



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## MONTHLY PRESTORMING

### JANUARY 2020

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## INDEX

02-01-2020.....	3
03-01-2020.....	7
04-01-2020.....	11
06-01-2020.....	16
07-01-2020.....	20
08-01-2020.....	25
09-01-2020.....	29
10-01-2020.....	34
11-01-2020.....	39
18-01-2020.....	44
20-01-2020.....	49
21-01-2020.....	53
22-01-2020.....	57
23-01-2020.....	62
24-01-2020.....	67
25-01-2020.....	72
27-01-2020.....	76
28-01-2020.....	81
29-01-2020.....	87
30-01-2020.....	92
31-01-2020.....	97



**02-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gram Manchitra App*

1. It provides a single/ unified Geo Spatial based decision support system for the panchayats.
2. It is a spatial planning application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development.

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

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

2) Which of the following is the objective of the 'UMMID' initiative?

- a. To financially turnaround the Power DisComs of Public Sector
- b. To tackle inherited genetic diseases of new born babies
- c. To provide all season road connectivity to unconnected villages
- d. None of the above

3) Which one of the following best matches the objectives of *Krishi Karman Awards*?

1. It aims to reward the best performing states in food grains production.
2. The award comes under the Ministry of 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

4) *Swarna Jayanti Fellowships* provides special assistance and support to pursue basic research in frontier areas of which of the following?

- a. Foreign relations
- b. Science and technology
- c. Humanities and Social Sciences
- d. Legislative Assistant to members of parliament

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Guru Gobind Singh*

1. He is the tenth Sikh Guru born in Patna.
2. He is also renowned as a poet and a philosopher.
3. He transformed the Sikhs into a militant sect in defence of their religion and liberties.

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)*

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA).
2. This mission seeks to enhance the employment opportunities for all urban people through skill development and training.
3. States/UTs are required to send Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) with regard to targets and achievements.

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 *Sunscreen lotion*

1. A Sunscreen lotion with a lower SPF number offers greater protection.
2. Papua New Guinea is first country to ban Sunscreen.

Which of 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 *Gregorian Calendar*

1. It follows a solar dating system and was brought into use in 1582.
2. The Gazette of India, uses only the Gregorian calendar.

Which of 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 *Toda community* was in news recently, lives mainly in,

- a. Assam  
b. Arunachal Pradesh  
c. Tamil Nadu  
d. Odisha

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)*

1. It is an autonomous body created under IRDA act, 1999.
2. It was created based on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee.
3. All the all members are appointed by the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

### Answers

1. b

- Gram Manchitra is a Spatial Planning Application launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** for facilitating and supporting GP users to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level with the use of geo-spatial technology.
- It provides a single/ unified Geo Spatial platform to better visualize the various developmental works to be taken up across the 29 sectors and provide a decision support system for GPDP.
- Gram Manchitra was developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.

2. b

- Taking into account that congenital and hereditary genetic diseases are becoming a significant health burden in India, and realizing the need for adequate and effective genetic testing and counselling services, DBT has started the **UMMID Initiative**.
- It is designed on the concept of **'Prevention is better than Cure'**.
- In India's urban areas, congenital malformations and genetic disorders are the

third most common cause of mortality in newborns.

- With a very large population and high birth rate, and consanguineous marriage favored in many communities, prevalence of genetic disorders is high in India.

The UMMID initiative aims

1. To establish NIDAN Kendras to provide counselling, prenatal testing and diagnosis, management, and multidisciplinary care in Government Hospitals wherein the influx of patients is more
2. To produce skilled clinicians in Human Genetics
3. To undertake screening of pregnant women and new born babies for inherited genetic diseases in hospitals at aspirational districts

3. c

- **Krishi Karman Awards** for the **Best Performing States on Food Grains Production** was announced by Union Agriculture Ministry during 2010-11.
- There are a total number of 7 rewards including 3 for the States with highest food grain production in three identified categories –large, medium and small producers; and 4 rewards one each for the highest production under rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals crops.
- The states are divided into following 3 groups based on the highest production levels of food grains achieved by the States in the previous five years. However, for rice and wheat no grouping of states is carried out.

4. b

- The Union Ministry of Science and Technology have awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships to 14 scientists to pursue basic research in frontier areas of **Science and Technology**.
- The fellowship covers all the requirements for performing the research and includes a fellowship of 25 thousand rupees per month.
- A research grant of five lakh rupees for five years is also being provided in addition to their salary.

- Instituted to commemorate India's 50th year of independence, Swarna Jayanti Fellowships are awarded **to young and brilliant scientists** to pursue unfettered research with financial freedom and flexibility.

5. d

6. c

- **Flipkart** partners with Government's **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)** to **empower MSMEs**
- The tie-up with the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, **DAY-NULM** is to **train, support and provide market access to artisans, self-help groups (SHGs)**.
- The initiative is **aimed to help small businesses explore wide markets through the Flipkart's platform**.
- National Urban Livelihood Mission is now renamed as '**Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-NULM**'.
- The mission **seeks to enhance the employment opportunities and incomes of the "Urban poor"** through skill development and training, setting up of individual and group micro-enterprises, formation of Self-Help Groups, building shelters for homeless, supporting street vendors in creating infrastructure, innovative support to rag pickers, differently abled etc.
- Its **intended beneficiaries** are urban poor (street vendors, slum dwellers, homeless, rag pickers); unemployed and differently abled.
- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- Funding will be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25. For North Eastern and Special Category – the ratio will be 90:10.
- **States/UTs** are required to send in **Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) /Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs)** in prescribed formats with regard to targets and achievements.

7. d

- The Pacific nation of 'Palau' has become the **first country to ban 'reef toxic' Sunscreen.**
  - The island nation markets itself as a "pristine paradise" for divers.
  - A lagoon in Palau's Rock Islands is a Unesco World Heritage site.
  - **SPF, or Sun Protection Factor,** is a measure of how well a sunscreen will protect skin from UV rays.
  - **A product with a higher SPF number will offer greater protection.**
1. Low protection: SPF is below 15
  2. Medium protection: SPF is 15 to 29
  3. High protection: SPF is 30 to 49
  4. Very high protection: SPF is over 50
- For best protection, experts recommend using a minimum SPF sunscreen of 15.
  - Sunscreens with really high SPFs, such as SPF 75 or SPF 100, do not offer significantly greater protection than SPF 30 and mislead people into thinking they have more protection than they actually do.



