 80 minutes sooner than estimated.
- The Boeing 747-436 plane was able to achieve a **speed of 1,327kph** as it was **aided by a strong jet stream generated due to Storm Ciara**.
- Jet streams are **narrow bands of strong winds that flow over thousands of kilometres from west to east**.
- Major jet streams are found near the upper levels of the atmosphere, around 9 to 16 km from the earth’s surface, and can reach speeds of over 320 kph.
- Shifting jet stream patterns can have a big impact on the weather.
- Jet streams are stronger in winter in the northern and southern hemispheres**, because that’s when air temperature differences that drive them tend to be most pronounced.
- The polar-front jet stream forms at about 60 degrees latitude in both hemispheres, while the subtropical jet stream forms at about 30 degrees.
- The major jet streams are the Polar Front, Subtropical, and Tropical jet streams.
- In India, the Tropical jet stream influences the formation and duration of the summer monsoon.

7. d

- Recently, the **Solar Orbiter**, a **collaborative mission between the European Space Agency and NASA** to study the Sun, took off from Cape Canaveral in Florida.
- The mission, which will take the first pictures of the top and bottom of the sun, was launched on an Atlas V rocket.
- It will chart the Unexplored Polar Regions of the Sun.
- Carrying **4 in-situ instruments** (which measure the space environment immediately around the spacecraft like the sense of touch) and **6 remote-sensing imagers** (which see the sun from afar), the Solar Orbiter (called SolO) will face the sun at approximately 42 million kilometres from its surface.
- The new spacecraft **will use the gravity of Venus and Earth to swing itself out of the ecliptic plane**, passing inside the orbit of Mercury, and will be **able to get a bird's eye view of the sun's poles for the first time**.

8. d

- In its **mission to Mars**, NASA is **sending a new laser-toting robot** as one of seven instruments aboard the Mars 2020 rover.
- It is called **SuperCam**, the **robot is used for studying mineralogy and chemistry** from up to about 7 metres away.
- It might help scientists **find signs of fossilised microbial life on Mars**.
- It **fires a pulsed laser beam** out of the rover's mast to vaporise small portions of rock from a distance, providing information that will be essential to the mission's success.
- SuperCam looks at rock textures and chemicals to find those that formed or changed in water on Mars long ago.
- SuperCam looks at different **rock and soil types** to find ones that could preserve signs of past microbial life on Mars if any ever existed.
- For the benefit of future explorers, SuperCam identifies which elements in the Martian dust may be harmful to humans.

9. a

- Recently, a **12 year old Mumbai Girl** becomes **youngest to climb Mt Aconcagua**.
- At 6962 metres, **Mt. Aconcagua** is the **highest peak outside Asia** and the **highest peak in South America**.
- It is the **part of the Andes mountain range**, located in **Argentina**.
- The Andes Mountains were formed as the result of subduction of the oceanic Nazca Plate under the South American continent.
- Aconcagua used to be a volcano, when the oceanic plate dipped at a higher angle under the continent.



10. d

- Guru Ravidas Jayanti** was **celebrated on 9th February**.
- He was a North Indian **mystic poet** of the **Bhakti Movement**.
- His birth is believed to be in 1377 C.E.
- Guru Ravidas Jayanti** is celebrated on **Magh Purnima**, which is the full moon day in the Hindu calendar month of Magha.
- The **Adi Granth** of **Sikhs** and the **Panchvani** are the **2 of the oldest documented sources of literary works of Guru Ravidas**.



- He is believed to be a **disciple of the bhakti saint-poet Ramananda** and a contemporary of the bhakti saint-poet Kabir.
- One of **his famous disciples** was the saint **Mirabai**.
- His teachings resonated with the people, leading to a religion being born called the **Ravidassia religion**, or **Ravidassia Dharam based on his teachings**.
- He **taught about the omnipresence of God** and said that a human soul is a particle of God.
- He rejected the idea that people considered lower caste cannot meet God.
- He said in his teachings that the **only way to meet God was to free the mind from the duality**.

12-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Registration of Political Parties*

1. Registration of Political Parties in India is governed by the provisions of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 195
2. Once a political party is recognised as a “National Party/State Party”, it will remain as such till the dissolution of the party.

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

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

2) Which of the following factors is/are responsible for decrease in *Bumblebees* population?

1. Habitat Destruction
2. Higher Global Temperatures
3. Higher growth of Native flowers

4. Higher usage of Chemical Pesticides

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

- a. All except 3
- b. All except 2 and 3
- c. All of the above
- d. None of the above

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons' (PDUNWFS)*

1. It aims at addressing the entire “Sports Eco-system” holistically, namely, players training/coaching and development and infrastructure.
2. It was implemented through States and UTs, with one-time assistance for creation of capital assets at Block level and limited period recurring grant as central grant-in-aid.

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) “*National Health Profile*” released annually will be compiled by?

- a. National Health Authority
- b. Indian Council of Medical Research
- c. Central Bureau of Health Intelligence
- d. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Deworming Mission*

1. The mission is aimed to protect children in the ages of 1-19 years from these worms.
2. Under the scheme, Albendazole tablets will be given to all targeted children

through Anganwadi centres and all schools.

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 Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)*

1. It is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) only.
2. It is incorporated as a Not for Profit Company under the provisions of Companies Act.
3. RuPay is an Indigenously developed Payment System designed to meet the expectation and needs of the Indian consumer.

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 *Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)*

1. EEZ is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, it can extend to a maximum 200 nautical miles from the baselines.
2. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the only international framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces and it provides a different legal status to different maritime zones.

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 *Delhi*

1. NCR consists of the metropolitan area of Delhi and is administered by the Union Government and the elected Government of NCR.
2. NCT refers to the regions surrounding Delhi and includes cities of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Noida and it does not have any legal jurisdiction.
3. The recently conducted General Election is to the Legislative Assembly of NCR of Delhi.

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 of the above

9) The term COVID-19 recently seen in news is related to?

- a. A newly discovered asteroid that circles the sun
- b. A fish species lives in dark coral reefs
- c. An official name for the new Coronavirus disease
- d. A new Tuberculosis (TB) vaccine

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Private Member Bills in Indian Parliament*

1. A private member's Bill is piloted by an MP who is not a cabinet minister.
2. A private member's bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- The Registration of Political Parties is governed by the provisions of **section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**.
- A party seeking registration under the said section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission **within a period of 30 days** following the date of its formation in prescribed format with basic particulars about the party such as name, address, membership details of various units, names of office bearers, etc.,
- If a political party is treated as a recognised political party in four or more States, it shall be known as a 'National Party' throughout the whole of India, **but only so long as that political party continues to fulfill thereafter the conditions for recognition** in four or more States on the results of any subsequent general election either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of any State.
- If a political party is treated as a recognised political party in less than four States, it should be known as a 'State Party' in the State or States in which it is so recognised, but only so long as that political party continues to fulfill thereafter the conditions for recognition on the results of any subsequent general election to the House of the People or, as the case may be, to the Legislative Assembly of the State, in the said State or States.

2. a

Bumblebees

- They are one of the most important pollinators around.
- They are at risk of becoming extinct due to higher global temperatures and Climate Chaos.

- The likelihood of a bumblebee population surviving has plummeted by nearly a third due to global warming, a rate consistent with a mass extinction.

Genus: Bombus

Habitat: Temperate climates, and are often found at higher latitudes and altitudes than other bees.

Diet: Nectar and Pollen made by flowers.

Buzz Pollination: The beating of their wings combined with their large bodies vibrates flowers till they release pollen.

Factors responsible for its decrease:

1. **Over Heating** – It is one way climate change affects the bees, as they already generate heat while flying.
2. **Destruction of Habitat** – By development and conversion of wild lands into agriculture is also bad for the bees.
3. **Impact on Flowers** – Changes in flowers and vegetation due to climate change could lead to the bees starving to death.
4. **Dryer Habitats:** Also diminishes their chances of colonising a new area – the process in which a species goes to a new place and established a new population.
5. **Pesticides:** Like neonicotinoids affect bumblebees as they are extremely toxic to them.

Conservation Status: Most Species are listed as endangered.

Cascading Ecological Effect: If these important pollinators disappear, many flowering plants won't be able to reproduce.

This will affect both these plants and the other organisms dependent on the plants.

Conservation Methods:

1. Creating more parks or planting more trees and shrubs in urban environments gives bumblebees places to shelter from the heat.
2. Growing native flowers in home gardens gives the right kind of food for them, along with creating flower beds continuously in bloom.
3. Avoiding Chemical pesticides for home gardens and public fields and parks
4. Addressing climate change

3. d

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS)

- It was set up in March, 1982 with a view to assisting outstanding Sportspersons of yesteryear, living in indigent circumstances who had brought glory to the Country in sports.
- The scheme as revised in September, 2017 to provide for lump sum ex-gratia assistance to outstanding Sportspersons of yesteryears.
- Provision of pension has been done away with as there is already a Scheme of Pension for Meritorious Sportspersons.
- Now, lump sum ex-gratia assistance is given to the Sportspersons or their families for medical treatment etc.

The Fund shall be utilized for the following **objectives**:

- To provide suitable assistance to outstanding sportspersons now living in indigent sportspersons.
- To provide suitable assistance to outstanding sportspersons injured during the period of their training for competitions and also during the competitions, depending on the nature of the injury.
- To provide suitable assistance to outstanding sportspersons who bring glory to the country in international field and who are disabled as an after effect of their strenuous training or otherwise and to provide them assistance for medical treatment.
- To administrator and apply the funds of the Fund to promote the welfare of the sportspersons generally in order to alleviate distress among them and their dependents in indigent circumstances.
- To administer and apply the funds of the Fund for active sportspersons individually or collectively as a group.
- To do all other things which are incidental to the above objectives.

4. c

Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)

- CBHI compiles the **National Health Profile** based on the information received from various Ministries/Departments.
- It was established in 1961 by the **Act of Parliament** on the recommendation of **Mudaliar committee**, is the Health Intelligence Wing under Directorate General of Health Services (Dte.GHS), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- CBHI is headed by Director (SAG level) from Central Health Services cadre with specialization in public health administration.

5. c

National Deworming Mission

- According to WHO, India has the highest burden of Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH/ intestinal worms in the world.
- The mission is aimed to protect children in the ages of 1-19 years from these worms.
- Albendazole tablets will be given to all targeted children through Anganwadi centres and all schools.

6. d

- National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) **monopoly** in payments and settlements space **set to end** soon as **RBI allows private players to apply for licences to set up umbrella payments systems.**
- **NPCI is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems** in India.
- It is an **initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- It has been incorporated as a **"Not for Profit" Company** under the provisions of **Section 25 of Companies Act 1956** (now Section 8 of Companies Act 2013).
- It was set up with an intention to provide infrastructure to the entire Banking system in India for physical as well as electronic payment and settlement systems.

- The Company is focused on bringing innovations in the retail payment systems through the use of technology for achieving greater efficiency in operations and widening the reach of payment systems.
- **RuPay is an Indigenously developed Payment System** designed to meet the expectation and needs of the Indian consumer, banks and merchant eco-system.

7. a

- The Government recently said it is considering a uniform fishing law for sustainable development and management of fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982**, also known as **Law of the Sea** divides marine areas into 5 main zones namely,
 1. Internal Waters,
 2. Territorial Sea,
 3. Contiguous Zone,
 4. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and
 5. The High Seas.
- **UNCLOS is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.**
- It provides a different legal status to different maritime zones.
- The UNCLOS **defined** the **EEZ** as a zone in the sea over which a **sovereign nation has certain special rights** with respect to the exploration and usage of marine resources, which includes the generation of energy from wind and water, and also oil and natural gas extraction.
- **The EEZ is an area that is adjacent to and beyond the territorial sea.**
- It can extend to a maximum of 200 nautical miles from the baseline.
- The baseline is normally measured is the low-water line along the coast as indicated on large-scale charts officially approved by the coastal state.

8. d

- **The recently conducted General Election is to the Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.**
- The **General Election** to the Legislative Assembly **does not covers all the regions of NCR.**
- **NCT is a special Union Territory of India, administered by the Union Government and the elected Government of NCT.**
- It consists of the metropolitan area of Delhi (includes New Delhi and Old Delhi).
- The administrative agencies of NCT are Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Corporation, and Delhi Cantonment Board.
- **NCR stands for National Capital Region and comprises of the regions around Delhi** which include cities like Gurgaon, Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad etc.
- **NCR does not have any legal jurisdiction** and has **gained prominence as a satellite town** to decongest the national capital and develop adjacent areas as a part of metropolitan to distribute the population.
- According to the Planning Board Act of the National Capital Territory of 1985, **a total of 23 districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan were included in the NCR.**

9. c

- The **World Health Organization (WHO) declared an official name for the new coronavirus disease as COVID-19**, making sure not to reference Wuhan, the central Chinese city where the virus originated.
- **COVID-19 stands for Corona Virus Disease 19.**
- It also gives **a standard format to use for any future coronavirus outbreaks.**
- The **WHO referenced guidelines** set in 2015 that **ensure the name does not refer to a geographical location, an animal, an individual or group of people**, while still being pronounceable and related to the disease.

- People tend to think of the disease as belonging to, as being a characteristic of some
- group of people associated with the place name, which can be really stigmatizing.
- It encourages the next city not to come forward, not to report a disease if your city is labeled as the disease.
- The general names are also now avoided as they can stigmatise entire regions or ethnic groups.

10. b

- Recently, a BJP member in Rajya Sabha appeared to abandon his plan of introducing a **Private member's Bill** on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), a code that would be applicable to all religious communities in personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption.
- A **Private Member's Bill** is piloted by an MP who is not a 'Minister'.
- An MP who is not a minister is a private member and while both private members and ministers take part in the lawmaking process, **Bills introduced by private members are referred to as private member's Bills and those introduced by ministers are called government Bills.**
- Individual MPs may introduce private member's Bill to draw the government's attention to what they might see as issues requiring legislative intervention.
- Before the Bill can be listed for introduction, the Member must give at least a month's notice, for the House Secretariat to examine it
- for compliance with constitutional provisions and rules on legislation.
- While a **Government Bill** can be introduced and discussed on any day, a private member's bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays.

13-02-2020

1) As per the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015, who among the following can become the *Chairperson of the Arbitration Council of India (ACI)*?

1. a Judge of the Supreme Court
2. Chief Justice of a High Court
3. a Judge of a High Court
4. an eminent person with expert knowledge in conduct of arbitration

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *School Health Programme (SHP)*

1. The programme was launched under the Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres.
2. This is a joint collaborative programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource & Development.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bumble bees*

1. Bumble bees are social insects and form colonies with a single queen.
2. They are much larger than honey bees, but produce less amount of honey.
3. Only the female bees are equipped with stingers.

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

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



d. 1, 2 and 3

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

1. It is an arboreal herbivorous found only in Australia.
2. It is marsupial (animals that carry their young ones in a pouch) in nature.
3. Habitat destruction due to bushfires is one of the major reasons for its decline in numbers.

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

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

1. Influenza is same as stomach “flu” viruses that cause diarrhoea and vomiting.
2. It is a fungal infection that attacks the respiratory system of a human body.
3. Influenza B is found only in humans.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *African Union (AU)*

1. The African Union represent all the countries on the African continent.
2. Agenda-2063 is Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future.

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

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

7) The *Amazon Rainforest* spreads across which of the following countries

1. Brazil
2. Ecuador
3. Suriname
4. Paraguay
5. Colombia

Choose the correct answer

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to recently notified *Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020*

1. It is to regulate medical devices on the same lines as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
2. These are applicable only to devices intended for internal use in the diagnosis or treatment.
3. This rules exempted the medical devices imported into India.

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

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

9) The term *Yaravirus* sometime seen in news is?

- A new lineage of Amoebal virus
- A new Human Virus
- A new lineage of Coronavirus family
- A new Ebola-like virus

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

- The all-India IIP is being released as a quarterly series.
- It is the only measure on the physical volume of production.

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

- The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 was amended by the **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015** in order to make arbitration process user-friendly, cost-effective and ensure speedy disposal and neutrality of arbitrators.
- The Amendment Act seeks to add a new Part to the Act of 1996 for the establishment and incorporation of an independent body namely, the **Arbitration Council of India (ACI)** for the purpose of grading of arbitral institutions and accreditation of arbitrators, etc.
- As per the Act, ACI will be headed by a Chairperson, who has been a **Judge of the Supreme Court** or a **Chief Justice or Judge of a High Court** or an **eminent person**, having special knowledge and experience in the conduct or administration of arbitration, to be appointed by the Centre in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

- Besides, it will also have **two Full-time Members** from amongst eminent arbitration practitioners and academicians.
- In addition, one representative of a recognized body of commerce and industry shall be nominated on a rotational basis as a Part-time Member.
- The Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Secretary Department of Expenditure and Chief Executive Officer, ACI will be ex-officio Members.

2. c

- Union Government had recently launched a **School Health Programme** under **Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres** that will teach skills ranging from emotional wellbeing, mental health, inter-personal relationships to values and maintaining healthy lifestyle.
- The program has been jointly rolled out by **Ministries of Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development**.
- This initiative will be effectively linked with other government initiatives such as Fit India movement, Eat Right campaign, Poshan Abhiyaan for an all-round and holistic development model of health for the school children etc., said Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare.
- While the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) developed 24-hour curriculum, training materials for training of nodal teachers, facilitators guide were developed in consultation with union health ministry.

3. d

- A recent study links climate change to drop in bumble bee numbers.

Bumble bees

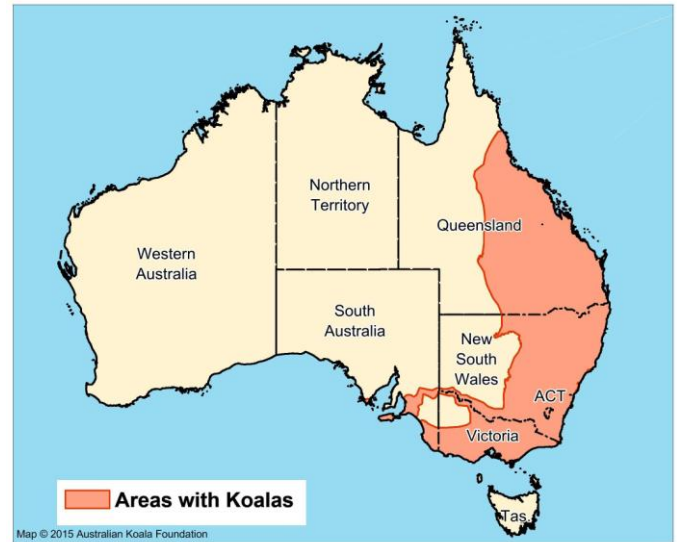
- They are large fuzzy insects belonging to the bee family.
- They are much larger than honey bees, but produce less amount of honey.
- Bumble bees are important pollinators of certain types of plants including blueberries and cranberries.



- They are mostly found in the Northern Hemisphere, although they can also be scattered in small numbers across tropical regions.
- There are as many as 46 species of bumble bees in North America.
- Bumble bees are social insects and form colonies with a single queen.
- Only the female bees are equipped with stingers.
- They can survive extreme cold temperatures, as low as zero degree celsius.
- They stay warm by vibrating their flight muscles to generate heat.
- They play a crucial role in the ecosystem.

4. d

- Koala's habitat was severely damaged by the recent Australian bushfires.



KOALA DISTRIBUTION

5. b

Influenza

- It is commonly known as the “**Flu**”.
- It is a viral infection.
- There are four types of flu viruses: A, B, C and D.
- Influenza A viruses are the only influenza viruses known to cause flu pandemics, i.e., global epidemics of flu disease.
- A pandemic can occur when a new and very different influenza A virus emerges that both infects people and has the ability to spread efficiently between people.
- Unlike type A flu viruses, **type B flu is found only in humans**.
- Influenza type C infections generally cause mild illness and are not thought to cause human flu epidemics.
- Influenza D viruses primarily affect cattle and are not known to infect or cause illness in people.
- **Gastroenteritis** is a nonspecific term for various inflammatory problems in the gastrointestinal tract with the most common symptoms and signs being **diarrhea**, **nausea**, **vomiting**, and abdominal pains.

- *Gastroenteritis is often referred to as the "stomach flu," however, it is not related to the influenza virus.*

6. c

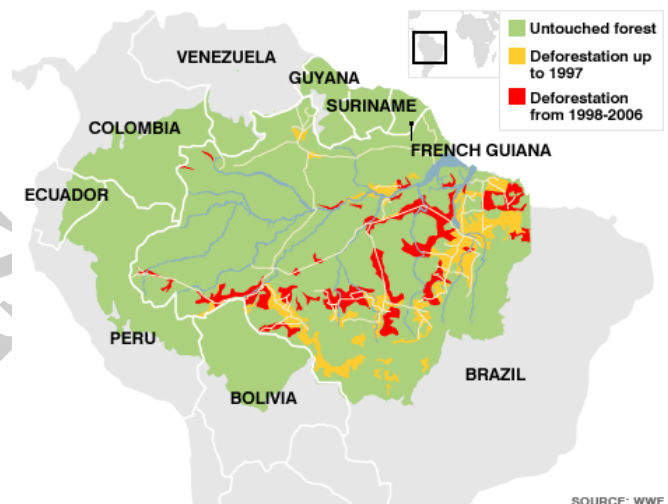
- The **33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly** of Heads of State and Government of the African Union recently started at the **African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**
- African leaders meet in Addis Ababa for the annual African Union (AU) summit.
- This year's **theme** is **"Silencing the Guns"**, reflecting the continental body's earlier aspirations to end conflicts and prevent genocide in Africa.
- The **African Union (AU) is a continental body** consisting of the **55 member states** that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- It was officially launched in 2002 as a **successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963-1999).**
- The AU is made up of **55 Member States** which represent all the countries on the African continent.
- AU Member States are **divided into 5 geographic regions.**
- The most important decisions of the AU are made by the Assembly of the African Union, a semi-annual meeting of the heads of state and government of its member states.
- **Agenda 2063** is Africa's **blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa** into the global powerhouse of the future.

7. c

- A new research suggests that up to **one-fifth of the Amazon rainforest is emitting more CO₂ than it absorbs.**
- Deforested parts of Amazon is emitting more CO₂ than they absorb.
- While trees are growing they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; dead trees release it again.

- Millions of trees have been lost **forest fires** in recent years.
- The **Amazon Rainforest spreads across 9 countries** namely Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, Suriname, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Guyana, and French Guiana.
- The landscape contains:
 1. 1 in 10 known species on Earth
 2. 1.4 billion acres of dense forests
 3. Half of the planet's remaining tropical forests
 4. 4,100 miles of winding rivers
 5. Amazon basin is about 40% of South America.

AMAZON RAINFOREST



8. a

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** notified changes in the **Medical Devices Rules, 2017.**
- It is to **regulate medical devices** on the **same lines as drugs** under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**
- The **Medical equipment** would **qualify as 'drugs'** under **Section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** from April, 2020.
- It is called the **Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020**, these are **applicable to devices intended for "internal or external use"** in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of disease or disorder in human beings or animals.

- The move comes in the wake of years of controversy about faulty hip implants of Johnson & Johnson (J&J).
- It requires **online registration** of these **devices** with the **Central Licensing Authority** through an identified **online portal** established by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSO)** for this purpose.
- The manufacturer has to upload,
 1. Name & address of the company or firm or any other entity manufacturing the medical device
 2. Name and address of manufacturing site of medical device
 3. Certificate of compliance with respect to **ISO 13485** standard accredited by National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies or International Accreditation Forum in respect of such medical device.
- Every medical device, either **manufactured in India or imported, will have to have quality assurance** before they can be sold anywhere in the country.

9. a

- In a lake in **Brazil, researchers have discovered a virus** that they find unusual and intriguing, called **Yaravirus**.
- It is a **new lineage** of **Amoebal virus** which **infects amoeba** and has **genes** that have **not been described before**, something that could challenge how DNA viruses are classified.
- According to the researchers over **90% of the Yaravirus's genome** has **not been observed before**.
- The amount of unknown proteins composing the Yaravirus particles reflects the variability existing in the viral world and how much potential of new viral genomes are still to be discovered.

10. b

- India's **Industrial production growth turned negative in December**, contracting by 0.3%, mainly on account of a decline in manufacturing sector output.

- According to the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** data, the manufacturing sector output contracted by 1.2% in December 2019 as against a growth 2.9% in the same month last year.
- **IIP** is a **composite indicator measuring changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products over a period of time**, with respect to a chosen base period.
- It is **compiled and published** on a **"monthly basis"** by the **CSO** under the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **IIP is the only measure on the physical volume of production.**
- The all-India IIP provides a single representative figure to measure the general level of industrial activity in the economy.
- It is used by government agencies including the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India etc, for policy purposes.
- It forms a crucial input for compilation of Gross Value Added (GVA) of the manufacturing sector in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on a quarterly basis..
- It is also used extensively by financial intermediaries, policy analysts and private companies for various analytical purposes.
- In the sectoral classification,
 1. Manufacturing has the highest weight of 77.6%,
 2. Mining has 14.4% share and
 3. Electricity has 8% weight.

14-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI)

1. It is an initiative of the World Bank – Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (WB-ESMAP), in partnership with International Solar Alliance (ISA).



2. It aims to support countries in developing sustainable solar programs that will attract private investments and so reduce reliance on public finances.

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) Virupapura Gaddi sometimes seen in the news recently is an oval islet formed by which of the following Rivers?

- a. R. Periyar
- b. R. Cauvery
- c. R. Mahanadi
- d. R. Tungabhadra

3) Anganphou Hunba' programme was recently launched in which of the following states?

- a. Tripura
- b. Mizoram
- c. Manipur
- d. Meghalaya

4) Consider the following pairs with respect to military exercises:

Exercises – Countries

- 1. Vajra Prahar – India and US
- 2. Ajeya Warrior – India and UK
- 3. Dharma Guardian – India and Japan

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

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

5) Future of Earth 2020 Report was released recently by?

- a. Indian Institute of Science
- b. Divecha Centre for Climate Change
- c. South Asia Future Earth Regional Office
- d. All of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India

- 1. The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951 inserted 9th Schedule to the Constitution to protect the land reform and other laws present in it from the judicial review.
- 2. Now all the acts under the Ninth Schedule are open to judicial review.

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 Sarojini Naidu

- 1. Her birthday is celebrated as International Women's Day.
- 2. The book titled Muhammad Jinnah: An Ambassador of Unity was written by Sarojini Naidu.
- 3. She was the first woman Governor of an Indian state after independence.

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



8) Consider the following statements with respect to *INS Shivaji*

1. It is the India's largest Short take-off but assisted recovery (STOBAR) aircraft carrier.
2. It is the is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier and the flagship of the Indian Navy.

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) *Mount Merapi* which was in news recently is located in

- a. Peru
- b. Japan
- c. Solomon Islands
- d. Indonesia

10) *Global Futures Report* is released by

- a. World Wide Fund for Nature
- b. The Global Trade Analysis Project
- c. The Natural Capital Project
- d. All the above

Answers

1. c

- The **World Bank** – Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (WB-ESMAP), in partnership with, **Agence Francaise de Developpement** (AFD), **International Renewable Energy Agency** (IRENA) and **International Solar Alliance** (ISA) developed the **Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI)**.
- **SRMI** aims to support countries in developing sustainable solar programs that will attract

private investments and so reduce reliance on public finances.

- It has three components to mitigate the risk of solar deployment:

1. **The enabling Environment:** Supporting the development of sustainable renewable roadmaps with medium-term targets based on sound planning and resource assessments, and providing concessional climate finance blended with development finance and technical support to ensure that countries have the right **enabling environment** to reduce country risk
2. **Transparent Procurement:** Supporting the selection of private sector developers and investors in a competitive and transparent manner to address country and project risk
3. **Viable Risk Mitigation Coverage:** developing viable risk mitigation coverage to cover residual project risks targeting solar (grid and off-grid) and storage deployment financed and operated by private investors.

2. d

- The Supreme Court has recently confirmed the Karnataka government authorities' decision to demolish restaurants, hotels, guest houses and other buildings constructed in **Virupapura Gaddi**, an oval islet formed by the **Tungabhadra River** and located west of the Hampi World Heritage site.

3. c

- **Manipur** CM has recently launched '**Anganphou Hunba'** (**Early Paddy Crop**) programme at Arapti Mayai Leikai in Imphal East.

4. d

1. Vajra Prahar – India and US
2. Ajeya Warrior – India and UK
3. Dharma Guardian – India and Japan

5. d

- Five global risks that have the potential to impact and amplify one another in ways that may cascade to create global systemic crisis, have been listed by "**The Future of Earth, 2020**", which was released recently by the **South Asia Future Earth Regional**

Office, Divecha Centre for Climate Change and Indian Institute of Science.

- The report, released by **K. Kasturirangan**, former Chairman, ISRO, lists failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation; extreme weather events; major biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse; food crises; and water crises, as the five global risks.
- The report was prepared with the aim of reducing carbon footprint and halting global warming below 2 degree Celsius by 2050.

6. a

- Recently, a LJP leader Chirag Paswan said that reservation should be put under the **Ninth Schedule of the Constitution**.
- His comments came days after the Supreme Court ruled that reservation in the matter of promotions in public posts was not a fundamental right, and that a state cannot be compelled to offer quota if it chooses not to.
- The Ninth Schedule contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts.
- Currently, 284 such laws are shielded from judicial review.
- The Schedule **became a part of the Constitution in 1951**, when the document was **amended for the first time**.
- It was **created by the new Article 31B**, which along with 31A was brought in by the government to protect laws related to agrarian reform and for abolishing the Zamindari system.
- While Article 31A extends protection to 'classes' of laws, Article 31B shields specific laws or enactments.
- Now, **all acts placed under the Ninth Schedule post 24th April 1973 are open to judicial review**.

7. b

- **Sarojini Naidu's 141st Birth Anniversary** was on **13th February 2020**.
- **India celebrates Sarojini Naidu's birthday as 'National Women's Day'** every year on **February 13**.

- She became the **second woman president of the Indian National Congress**.
- She was the **first woman Governor** of an Indian state, **Uttar Pradesh** from 15th August 1947 to 2nd March 1949 **after independence**.
- The **first book about Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah** titled **Muhammad Jinnah: An Ambassador of Unity** was written by **Sarojini Naidu**.
- It was **published** by University of Michigan Library **in 1918**.

8. d

- Recently, the **President of India** presented '**Colour**' to the **INS Shivaji**.
- **INS Shivaji** is an **Indian Naval station** located in **Lonavala, Maharashtra**.
- It **houses Naval Engineering College** that **trains officers** of **Indian Navy and Indian Coastal Guards**.
- It was **commissioned** on **15th February 1945** as **HMIS Shivaji**.
- There are **3 premier institutions at INS Shivaji**. It includes Centre of Excellence, Centre of Marine Engineering and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence School.
- The **courses at INS Shivaji are conducted by AICTE** (All India Council for Technical Education).
- **INS Vikramaditya** is the **Indian Navy's largest short take-off, but assisted recovery (STOBAR) aircraft carrier**.

9. d

- **Indonesia's Mount Merapi** erupted recently as fiery red molten lava streamed down from the crater and it belched clouds of grey ash 2,000m into the sky.
- It is **one of the world's most active volcanoes**.
- It **sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire"**, a vast zone of geological instability where the



collision of tectonic plates causes frequent earthquakes and major volcanic activity.

10. d

- Recently, the **Global Futures Report** has been **released jointly** by the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, **Global Trade Analysis Project** and the **Natural Capital Project**.
- According to the report, the **world economy will suffer a total cumulative loss of \$10 trillion by 2050** unless humanity reverses destruction of nature.
- However, annual Global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will be 0.02% higher by 2050 if the world adopted a more sustainable model of living, the report said.
- It **warns of potential risks to the world's economic prosperity** if we don't act urgently to halt nature loss.
- The **study uses new economic and environmental modelling** to calculate the costs of nature's decline across 140 countries and all key industry sectors.

15-02-2020

1) Which of the following products was/were granted G.I tag by the Government of India?

1. Kaji Nemu
2. Khola Chilli
3. Dindigul Locks
4. Nagpur Orange
5. Srivilliputtur Palkova

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) **Daspalla Hills** often seen in the news recently is located in?

- a. Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu

- b. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- c. Harishchandra Range, Maharashtra
- d. Satmala Hills, Maharashtra

3) **Corbomycin** and **Complestatin** often seen in the news recently are?

- a. Enzymes help in repairing Bone Marrow
- b. Drugs used for anaesthetic purpose
- c. Antibiotics that prevents Cell Division
- d. Molecules that synthesis antibodies

4) Consider the following statements with respect to **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

1. It is an international financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency.
2. It is based in Rome, Italy.
3. Membership is open to any State that is a member of the United Nations, any of its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to **Lassa fever**

1. It is a viral haemorrhagic disease caused by the Lassa virus, which naturally infects the widely distributed house flies.
2. Lassa virus does not spread from human to human.
3. There is no drug exist for the treatment of the Lassa disease.