8. a

- New Year's Day (January 1), now a secular holiday in many parts of the world, is the first day of the **Gregorian calendar.**

- This calendar was **brought into use by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582**, and is named **after him.**
- It follows a **solar dating system.**
- It reformed the **Julian calendar**, which had been **established by the Roman emperor Julius Caesar in 45 BC.**
- The Gregorian system improves the Julian system by only considering those century years as leap years which are exactly divisible by 400 (eg. 1600, 2000).
- The **Gazette of India**, the Indian government's authorized legal document, **uses Gregorian calendar along with the Indian national calendar - the Shalivahana Shaka calendar** (based on the Shaka era).
- **Vaisakhi**, the **first day** in the '**Vikram Samvat calendar**', is **revered in Hinduism.**
- The **Islamic Hijri calendar**, which **follows a lunar system**, consists of 354 or 355 days and begins the **new year with the month of Muharram.**

9. c

- A report shows that Invasive species may soon wipe out Shola vegetation from Nilgiris.
- The **pastoral Toda community** in the **upper Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu** is losing its Shola grasslands to invasive species.
- The **ecosystem degradation** is forcing the tribal population to migrate to nearby Mettupalayam, Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts for work, says the Nilgiri District Human Development Report, 2017.
- The **district population declined by 3.55% between 2001 and 2011 Census reports to 73,500.**

10. d

- Recently, **IRDAI** has imposed a penalty of Rs 3 crore on Maruti Insurance Broking (MIBL) and Rs 2.18 crore on Hero Insurance Broking India (HIBIL) for not complying with the Motor Insurance Service Provider (MISP) guidelines.



- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** is an **autonomous, statutory body** created by IRDA act, 1999.
- It has a **10 member team** consisting of a Chairman, 5 whole-time members and 4 part-time members, **all are appointed by the Government of India.**
- It was **created based on** the recommendations of the **Malhotra Committee.**
- The functions of IRDA includes regulating the insurance industry and protects the customers, promotion of competition to enhance customer satisfaction and lowering premiums for ensuring the financial security of the insurance sector.

**03-01-2020**

**1) Kalapani border issue** sometimes seen in the news recently is related to which of the following two countries?

- India and Nepal
- India and Bhutan
- India and Bangladesh
- India and Afghanistan

**2) With respect to Sugauli Treaty of 1816,** consider the following statements

- It was signed between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Gorkha.
- The treaty was signed on the conclusion of the Anglo-Nepalese War and it ceded some Nepalese controlled territory to the British.

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Savitribai Phule**

- She was the first woman Governor of an Indian state after independence.
- She led the Dharasana Satyagraha with other leaders in 1930.
- She started Mahila Seva Mandal in 1852, which worked for raising women's consciousness about their human rights, dignity of life and other social issues.
- She started the first ever infanticide prohibition home of India in 1853.

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

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

**4) Cyber Safe Women' initiative** was launched recently by which of the following states?

- Assam
- Kerala
- Maharashtra
- Andhra Pradesh

**5) Lai Haraoba** is the ritual festival celebrated by which of the following communities?

- Manipuri meiteis
- Deori of Assam
- Agariya of Chhattisgarh
- Bakarwal of Jammu and Kashmir

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to the Stock Markets in India**

- Bear market refers to a market condition in which the prices of securities are falling or are expected to fall.

2. **BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and NSE (National Stock Exchange) are the only two Stock Exchanges functioning in India.**

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 *Gaganyaan Mission*

- India will become the 3rd country after Russia and USA to launch human spaceflight mission.
- Gaganyaan is an indigenous mission that would take Indian astronauts to space.

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 *Monsoon*

- When the ITCZ is shifted to north of the Equator, the southeast trade wind changes to a southwest wind as it crosses the Equator.
- The Indian climate is characterized by the complete reversal of wind system with the change of season in a year.

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

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

9) *MANI app* which was in news is related to,

- Real Time trading of Cryptocurrencies
- UPI based instant real-time payment system
- To help visually-impaired people to identify the denomination of currency notes
- None of the above

10) Consider the following

- Iraq
- Turkmenistan
- Kuwait
- Armenia
- Syria

Which of the countries given above do not share border with *Iran*?

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

## Answers

1. a

- Nepal has raised objections after India released its new political map in November 2019 following the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Nepal claimed that *Limpiyadhura, Lipulek and Kalapani* areas were shown under India's territory even though they lie within the Nepalese territory.



The new political map of India, recently released by the government to account for the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, shows Kalapani as part of India

2. c
- The **Anglo-Nepalese War** is also known as the **Gurkha War**.
  - It was fought between the **Kingdom of Gorkha** (present-day Nepal) and the **East India Company** as a result of border disputes and ambitious expansionism of both the belligerent parties.
  - The war ended with the signing of the **Treaty of Sugauli in 1816**, which ceded some Nepalese controlled territory to the British.
  - Under the treaty, the Nepalese-controlled territory that was ceded included all areas that the king of Nepal had won in earlier wars such as the kingdom of Sikkim in the east and Kumaon and Garhwal in the west.
3. d
- **Savitribai Phule** was the wife of Jyotirao Phule, an Indian activist, thinker, social reformer and writer from Maharashtra.
  - She was determined to study and was one of the very few indigenous literate women in her era.
  - Savitribai, along with her husband Jyotirao Phule, stood up for the rights of women and fought against the injustice faced by them.
  - They were the pioneers of women education in India and started the first girls' school in 1848 in Pune.
  - Their work extended to many fields including eradication of untouchability and the caste system, women's emancipation and the reform of Hindu family life.
  - Savitribai Phule started **Mahila Seva Mandal in 1852**, which worked for raising women's consciousness about their human rights, dignity of life and other social issues.
  - **First ever infanticide prohibition home of India** was started by Savitribai Phule in 1853.
  - They championed widow remarriage and started a home for lower and upper caste widows in 1854.
  - In September 1873, Phule, along with the followers, formed the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Seekers of Truth) to attain equal rights for peasants and people from lower castes.
4. c
- Savitribai Phule was the first Dalit woman, in fact the first woman whose poems got noticed in the British Empire.
  - The prestigious University of Pune was renamed to Savitribai Phule Pune University in 2014.
  - The Government of Maharashtra has instituted an award in her name to recognize women social reformers.
  - *Sarojini Naidu was the first woman Governor of an Indian state after independence.*
  - *Sarojini Naidu led the Dharasana Satyagraha with other leaders in 1930.*
5. a
- **Maharashtra** Government has launched a '**Cyber Safe Women**' initiative under which awareness camps will be held across all the districts of the state regarding cyber safety.
  - The initiative will help in educating women about how the web is used by anti-social elements and child predators to commit various types of crimes.
- In Tripura, **Lai Haraoba**, a ritualistic festival observed by **Manipuri meitei communities** since ancient times, began recently.
  - The five day long festival is jointly organised by Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura, Puthiba Lai Haraoba Committee and Puthiba Welfare & Cultural Society, Agartala.
  - The festival aims to uphold tradition and cultural values of Meitei community.
  - Lai Haraoba is celebrated through oral literature, music, dance and rituals.
  - A cultural troupe from Manipur has also come to take part in festival.
  - They will be performing various cultural and traditional musical skits including Manipuri martial arts, folk music and folk dances during the festival.