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement)*

1. It is a part of the United States Trade Representatives (USTR's) Countervailing Duty (CVD) law which lists countries as developing and least-developed countries.
2. Under this agreement, countries that had not yet reached the status of a developed country only were entitled to special treatment for purposes of countervailing measures.

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) *Seymour Island* which was in news recently is located in?

- a. The Caribbean
- b. Iceland
- c. Antarctic Peninsula
- d. Indonesia

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

1. It is the most distant and most primitive object ever explored by a spacecraft.
2. It was discovered using the Hubble Space Telescope.

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 *Chronograph Watches*

1. It is a watch with a stopwatch function built in to keep track of seconds and is used to measure elapsed time.
2. It can be self-winding, manual or quartz powered.

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 *Generic Medicines*

1. A generic medicine use the same active ingredients as brand-name medicines and it is same as a brand-name medicine in dosage, safety and effectiveness.
2. Branded generics are the generic drugs developed either by a generic drug company or the original manufacturer before the patent expires for the original product.

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

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

Answers

1. d

- First consignment of **Nagpur oranges** was flagged off to Dubai on 13th February 2020 from Vashi, Navi Mumbai.
- Nagpur Orange was granted G.I tag in 2014.

G.I Tags granted from APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020

- Kandhamal Haladi - Agricultural - Odisha
- Odisha Rasagola - Food Stuff - Odisha
- Kodaikanal Malai Poondru - Agricultural - Tamil Nadu
- Pawndum - Handicraft - Mizoram
- Ngotekherh - Handicraft - Mizoram
- Hmaram - Handicraft - Mizoram
- Palani Panchamirtham - Food Stuff - Tamil Nadu
- Tawlhlohpuan - Handicraft - Mizoram
- Mizo Puanchei - Handicraft - Mizoram
- Gulbarga Tur Dal - Agricultural - Karnataka
- Tirur Betel Leaf (Tirur Vettala) - Agricultural - Kerala
- Irish Whiskey - Manufactured - Ireland
- Khola Chilli - Agricultural - Goa**
- Idu Mishmi Textiles - Handicraft - Arunachal Pradesh
- Dindigul Locks - Manufactured - Tamil Nadu**
- Kandangi Saree - Handicraft - Tamil Nadu
- Srivilliputtur Palkova - Food Stuff - Tamil Nadu**
- Kaji Nemu - Agricultural - Assam**

2. b

- Some sort of Second World War fortification was recently identified in the **Daspalla Hills, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- It appears to be fortifications of an anti-aircraft battery or an anti-ship battery.

- The walls are made of 15-inch thick reinforced steel concrete, and from the appearance and the strategic positioning, it appears to be a gun fortification, with the central structure being the command post.

3. c

- A new group of antibiotics has been discovered by scientists at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, that can be **useful in the battle against antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**.
- Corbomycin** and **Complestatin** work by prevent the bacterial wall from being broken down, thus **stopping the division of bacterial cells**.
- This, the scientists said, was in contrast to older antibiotics like **penicillin** that kill bacteria by preventing the wall from being built in the first place.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

- AMR is a global public health threat, according to the World Health Organization.
- Misuse of antibiotics in humans, animals, and aquaculture contributes to AMR.
- Also, poor management of waste from farms, factories, healthcare settings and households adds to the problem.

4. c

- The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has recently said that climate change would push 100 million people into the abyss of poverty by 2030.*
- Close to half of these would be due to climate change's impacts on agriculture.
- Global development and government representatives from across the world made an appeal to urgently spend more on rural development to avoid a catastrophic situation arising out of the climate emergency during **IFAD's 43rd Governing Council meeting in Rome**.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- It is an international financial institution and **specialized United Nations**

agency based in **Rome, Italy**, the UN's food and agriculture hub.

- IFAD has 177 Member States comprised of developing, middle and high-income countries from all regions of the world who are dedicated to eradicating poverty in rural areas.
- Membership in IFAD is open to any State that is a member of the **United Nations, any of its specialized agencies** or the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**.
- IFAD is the only specialized global development organisation exclusively focused on and dedicated to transforming agriculture, rural economies and food systems.

5. d

- *The Nigerian Academy of Science has recently called for the current outbreak of Lassa fever in Africa's most populous nation Nigeria to be declared a national health emergency because of its severity.*

Lassa fever

- It is a **viral haemorrhagic disease** caused by the **Lassa virus**, which naturally infects the widely distributed **house rat**.
- It's transmitted through the urine and droppings of infected rats found in most tropical and subtropical countries in Africa.
- They are able to contaminate anything they come in contact with.
- The Lassa virus **spreads through human to human** contact with tissue, blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions.
- This includes coughing, sneezing, kissing, sexual intercourse and breastfeeding.
- In hospitals the disease is spread through contaminated equipment.
- A **drug does exist** for the treatment of the disease.
- But its efficacy is affected by the fact that Nigeria has inefficient laboratory diagnosis and patients are admitted late to hospital.

6. b

- The office of the **United States Trade Representatives (USTR)** has removed

India from the list of countries that are **designated** as '**developing**'.

- Countries under this list are eligible for preferential treatment when it comes to CVD investigations.
- **India will no longer get this benefit.**
- Other countries that were removed from the list include Thailand, Vietnam, Brazil, Indonesia and Malaysia.
- The **USTR has also updated** its list of countries that are least-developed under the **US Countervailing Duty (CVD) laws**.
- In the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA), the US Congress had amended the CVD law in order to confirm US obligations under the **World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM)**.
- Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (**SCM Agreement**) is a part of **WTO**.
- It addresses two separate topics, Multilateral disciplines regulating the provision of subsidies, and the use of countervailing measures to offset injury caused by subsidized imports.
- Under **this SCM agreement, countries** that had not yet reached the status of a developed country were entitled to special treatment for purposes of countervailing measures.
- **Seymour Island in the Antarctic Peninsula** hits record temperature of 20.75°C.
- The **continent also hit a record last week**, with a temperature reading of 18.3°C on the Antarctic Peninsula.
- According to the **UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, temperatures on the **Antarctic Peninsula have risen by almost 3°C** over the past 50 years, and that about 87% of the glaciers along its west coast have "retreated" in that time.

7. c

- **Seymour Island in the Antarctic Peninsula** hits record temperature of 20.75°C.
- The **continent also hit a record last week**, with a temperature reading of 18.3°C on the Antarctic Peninsula.
- According to the **UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, temperatures on the **Antarctic Peninsula have risen by almost 3°C** over the past 50 years, and that about 87% of the glaciers along its west coast have "retreated" in that time.

- Over the past 12 years, the glaciers have shown an accelerated retreat. Last month was also **Antarctica's warmest January on record.**

8. c

- According to a new research, the newly renamed object **Arrokoth** **once called as Ultima Thule**, is ultrared, smooth and covered in Organic complex molecule.
- And one of the most intriguing discoveries about **Arrokoth** is that it's **covered in methanol ice and unidentified complex organic molecules**, according to the researchers.
- Arrokoth** was **discovered** June 26, 2014, by **NASA's New Horizons** spacecraft team using the **Hubble Space Telescope**.
- It is the **most distant object explored by a spacecraft.**
- Arrokoth is even redder than Pluto.** It is, in fact, the reddest outer solar system object visited by a spacecraft thus far.

9. c

- The basic difference between **Analog** and **Chronograph watches** is the functionality **Analog watches tell the time**, with two hands showing the current minute and hour, whilst **Chronographs is a watch with a stopwatch function built in to keep track of seconds** and is used to measure elapsed time.
- Chronograph watches can be self-winding, manual or quartz powered.
- A **chronograph** has **three main functions**: start (when it is activated), stop (when you take a reading) and return to zero (when it's ready for re-use).
- A chronograph watch **typically has three dials** to register the time elapsed, a second dial (also referred to as a sub-second dial), a minute dial and an hour dial.

10. a

- Recently, in parliament, a Congress MP seeks domestic production of **Generic Drugs** to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB).

- A **Generic Medicines** is a medication that **has exactly the same active ingredient as the brand name drug** and **yields the same therapeutic effect.**
- It is the same in dosing, safety, strength, quality, the way it works, the way it is taken, and the way it should be used.
- Generic drugs **do not need to contain the same inactive ingredients as the brand name product.**
- A **Generic drugs are cheaper** because the manufacturers have not had the expenses of developing and marketing a new drug.
- When a company brings a new drug onto the market, the firm has already spent substantial money on research, development, marketing and promotion of the drug.
- A patent is granted that gives the company that developed the drug an exclusive right to sell the drug as long as the patent is in effect.
- As the **patent** **nears expiration**, **manufacturers can apply to the FDA for permission to make and sell generic versions of the drug**; and without the startup costs for development of the drug.
- "**Branded Generics**" are **generic drugs that have a brand name.**
- These **drugs are developed either by a generic drug company or the original manufacturer "after" the patent expires** for the original product.
- The branded generic name is proprietary to (owned by) the company.

17-02-2020

1. Consider the following statements

- He translated the Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads into Persian language.
- Majma-ul-Bahrain was one of the favourite book written by him.
- He is described as a liberal Muslim who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions.

Identify the famous personality from the Medieval India?

- Ziauddin Barani
- Amir Khusro
- Dara Shikoh
- Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman

2. Consider the following statements with respect to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

- It is the only global convention specialising in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes.
- The Indian sub-continent is a part of the Central Asian Flyway
- Migratory species means the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals.

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 only

3. Consider the following statements with respect to Hope Spacecraft

- It is the first uncrewed, interplanetary satellite spearheaded by Israel to Mars.
- It is world's first privately funded mission to Mars.

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

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

4. Betelgeuse which was in news recently is a

- A microscopic organism sent to space
- A newly discovered dwarf galaxy
- First Earth-size planet in its star's habitable zone
- A supermassive star

5. Consider the following statements with respect to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are categorized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha.
- Asur, a PVTGs usually found in the state of Odisha and their language figures in the UNESCO's list of interactive atlas.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- The Ministry of Culture recently set up a seven-member panel of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to locate the grave of the Mughal prince **Dara Shikoh** (1615-59).
- He is believed to be buried somewhere in the Humayun's Tomb complex in Delhi, one of around 140 graves of the Mughal clan.
- The eldest son of Shah Jahan, **Dara Shikoh** was killed after losing the war of succession against his brother Aurangzeb.
- Dara Shikoh is described as a "liberal Muslim"** who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions.
- He translated the Bhagavad Gita as well as 52 Upanishads into Persian.**

- According to the Shahjahannama, after Aurangzeb defeated Dara Shikoh, he brought the latter to Delhi in chains.
- His head was cut off and sent to Agra Fort, while his torso was buried in the Humayun's Tomb complex.

2. d

- **India will host the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS COP13).**
- It is a major United Nations wildlife conference with the **theme** of "Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home".
- The **CMS** is an **environmental treaty of the UN** that provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.
- It is the **only global convention specialising in the conservation of migratory species**, their habitats and migration routes.
- The pact was **signed in 1979 in Germany** and is **known as the Bonn Convention**.
- "**Migratory species**" means the **entire population or any geographically separate part of the population** of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries.
- **Appendix I** of the Convention lists 'Threatened Migratory Species'.
- **Appendix II** lists 'Migratory Species requiring international cooperation'.
- The **Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway network, i.e., the Central Asian Flyway (CAF)** that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory water-bird species, including 29 globally threatened species.
- **India** has also **launched the National Action Plan for the conservation of migratory species** under the Central Asian Flyway.

3. d

- The **Hope Mars Mission**, also called the Emirates Mars Mission, is the **first uncrewed, interplanetary satellite spearheaded by the United Arab Emirates**.
- In fact, the **Hope Spacecraft** is the **first planetary science mission** led by an Arab-Islamic country.
- The **Hope spacecraft** is in many ways a **state-of-the-art weather satellite**.
- It will help answer some outstanding questions about Mars' climate and atmosphere.
- The satellite mission has **4 primary objectives**:
 1. Search for the connection between current Martian weather and the ancient climate of Mars.
 2. Study the mechanisms that have driven oxygen and hydrogen out of Mars' atmosphere.
 3. Study the connections between the lower and upper atmospheres of Mars.
 4. Create a global picture of how the Martian atmosphere varies throughout the day, season and year.
- The **Beresheet Mission** is the **first privately funded lunar mission of Israel**.

4. d

- Recently, using the **European Space Organisation's (ESO) Very Large Telescope (VLT)**, astronomers have noticed the **unprecedented dimming of Betelgeuse**.
- It is a **red supergiant star (over 20 times bigger than the Sun)** in the constellation Orion.
- **Betelgeuse** was born as a **supermassive star** millions of years ago and has been "**dramatically**" and "**mysteriously**" **dimming** for the last six months.
- According to a report in Sky and Telescope, among the brightest night time stars, Betelgeuse ranks 10th.

5. b

- Radio aids revival of dying tribal language.
- **Asur, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Jharkhand**, may not have access to good road or means of transportation to the outside world, but that has not deterred them from saving their language.
- Using **mobile radio**, the **Asur community** has been **spreading the popularity of the language** within their geographical limits.
- The **Asur language figures in the list of UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger**.
- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are **categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the **highest number are found in Odisha**.
- The state governments or UT governments submit proposals to the Central Ministry of Tribal Welfare for identification of PVTGs.
- After ensuring the criteria is fulfilled, the Home Ministry selects those groups as PVTGs.
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission** created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category.

18-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Asur Tribes**

1. They are one among the 9 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) found in Odisha.
2. The Asur language figures in the list of UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.

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) **Urban bent-toed gecko** often seen in the news recently is a new species of lizard discovered in?

- a. Wayanad, Kerala
- b. Guwahati, Assam
- c. Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
- d. Diglipur, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

3) "**Lorcaserin**" is a drug often seen in the news recently is used for which of the following purposes?

- a. Cosmetic Purposes
- b. Weight-loss drug
- c. Antimicrobial drug
- d. Inducing Pregnancy

4) Which of the following is/are not partners of **Scientific Utilisation through Research Augmentation-Prime Products from Indigenous Cows (SUTRA PIC) Initiative** launched recently by the Government of India?

1. Ministry for AYUSH
2. Indian Council of Medical Research
3. Ministry of Science and Technology
4. Indian Council of Agricultural Research
5. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
6. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. All except 5 only
- b. All except 1 and 5 only
- c. All except 1, 2 and 5 only
- d. None of the above



5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Neonatal mortality*

1. A neonatal death is defined as a death during the first five years of life expressed per 1,000 live births.
2. Under the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, each country has aimed to bring down neonatal mortality to at least 12 per 1,000 live births.
3. In India, Madhya Pradesh has the highest percentage of newborn deaths in the past three years.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *state of Rampur*

1. The state of Rampur was founded by Nawab Ali Muhammad Khan.
2. It was the first princely state to accede to India after Independence.
3. The rulers were tolerant towards other religions and employed Hindus in senior administrative posts.

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 *Reserve Bank of India (RBI)*

1. Presently RBI follows July-June as its accounting year.
2. The Bimal Jalan Committee is related to Economic Capital Framework (ECF) of the RBI.

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

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

1. Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change in ways that render the medications used to cure the infections they cause ineffective.
2. Antibiotics are medications that destroy or slow down the growth of Virus.

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

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

9) The *Barakah Nuclear Power Plant* which was in news is located in?

- a. Iran
- b. United Arab Emirates
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. Turkey

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

1. It is in the state of Jharkhand and part of Vindhyan Hills
2. Sakhya Lake and Madhav Sagar lake in the centre of the forest support a rich variety of migratory birds
3. The park is a combination of evergreen and moist deciduous forests that make home for different variety of antelopes.



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

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

Answers

1. b

- **Asur** is among the nine **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** found in **Jharkhand**.
- Of the 32 different tribes recorded in the State, only four to five tribes, including Santhali, Ho and Kuruk, have recorded language scripts.
- As per the 2011 census, the tribe has a population of around 23,000 in Latehar and Gumla districts.
- In the community, **50% of population could barely speak in Asur language**; they are not fluent in the language.
- The Asur language figures in the list of **UNESCO Interactive Atlas** of the World's Languages in Danger.
- Only 7,000 to 8,000 Asur tribals are left in the community who are well conversant in the language.
- With help from tribal rights activists, Asur Tribal Wisdom Centre, an organization involving Asur tribals, was established at Jobhipat village near Netarhat to protect the language and culture of Asur tribals.
- Using mobile radio, the Asur community has been spreading the popularity of the language within their geographical limits.

2. b

- The new species of lizard, zoologically named **Cyrtodactylus urbanus**, is discovered in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- It is markedly different in molecular structure, blotch and color from the *Cyrtodactylus guwahatiensis*, or the Guwahati bent-toed gecko, that was discovered two years ago.

- The bent-toed gecko, named *Cyrtodactylus urbanus*, was earlier thought to be same as the Khasi Hills lizard.
- All bent-toed geckos in Northeast India were thought to be a single species, the *Cyrtodactylus khasiensis* found primarily in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya.
- The study on the urban bent-toed gecko provided additional information on the Guwahati bent-toed gecko, the first of the two *Cyrtodactylus* endemic to the areas covered by the city and the fourth from Assam.
- It was also the 12th recorded gecko from the Northeast.



3. b

- Indian doctors have cautioned against the use of "**Lorcaserin**" (brandname Belviq or Belviq XR), a **weight-loss drug** that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently said is linked to a "**possible increased risk of cancer**."
- Lorcaserin has been withdrawn from the U.S. market after caution by the FDA because of cancer risk.
- The FDA requested the drug manufacturer to voluntarily withdraw lorcaserin, after a post-marketing trial with more than 12,000 subjects revealed an increased occurrence of cancer.

4. d

- An inter-Ministerial funding program "**Scientific Utilization through Research Augmentation Prime Products from Indigenous Cows**"

(SUTRA-PIC India) has been planned with the support of **Ministry of Science & Technology** through Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR); Ministry of AYUSH** (Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy); **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).**

SUTRA PIC has five themes:

1. Uniqueness of Indigenous Cows
2. Prime-products from indigenous cows-based utility items
3. Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Food and Nutrition
4. Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Medicine and Health
5. Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Agricultural Applications

Objective:

- The proposals under this theme should aim to perform scientific research on complete characterisation of milk and milk products derived from Indian indigenous cows; scientific research on nutritional and therapeutic properties of curd and ghee prepared from indigenous breeds of cows by traditional methods; development of standards for traditionally processed dairy products of Indian-origin cow.

5. b

- **Madhya Pradesh** has recorded the highest percentage of newborn deaths of 11.5% against the total admissions to government-run sick newborn care units (SNCUs) in the **past three years** across the country, a rate ominously spiralling since 2017, according to the National Health Mission (NHM). The country's average is 7%.
- A **Neonatal death** is defined as a death during the first 28 days of life (0-27 days).

- Under the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), each country, including India, has aimed to bring down neonatal mortality to at least **12 per 1,000 live births**.

- In 2018, it stood at 23 for India.

6. d

- Erstwhile royals of the **state of Rampur in Uttar Pradesh** are **fighting over the assets and legacy of Nawab Raza Ali Khan**, who acceded to the Indian Union at the time of Independence.
- The **Supreme Court ended India's longest running civil dispute** last year, and the process of evaluating the inheritance is currently ongoing.
- The **state of Rampur** was **founded by Nawab Ali Muhammad Khan**, the adopted son of Sardar Daud Khan, the chief of the **Rohillas** in Northern India.
- The **Rohillas were Afghans who entered India** in the 18th century as the Mughal Empire was in decline, and took control of Rohilkhand, at the time known as Katehr.
- **Rampur**, under Nawab Raza Ali, was the **first kingdom to accede to India in 1949**, becoming the only Muslim-majority district in Uttar Pradesh.
- The **Rampur royals have played an important role in the socio-cultural history of the Ganga-Yamuna belt**.
- They run the **Amir Raza library in Rampur**, once known as the official darbar of the Nawab, which is **home to some 15,000 manuscripts in Arabic, Urdu, Persian and Turkish**, as well as a seventh-century Quran.
- The **Nawabs** were known for many things, including their **patronage of music and arts**, especially the **Hindustani classical music form of khyal**.
- The **rulers were tolerant towards other religions** and employed Hindus in senior administrative posts.

7. d

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is **aligning its July-June accounting year**

with the government's April-March fiscal year in order to ensure more effective management of the country's finances.

- **When it commenced operations** on April 1, 1935, with Sir Osborne Smith as its first Governor, the **RBI followed a January-December accounting year.**
- **On March 11, 1940,** however, the bank **changed its accounting year to July-June.**
- Now, after nearly eight decades, the RBI is making another switch: the next accounting year will be a nine-month period from July 2020 to March 31, 2021 and thereafter, all financial years will start from April, as it happens with the central and state governments.
- The **Bimal Jalan Committee on Economic Capital Framework (ECF) of**
- **the RBI had proposed a more transparent presentation of the RBI's annual accounts, and a change in its accounting year to April-March from the financial year 2020-21.**
- It said the RBI would be able to provide better estimates of projected surplus transfers to the government for the financial year for budgeting purposes.

8. a

- **A new group of Antibiotics has been discovered** by scientists at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, **that can be useful in the battle against antimicrobial resistance (AMR).**
- Corbomycin and complestatin work by prevent the bacterial wall from being broken down, thus stopping the division of bacterial cells.
- **Antibiotics**, also known as **antibacterials**, are medications **that destroy or slow down the growth of bacteria.**
- **Antibiotics cannot treat viral infections**, such as cold, flu, and most coughs.
- **Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change in**

ways that render the medications used to cure the infections they cause ineffective.

- When the microorganisms become resistant to most antimicrobials they are often referred to as **"superbugs"**.
- This is a major concern because a resistant infection may kill, can spread to others, and imposes huge costs to individuals and society.

9. b

- Recently, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** gets green light to **operate the Arab world's first nuclear power plant.**
- The **Barakah nuclear power plant in Abu Dhabi**, the project involved collaboration with external bodies including the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the South Korean government.
- Once operation of the plant begins, **the UAE will become the newest member of an exclusive club of currently just 30 countries running nuclear power operations.**
- The program aims for a total of 4 reactors, which officials say will amount to 25% of the country's energy needs.

10. a

- The **Madhav National Park** has claimed denotified land is unavailable for allotment to 39 tribal families displaced 20-years ago to make way for a **tiger corridor**, even though hundreds of others compensated for to vacate the Park continue to farm and encroach upon the corridor unchecked.
- Moreover, tigers are yet to be reintroduced in the park, let alone the corridor's development.
- Displaced families for tiger corridor await land allotment.
- The **park that is situated in Shivpuri District** of Gwalior division in **Madhya Pradesh.**
- It is a part of the upper Vindhyan hills.
- Madhav National Park is an **unusual terrain of hills, dry, mixed forests, grasslands, and lakes** which makes it a perfect destination for sighting a variety of wildlife.



- The **Sakhya and Madhav Sagar Lake**, located in the center of the forest, support a rich variety of migratory birds including geese, pochard, pintail, teal, mallard, and gadwall.
- These lakes are the great nesting ground for birds and marsh crocodiles, that can be spotted here in abundance.
- It is a **combination of dry deciduous & dry thorn forests** that make home for different variety of antelopes like Nilgai, Chinkara, and Deer, and carnivours such as leopard, wolf, jackal, fox, wild pig, etc.

19-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kala Kumbh*

1. It aims to promote Geographical Indication (GI) crafts and heritage of India.
2. It was organised by the Ministry of Textiles.

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. Madur kathi
2. Kolhapuri Chappal
3. Channapatna Toys & Dolls
4. Sandur Lambani Embroidery

Which of the product(s) given above is/are belongs to the *GI tag list* of the state of *Karnataka*?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Statistical Commission (NSC)*

1. It was established in 2005 based on the recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission.
2. The Commission comprised a part-time Chairperson, four part-time Members and Secretary of Planning Commission as the ex-officio Member.
3. The Chief Statistician of India (CSI) is the Secretary to the NSC.

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) Consider the following statements with respect to *Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) Initiative*

1. It is a special clean-up initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).
2. The initiative is being coordinated by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

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

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

5) Recently, a Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development was launched jointly by India and?

- a. Brazil
- b. Norway
- c. Australia
- d. Indonesia



6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Mutiny*

1. One of the triggers for the RIN strike was the arrest of a rating, BC Dutt, who had scrawled 'Quit India' on the HMIS Talwar.
2. The revolt got a support from the Communist Party 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

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

1. Green Field investments refers to a clean technology investment with sustainable and environmentally friendly practices and products/services.
2. Brownfield investments refers to an investment in Non-renewable technologies.

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 *Central Vigilance Commission*

1. It was set up on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by L.M. Singhvi.
2. The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department.

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 the *Rann of Kutch*

1. It is connected to the Arabian Sea through Kori Creek in the west.
2. The Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary is spread across the little Rann of Kutch.
3. The Asia's largest oil refinery is located in the Gulf of Kutch.

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Aditya L1 Mission*

1. It will be ISRO's first space-based astronomy mission.
2. Aditya L1 will perform continuous observations looking directly at the Sun.

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

- With an objective to promote Geographical Indication (GI) crafts and heritage of India the **Ministry of Textiles** is organising **Kala Kumbh - Handicrafts Thematic Exhibition** in various parts of the country through the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

- The exhibitions are planned in various major cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.
- The exhibitions sponsored by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) started recently.
- In Bengaluru exhibition, GI crafts like Mysore rosewood inlay, Channapatna lacquerware, Dharwad kasuti embroidery, Kolhapur chappal, Bidriware, Molakalmur handblock printing, Ananthapur leather puppet, Thrissur screwpine, Vishakapatna lacquerware, Sandur lambani embroidery, Jodhpur terracota, Jaipur handprinted textile, bronze casting, Medinipur mat weaving, Birbhum artistic leather and Khurda palm leaf engraving are being displayed.
- In Mumbai exhibition GI crafts like Chittoor kalamkari painting, Thrissur screwpine crafts, Pokharan terracotta crafts, Kutch embroidery & crochet crafts, Pingla patachitra, Birbhum kantha embroidery, Jajpur photachitra painting, Madhubani Mithila painting, Kolhapur chappal, Palghar Worli painting, Kondagaon wrought iron craft, Agate stone crafts and Krishna handblock printing are being displayed.

2. b

GI Products and its State

- **Kolhapuri Chappal** – Handicraft – **India (Karnataka & Maharashtra)**
- **Madur kathi** – Handicraft – **West Bengal**

3. b

- In line with the recommendations of the **Rangarajan Commission**, on 1st June 2005, the Government of India resolved the setting up of a **National Statistical Commission (NSC)**.
- As per the notification, the Commission comprised a part-time Chairperson, four part-time Members and Secretary, Planning Commission as the ex-officio Member.
- In 2015, the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) came in to existence and as a result, the **Chief Executive Officer of the NITI Aayog has been made ex-officio Member of the NSC, in place of the Secretary, Planning Commission**.

4. c

- The **Swachh Iconic Places (SIP)** is an initiative under the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- It is a special clean-up initiative focused on select iconic heritage, spiritual and cultural places in the country.
- The initiative is being coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), **Ministry of Jal Shakti** in association with the **Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism** and the **concerned State governments**.
- **Phase I Iconic sites:** 1. Ajmer Sharif Dargah; 2. CST Mumbai; 3. Golden Temple, Amritsar; 4. Kamakhya Temple, Assam; 5. Maikarnika Ghat, Varanasi; 6. Meenakshi Temple, Madurai; 7. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra, J&K; 8. Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri; 9. The Taj Mahal, Agra; 10. Tirupati Temple, Tirumala
- **Phase II Iconic sites:** 1. Gangotri; 2. Yamunotri; 3. Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain; 4. Char Minar, Hyderabad; 5. Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Goa; 6. Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam; 7. Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola; 8. Baijnath Dham, Devghar; 9. Gaya Tirth in Bihar; 10. Somnath Temple in Gujarat.
- **Phase III Iconic sites:** 1. Sree Dharma Sastha Temple; 2. Mana Village, Uttarakhand; 3. Vidur Kuti Temple, Uttar Pradesh; 4. Shri Sarveshwar Mahadev Temple; 5. Shri Nag Vasuki Temple; 6. Kanvashram, Uttar Pradesh; 7. Ema Keithel, Manipur; 8. Hazarduari Palace, West Bengal; 9. Pangong Tso; 10. Sri Raghvendra Swamy Mutt Mantralayam

5. b

- India's Minister for Earth Sciences and Norway's Minister for Climate and Environment have recently **opened the India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development**.
- The India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development was **launched** in January 2019.

- The purpose of the task force is to develop and follow up joint initiatives between the two countries.
- The two countries also commenced a new collaboration on Integrated Ocean Management & Research.

6. c

- **74 years ago, on February 18, 1946**, some 1,100 Indian sailors or “ratings” of the **HMIS Talwar** and the **Royal Indian Navy (RIN)** Signal School in Bombay **declared a hunger strike**, triggered by the conditions and treatment of Indians in the Navy.
- A “slow down” the strike was also called, which meant that the ratings would carry out their duties slowly.
- Somewhere between 10,000-20,000 sailors joined the strike, as did shore establishments in Karachi, Madras, Calcutta, Mandapam, Visakhapatnam, and the Andaman Islands.
- While the immediate trigger was the demand for better food and working conditions, the agitation soon turned into a wider demand for independence from British rule.
- The protesting sailors demanded the release of all political prisoners including those from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s Indian National Army (INA).
- **One of the triggers** for the **RIN strike** was the **arrest of a rating, BC Dutt**, who had scrawled “Quit India” on the HMIS Talwar.
- The day after the strike began, the ratings went around Bombay in lorries, waving the Congress flag, and getting into scraps with Europeans and policemen who tried to confront them.
- The **revolt**, however, **failed to see support from the Indian leadership** who perhaps saw a mutiny, so close to independence, as a danger.
- Only the **Communist Party of India and the INC’s Aruna Asaf Ali** openly **supported the sailors**.

7. d

- The **Uttar Pradesh** government in its Budget 2020-21 set aside a fund of Rs 2,000 crore for

the upcoming Jewar or the **Noida International Greenfield Airport** in Gautam Buddha Nagar.

- **This will be the third in the National Capital Region** after Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International airport and Ghaziabad’s Hindon airport.
- The word Green is also synonymous with the word new, which may allude to **new construction projects by companies**.
- With **Greenfield investing**, a company will build its own, brand new facilities from the ground up.
- The term Greenfield refers to **buildings constructed on fields that were, literally, green**.
- **Brownfield investment** happens when a company purchases or leases an existing facility.
- **Brownfields** can be an investment in abandoned, underutilized or contaminated properties, redeveloping these properties into productive projects.
- Sanjay Kothari, the Secretary to the President, has been selected as the new **Chief Vigilance Commissioner** by a high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister.
- The **Central Vigilance Commission** was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by **Shri K. Santhanam**, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.
- The CVC is **not controlled by any Ministry/Department**. It is an **independent body** which is **only responsible to the Parliament**.
- It exercise superintendence over the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment insofar as it relates to the investigation of offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

8. b



9. d

- Recently, **Flamingoes** foraging in the backwaters near Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram.
- Hundreds of **Flamingoes fly in from the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat** every year in December and leave by the end of March.
- Kachchh** furnishes **4 diverse geomorphic type of terrain** namely (i) the Rann, (ii) the low lying Banni plains, (iii) the hilly region, and (iv) the coastal plains.
- It is **connected to the Arabian Sea through Kori Creek** in the west and the Gulf of Kachchh in the east, and is very close to sea level.
- The **Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary**, is **spread across the little Rann of Kutch** where small grass-covered areas, known as baits, forms the flora and is an important source to support the fauna of the region.
- The **Asia's largest oil refinery** is located at **Jamnagar** owned by Reliance Industries in the Gulf of Kutch.

10. b

- Recently, 47 new papers were published in a special supplement of The Astrophysical Journal, analysing data from the first three flybys of **the Parker Solar Probe, NASA's historic mission to the Sun.**
- Alongside, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is also preparing to send its first scientific expedition to study the Sun.
- Named **Aditya-L1**, the mission, expected to be launched early next year, **will observe the Sun from a close distance**, and try to obtain information about its atmosphere and magnetic field.
- Aditya L1** will be **ISRO's 2nd Space-based astronomy mission** after AstroSat, which was launched in September 2015.
- Aditya L1** will perform continuous observations looking directly at the Sun.
- NASA's Parker Solar Probe** has already gone far closer but it **will be looking away from the Sun.**

- The **L1 point** is about 1.5 million km from Earth, or about one-hundredth of the way to the Sun.