6. a
- Madras Stock Exchange (**MSE**) strikes the gong in new avatar with the Mobile app DailyGong offers a gamut of financial products.
  - Plans are also afoot to bring mutual funds, fixed deposits under DailyGong in the near future.
  - While digital transformation rendered it irrelevant earlier, **MSE in its new avatar** has leveraged the same technology to serve investors. If it gets its act right, it may even regain its lost glory.
  - A **bull market** is a financial market of a group of securities in **which prices are rising or are expected to rise.**
  - Bull markets are characterized by optimism, investor confidence and expectations that strong results will continue.
  - **Bear market** refers to a market condition in which the **prices of securities are falling**, and widespread pessimism causes the negative sentiment to be self-sustaining.
  - Along with **BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and NSE (National Stock Exchange)** there are other Stock Exchanges functioning in India.
  - According to **SEBI** the above listed are the Stock Exchanges functioning in India and few others are closed recently.
7. b
- **ISRO** has decided to send 4 air force pilots to Russia to train them as astronauts for the country's maiden human spaceflight, **Gaganyaan.**
  - The spacecraft is being developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**
  - The Gaganyaan programme, **an indigenous mission** that would take Indian astronauts to space.
  - It consists of a **Service module and a Crew module, collectively known as the Orbital Module.**
- The Crew module house the astronauts and a Service module maintains the speed and orientation of the spacecraft.
  - ISRO's GSLV Mk III, the three-stage heavy-lift launch vehicle, will be used to launch Gaganyaan.
  - The **programme will make India the 4th nation** in the world to **launch a Human Spaceflight Mission.**
  - So far, only **the USA, Russia and China have launched human spaceflight missions.**
8. c
- Recently, the **Northeast, or Winter monsoon** has ended on a high, with an overall surplus rainfall being recorded for the season.
  - **ITCZ (Intertropical Convergence Zone)** is a zone between the northern and southern hemisphere where winds blowing equator-ward from the mid latitudes and winds flowing poleward from the tropics meet.
  - It shifts from north and south seasonally according to the movement of the Sun.
  - When the **ITCZ is shifted to north of the Equator, the southeast trade wind changes to a southwest wind** as it crosses the Equator.
  - The **Indian climate is characterized by the complete reversal of wind system** with the change of season in a year.
  - During the winter season winds generally blow from north-east to south-west in the direction of trade winds.
  - These winds are dry, devoid of moisture and are characterized by low temperature and high pressure conditions over the country.
  - During summer season complete reversal in the direction of the winds is observed and these blow primarily from south-west to north-east.
9. c
- **RBI** launched the "**Mobile Aided Note Identifier (MANI)**", a mobile application for **aiding visually impaired**

**persons to identify the denomination of Indian Banknotes.**

- **MANI**, has the following features:
  1. Capable of identifying the denominations of Mahatma Gandhi Series and Mahatma Gandhi (New) series banknote by checking front or reverse side/part of the note including half folded notes at various holding angles and broad range of light conditions (normal light/day light/low light/ etc.).
  2. Ability to identify the denomination through audio notification in Hindi/English and non-sonic mode such as vibration (suitable for those with vision and hearing impairment).
  3. After installation, the mobile application does not require internet and works in offline mode.
  4. Ability to navigate the mobile application via voice controls for accessing the application features wherever the underlying device & operating system combination supports voice enabled controls.
  5. The application is free and can be downloaded from the Android Play Store and iOS App Store without any charges/payment.
- This mobile application does not authenticate a note as being either genuine or counterfeit.

10. d

- **US kills top Iranian general** in Baghdad airstrike.
- Qassem Soleimani, head of Iran's elite Quds Force, killed in an air strike as tensions between US and Iran escalate.
- Iran has one of the longest land borders of any country in western Asia covering 3,662 miles in length.
- There are 7 countries that Iran shares this long land border, these countries are **Iraq, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.**
- Of these countries, Turkmenistan shares the longest border with Iran.
- **Kuwait and Syria do not share borders with Iran.**



**04-01-2020**

1) With respect to **NISHTHA Programme**, consider the following statements

1. It aims to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Patola Saree**

1. It is a trademark Saree from the state of Assam.
2. It is considered to be very costly and worn only by the Royals or the Aristocrat.

Which of 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**

1. It is also known as the “Khajuraho of Vidarbha”.
2. It is situated on the bank of River Wainganga.
3. The temples belong to the Nagara group of temples of North India.

**Identify the temple that correctly matches with the above description:**

- a. Airavatesvara Temple
- b. Chamunda Devi Temple
- c. Markandeshwar Temple
- d. Padmanabhaswamy Temple

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to E-visa**

1. It is an online process where there is no paper work is involved and all the process happens online.
2. It is valid for entry only through Airports and not seaports.
3. One can apply e-visa at the airport.

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

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

**5) Performance Grading Index (PGI) aims to evaluate the performance of which of the following?**

- a. Cyber Safety
- b. School Education System
- c. Rural and Urban Sanitation
- d. Aspirational Districts Programme

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to the World Health Organization (WHO)**

1. World Drug Report is published by WHO.
2. 2020 has been designated as the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.

**Which of 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) EVALI which was in news recently is related to?**

- a. Vaping-Related Illness
- b. A new Antibiotic resistance Bacteriophage
- c. A newly synthesized Protein
- d. None of the above

**8) Consider the following statements with respect to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

1. The Chairman of the SEBI is appointed by the President of India.
2. It has the same power as vested in a civil court while trying any suit.

**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

**9) Extraocular Visions sometimes seen in news is related to?**

- a. Trouble focusing when reading or looking at a computer
- b. The Blurred vision of the objects at a distance

- c. The ability to see without eyes
- d. Condition where the optic nerve of the eye is affected

**10) A First-of-its-kind Rehabilitation centre for Freshwater Turtles will be inaugurated in?**

- a. Odisha
- b. West Bengal
- c. Bihar
- d. Assam

**Answers**

1. b

- **National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)**
- It aims to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme.
- This integrated programme aims to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of the school at the elementary level in all government school, faculty members of states councils of Educational Research and Training and other educational departments.
- The integrated training will motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students, handle diverse situations and act as first-level counsellors.
- **Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Program (DHRUV)** aims to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge.
- It act as a platform to explore the talent of outshining and meritorious students, and help them achieve excellence in their specific areas of interest may it be science, performing arts, creative writing, etc.
- These talented students apart from realizing their full potential are expected to contribute to the society in a big way.

- With children drawn from all over the country, the DHRUV programme reflects the true spirit of EK Bharat Shreshth Bharat.

2. b

- **Patola**, the trademark Saree of **Gujarat**, is considered to be **very costly and worn only by the Royals or the Aristocrat**.
- Reason being the raw material silk yarn is purchased from Karnataka or West Bengal, where silk processing units are situated, thus increasing the cost of the fabric manifolds.
- In a historic initiative taken by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a first Silk Processing Plant was inaugurated recently at Surendranagar in Gujarat.
- It would help cut down the cost of production of silk yarn drastically and increase the sale and availability of raw material for Gujarati Patola Sarees locally.

3. c

- The restoration work of **Markandeshwar temple** in Maharashtra by the **Archaeological Survey of India** is in full swing.
- Known as the "**Khajuraho of Vidarbha**", the temple of Markandadeo is situated on the bank of **River Wainganga** in district Gadchiroli of **Maharashtra**.
- The temples belong to the **Nagara group** of temples of **North India**.
- On stylistic grounds, their date ranges in between 9-12th centuries CE.
- The temples belong to **saiva, vaishnava** and **sakta** faith.
- Most of the temples have a simple plan, with **ardhamandapa**, **mandapa**, **antarala** and **garbhagriha** forming the component of the entire set up.



4. a

- **E-visa** is an online process where there is no paper work is involved and all the process happens online.
- e-Visa is valid for entry through 28 designated **Airports** and 5 designated **seaports**.
- At present the e-Visa Scheme is available to nationals of 169 countries.
- One can't apply for e-visa at the airport. One must hold a valid e-visa before leaving one's home country.

eVisa is admissible only under the following categories:

1. e-Tourist Visa
2. e-Business Visa
3. e-Conference Visa
4. e-Medical Visa
5. e-Medical Attendent Visa

5. b

- To objectively evaluate the performance of the **school education system** in the States/UTs, **Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD)** has designed a 70 indicators based matrix called **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** to grade the States and UTs.

6. b

- **WHO** along with the International Confederation of Midwives (**ICM**), International Council of Nurses (**ICN**), Nursing Now and the United Nations Population Fund (**UNFPA**), designated **2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife**.
- The world will need an additional 9 million nurses and midwives to achieve the commitment of providing all people with access to health care by 2030, **WHO** has warned.
- **World Drug Report** is published by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**.
- **World Health Statistics, World Tuberculosis Report, Ambient Air Pollution Report** are few important reports published by **WHO**.

7. a

- **EVALI** (e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury) is a new name given to **Vaping-Related Illness**.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted the name in new guidance on the illness.
- E-cigarettes, also called 'vapes' or 'electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)', are battery-run devices that were originally marketed as a safer alternative to smoking traditional cigarettes.
- In recent years, there has been a **deadly rise in nicotine addiction**, allegedly due to aggressive marketing by manufacturers.
- Minors have been particularly affected in US, with a 2018 survey showing that as many one in five and one in 20 students going to high school and middle school respectively using e-cigarettes.
- In **September 2019**, the **Indian government** banned the production, import, distribution and sale of **electronic cigarettes**.

8. a

- Recently, Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) appoints G Babita Rayudu as the Executive Director.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992**.
- It is a **statutory body**.
- **SEBI** is administered by its board of members. The board of SEBI consist of,
  1. **The Chairman** by **nominated** by **Government of India**.
  2. 2 members from Finance ministry
  3. 1 member from Reserve Bank of India
  4. 5 members nominated by Union Government of India
- While trying any suit, **SEBI has the same power as vested with a Civil court** under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

9. c

- For the first time, researchers have shown that a **species of Brittle stars**, which are **relatives of starfish**, can see even though it does not have eyes.
- The **ability to see without eyes** is known as **Extraocular Vision**.
- The **Red Brittle star (Ophiocomawendtii)**, which lives in the **coral reefs of the Caribbean Sea**, becomes only the 2nd creature, after a **Sea urchin** species, known to have this ability (barring freak cases in other species).
- Researchers suspect that **Extraocular vision is facilitated** by the **Photoreceptor cells** found on their bodies.
- The **Brittle star sees with the help of light-sensing cells** that cover its entire body.
- These light-sensing cells give the brittle star visual stimuli, allowing it to recognise coarse structures such as rocks, the research suggests.



10. c

- A first-of-its-kind **Rehabilitation centre for Freshwater Turtles** will be **inaugurated in Bihar's Bhagalpur forest division** in January 2020.
- The rehabilitation centre, will be able to shelter 500 turtles at a time.
- The centre will house the injured and the sick turtles rescued from smugglers.
- **Eastern Bihar** has been an **ideal breeding ground for turtles**, in **Bhagalpur**, the **flow of water** in the **Ganga** is ample.
- Also, there are **many sandbanks** in the **middle of the river**, which are **ideal breeding ground for turtles**.
- According to environmentalists, **the turtles play a significant role in the river by**,
  1. Scavenging dead organic materials and diseased fish,
  2. Controlling fish population as predators and
  3. Controlling aquatic plants and weeds.
- They are also described as indicators of healthy aquatic ecosystems.
- According to a recent **study** conducted by **Traffic India**, around 11,000 turtles are being smuggled in India every year.
- In the past 10 years, as many as 110,000 turtles have been traded.

**06-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Saras Mk2*

1. It is the India's first indigenous light transport aircraft.
2. It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)*

1. It is the only government aerospace R&D laboratory in the country's civilian sector.
2. It is a constituent of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

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

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

3) India's world-class facility for training astronauts will come in which of the following region?

- a. Star City, Russia
- b. Challakere, Karnataka
- c. Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- d. Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Lamu Island*

1. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. It lies close to the Somali frontier in the Indian Ocean.
3. Al-Balad air base located in this Island is used by both U.S and Kenya.

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) Consider the following statements with respect to *KIRAN Scheme*

1. It is the women-exclusive scheme of Department of Science and Technology.
2. Its mandate is to bring gender parity in Science & Technology through gender mainstreaming.
3. Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in women universities (CURIE) is another component of KIRAN.

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

6) Consider the following statement with respect to *New Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST)*

1. It is the nodal division under the Ministry of Finance to increase the investment coordination with the foreign countries.
2. The division holds responsibility for matters that involve negotiations with multilateral fora like the United Nations, G20.

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 *Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)*

- It is a specialized financial institution wholly owned by Government of India.
- It was established in 1982 under the Export-Import Bank of India Act 1981.
- It extend its Lines of Credit (LOCs) also to overseas financial institutions and to sovereign governments.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

- They are related to the Sturgeon and found only in the Yangtze River basin in the world.
- The Chinese paddlefish is declared Extinct.

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

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

9) 'Smog Tower' which was in news recently was installed in?

- Varanasi

- Kanpur
- Bengaluru
- Delhi

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *State of India's forest Report (SoFR) 2019*

- It is a biennial publication of Forest Survey of India (FSI).
- It shows an increase in the carbon stock trapped in Indian forests in the last two years.
- Except Assam and Tripura, all the states in the North Eastern region shows increase in forest cover.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

### Answers

1. a

- Saras Mk2** the first indigenous light transport aircraft was developed by the **National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL)**.
- The 19-seater aircraft, developed with a target cost of Rs. 50 crore, is at least 20-25% lower in cost than other aircraft in the similar category.
- The NAL has been pitching SARAS Mk-2 for the government's UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), since it has the capacity to operate in "ill-equipped", "semi-prepared" and "unpaved airstrips".
- The scheme, launched in October 2016, is aimed at linking up areas that have no air connectivity.



2. c

- **National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)**, a constituent of the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, India, established in the year 1959 is the **only government aerospace R&D laboratory** in the country's civilian sector.
- CSIR-NAL is a high-technology oriented institution focusing on advanced disciplines in aerospace.