20-02-2020

1) In India, *International Mother Language Day (IMLD)* is celebrated every year on 21st February as *Matribhasha Diwas* to achieve which of the following objectives?

- To highlight the linguistic diversity of our country
- To encourage usage, not only of the respective mother tongue but other Indian languages as well
- To understand and draw attention to the diversity of cultures in India and the consequent forums of literature, craft, performing arts, scripts and other forms of creative expression
- To encourage the learning of languages other than one's own mother tongue

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses*

- It is a non-partisan, autonomous body funded by the Ministry of Defence.
- It is dedicated to objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defence and security.
- It is governed by an Executive Council, whose members are distinguished personalities from various walks of life.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only



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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)*

1. It was established in 2004 through 89th Constitutional Amendment Act.
2. The term of office of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members of NCST is five years from the date of assumption of charge.
3. The Chairperson has been given the rank of Union Cabinet Minister and the Vice-Chairperson that of a Minister of State.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Law Commission of India*

1. It is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament.
2. The Commission was originally constituted in 1955 and is re-constituted every five years.
3. The Law Commission of India shall, inter-alia examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and suggest ways of improvement and reform.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Dairy processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)*

1. It was created under National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) with a total corpus of Rs. 8000 crore over a period of 3 years.
2. Funding will be in the form of interest bearing loan, which will flow from NABARD to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) / National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and in turn to eligible End Borrowers.

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 *QR Code*

1. It is a three-dimensional machine-readable version of barcode.
2. It carries information both horizontally and vertically.

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

1. Ongole
2. Amritmahal
3. Ayrshire
4. Hallikar
5. Gir

Which of these are *Indigenous Cattle Varieties of India*?



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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *India-US trade*

1. India enjoys a trade surplus with the United States.
2. Both India and United States are the members of RCEP agreement.

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) *Kangaroo Mother Care* sometimes seen in news recently is?

- a. A conservation initiative to protect Kangaroo from wild fire
- b. A first Kangaroo Genome sequence to map its characteristics
- c. A method of caring for newborn infants with skin-to-skin contact with mother
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to a *Future Fit For Children report*

1. It is a landmark report released by a commission convened by WHO, UNICEF and The Lancet.
2. India ranks in the bottom 10 countries in Child flourishing.

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

- **International Mother Language Day (IMLD)** is a worldwide annual observance forming a part of UNESCO's calendar of events, held on 21st February **to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.**
- It was first announced by UNESCO on 17th November, 1999.
- It was formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2008.
- The latter called upon its member states "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by people of the world".

In India:

- India has unparalleled linguistic and cultural diversity and fittingly, it is proposed to observe in India 21st February, 2020 for events that promote our languages and the associated diversity of usage and literature.
- It has been decided to celebrate **Matribhasha Diwas** on 21st February every year, to promote the use of mother tongues and to achieve the following objectives:-
 1. To highlight the linguistic diversity of our country
 2. To encourage usage, not only of the respective mother tongue but other Indian languages as well
 3. To understand and draw attention to the diversity of cultures in India and the consequent forums of literature, craft, performing arts, scripts and other forms of creative expression
 4. To encourage the learning of languages other than one's own mother tongue

2. d

- The Union government has recently decided to rename well-known think tank **Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses**

(IDSA) as ‘**Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses**’.

Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)

- It is a **non-partisan, autonomous body** under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- It was established as a registered society in New Delhi in 1965.
- It is dedicated to objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defence and security.
- IDSA is governed by an Executive Council, whose members are distinguished personalities from various walks of life. The Council is headed by a President.
- Members of the Council are elected for two-year terms at the Annual General Body meeting.

3. d

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs has recently inaugurated the function to celebrate “**16th Foundation of Day of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**” organised by National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

- It was established by amending **Article 338** and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (**89th Amendment**) Act, 2003.
- By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely- (i) the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and (ii) the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).
- The Commission comprise a **Chairperson**, a **Vice Chairperson** and **three full time members** (including one lady member).
- The term of office of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and each member is **three years** from the date of assumption of charge.
- The Chairperson has been given the rank of Union Cabinet Minister, and the Vice-

Chairperson that of a Minister of State and other Members have the ranks of a Secretary to the Government of India.

4. a

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved 22nd Law Commission of India for a period of **three years** from the date of publication of the Order of Constitution in the Official Gazette.

The Law Commission of India shall, inter-alia, -

1. identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed;
2. examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and suggest ways of improvement and reform and also suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution;
3. consider and convey to the Government its views on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs);
4. Consider the requests for providing research to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs);
5. take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor;
6. revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities;

Background

- The Law Commission of India is a **non-statutory body** constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- The Commission was originally constituted in 1955 and is re-constituted **every three years**.
- The tenure of twenty-first Law Commission of India was upto 31st August, **2018**.
- The various Law Commission have been able to make important contribution towards the

progressive development and codification of Law of the country. The Law Commission has so far submitted 277 reports.

The 22nd Law Commission will be constituted for a period of three years from the date of publication of its Order in the Official Gazette. It will consist of:

1. a full-time Chairperson;
 2. four full-time Members (including Member-Secretary)
 3. Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as ex-officio Member;
 4. Secretary, Legislative Department as ex officio Member; and
 5. not more than five part-time Members.
5. b
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, has recently given its approval for upward revision of interest subvention from "up to 2%" to "up to 2.5% p.a." under the scheme **Dairy processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)** with the revised outlay of **Rs. 11184 Cr.**

Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund

- To ensure that Dairy Cooperatives remain competitive for the sustained benefit of farmers, the Government of India had announced creation of Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund under **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** with a total corpus of Rs. 8000 crore over a period of 3 years (i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20), in the Union Budget of 2017-18.
- The funding period (2017-18 to 2019-20) of the scheme is revised to 2018-19 to 2022-23 and the repayment period to be extended upto 2030-31 with spill over to first quarter of the FY 2031-32.
- Funding will be in the form of interest bearing loan, which will flow from NABARD to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) / National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and in turn to eligible End Borrowers.

Objectives of the scheme:

The scheme has been designed with the following objectives:

1. To modernize the milk processing plants and machinery and to create additional infrastructure for processing more milk.
 2. To create additional milk processing capacity for increased value addition by producing more dairy products.
 3. To bring efficiency in dairy processing plants/producer owned and controlled dairy institutions, thereby enabling optimum value of milk to milk producer farmers and supply of quality milk to consumers.
 4. To help the producer owned and controlled institutions to increase their share of milk, thereby providing greater opportunities of ownership, management and market access to rural milk producers in the organized milk market.
 5. To help the producer owned and controlled institutions to consolidate their position as dominant player in the organised liquid milk market and to make increased price realisation to milk producers.
6. b
- Recently, **China** seeks help of tech giants to **track coronavirus with QR codes.**
 - The QR Code is a **two-dimensional version of the barcode.**
 - 'QR' stands for "Quick Response", which refers to the instant access to the information hidden in the Code.
 - It consists of black squares arranged in a square grid on a white background.
 - Up to 7089 digits or 4296 characters can be entered in one Code.
 - The hidden information can be read by an imaging device such as a camera and the required data is then extracted from patterns that are present in code.
 - It encodes same amount of data in one-tenth the space of a traditional bar code.
 - It **carries information both horizontally and vertically.**

- The data stored in it can be restored even if it is partially damaged or dirty.

7. c

- Recently, **Government unveils plan for research on Indigenous Cows.**
- It is to be funded by multiple institutions, the initiative, SUTRA PIC, is led by Department of Science and Technology.
- The proposals under this theme aims to perform,
 1. Scientific research on complete characterisation of milk and milk products derived from Indian indigenous cows;
 2. Scientific research on nutritional and therapeutic properties of curd and ghee prepared from indigenous breeds of cows by traditional methods;
 3. Development of standards for traditionally processed dairy products of Indian-origin cow.
- Gir, Hallikar, Red Sindhi, Sahiwal, Deoni, Amritmahal, Khillari, Kangayam, Bargur, Kankrej, Ongole, Krishna valley are some of the **Indigenous Cattle Varieties** of India.
- **Ayrshire** is from **Scotland**, and is considered as most beautiful dairy breed.

8. a

- **India** is in no rush to sign a trade deal with the **US** and is focussed on a mutually beneficial pact, government sources after US President Donald Trump indicated that a trade deal might not materialise during his visit here.
- India enjoys a trade surplus with the United States.
- In 2018-19, India's exports to the US were \$52.4 billion, while imports were \$ 35.5 billion.
- Trade deficit dipped from \$21.3 billion in 2017-18 to \$16.9 billion in 2018-19.
- **India pulled out of RCEP** recently, to protect service workers and farmers and US is not a part of RCEP.

9. c

- **Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC)** is a **method of care of preterm infants**. The

method involves **infants** being **carried**, usually **by the mother, with skin-to-skin contact**.

- **WHO recommends that it be continued till baby attains a weight of 2.5 kg** or till babies wriggle out.
- This guide is intended for health professionals responsible for the care of low-birth-weight and preterm infants.
- Designed to be adapted to local conditions, it provides guidance on how to organize services at the referral level and on what is needed to provide effective kangaroo mother care.
- The guide includes practical advice on when and how the kangaroo-mother-care method can best be applied.
- As 20 million low birth weight (LBW) infants are born each year worldwide, **KMC has become a very important way of caring for these high risk infants.**
- No country in the world is currently positioned to provide a healthy childhood coupled with a healthy environment fit for the future, according to a new report.
- **A Future Fit For Children report** is a landmark report **released** by a commission convened **by WHO, UNICEF and The Lancet**.
- The **first 33 positions are occupied by high-income countries** starting with Norway, South Korea, the Netherlands, France, Ireland, Denmark, Japan, Belgium, Iceland and the UK.
- No low-middle-income (LMIC) country figures in the first 50 positions. Moldova is the first LMIC to figure in the list at 51st rank. **India's rank is 131st** among 180 countries.
- **'Healthy childhood'** has been **measured by the 'Flourishing Index'** which includes measures for child survival and well-being such as health, education, and nutrition.
- The **healthy environment** has been **measured by 'Sustainability Index'**, including a proxy for greenhouse gas emissions.

21-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)*

1. It is an institutionalised body and its orders are binding on any member of this platform.
2. India is one of the founding members in this International Platform.

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

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

2) Which of the following species is/are listed under Appendix I of *UN Convention on migratory species (Bonn Convention)*?

1. Asian Elephant
2. Bengal Florican
3. Great Indian Bustard

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to "*Global Health Security Index*"

1. It is the first comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities across the 195 countries that make up the States Parties to the International Health Regulations, 2005.
2. It is a project of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security (JHU) and was developed with The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

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 *Subordinate Courts*

1. The appointments, posting and promotion of district judges in a state are made by the governor of the state in consultation with the high court.
2. Subordinate judicial officers can apply or compete for direct appointment as District Judge, if they have a previous experience of seven years as an advocate.

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) *INS Jamuna*, often seen in the news recently is?

- a. Offshore Tugboat
- b. Guided Missile Destroyer
- c. Hydrographic Survey Ship
- d. Marine Acoustic Research Ship

6) Centre decided to restrict its premium subsidy in its flagship crop insurance schemes to 30% for unirrigated areas and 25% for irrigated areas (from the existing unlimited), and to make enrolment of farmers in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) voluntary from the 2020 Kharif season. Consider the following statements with respect to the crop insurance schemes

1. At present, there is no upper limit for the central subsidy.
2. The states and Union Territories are free to extend additional subsidy over and above the normal subsidy from their budgets.

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 *People of the Indus Valley Civilisation*

1. The people of the Indus Valley Civilisation grew and ate a variety of cereals and pulses.
2. Cotton was unknown to the people of IVC.

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 *Bharat Stage (BS) VI Emission Norms*

1. The armoured and other specialised vehicles of Indian armed forces are exempted from the BS-VI Norms.
2. The Sulphur content of BS-VI fuel is five times lower than that in BS-IV fuel.
3. India will be the first country in the world to use the world's cleanest petrol and diesel.

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) Consider the following statements with respect to *Single-Use Plastics*

1. Single-use plastics come with a steep environmental price as none of these can be recycled.
2. Recently Chandigarh Airport becomes the first single-use plastic-free airport 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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tilhan Mission*

1. It is to make the country self-reliant in oilseed production.
2. India is one of the top oilseed crop producing country in the world and one of the largest importers of vegetable oil.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- The *International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)* was launched on 18 October 2019 by public authorities from Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, **India**, Kenya, Morocco and the European Union,

representing almost half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

- There are also seven Observers for this International Platform.

The International Platform aims to

- Exchange and disseminate information to promote best practices in environmentally sustainable finance
- Compare the different initiatives and identify barriers and opportunities to help scale up environmentally sustainable finance internationally
- While respecting national and regional contexts, enhance international coordination where appropriate on environmentally sustainable finance issues. Where appropriate, some willing members could strive to align initiatives and approaches.

WHAT THE IPSF IS	WHAT THE IPSF IS NOT
It is a multilateral forum for facilitating exchanges.	It is not an institutionalised body , nor does it create any binding , legal or financial obligations on any member under domestic or international law.
It compares and coordinates efforts on initiatives and approaches to environmentally sustainable finance, while respecting national and regional contexts.	It does not create global standards nor does it impose to its members to adhere to other members' rules or approaches on environmentally sustainable finance.
It is a forum for public authorities in charge of developing environmentally sustainable finance policies and initiatives (ministries of finance/economy, central banks, and supervisory and regulatory authorities).	It is not a forum for private companies whether or not, working on environmentally sustainable finance issues.

The ultimate objective of IPSF is to:

1. Scale up the mobilisation of private capital towards environmentally sustainable finance at global level
2. Promote integrated markets for environmentally sustainable finance

2. d

- India's proposal to include Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican in Appendix I of UN Convention on migratory species was **unanimously accepted** recently at the ongoing 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.

3. c

- The **Global Health Security (GHS) Index** is the first comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities across the 195 countries that make up the States Parties to the **International Health Regulations (IHR [2005])**.
- It lists the countries best prepared for an epidemic or pandemic.
- The GHS Index is a project of the **Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI)** and the **Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security (JHU)** and was developed with **The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**.
- It aims to set a high threshold for preparedness against epidemics that can lead to pandemics.

4. a

Subordinate Courts

- **Appointment of District Judges** – The appointment, posting and promotion of district judges in a state are made by the governor of the state in consultation with the high court.

A person to be appointed as district judge should have the following qualifications:

1. He should not already be in the service of the Central or the state government.
2. **He should have been an advocate or a pleader for seven years.**

3. He should be recommended by the high court for appointment.

Recent Development:

- The Supreme Court has recently held that subordinate judicial officers **cannot apply or compete** for direct appointment as District Judge **even if they have a previous experience of seven years as an advocate**.
- The only opportunity to be District Judges is **through promotion** in accordance with the Rules framed under Article 234 and proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution, a 3-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra declared.
- The judgment also noted that judicial officers directly appointed under Article 233 cannot continue as District Judges.
- They would be reverted to their original posts and the respective High Courts would consider their promotion in accordance with the prevailing Rules in case they were superseded by their juniors.

5. c

- The Indian Navy **Hydrographic Survey Ship, INS Jamuna** is on a deployment to carry out Joint Hydrographic Survey off the South – West coast of Sri Lanka.
- A team of Sri Lankan Navy hydrographers including officers and sailors have also been embarked onboard for the duration of the survey.

6. c

- **Until now**, there is **no upper limit** for the **central subsidy**.
 - Recently, the **Cabinet decided to cap the Centre's premium subsidy** under these schemes for premium rates up to **30% for unirrigated areas/crops** and **25% for irrigated areas/crops**.
 - At present, under PMFBY and RWBCIS, farmers pay a premium of,
1. 2% of the sum insured for all foodgrains and oilseeds crops of Kharif;

2. 1.5% for all foodgrains and oilseeds crops of Rabi; and

3. 5% for all horticultural crops.

- The difference between actuarial premium rate and the rate of insurance premium payable by farmers, which is called the Rate of Normal Premium Subsidy, is shared equally between the Centre and the states.
- However, **states and Union Territories are free to extend additional subsidy over and above the normal subsidy** from their budgets.
- While **PMFBY is based on yield**, **RWBCIS is based on proxies** and farmers are provided insurance protection against adverse weather conditions such as excess rainfall, wind and temperature.
- The number of insured farmers under RWBCIS is relatively low.