3. b

- India's world-class facility for training astronauts will be established in three years at **Challakere**, a shrubby, arid oilseeds town on the Bengaluru-Pune NH4 in **Chitradurga district of Karnataka**.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has proposed a Rs. 2,700-crore master plan to create top infrastructure that will house its young Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC).
- The country pays a hefty, unnamed sum to use such facilities abroad.
- The first set of four astronaut candidates for the first Gaganyaan mission of 2022 are to train in Russia.
- The amount sought for the HSFC is over and above the Rs. 10,000-crore approved budget of Gaganyaan.
- Pending its approval, the centre may take 2-3 years at the earliest to be set up, but would come up after the first Indian crewed flight.
- **Challakere**, about 400 km and over three hours by road from **Bengaluru**, is also where premier scientific establishments have set up

adjoining and interactive campuses on some 10,000 acres.

- Called the **Science City**, it houses facilities of the ISRO, the Defence Research & Development Organisation's Advanced Aeronautical Test Range, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and the Indian Institute of Science.

4. a

- Three people, including a US service member and two civilians, have been killed in an al-Shabab attack on a **Camp Simba military base** in **Kenya's Lamu County** used by **US and Kenyan** military personnel.
- A **county** is a geographical region of a country used for administrative or other purposes, in certain modern nations.
- Two other Department of Defense personnel were wounded in the attack on Camp Simba.
- The Lamu region, which includes popular tourist beach destination Lamu Island — a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, lies close to the Somali frontier and has suffered frequent attacks, often carried out with roadside bombs.
- Several rockets fell inside **Iraq's** Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses the **United States** embassy and the **Al Balad Air Force Base**.



5. d

- In the year 2014, **Department of Science and Technology** restructured the women specific programmes under one umbrella called "**KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing)**".

- Through KIRAN, DST is not only addressing various issues related to women scientists (unemployment, break-in career, relocation, etc.) but is also aimed at providing opportunities in research, entrepreneurship, science communication, technology development/demonstration and self-employment.
- In addition, **Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in women universities (CURIE) is another component of KIRAN** that has a focus to develop state-of-the-art infrastructure to help large number of women to enhance their S&T skills and knowledge in order to make a fulfilling career in this domain besides promoting research culture in such institutions.
- Further, KIRAN is providing budgetary support for creating Women Technology Park (WTP) where appropriate S&T packages for women are developed to improve livelihood and health & nutrition besides reducing drudgery in order to enhance their quality-of-life.

6. b

- **Ministry of External Affairs created New Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST).**
- **The division will work to increase investment** coordination among the states of the country and also with the foreign countries.
- It will help in collaboration with foreign partners in the field of 5G and artificial intelligence.
- **The division holds responsibility for matters that involve negotiations with multilateral fora like the UN, G20.**
- This will help to safeguard India's interests as such forums govern the rules of access to such technologies.

7. d

- **India extends \$75 mn Line of Credit via EXIM Bank for solar parks in Cuba.**
- **An agreement signed between Exim Bank and Banco Exterior De Cub** (a nominated

agency of the Government of Cuba) in July last year came into effect from December.

- **Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)** is a specialized financial institution, **wholly owned by Government of India.**
- It was **set up in 1982**, for financing, promoting foreign trade of India under **Export-Import Bank of India Act 1981.**
- It extends **Lines of Credit (LOCs) to overseas financial institutions, regional development banks, sovereign governments and other entities overseas.**
- It is to enable buyers in those countries to import developmental and infrastructure projects, equipments, goods and services from India, on deferred credit terms.
- **The Bank facilitates two-way technology transfer** by financing import of technology into India, and investment abroad by Indian companies for setting up joint ventures, subsidiaries or undertaking overseas acquisitions.
- To promote hi-tech exports from India, the Bank has a lending programme to finance Research and Development (R&D) activities of export-oriented companies.

8. b

- **Chinese paddlefish, native to the Yangtze River, declared Extinct** by scientists.
- **Paddlefish** a primitive bony fish **related to the sturgeon and found in the basins of the Mississippi and Yangtze rivers.**
- The **American paddlefish** (Polyodon spathula), also called the **Mississippi paddlefish** or **spoonbill**, is greenish or gray and averages about 18kg; however some specimens can grow up to 2.2m long and 90.7kg in weight.
- It lives in open waters of the Mississippi River basin, Lake Huron, and parts of southern Canada.

- The other species, the **Chinese paddlefish** (*Psephurus gladius*), is larger and has a more slender snout.
- It **inhabits the Yangtze River basin**. The largest Chinese paddlefish may grow up to 3 metres in length and weigh 300 kg.
- The **American paddlefish** is classified as a **Vulnerable** species.
- The **Chinese paddlefish** is declared **Extinct**.
- It is dubbed as '**Panda of the Yangtze River**' becomes extinct due to overfishing and habitat loss.



9. d

- **Delhi** gets its first **Smog Tower** to help tackle rising levels of Air pollution.
- The Smog tower, which is 20-ft tall, has been installed in south Delhi's Lajpat Nagar market.
- The Smog towers is built on the lines of China, which installed the largest smog tower measuring over 328 ft high at Xian.
- It **can remove up to 80% of PM 2.5 and PM10** the primary pollutant in Delhi's air.
- The project is being undertaken by IIT-Bombay in collaboration with IIT-Delhi and the University of Minnesota.

10. a

- **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019**, released by Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- It is a **biennial publication** of **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, an organization under the **MoEFCC**.
- It assesses the forest and tree cover, bamboo resources, carbon stock and forest fires.

- The total tree and forest cover in the country increased by 5,188 sq km in the last two years.
- **Except Assam and Tripura, all states in the North Eastern region show decrease in forest cover.**
- The **assessment shows a decrease of forest cover** to the extent of **765 sq km (0.45%)** in **Northeastern** region.
- The **mangrove cover** in the country has **increased by 54 sq km (1.10%)** as compared to the previous assessment.

**07-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS)*

1. It aims at providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
2. It will be implemented, monitored and managed by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)*

1. It is a **Public Private Partnership (PPP) Scheme** launched by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD).
2. The objective of the scheme is to use **Artificial Intelligence** to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.
3. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would be the



implementing agency for NEAT programme.

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

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

3) *Indian Seasonal Energy efficiency ratio (ISEER)* is the energy performance index used for which of the following?

- Electric Vehicles
- Water Heaters
- Microwave Ovens
- Room Air Conditioners

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Farmer's Science Congress 2020*

- The theme for the first ever such event is "Science and Technology: Rural Development".
- It was organized as a part of the 107th Indian Science Congress at University of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi.

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

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

5) Consider the following pairs

- Global Innovation Index – World Intellectual Property Organisation
- Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index – World Economic Forum

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

- 1 only

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Great Indian Bustard*

- The Great Indian bustard is distributed only throughout Western India.
- It has been identified as one of the species for the recovery programme under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *JUS COGENS* sometimes seen in news

- These are rules in the international law that are peremptory or authoritative and from which states cannot deviate.
- According to Vienna Conventions on the Law of Treaties of 1969 and 1986, a treaty is void if it breaches Jus Cogens rules.
- These norms can be offset by a separate treaty between parties intending to do so.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*

1. The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, describes a War crime as any intentional attack against a historical monument, or a building dedicated to religion, education, art, or science.
2. Iran is not a signatory to this Convention.

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

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

9) 'Sukanya' project sometimes seen is an initiative in?

- a. Delhi
- b. Hyderabad
- c. Jaipur
- d. Kolkata

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

1. It is located at the mouth of River Daya.
2. It is registered under Montreux Record.
3. Nalabana Bird Sanctuary is located inside the Chilika Lake.

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

- **Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS)** for promoting *translational*, India-centric research in Sciences, to be implemented and managed by Indian **Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore**.
- With the key objective of supporting socially relevant research, the following **6 basic thrust areas** have been identified: Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Nanosciences, Data Sciences & Mathematics and Earth Sciences.

### Objectives

- To fund science projects which are *translational, i.e. which have direct implications for the progress of country*, through a competitive process in an open and transparent manner.
- Basic thrust would be to take stock of an existing problem and work backwards towards conducting research for a solution.
- Promoting an inter-disciplinary & translational approach in research for synergy, de-duplication and greater comprehensiveness & relevance of Research activities.
- Orient science towards addressing needs & issues of the country in key sectors like health, agriculture, energy, environment, security etc.
- Attain demonstrable international benchmarks in scientific research

2. d

### National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)

- It is a **Public Private Partnership (PPP) Scheme** launched by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**.
- The scheme aims for using technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.
- The objective of the scheme is **to use Artificial Intelligence** to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development would like to recognise number of start-up

companies for developing technology **EdTech Companies through a PPP model.**

- MHRD would create and maintain a National NEAT platform that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions.
- The EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal and would be free to charge fees as per their policy.
- Further, MHRD would act as a facilitator to ensure that the solutions are freely available to a large number of economically backward students and hence as their contribution towards the National cause, the companies would have to offer free coupons to the extent of 25% of the total registrations for their solution through NEAT portal.
- MHRD would distribute the free coupons for learning to the most socially/economically backward students.

3. d

- **ISEER (Indian Seasonal Energy efficiency ratio)** is the energy performance index used for **Room Air Conditioners (RACs)**.
- The Central Government in consultation with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has recently notified new energy performance standards for Room Air Conditioner (RACs).
- The **240C** default setting has been made mandatory from **Jan 1, 2020** for all room air conditioners **covered under the ambit of BEE star-labelling** program.
- Additionally, the Indian Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (ISEER) as per the new standards will range from (3.30 - 5.00) for split and (2.70 - 3.50) for window air conditioners, which will be applicable from 1st January 2021 onwards.

4. d

- The Farmer's Science Congress was inaugurated **for the first time** in the 107 years of history of the Indian Science Congress, highlighting the importance of **farmer's innovations and their scientific validity.**

- **Farmers Science Congress** was organized as a part of the ongoing **107th Indian Science Congress** at University of Agricultural Sciences, **Bengaluru.**

- Around 120 innovative farmers from across the country are participating in Farmers Science Congress and showcase their products.

- Experts from the different agriculture sector discussed on three themes:

1. Farmers innovation on integrated agriculture and entrepreneurship for doubling farmers income
2. Climate change, bio-diversity, conservation, ecosystem services & farmers empowerment
3. Agrarian distress, rural bio-entrepreneurship, policy issues in a day event.

5. c

- Global Innovation Index – World Intellectual Property Organisation
- Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index – World Economic Forum

6. b

- The **Great Indian Bustard** has long been on the brink of extinction.
- It is one of the heaviest flying birds, and is found mainly in the Indian subcontinent.
- Barely 150 of these birds are estimated to be surviving now globally.
- It was distributed throughout Western India, spanning 11 states, as well as parts of Pakistan.
- Its stronghold was once the Thar desert in the north-west and the Deccan plateau of the peninsula.
- Today, **its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat.**
- **Small population occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.**
- Listed in **Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, in the CMS Convention and in **Appendix I of CITES**, as **Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.**
- It has also been **identified as one of the species for the**

**recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats** of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and Climate Change, Government of India.

7. a

- Responding to President Donald Trump's threat to attack sites that were "important to Iran and Iranian culture", Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif posted, "Having committed grave breaches of international law in cowardly assassinations, **Trump threatens to commit again new breaches of JUS COGENS**, targeting cultural sites is a WAR CRIME.
- **JUS COGENS** or *ius cogens*, meaning "**compelling law**" in Latin, are **rules in international law that are peremptory or authoritative, and from which states cannot deviate.**
- These norms '**cannot be offset**' by a **separate treaty between parties intending to do so**, since they hold fundamental values.
- Today, **most states and international organisations accept the principle of Jus Cogens**, which dates back to Roman times.
- The **Jus Cogens rules have been sanctioned by the Vienna Conventions on the Law of Treaties of 1969 and 1986.**
- According to both Conventions, **a treaty is void if it breaches Jus Cogens rules.**
- Besides treaties, **Unilateral declarations also have to abide by these norms.**
- So far, **an exhaustive list of Jus Cogens rules does not exist.**
- However, the prohibition of slavery, genocide, racial discrimination, torture, and the right to self-determination are recognised norms.
- The prohibition against apartheid is also recognised as a Jus cogens rule, from which no derogation is allowed, since apartheid is against the basic principles of the United Nations.

8. d

- **Iran** is home to one of the world's oldest civilisations dating back to 10,000 BC.
- 24 Iranian sites are on **UNESCO's World Heritage List**, 2 of which are natural sites and the rest cultural sites.
- Following the unparalleled destruction of cultural heritage in World War II, the nations of the world adopted at **The Hague in 1954, "The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict"**, the **1st international treaty** focussed exclusively on the **protection of cultural heritage during war and armed conflict.**
- The Convention defined cultural property as "movable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people, such as monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular; archaeological sites....", etc.
- The signatories, referred to in the Convention as "the High Contracting Parties", committed themselves to protecting, safeguarding, and having respect for cultural property.
- There are currently **133 signatories to Convention**, including countries that have acceded to and ratified the treaty.
- Both the **US and Iran (as well as India) signed the Convention** on May 14, 1954, and it entered into force on August 7, 1956.
- The **Rome Statute of 1998**, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC), **describes as a "war crime"** any intentional attack against a historical monument, or a building dedicated to religion, education, art, or science.
- The ICC started functioning in 2002 **with jurisdiction over 4 main crimes**: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.
- **122 countries are States Parties to the Rome Statute** of the International Criminal Court.
- The **US is a signatory** that has **not ratified the Statute. India has neither signed nor ratified the Statute.**



9. d
- **Kolkata Police** to start 3rd edition of 'Sukanya' project.
  - It is to provide girls studying in schools and colleges in the city with self-defence training.
  - Sukanya is an initiative of the Kolkata Police's Community Policing Wing to provide self-defence training to girl students of city-based schools, colleges and universities.
  - The initiative is funded by Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department of the state government.
2. It is voluntary and contributory pension scheme, with entry age of 18 to 60 years.
3. Central Government will contribute an equal amount in the pension scheme.