7. a

- The National Museum in New Delhi has decided to keep meat out of the 'Historical Gastronomia' event that it is hosting on its premises until February 25, allegedly after "a couple of MPs" reacted to the menu posted online by the Ministry of Culture.
- The event, presented by the Museum along with One Station Million Stories (OSMS), claims to treat visitors to "**The Indus dining experience**" through a "specially crafted menu that strictly includes ingredients that were identified by archaeologists & researchers from sites of the Indus-Saraswati Civilisation".
- The **people of the Indus Valley Civilisation** grew and ate a variety of cereals and pulses.
- There is **archaeological evidence for cultivation** of **pea (matar)**, **chickpea (chana)**, **pigeon pea (tur/arhar)**, **horse gram (chana dal)** and **green gram (moong)**.
- Several varieties of wheat have been found at Harappan sites, as well as barley of the two-rowed and six-rowed kinds.
- There is **evidence that the Harappans cultivated Italian millet, ragi and amaranth**, as well as **sorghum and rice**.



- The **Harappans were the earliest known people to grow cotton.**
- They produced cotton cloth hundreds of years before anyone else.
- In fact, the Greek word for cotton is sindon, a word derived from Sind which is a part of the Indus Valley Civilization region.

8. a

- India will switch to the world's cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1 as it leapfrogs straight to BS VI emission compliant fuels.
- **India will join the select league of nations using petrol and diesel containing just 10 parts per million of sulphur** as it looks to cut vehicular emissions that are said to be one of the reasons for the choking pollution in major cities.
- The **Sulphur content of BS-VI fuel, which is 5 times lower than that in BS-IV fuel**, is one of the major differences between the two.
- With BS-VI fuel, for every one kilometre, a car will emit 80% less particulate matter and nearly 70% less nitrogen oxide.

9. d

- Recently, **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport (IGI) Airport becomes 1st single-use plastic-free** airport of India.
- **Single-use plastics** are goods that are **made primarily from fossil fuel based chemicals** (petrochemicals) and are meant to be disposed of right after use often, in minutes.
- Single-use plastics are most commonly used for packaging and serveware, such as bottles, wrappers, straws, and bags.
- We produce hundreds of millions of tons of plastic every year, most of which cannot be recycled, **while some of it can be recycled.**
- As only around 13% of the plastic items are recyclable, the rest ends up either buried in the land or water bodies, eventually reaching the oceans, leading to polluting of water bodies and killing of marine life.
- **Most of the plastic is not biodegradable** and over a period of time the plastic breaks up and releases toxic chemicals

into the water bodies, which in turn make their way into food and water supplies.

10. c

- The government to launch **Tilhan Mission to make the country self-reliant in oilseed production.**
- Recently, there has been major rifts between **India and Malaysia** over Palm oil.
- Oilseed crops are the second most important determinant of agricultural economy, next only to cereals within the segment of field crops.
- The **self-sufficiency in oilseeds attained through "Yellow Revolution"** during early 1990's, **could not be sustained** beyond a short period.
- **Despite being the fifth largest oilseed crop producing country** in the world, **India is also one of the largest importers** of vegetable oils today.
- There is a spurt in the vegetable oil consumption in recent years in respect of both edible as well as industrial usages.

22-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Global Conference on Road Safety*

1. The 3rd High Level Global Conference on Road Safety was recently held at Stockholm, Sweden.
2. The objective of the conference is to bring road safety on the global agenda and renew the world community's commitment to safer roads.
3. The conference is being organised in active collaboration with Sustainable Development Solutions Network and World Bank.

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

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



2) **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG(N))** works under which of the following?

- Union Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Indian Space Research Organisation
- Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
- Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat

3) **Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD)** is associated with which of the following?

- ASEAN
- MERCOSUR
- European Union
- World Trade Organisation

4) **"Thirumathikart"** is a mobile app for Self Help Group products developed by the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Trichy in coordination with?

- NITI Aayog
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- Union Department of Commerce
- Union Department of Science and Technology

5) **"Sanjiv Puri Committee"** which was constituted recently is related to which of the following?

- Brasilia Declaration
- UN Road Safety Fund
- Encouraging Farm exports
- Reforming Election Commission of India

6) International Mother Language Day is celebrated across the globe on February 21. It has been observed to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. Consider the following statements with respect *Languages in India*.

- In India, Hindi is the most spoken language, followed by Marathi and then Bengali.
- Sanskrit was the first language in India to get the classical language status.

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 the *Kepler Mission*

- The scientific objective of the Kepler Mission is to explore the structure and diversity of planetary systems.
- It is an unmanned space observatory dedicated to find planets in our solar system.

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 *Section 124A (Sedition) of the Indian Penal Code*

- Sedition is a non-bailable offence.
- A person charged under this law is barred from a government job and they have to live without their passport.
- The expression "disaffection" in the IPC includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

9) *Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav* a tourism festival seen in news recently is celebrated in?

- a. Tripura
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Goa
- d. West Bengal

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ra'ad II* missile which was in news recently

1. It is a nuclear-capable, Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) variant.
2. It was successfully flight tested by North Korea.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- 3rd High Level Global Conference on Road Safety for Achieving Global Goals 2030 was recently held at **Stockholm, Sweden**.
- The objective of the two-day conference is to bring road safety on the global agenda and renew the world community's commitment to safer roads.
- Leaders from participating countries will draw up a road-map for reaching the United Nation's goal set under the UN Decade of Action of reducing road crashes by 2030.
- The conference, a follow up of the 2nd High Level Global Conference on Traffic Safety-Time of Results in 2015 in Brazil, is being organised in active collaboration with **World Bank, World Health Organisation** and other agencies who are assisting it by way of

strengthening the capabilities of various institutions, enhancing awareness and improving engineering designs for safer roads.

2. c

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has recently approved Elevation of Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG), **Gujarat** as **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG(N))** under **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY)**, Government of India.
- **BISAG** is elevated to an autonomous scientific society under Government of India instead of State Government.

Background:

- At present, BISAG is a state agency of Department of Science and Technology Government of Gujarat, located at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- It is registered as a Society and Trust with the Charity Commissioner of Ahmedabad.
- Its Governing body is chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat.
- Its charter is based on the philosophy that modern day planning for a holistic development calls for transparent, efficient and low-cost decision-making systems.

3. c

- The **Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD)** is an **EU law** on the financial regulation of hedge funds, private equity, real estate funds, and other "Alternative Investment Fund Managers" (AIFMs) in the **European Union**.

Background

- In accordance with the requirement of establishing adequate supervisory cooperation arrangements **between EU and non-EU authorities** under the **European Union Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD)**, a bilateral MoU was signed by SEBI with securities regulators of 27 member States of EU / European Economic

Area, including Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), United Kingdom on 28th July 2014.

- In the context of UK's proposed withdrawal from EU, FCA brought to the notice of SEBI that the existing MoU between SEBI and FCA relating to AIFMD, which is currently anchored on EU law, will no longer apply directly in the UK, and have therefore, suggested signing an updated MoU after amending the AIFMD MoU by suitably modifying it and substituting references to EU legislation with the relevant UK law.

4. d

- The National Institute of Technology (NIT), Trichy, Tamilnadu has developed **Thirumathikart** - a mobile app for SHG (Self Help Group) products.
- The application was developed in coordination with the **Union Department of Science and Technology**.
- The main objective of the app is to empower women and help them access market opportunities in a seamless manner.

5. c

- The 15th Finance Commission has recently constituted a High Level Expert Group on **Agriculture Exports**.
- The expert group will be chaired by **Sanjiv Puri**, Chairman and Managing Director, ITC.
- It is mandated to recommend measurable performance incentives for States to encourage agriculture exports as well as to promote crops to enable high import substitution.

6. d

- **UNESCO declared International Mother Language Day** in 1999, to commemorate a 1952 protest against West Pakistan's imposition of Urdu as the official language of East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh).
- **February 21** is celebrated as **International Mother Language Day**.
- Of the world's 6,000 languages, 43% are estimated as endangered, according to the UN.
- On the other hand, just 10 languages account for as many as 4.8 billion speakers — over 60% of the world population.

- **Globally, English remains the most widely spoken language** with 1.13 billion speakers in 2019, followed by **Mandarin** with 1.17 billion, **Hindi is third** with 615 million speakers while **Bengali is seventh** with 265 million.

- **In India, Hindi is the most spoken language** with over 528 million speakers in 2011, as per the Census, **followed by,**

1. **Bengali** (97.2 million) speakers in 2011, followed by

2. **Marathi** (83 million),

3. While other languages with over 50 million speakers are Telugu (81 million), Tamil (69 million), Gujarati (55.5 million) and Urdu (50.8 million).

- There are **22 Major languages are specified in the eighth schedule** of the **constitution**.

- In 2004, the Government of India declared that languages that meet certain requirements would be accorded the status of a Classical Language in India.

- At present there are 6 Classical Language in India.

- **Tamil** was the **first Classical Language** of India. The government declared Tamil (in 2004) followed by **Sanskrit** (2005).

- Followed by, Telugu (2008) Kannada (2008) Malayalam (2013) Odiya (2014).

7. a

- **NASA's Kepler mission** observed a dip in the host star's light, suggesting that the planet was crossing in front of the star during its orbit.

- To confirm, researchers turned to an instrument called Habitable-zone Planet Finder (HPF).

- At 100 light years from Earth, a low-mass star was sending signals in a pattern that suggested that an exoplanet was orbiting the star.

- It has confirmed that there is indeed an **exoplanet**.

- The **scientific objective of the Kepler Mission** is to explore the structure and diversity of planetary systems.
- It is an **unmanned space observatory** dedicated to **find planets outside solar system** with a **particular focus on finding planets** that might resemble Earth.
- The observatory was in commission for just under 9 years, from its launch in March 2009 to its decommission on Nov. 15, 2018.

8. d

- Recently, the Bengaluru Police arrested student activist on **charges of Sedition** for allegedly raising Pakistan Zindabad slogans at a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).
- The **Sedition law**, under **Section 124A IPC**, is a **legacy of the British Raj**, which used it to stifle dissent and the national movement for freedom.
- **Section 124A IPC** - Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite **disaffection** towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.
- The expression **“disaffection”** includes **disloyalty and all feelings of enmity**.
- Sedition is a **non-bailable offence**. Punishment under the Section 124A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which fine may be added.
- A **person charged under this law is barred from a government job**.
- They **have to live without their passport** and must produce themselves in the court at all times as and when required.
- In the recent consultation paper on the sedition, the **Law Commission has suggested** invoking 124A to only criminalize acts committed with the intention to disrupt

public order or to overthrow the Government with violence and illegal means.

9. a

- The first-ever 2 days long **Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav** was recently begins in **Agartala, Tripura**.
- The aim of the festival is to **promote tourism in Tripura** and **apprise the people of the state and neighbouring Bangladesh** of the tourist destinations in this state.
- The **State Tourism Department** has organized the festival in **memories of the contribution of Tripura in 1971 Bangladesh liberation war** as well as giving a fillip to the Tripura tourism sector.
- The states through cultural tourism, health tourism particularly tightening the relationship between two nations.

10. a

- **Pakistan** has **test-launched** the new **Ra'ad II Nuclear-capable, Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM)** variant.
- Ra'ad II missile, which is an enhanced version of Ra'ad I missile, was unveiled in 2017.
- The weapon system is equipped with state of the art guidance and navigation systems ensuring the engagement of targets with high precision.
- The **Ra'ad-II weapon system** comprises of **world-class navigation systems for better precision**.
- Indian experts believe that **Ra'ad II is Pakistan's answer to Nirbhay cruise missile**.

24-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Geological Survey of India (GSI)*

1. It is a premier organisation for mineral exploration and baseline surveys under Ministry of Earth Science.
2. It is the nodal agency for organizing the International Geological Congress (IGC) 2020.

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 *Financial Action Task Force (FATF)*

1. The FATF is a policy-making body which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms.
2. The FATF's decision making body, the FATF Plenary, meets three times per year.
3. The FATF Secretariat is located at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Biojet fuel*

1. Biofuels have the benefits of reducing import dependency on crude oil, additional income to farmers and employment generation in rural areas.
2. It is indigenously produced based on patented technology of CSIR-IIP.

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 *Happiness Curriculum in schools* which was in news was implemented in

- a. Kerala
- b. Punjab
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Delhi

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

1. Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a bacteria and it is normally passed through direct contact and through the air.
2. In India, measles vaccination is given under Universal Immunisation Programme.
3. Under the Global Vaccine Action Plan, measles and rubella are targeted for elimination in five WHO Regions by 2020.

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

Answers

1. b

- Recently, the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** said there has been no discovery of gold deposits estimated to be around 3,000 tonnes in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The **GSI** is a government organisation in India, attached to the **Ministry of Mines** for conducting geological surveys and studies.
- Its main function is related to creation and updation of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment.
- **India is set to host the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC)** during the first week of March **2020**.

- The **theme** for next year conference is **‘Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Development’**.
- **IGC** is is popularly described as **‘Olympics of Geosciences’**.
- **GSI** is is the **nodal agency** for organizing the **IGC 2020**.
- The event is being funded by Ministry of Mines (MoM) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), with support of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and National Science Academies of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

2. d

- Recently, Pakistan retained on ‘grey list’ and Iran in ‘black list’ of **FATF**.
- A country is put on the **grey list** when it fails to curb terrorism financing and money laundering.
- A country on a **blacklist** means shutting all doors to international finance for that country.
- **FATF** is an **Inter-governmental body** established in 1989 during the G7 Summit.
- Its **Secretariat** is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (**OECD**) **headquarters** in Paris.
- The **objectives of the FATF are 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.
- The **FATF** is therefore a **“policy-making body”** which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- The **FATF's decision making body**, the FATF Plenary, **meets three times per year**.

3. c

- Recently, Prime Minister hailed the **use of Biofuel in an Indian Air Force transport aircraft**, saying such innovations would bring

down carbon emissions and lower the nation’s oil import bill.

- IAF’s An-32 aircraft using a 10% blend of Indian biojet fuel took off from Leh’s Kushok Bakula Rimpoche airport on January 31.
- This was the **first time that this mix was used in both engines of an aircraft**.
- **Biojet fuel is prepared from “non-edible tree borne oil”**, and is procured from **various tribal areas** of India.
- They have the **benefits of reducing import dependency on crude oil, cleaner environment, additional income to farmers and employment generation** in rural areas.

4. d

- The **US First Lady Melania Trump to visit a Delhi government school**, where she **will attend a happiness curriculum class**.
- The **Happiness curriculum** is one of the **flagship schemes** of the **Delhi government** in the education sector **launched** in July 2018 in **all government schools**.
- The **objectives** of **this curriculum** includes,
 1. To instil self-awareness.
 2. To stimulate good mental health, character, and resilience.
 3. To improve cognitive ability of the students.
 4. This would reduce anxiety, depression, and intolerance among students.
 5. The curriculum also prepares the students to face challenges and find solution to the social problems.
- The curriculum is designed for students of classes nursery through the eighth standard.

5. b

- According to a **report** released by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, **China has inched closer to achieving the status of eliminating measles**.
- Measles is a **highly contagious viral disease**.



- It remains an **important cause of death among young children** globally, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine.
- Under the **Global Vaccine Action Plan**, **measles and rubella** are targeted for **elimination in 5 WHO Regions by 2020**.
- It is normally passed through direct contact and through the air.
- **In India, measles vaccination is given under Universal Immunisation Programme** at 9-12 months of age and 2nd dose at 16-24 months of age.

25-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Vittala Temple*

1. The Vittala Temple is dedicated to Lord Vitthala, an avatar of Lord Vishnu.
2. The temple was built in the 15th century during the reign of King Devaraya II (1422- 1446 A.D.) of the Vijayanagara Empire.
3. It is located near the banks of the Tungabhadra River.

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Global Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Programme*

1. It is an international household survey programme developed by UNICEF.
2. It was originally developed in response to the World Summit for Children to measure progress towards an internationally agreed set of mid-decade goals.
3. It collects internationally comparable data on a wide range of indicators on

the situation of children and women for use in policies, programmes, and national development plans.

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

3) "*A Future for the World's Children Report*" was recently published by?

- a. UNICEF
- b. The Lancet
- c. World Health Organization
- d. All of the above

4) *General Education Rejuvenation Mission* is an initiative of which of the following states?

- a. Kerala
- b. Gujarat
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Andhra Pradesh

5) *Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary* is located in which of the following states?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Maharashtra

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Long-Term Repo Operations (LTRO)*

1. The LTRO is a tool under which the central bank provides one-year to three-year money to banks at the prevailing repo rate.
2. It is an attempt by the central bank to manage bond yields and push



transmission of already announced interest rate cuts.