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

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

10. c

- A record 11,05,040 migratory birds belonging to 184 species have arrived in Odisha's Chilika lake this year, the annual bird count conducted by the Chilika Wildlife Division on January 5, 2020, showed.
- The Nalabana island or Nalabana Bird Sanctuary inside the lake, continued to be the most favoured destination for the birds, with the census report showing that 406,368 birds belonging to 102 species arrived in the 15.53 sq km sanctuary area this year.
- Chilika Lake, a shallow lagoon and a lake of brackish water, is located in the eastern State of Odisha.
- Chilika was designated as the 1st Ramsar Site of India.
- It was put under Montreux Record but was later removed from the list in 2002 due to conservation efforts.
- River Daya flows through Khurda and Puri district before merging the Chilika lake.

2) Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) model is often seen in the news recently for which of the following sector?

- Defence
- Railways
- Highways
- Power Plants

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman

1. The objective behind this award is to bring positivity and acknowledge the role of media in the outreach of Yoga in the world.
2. It will be awarded by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

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

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

**08-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)

1. It provides for payment of minimum pension of Rs.3000 per month to the eligible small and marginal farmers on attaining the age of 60 years.

4) 'Samudrayaan' project is associated with which of the following?

- Snow Clearance Project
- Deep Underwater Studies
- Disaster and Humanitarian Relief

d. None of the above

d. Neither 1 nor 2

5) Consider the following pairs

*Places in News – Country*

1. Erbil – Syria
2. Kangaroo Island – Australia

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 the *National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)*

1. It was established as an autonomous Research and Development Institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. It manages the Indian Antarctic Research Bases “Maitri” and “Bharati”.

Which of 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 *GDP*

1. The market value taken at current prices is the Real GDP.
2. The market value taken at constant prices is the Nominal GDP.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)*

1. It is a PSU-centric organization which provides an integrated security cover only to the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
2. CISF observes 2020 as ‘Year of Mobility’.

Which of 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) Project *NEON* sometimes seen in news is related to

- a. AI powered Artificial Human
- b. An Automated Detection System for the Northern Lights
- c. A newly developed Hypersonic drone
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Small Finance Bank (SFB)*

1. It is a private financial institution intended to further the objective of financial inclusion.
2. They are subjected to all prudential norms and regulations of RBI such as maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).

Which of 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

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)** provides for payment of minimum pension of **Rs.3000/- per month** to the eligible small and marginal farmers on attaining the age of 60 years.
- It is **voluntary** and contributory pension scheme, with entry age of **18 to 40 years**.
- The monthly contribution by farmer ranges between Rs.55 to 200.
- **Central Government** will contribute an **equal amount** in the pension scheme.

2. a

- The **Indian Army** has recently started identifying potential industry partners to implement the **Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) model** for its base workshops and ordnance depots.
- The tasks undertaken by these workshops include depot-level repairs; overhaul of T-72 and T-90, guns, mortars and small arms, vehicles, communication systems, radars, air defence systems, armoured personnel carriers; manufacture of spares and overhaul of aviation rotables.
- The GOCO model was one of the recommendations of the **Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (Retd.) committee** to “enhance combat capability and re-balance defence expenditure.”

3. c

- The Government of India has announced **first ‘Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman’** for several media houses.
- This award was conferred on January 7, 2020, to 30 media houses.
- The objective behind this award is to bring positivity and acknowledge the role of media in the outreach of Yoga in the world.
- The awards were given in three categories: Radio, TV and Print Media.

4. b

- India's ambition to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle is likely to be a reality in 2021-22 with the **'Samudrayaan' project**.
- The project proposes to send a submersible vehicle with three persons to a depth of about 6000 metres to carry out **deep underwater studies**.
- The indigenously developed vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six kilometre for 72 hours.
- Similar to ISRO's plan to carry persons on a space mission Gaganyaan, NIOT has undertaken Samudrayaan.

5. b

- Iran had recently launched missiles at US forces in Iraq at **al-Asad and Erbil**.
- In **South Australia**, the fire had burnt about a third of the **Kangaroo Island** and is believed to have killed approximately half of the Island's Koala population.
- All time high temperatures and months of severe drought have fuelled the massive bushfires across Australia, since September 2019.



6. c

- Indian scientists to set sail in search of valuable minerals in the Indian Ocean region on the coast of Madagascar.
- **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)** and **National**

**Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)** are working for the project.

- **NCPOR** and **NIOT** both are research institutions **under Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)** was established as an **autonomous Research and Development Institution of the Ministry of Earth Sciences** (formerly Department of Ocean Development), Government of India on the 25th May 1998.
- It Manages the Indian Antarctic Research Bases “**Maitri**” and “**Bharati**”, and the Indian Arctic base “**Himadri**”.
- It also manages Ministry’s research vessel **ORV Sagar Kanya** as well as the other research vessels chartered by the Ministry.
- It is the **nodal agency** for planning, promotion, coordination and execution of the entire gamut of polar and southern ocean scientific research in the country as well as for the associated logistics activities.

7. d

- Recently, the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** has released the **first advance estimates** of the **national income**.
- It projected that the growth in **India’s GDP at market prices for 2019-20 at 4.98% in “real” terms**, the lowest since the 3.89% in the global financial crisis year of 2008-09.
- The **estimated growth of 7.53% in ‘nominal’ terms** is the **lowest since 1975-76**.
- Also, this is the **first time since 2002-03 that nominal GDP growth is projected to be in single digits**.
- **GDP** is the total market value of all goods and services produced in the economy during a particular year, inclusive of all taxes and subsidies on products.
- The **market value** taken at “**Current prices**” is the “**Nominal GDP**”.
- **Nominal GDP** is also referred to as the **Current dollar GDP**.

- The market value taken at “**Constant prices**” that is prices for all products taken at an unchanged base year is the “**Real GDP**”.
- **Real GDP** is a measure of a country’s total economic output, **adjusted for price changes (inflation)**.

8. b

- The **CISF** observes **2020** as the “**Year of Mobility**” that will have a special focus on creation of more residential units and implementation of various welfare measures for the troops.
- It will emphasise on **taking all measures for welfare of troops and their families**, creating infrastructure and logistics like housing, acquiring new land and procuring modern equipment, training with focus on physical fitness and sports and leveraging modern gadgetry and technology on duty.
- The **CISF came into existence in 1969** with a modest beginning, having three battalions, **to provide integrated security cover to the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** which, in those years, occupied the “commanding heights” of the economy.
- With globalization and liberalization of the economy, “**CISF is no longer a PSU-centric organization**”.
- Instead, **it has become a premier multi-skilled security agency** of the country.
- It has been mandated to provide security to major critical infrastructure installations of the country in diverse areas.
- **CISF is currently providing security cover to nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants, sensitive Government buildings and ever heritage monuments**.
- Among the **important responsibilities** recently entrusted to the CISF are the **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, VIP Security, Disaster Management and establishment of a Formed Police Unit (FPU) of the UN at Haiti**.