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 *Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) Mission*

1. The mission aims to haul pieces of the Mars moon to Earth.
2. This in-situ observation on Mars moon is a project of European Space Agency (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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Cigarette and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce Production, Supply and Distribution) (COTPA) Act*

1. As per the act, the tobacco products should not be sold to people who are below 21 years of age.
2. The act gives the power to any police officer who is not below the rank of a sub-inspector can search any premises where the tobacco products are produced or sold.

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) *100X100X100 program* which was in news recently is related to?

- a. To achieve the envisaged target of anaemia reduction
- b. A Smart Cities Mission
- c. To promote awareness and adoption of 100 Intellectual Property Rights amongst startups
- d. To accelerate the startup ecosystem in India

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary*

1. It is the lone mass nesting spot in Indian Ocean region and the only turtle sanctuary in Odisha.
2. Gahirmatha Sanctuary located within Bhitarkanika National Park is a home to Irrawaddy dolphins.

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

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is contemplating installing a wooden barricade around the stone chariot inside Vittala Temple complex at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi in a bid to protect it from vandalism.

About the Temple:

- Located near the banks of the **Tungabhadra River**, the Vittala Temple is sited in north eastern part of Hampi.
- The temple was built in the 15th century during the reign of **King Devaraya II** (1422-1446 A.D.) of the Vijayanagara Empire.

- Several sections of the temple were expanded and renovated during the reign of Krishnadevaraya (1509- 1529 A.D.), the illustrious ruler of the Vijayanagara dynasty.
- The Vittala Temple is dedicated to Lord Vitthala, an avatar of **Lord Vishnu**.
- An idol of Vitthala-Vishnu was enshrined in the temple but lost in ravages of time.
- This temple is a part of **Group of Monuments at Hampi - UNESCO's World Heritage Site**.

2. d

- The **Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)** is an international household survey programme developed by UNICEF in the 1990s.
- Since then, close to 330 surveys have been implemented in over 115 countries.
- The sixth round of MICS has about 70 surveys, making it the largest round and includes a range of low, middle and high-income countries and many which are in post-emergency periods.

3. d

- Predatory marketing of junk food, sugary beverages, alcohol and tobacco products preys on children and must be regulated, said **A Future for the World's Children report** by a commission of 40 global child and adolescent health experts by the **World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and The Lancet**.
- No single country is adequately protecting children's health, their environment and their futures.
- Among 180 countries surveyed, India ranks 131 (**Flourishing Index**), mainly because of high infant mortality and poor child health.
- The ranking is based on the ability of a child to survive and thrive, and includes performances on health, education, and nutrition; sustainability, with a proxy for greenhouse gas emissions, and equity, or income gaps, among others.
- India ranked 77th on sustainability index that takes into account per capita carbon emissions

and ability of children in a nation to live healthy lives.

4. a

- **Kerala** will become the **first State to totally digitise the general education sector in March** in the wake of the **General Education Rejuvenation Mission**, Nava Kerala Mission coordinator has recently said.
- Classrooms in State schools are going high-tech. As many as 44,705 classrooms from Classes 8 to 12 in 4,752 schools have been provided with laptop, multimedia projector, DSLR camera, speaker, television, and so on. An amount of Rs. 1 lakh is being spent on each smart classroom. Classrooms for Classes 1 to 7 in 9,941 schools would become high-tech soon, a statement from Mr. Philip said.

5. a

- **Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary** would be soon announced as a tiger reserve.
- The approval from the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is expected any time now.
- Once notified, Chamarajanagar district will have the rare distinction in the country of harbouring three tiger reserves.
- Also, with this, Karnataka will have six tiger reserves, the others being Nagarahole, Bhadra, and Anshi-Dandeli, apart from Bandipur and BRT Tiger Reserves.

6. c

- Recently, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** received bids worth Rs 1.23 trillion for Rs 25,000 crore on offer for its one-year **Long-Term Repo Operations (LTRO)**.
- **RBI** also announced the infusion of Rs.1 lakh crore into the system in phases, through the **LTRO**.
- The **LTRO** is a **tool** under which the **central bank provides one-year to three-year money to banks at the prevailing repo rate**, accepting government securities with matching or higher tenure as the collateral.
- While the RBI's current windows of liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) and marginal

standing facility (MSF) offer banks money for their immediate needs ranging from 1-28 days, the LTRO supplies them with liquidity for their 1- to 3-year needs.

- LTRO operations are intended to prevent short-term interest rates in the market from drifting a long way away from the policy rate, which is the repo rate.
- Since January 2019, the repo rate (the rate at which banks borrow quick money from RBI) has been cut by 139 basis points.
- But only a part of these rate cuts have as yet been passed on to borrowers by banks and other lenders.
- The LTRO is a move in a direction in which an increase in the proportion of low-cost funds, **banks may now be forced to bring down interest rates on loans.**
- The LTRO will also help bring down the yields for shorter-term securities (in the 1-3-year tenor) in the bond market.
- This measure **will prompt increased investment in corporate bonds.**
- These LTROs, together with the RBI's earlier introduced 'Operation Twist', are an **attempt by the central bank to manage bond yields and push transmission of already announced interest rate cuts.**

7. a

- The **Martian Moon Exploration (MMX) Mission**, which aims to haul pieces of the Mars moon Phobos to Earth, has officially become a **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) project.**
- The **spacecraft will explore 2 moons of Mars, Phobos and Deimos** and collect a sample from one of the moons to bring back to Earth.
- The spacecraft will arrive in Martian space and enter into an orbit around Mars.
- It will then enter a **Quasi Satellite Orbit (QSO)** around one of the Martian moons to collect scientific data and gather a sample from the moon's surface.

- The current schedule is launch data in 2024, Martian orbit insertion in 2025 and return to Earth in 2029.
- A **major scientific goal for the mission** is clarifying the origin of the two Martian moons and the evolution process of the Martian Sphere (Mars, Phobos and Deimos).
- The creation of this system is one of the keys to solving the mysteries of planetary formation in the Solar System.

8. b

- The **Health Ministry has planned to increase the legal age for smoking tobacco from the present 18 year to 21 years.**
- The ministry is also **planning to increase the penalty** for smoking at restricted areas which is currently upto Rs 200.
- This is being done under the **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)** as stringent action to contain tobacco use in the country.
- **Presently, people over 18 years of age can legally smoke tobacco** in the country.
- As per the act, the **tobacco products should not be sold to people who are below 18 years of age.**
- The **act gives the power to any police officer who is not below the rank of a sub-inspector can search any premises** where the tobacco products are produced or sold.

9. d

- **To accelerate the startup ecosystem in India,** **Microsoft launched the 100X100X100 program for B2B SaaS startups in India.**
- A **first of its kind program in India**, this initiative will bring together 100 committed companies and 100 early and growth startups that have enterprise-ready solutions to offer.
- Each participating company will commit to spend \$100K over a course of 18 months on solutions provided by the SaaS startups.



- More than 50 startups are part of the program at launch.
- The 100X100X100 program will help enterprises fast track their digital transformation through faster adoption of SaaS solutions.
- It will aim to create a profitable domestic market for the fast growing Indian B2B SaaS startup segment by increasing their revenue and customer base.

10. c

- An **annual census found the number of dolphins at Odisha's Gahirmatha marine sanctuary has nearly halved over a year**, pushing down the state's overall count.
- The January 2020 spotted only 62 of the marine mammals at Gahirmatha, also the world's largest rookery of sea turtles — down from 126 found last year.
- **Gahirmatha is located within Bhitarkanika National Park** is a home to Irrawaddy dolphins.
- The state's total dolphin count was pegged at 233, down from 259 in 2019, according to census report released February 24, 2020.
- **Gahirmatha is the lone mass nesting spot in Indian Ocean region and the only turtle sanctuary in Odisha.**
- The marine sanctuary extends **from Dhamra river mouth in the north to Mahanadi river mouth in south.**
- The **wetland is represented by as many as 3 protected Areas**, namely The Bhitarkanika National Park, The Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary and The Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

26-02-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *North East Sustainable Development Goals Conclave 2020*

1. It aims to identify solutions as well as accelerators for the implementation of SDGs in the North Eastern Region (NER).

2. The Conclave is being organized by NITI Aayog, in partnership with the North Eastern Council, Govt. of Assam and Tata Trust.
3. The conclave is supported by UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bhratiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh (BAJSS)*

1. It was constituted in 1948 by Amritlal Vithaldas Thakkar, popularly known as "Thakkar Bapa", well known dedicated social worker of the Servants of India Society.
2. The first President of the Sangh was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
3. At present, the organisation works under the Ministry of Culture.

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

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

3) *National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)* is a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) under which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of Mines
- b. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- c. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- d. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



4) Consider the following statements with respect to *State of India's Birds Report 2020*

1. It is the first comprehensive assessment of the distribution range, trends in abundance, and conservation status for most of the bird species that regularly occur in India.
2. It was released by Bombay Natural History Society in partnership with Bird Life International.

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 pairs

Places in News – Countries

1. Damascus – Turkey
2. Fessenheim – Italy

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *NCT of Delhi*

1. Executive Magistrate has certain powers relating to unlawful assembly and if a group is found in unlawful assembly under Section 129 CrPC, the Executive Magistrate can issue orders to these persons to disperse, even though the public order and police are directly under the Union government.
2. The NCT of Delhi, under Article 239 AA, has been given a special status, which gives powers of law-making and administration to an elected legislature.

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 *World Air Quality Report*

1. The ranking is based on a comparison of PM10 levels.
2. The Report is released by the pollution tracker IQAir and Greenpeace.
3. Among countries, when population is taken into account, average pollution is highest in India.

Which of the statements given above are *not* 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 *Elections to Rajya Sabha*

1. The provisions of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution relating to disqualifications on the ground of defection are not applicable to open voting at elections to Council of States.
2. NOTA is applicable as a ballot option in the Rajya Sabha elections.

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

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

9) The city of **Idlib** sometime seen in news is located in?

- Iran
- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Syria

10) Consider the following statements with respect to **Blue Dot network** which was in news recently

- It aims to bring governments, the private sector and civil society together to promote high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development.
- It was jointly launched by the US, Japan and India.

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

- North East Sustainable Development Goals Conclave 2020** commenced on 24th February 2020, at the Assam Administrative Staff College, **Guwahati** with the goal of **identifying solutions for the implementation of SDGs** in the **North Eastern Region (NER)**.
- The 3-day Conclave is being organized by **NITI Aayog**, in partnership with the **North Eastern Council, Govt. of Assam** and **Tata Trust**, the conclave is supported by **UNDP** and **RIS**.

2. a

- Bhratiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh** is a **National Level Voluntary Organisation** constituted on 24th October,

1948 by **Pujya Thakkar Bapa**, well known dedicated social worker of the **Servants of India Society**.

- Being close associate, Mahatma Gandhi inspired him to work for removal of deep rooted poverty of tribals while giving service to untouchables.
- In formulation of the Sangh, he got active participation of other eminent national level social workers and leaders.
- The first President of the Sangh was **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, the first President of India who continued as President till he is alive.

3. a

- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)** is a **Navratna CPSE** under the **Ministry of Mines**, Govt. of India, with its headquarters at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The Company is one of the largest integrated Bauxite-Alumina-Aluminium- Power Complex in Asia.
- The company is listed on Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange.
- The Alumina Refinery provides alumina to the company's smelter at Angul and exports the balance alumina to overseas markets through Visakhapatnam Port.

4. a

- The **State of India's Birds (SoIB) Report 2020**, a new scientific report on bird species was released recently.

This report was produced as a partnership between the 10 organisations shown here:

- Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)
- Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
- Foundation for ecological Security (FES)
- Nature Conservation Foundation
- National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
- National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)
- Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
- Wetlands International

9. Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

10. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

5. d

- Israel has claimed to struck bases of the Islamic Jihad militant group near the **Syrian capital Damascus**.
- Since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria, mainly targeting government forces as well as allied Iranian forces and Hezbollah fighters.
- However, it is rare for them to claim such strikes directly.
- **France** has recently begun shutting down its oldest nuclear power plant after 43 years in operation.
- It had disconnected one of two reactors at **Fessenheim**, along the Rhine River near France's eastern border with Germany and Switzerland.

6. c

- Amid the violence that has rocked Delhi, a Union Territory, a key question being raised is whether or not the government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi can take any action to bring law and order under control.
- The **NCT of Delhi, under Article 239 AA**, has been given a **special status**, which gives powers of law-making and administration to an elected legislature and the council of ministers.
- The law, however, puts **two subjects, public order and police** directly under the Union government.
- Even here, **there are exceptions. Two sections of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) —129 & 130, give the Executive Magistrate certain powers** relating to “unlawful assembly”.
- If a group is found in unlawful assembly **under Section 129 CrPC, the Executive Magistrate can issue orders to these persons to disperse**.
- If this fails, the magistrate can use the civil force, which is the police.

- If these efforts too fail, the Executive Magistrate, **under Section 130 CrPC**, can call an officer of the armed forces of the Union to disperse the assembly.

- Therefore, **under these two limited powers**, the **Executive Magistrate, who reports to the Chief Minister, can issue orders** relating to public security.

7. c

- **India** accounts for two-thirds of the world's most polluted cities, 21 of the most polluted 30 cities; 14 of the highest 20; and 6 of the highest 10, in the **2019 World Air Quality Report released** by the pollution tracker **IQAir and Greenpeace**.
- The **ranking is based on** a comparison of **PM2.5** levels.
- Among countries, when population is taken into account, **average PM2.5 pollution is highest in Bangladesh**, followed by Pakistan, while **India is at number 5**.
- While cities in India, on average, exceed the WHO target for annual PM2.5 exposure by 500%, national air pollution decreased by 20% from 2018 to 2019, with 98% of cities experiencing improvements.
- These improvements are believed to be largely a result of economic slowdown, according to IQAir.

8. a

- Recently, the Election Commission announced that **elections to 55 Rajya Sabha** seats will be held on March 26.
- **Open ballots** are used in the **Rajya Sabha elections**.
- The **Supreme Court in its judgment dated 22 August 2006** in the matter of Kuldip Nayar Vs Union of India and Ors (AIR 2006 SC3127) observed that “**The contention that the right of expression of the voter at an election for the Council of States is affected by open ballot is not tenable, as an elected MLA would not face any disqualification from the Membership of the House for voting in a particular manner**.”



- He may at the most attract action from the political party to which he belongs.
- Open ballot voting applies in election to Council of States only.
- The **Election Commission withdrew the 'none of the above' (NOTA) option from ballot papers of the Rajya Sabha** and the Legislative Council polls **following a Supreme Court directive**.
- On 21 August 2018, the apex court had said that **NOTA will not be applicable as a ballot option in the Rajya Sabha polls**.

9. d

- A **humanitarian crisis is unfolding in northern Syria** after the government's attempt to take back the opposition-held **city of Idlib**.
- **Idlib is a city in northwestern Syria**.
- The area is the country's last rebel-controlled stronghold and the Syrian government's military campaign there, backed by Russia, has created a humanitarian catastrophe with nearly 1 million people displaced.
- Most of them are now crowding areas close to the border with Turkey, living in camps, shelters, abandoned homes and in open fields.
- It is the largest single displacement of Syria's war, now in its ninth year.
- Tensions have been running high between Turkey and Russia, which support opposing sides of the war in Syria.

10. a

- With US President on his maiden visit to India, the two countries are expected to have discussed the **Blue Dot Network**, a proposal that will certify infrastructure and development projects.
- Led by the US's International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the **Blue Dot network** was **jointly launched by the US, Japan** (Japanese Bank for International Cooperation) and **Australia** (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) in November 2019 on the sidelines of the 35th ASEAN Summit in Thailand.

- It is meant to be a **multi-stakeholder initiative** that **aims to bring governments, the private sector and civil society together** to promote "high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development".
- The projects that are approved will get a "**Blue Dot**", thereby setting universal standards of excellence, which will attract private capital to projects in developing and emerging economies.
- The proposal for the **Blue Dot network** is **part of the US's Indo-Pacific strategy**, which is aimed at **countering Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious BRI**.

27-02-2020

1) Which of the following is *not* one among the four components of *National Technical Textiles Mission*?

- Infrastructure Development
- Promotion and Market Development
- Research, Innovation and Development
- Education, Training and Skill Development

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Science Day (NSD)*

- NSD is celebrated every year on 28 February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect'.
- The focal theme of the National Science Day 2020 is "Women in Science".

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 pairs with respect to India's exercises

Exercises – Countries

1. Sampriti - Nepal
2. Indradhanush – Russia

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Higher Education Leadership Development Programme for Administrator*'

1. The programme aims to deliver a leadership development programme for middle and senior level administrative functionaries in Indian Universities.
2. It is a joint initiative of University Grants Commission (UGC) and British Council under the auspices of UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI).

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) Portal*

1. It aims at real time monitoring of prices of tomato, onion and potato (TOP) and also for simultaneously generating alerts for intervention.
2. This portal is a novel initiative of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Central Consumer Protection Authority*

1. It aims to protect the rights of the consumer by cracking down on unfair trade practices, and false and misleading advertisements that are detrimental to the interests of the public and consumers.
2. It will have suo motu powers to inquire into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices.

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 *H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu)*

1. It is a communicable viral disease which is common in pigs.
2. The influenza viruses are classified into types A, B and C on the basis of their core proteins in which only type A cause human disease of any concern.

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 *Unified Vehicle Registration Card* and *Unified driving license*

1. The Unified driving license card will have information about the ability of the driver to drive in hilly and dangerous areas.
2. Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to introduce the Unified registration card and the Unified driving license simultaneously.

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

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

9) Consider the following

1. Kenya
2. Djibouti
3. Ethiopia
4. Eritrea
5. Uganda

Which of the countries given above shares border with *Somalia*?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *InSight Mission*

1. It is the first outer space robotic explorer to study in-depth the inner space of Mars, its crust, mantle, and core.
2. It is part of NASA's Discovery Program and is being supported by France's Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES), the German Aerospace Center

(DLR) and the United Kingdom Space Agency (UKSA).

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

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

Answers

1. a

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently given its approval to set up a **National Technical Textiles Mission** with a total outlay of Rs 1480 Crore, with a view to position the country as a global leader in Technical Textiles.
- The Mission would have a four year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24.

Four components of National Technical Textiles Mission:

1. Research, Innovation and Development
2. Promotion and Market Development
3. **Export Promotion**
4. Education, Training and Skill Development

Background of Technical Textiles

- Technical textiles are textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics.
- Technical Textiles products are divided into 12 broad categories (Agrotech, Buildtech, Clothtech, Geotech, Hometech, Indutech, Mobiltech, Meditech, Protech, Sportstech, Oekotech, Packtech) depending upon their application areas.
- India shares nearly 6% of world market size of 250 Billion USD.
- However, the annual average growth of the segment is 12%, as compared to 4% world average growth.



- Penetration level of technical textiles is low in India at 5-10%, against 30-70% in advanced countries.
- The Mission aims at improving penetration level of technical textiles in the country.

2. c

- **National Science Day (NSD)** will be celebrated at Vigyan Bhawan on February 28 with “**women in science**” as the focal theme of the programme.
- A total of 21 awards will be given which will include National Science and Technology and Communication Awards, Augmenting Writing Skills For Articulating Research (AWSAR) awards, SERB Women Excellence Awards and National Award For Young Woman Showing Excellence Through Application Of Technology For Societal Benefits.

Background of NSD

- **National Science Day (NSD)** is celebrated every year on **28 February** to commemorate the discovery of the ‘**Raman Effect**’.
- Government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986.
- On this day, Sir C.V. Raman announced the discovery of the ‘Raman Effect’ for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.
- On this occasion, theme-based science communication activities are carried out all over the country.
- **National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science and Technology (DST)** acts as a nodal agency to support, catalyze and coordinate celebration of the National Science Day throughout the country.

3. c

- Sampriiti - Bangladesh
- Indradhanush - U.K

4. d

- The Union Ministry for Human Resource Development has recently launched **Higher Education Leadership Development Programme for Administrator**’– a joint

initiative of **UGC** and **British Council** under the auspices of **UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI)**, which aims to deliver a leadership development programme for **middle and senior level** administrative functionaries in **Indian Universities**.

Implementation

- The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** will conduct this programme in collaboration with Advance HE as the training partner with globally recognized institutional expertise and leadership excellence from the UK, which is being enabled by the British Council in India.

5. a

- **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** has recently launched the – **Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS)** Web Portal.
- The MIEWS Dashboard and Portal is a ‘first-of-its-kind’ platform for ‘real time monitoring’ of prices of **tomato, onion and potato (TOP)** and for simultaneously generating alerts for intervention under the terms of the **Operation Greens (OG) scheme**.
- The portal would disseminate all relevant information related to TOP crops such as Prices and Arrivals, Area, Yield and
- Production, Imports and Exports, Crop Calendars, Crop Agronomy, etc in an easy to use visual format.
- This portal is a novel initiative of **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** leveraging IT tools and furthering the goals of Digital India.
- The portal was developed by **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**.

6. c

- Recently, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced that, **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** will be established by the first week of April.



- The authority is being constituted under Section 10(1) of The Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- The new Act recognises offences such as providing false information regarding the quality or quantity of a good or service, and misleading advertisements.
- It also specifies action to be taken if goods and services are found “dangerous, hazardous or unsafe”.
- The CCPA, introduced in the new Act, **aims to protect the rights of the consumer by cracking down on unfair trade practices, and false and misleading advertisements** that are detrimental to the interests of the public and consumers.
- The CCPA **will have the powers to inquire or investigate** into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices **suo motu, or on a complaint received**, or on a direction from the central government.

7. a

- Six Indian Supreme Court judges have reportedly fallen ill with the **Influenza A(H1N1)**.
- **Swine flu is a respiratory disease** caused by a new strain of influenza virus.
- It a **communicable viral disease** which is **common in pigs**.
- Sometimes, people who are closely associated with pigs or in the proximity of pigs have developed swine flu.
- The influenza viruses are **classified into types A, B and C** on the **basis of their core proteins**.
- Only **types A and B cause human disease of any concern**.
- Humans are generally infected by viruses of the subtypes H1, H2 or H3, and N1 or N2.

8. c

- **Madhya Pradesh** is the **first State in the country** to release **Unified Driving License** and **Unified Registration Card** simultaneously.

- Earlier, the state of **Uttar Pradesh** had **issued only Unified Driving License**.
- This card is uniform and has the same colour throughout the country.
- The **ability to drive in hilly and dangerous areas will also be mentioned in it**.
- In addition to having a specific serial number, it will have an emergency number also and a badge number.
- Along with the information on both sides of the new card, there will also be **information about the Organ Donor, QR code**.
- Various information, including the name, address, blood group, date of birth, the photograph of the holder as well as issuing authority, validity and other details would also be stored in a chip.

9. a

- **Somalia** is a country in East Africa in the Horn of Africa region.
- **Somali farmers are facing a new devastating threat** to their crops, the **Desert Locust**.
- Swarms of Desert Locusts are currently swelling and migrating, posing a serious threat to crop production on both sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, in countries that are already highly food insecure and facing economic crises.
- **Somalia shares a border with three countries, Kenya, Djibouti, and Ethiopia**.
- The **country also has a border with the Gulf of Aden** which is located to the northern region and the Indian Ocean and **Guardafui channel** to the east.

10. c

- Recently, NASA published a set of six papers, to reveal Mars is alive with quakes, dust devils and strange magnetic pulses.
- It also showed that Mars is a seismically active world.
- **InSight**, short for **Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport**, is a Mars lander

designed to give the Red Planet its first thorough checkup since it formed 4.5 billion years ago.

- It is the **first outer space robotic explorer to study in-depth the "inner space" of Mars**, its crust, mantle, and core.
- This **mission is part of NASA's Discovery Program** for highly focused science missions that ask critical questions in solar system science.
- It is **being supported by a number of European partners**, which include France's Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES), the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the United Kingdom Space Agency (UKSA).

28-02-2020

1) RAISE 2020 Summit often seen in the news is associated with which of the following?

- Aviation Safety
- Artificial Intelligence
- Grey Water Recycling
- Solar Energy Efficiency

2) Consider the following statements with respect to "1000 Spring Initiatives"

- It aims at improving access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities living in difficult and inaccessible part of rural areas in the country.
- The initiative includes provisions not only for piped water supply for drinking but also for irrigation and for backyard nutrition gardens.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to "Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe Representatives in Local Self Governments"

- It is aimed at empowering tribal Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) representatives by enhancing their decision making capabilities at local government level.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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

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

4) With respect to Kallakkadal, consider the following statements

- Kallakkadal is a colloquial term for Tsunami during which the sea surges into the land and inundates vast areas.
- They occur along the Indian coast, particularly the Eastern coast.
- They are caused by meteorological conditions in the Southern Ocean, south of 30°S.

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

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

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

- It is an autonomous institute under the administrative control of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).



2. It is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).
3. It was registered as a society under the Andhra Pradesh (Telangana) Public Societies Registration Act.

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)*

1. It is the flagship scheme implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
2. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning.
3. Under this Scheme, Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the *International Narcotics Control Board*

1. It is an independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions.
2. It has 13 members, each elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of five years.

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

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

8) India and Japan had recently discussed the avenues for Japan, to become a partner country in Mission Purvodaya of India. *Mission Purvodaya* is related to which of the following?

- a. Steel Production
- b. Packaged Medicaments
- c. Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
- d. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

9) *Henneguya salminicola* seen in news is a?

- a. A fish species lives in dark coral reefs, called Twilight Zone reefs
- b. A tiny beetle that lives among ants
- c. A microscopic animals are able to survive in wide range of external conditions
- d. A microscopic parasite that doesn't need oxygen to live

10) *Ashok Dalwai committee* sometime seen in news is related to?

- a. To decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold
- b. To review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty
- c. For doubling farmers' income by 2022
- d. To Financing Infrastructure through PPP model

Answers

1. b

- The Government of India (GoI) announced the mega event, **RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,'** to be held from April 11-12 in New Delhi.

About RAISE 2020:

- RAISE 2020 is a first of its kind, global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision and roadmap for social empowerment, inclusion and transformation through responsible AI.
- The event will start with a Startup Challenge – Pitchfest followed by the two-day summit, organized by Government of India along with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will witness robust participation from global industry leaders, key opinion makers, Government representatives and academia.
- The summit will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and charter a course to use AI for social empowerment, inclusion and transformation in key areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility amongst other sectors.

2. d

1000 Springs Initiative

- The initiative aims at improving access to safe and adequate water for the **tribal communities** living in difficult and inaccessible part of rural areas in the country.
- It is an integrated solution around natural springs.
- It includes provision of infrastructure for piped water supply **for drinking**; provision of water **for irrigation**; community-led total sanitation initiatives; and provision for water **for backyard nutrition gardens**, generating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the tribal people.

Background

- Springs are natural sources of groundwater discharge and have been used extensively in the mountainous regions across the world, including India.
- However, in the central and eastern Indian belt with more than 75% tribal population, it remains largely unrecognized and under-utilized.
- The initiative will help in harnessing the potential of perennial springs' water to address natural scarcity of water in tribal areas.

- Under this initiative, more than 70 young tribal youths from the rural belt of three districts of Odisha namely, Kalahandi, Khandamal and Gajapati have been trained as barefoot hydro geologists by combining traditional and scientific knowledge for identification and mapping of springs, and undertaking rejuvenation and protection measures in their habitations.

3. c

Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe Representatives in Local Self Governments

- The Capacity Building initiative is aimed at empowering tribal PRI representatives by enhancing their decision making capabilities at local government level.
- Among other issues concerning tribal development, it also focuses on constitutional and legal provisions that protect and promote the rights and welfare of the tribal population.
- The programme will ensure greater participation of ST PRIs representatives in planning, execution and monitoring of government policies and programmes.
- Their better participation in the development process would ensure better prioritization of the tribal development agenda.

4. a

- **The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad** has recently launched a trio of products to better cater to its diverse users.
- One of these new products is the **Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS)**, to improve operations on the numerous small marine vessels, particularly fishing vessels that ply the coastal waters of India.
- The **Swell Surge Forecast System** was also launched, which will provide forewarnings for the coastal population of India's vast shoreline, which experiences a slew of damages caused by the swell waves that actually originate from the distant southern Indian Ocean.
- The final new product in this trio is the **Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS)**,

providing timely information on harmful algal blooms, which are detrimental to coastal fisheries and also tend to induce respiratory problems within the coastal population from time to time.

- All three products focus on significantly reducing damage and losses for service/product users and the coastal population.

Swell Surge Forecast System

- Swell surge forecast system is an innovative system designed for the **prediction of Kallakkadal/Swell Surge** that occurs along the Indian coast, **particularly the west coast.**

Kallakkadal/Swell surge

- They are flash-flood events that take place without any noticeable advance change in local winds or any other apparent signature in the coastal environment.
- Hence the local population remains totally unaware of these flooding events until they actually occur. Such events are intermittent throughout the year.
- **Kallakkadal** is a colloquial term used by Kerala fishermen to refer to the freaky flooding episodes and **in 2012 UNESCO formally accepted this term for scientific use.**
- During Kallakkadal events, the **sea surges into the land** and inundates vast areas.
- These events have attracted attention especially after the 2004 Tsunami in the Indian Ocean, since most people **mistake Kallakkadal to be Tsunamis.**
- Tsunami and Kallakkadal/Swell surge are two different types of waves with entirely **separate causes or mechanisms.**
- Kallakkadal are caused by **meteorological conditions in the Southern Ocean, south of 30°S.**
- A study by INCOIS scientists has revealed that specific meteorological conditions in the Southern Indian Ocean support the generation of long period swells.
- These swells once generated **travel northward** and reach the Indian coasts in **3-**

5 days time, creating havoc in the coastal areas.

- The system will now predict Kallakkadal and warnings will be given to concerned authorities at least 2-3 days in advance, which will help the local authorities for contingency plans and to reduce damage.

5. c

- The **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad** has launched a trio of products to better cater to its diverse users.

ESSO-INCOIS

- **ESSO-INCOIS** is an autonomous institute under the administrative control of **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India and a member of the **Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).**
- ESSO-INCOIS was registered as a society under the **Andhra Pradesh (Telangana) Public Societies Registration Act (1350, Falsi)**, at Hyderabad on 3 February 1999.
- The affairs of the society are managed, administered, directed and controlled by the Governing Council, subject to the Bye Laws of the Society.
- Its mission is to provide ocean data, information and advisory services to society, industry, the government and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvements through systematic and focused research in information management and ocean modelling.

6. d

- Government soon to launch **3rd phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).**
- The government has decided to link the scheme with the school education to bring a revolutionary change in the field of skill development.
- It is the **flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.**

- The **objective** of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
- **Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified** under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- Under this Scheme, **Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government.**

7. c

- **India among top suppliers of pharma drugs used in trafficking:** UN report.
- According to the 2019 report of the **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**, released by **United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, India features prominently among top manufacturers of illicit and licit drugs that are smuggled to other countries and into the hands of addicts.
- It is an independent, quasi-judicial expert body established by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 by merging two bodies.
- It implements UN's international drug control conventions.
- INCB has **13 members, each elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of five years.**
- **INCB members may be re-elected.** Ten of the members are elected from a list of persons nominated by Governments.
- The remaining three members are elected from a list of persons nominated by the WHO for their medical, pharmacological or pharmaceutical experience.

8. a

- *Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel along with Japanese Ambassador, meet Chief Minister of Odisha to discuss avenues for Japan, to become a partner country in **Mission Purvodaya** in the **steel sector** to script a better future for people of Odisha.*

Mission Purvodaya

- **Aim:** The programme is aimed at accelerated development of eastern India through establishment of integrated **steel hub in Kolkata, West Bengal.**
- Through this programme, the government aims to transform logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the eastern India.
- The steps, under mission, also include growth of steel industry along with employment opportunities across the entire value chain.

9. d

- **Scientists discovered the first animal that doesn't need oxygen to live.**
- According to the researchers, **as the organism evolved, it gave up breathing and stopped the consumption of oxygen** for the production of energy, which means **it relies on anaerobic respiration** (through which cells extract energy without using oxygen).
- It is a relative of jellyfish and corals.

10. c

- Recently, **Ashok Dalwai** said that Government on track **to doubling farmers' income.**
- The **DFI (doubling farmers' income) strategy timeframe** is from **2016 to 2022.**
- The **committee is headed by Ashok Dalwai**, Additional secretary, Union Agriculture Ministry.
- Its members will include officials from Agriculture and Food Ministries, experts from the Delhi-based National Council of Applied Economic Research and National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research.
- The Report on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) is documented in fourteen volumes.
- The Committee focuses on seven major sources of growth, operating within and outside the agriculture sector.