9. a
- A **Samsung** lab unveiled a digital avatar, an **AI-powered "Artificial human,"** claiming it is able to "converse and sympathize" like real people.
  - Move over Siri, Alexa, Samsung unveiled **world's first 'Artificial human' NEON.**
  - **NEON** which is a portmanteau of **Neo (New) and Human** is a **computationally created artificial human (humanoid)** which looks and behaves like a real human.
  - It **has the ability to emote and empathise like real humans.**
10. c
- The **RBI** has granted **"in-principle" approval** to **Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank** for transition into a **Small Finance Bank (SFB).**
  - This is the first licence issued by the RBI to an urban co-operative bank (UCB) to become an SFB under its new policy regime.
  - The **Small Finance Bank (SFB)** is a **private financial institution** intended to further the objective of financial inclusion.
  - It will **primarily undertakes the basic banking activities of acceptance of deposits and lending to un-served and underserved** sections including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities.
  - It do not have any restriction in the area of operations, unlike Regional Rural Banks or Local Area Banks.
  - The minimum capital for SFBs is prescribed at Rs. 100 crore with an initial contribution of 40% coming from the promoters, which over a period of 12 years, have to be reduced to 26%.
  - **SFBs are full fledged banks** in contrast to payments banks created around the same time.
  - Hence, **they are subject to all prudential norms and regulations of RBI** as applicable to existing commercial banks **like maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).**
- 09-01-2020**
- 1) **Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement** often seen in the news recently is an agreement between India and?
- U.S.A
  - France
  - Sweden
  - Switzerland
- 2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Antarctic Treaty, 1959**
- The main objective of the treaty is to allow member countries to collect both soft sediment and hard rock from the Antarctic ocean.
  - India is one among the twelve countries which are the original Signatories to the Treaty.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- 3) Consider the following statements with respect to **new Wetland Conservation Rules**
- A wetland is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, and it takes on the characteristics of a distinct ecosystem.
  - It prohibits setting up or expansion of industries and disposal of construction and demolition waste within the wetlands.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- 1 only



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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE)*

1. It is a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
2. It is working in avalanche forecasting, artificial triggering and structural control in snowbound mountainous areas.
3. It also participated in the Indian Antarctic Programme with research activities on the areas of Antarctic snow cover.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian pompano*

1. The turtle belongs to the fast-growing Carangid family.
2. It is rarely caught in fishermen's nets because of its quite low sea population.
3. The species grow only at higher salinity of about 40-45 ppt (parts per thousand).

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)*

1. Ashfaqullah Khan was the member of HSRA.
2. HSRA published its manifesto titled *Jugantar Patrika*.

Which of 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 *Buxa Tiger Reserve*

1. The Buxa Tiger Reserve serves as an international corridor for elephant migration between India and Nepal.
2. The Royal Manas National Park of Bhutan is contiguous to North of Buxa Tiger Reserve.

Which of 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 *Goldilocks Zone*

1. It is the range of orbital distances from a star at which liquid water can exist on the surface of a planet.
2. The location of a Goldilocks Zone around a star depends on the size and temperature of the star.

Which of 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 with respect to Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

1. Swaraj Dweep
2. Shaheed Dweep
3. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island
4. Little Andaman

**Arrange the Islands from North to South in correct order**

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

**10) 'Zo Kutpui' festival which was in news recently is the festival of?**

- a. Mizo tribes
- b. Bodo Tribes
- c. Garo Tribes
- d. Ho Tribes

**Answers**

1. b

- The Union Cabinet has recently given its approval for the ratification of **Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement** between **India and France**.
- The Agreement was signed in March, 2018 during the State Visit of the French President to India.
- The Agreement represents a major milestone in enhancing people-to-people contacts, fostering mobility of students, academics, researchers and skilled professionals and strengthening cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides.
- The Agreement is a testimony to India's rapidly expanding multi-faceted relationship

with France and symbolizes the increasing trust and confidence between the two sides.

- The Agreement is initially valid for a period of seven years, incorporates provision for automatic renewal and a monitoring mechanism through a Joint Working Group.

2. d

- The Union Cabinet has recently apprised of the Agreement on cooperation in **polar science** between Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), India and Ministry of Education and Research, Sweden.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 2nd December 2019 during the visit of Their Majesties of the Kingdom of Sweden to India.
- **India and Sweden are both signatories to the Antarctic Treaty** and to the Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection.

**Antarctic Treaty**

- The treaty was opened for signature on December 1, 1959, and officially entered into force on June 23, 1961.
- The original signatories were 12 countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- **India** is also a party to the Antarctic Treaty.
- It aims for making **Antarctic Continent as demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research only**.

3. c

- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has recently notified the new **Wetland Conservation Rules**.
- It prohibits setting up or expansion of industries and disposal of construction and demolition waste within the wetlands.
- A wetland is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, and it takes on the characteristics of a distinct ecosystem.

- The Ministry has said that each state and Union Territory will have to set up an authority that will define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction.
- The Authority will prepare a list of all wetlands of the State or UT within three months from the date of publication of these rules.
- It will develop a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence.
- It will also recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities for land within the boundary of notified wetlands.
- The Ministry has also created a web portal for sharing information regarding the implementation of Wetlands Rules where the central government, state governments are required to upload all relevant information and documents pertaining to wetlands in their jurisdiction.

4. d

- **Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE)**, a laboratory of the **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** has issued an Avalanche warning to Leh in Ladakh region.
- SASE is working in avalanche forecasting, artificial triggering and structural control in snowbound mountainous areas.
- SASE also participated in the Indian Antarctic Programme with research activities on the areas of Antarctic snow cover/ ice sheet surface energy balance and melt estimation.

5. b

- *The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI-Visakhapatnam) has recently registered success in cultivation of Indian pompano in a brackishwater pond, scientifically proving its commercial viability.*

#### **Indian pompano**

- The **Indian Pompano**, which belongs to the fast-growing **Carangid family**, has a great demand in the state; especially this **fish** is

rarely caught in fishermen's nets because its sea population is quite low.

- The species is able to acclimatize and grow well **even at a lower salinity of about 15 ppt** (parts per thousand) and, hence, is suitable for farming in saline ponds of coastal areas besides its huge potential for sea cage farming.



6. a

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has recently announced it will **build a 121-acre zoo named after 'Ashfaqullah Khan'**.
- He was the member of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association HSRA.
- **HSRA** published its **manifesto titled "The Revolutionary"** in 1925, which, among other things, said, "The immediate object of the revolutionary party in the domain of politics is to establish a federal Republic of United State of India by an organized and armed revolution.

7. d

- The **4th 'Buxa Bird Festival'** has begun in **Buxa National Park in West Bengal's Alipurduar district**.
- **Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR)** was created in 1983 as the 15th tiger reserve in India.
- In 1986, **Buxa Wildlife Sanctuary** was constituted over 314.52 km<sup>2</sup> of the reserve forests.
- Government of West Bengal finally declared it as a **National park**.

- It serves as an **international corridor for elephant migration between India and Bhutan.**
- The **Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary of Bhutan is contiguous to North of BTR**, Manas Tiger Reserve lies on the east.
- The reserve encompasses as many as 8 forest types.
- The **Avifauna** is rich in both endemic as well as migratory species.
- The swift **rivers of Rydak and Jayanti** are visited by Trans Himalayan Migratory Goosanders, the beautiful Ibis Bill, resident Fork-tails, varieties of Red-stars, Wag-tails.



8. c

- Recently, NASA reported the **discovery of an Earth-size planet**, named “**TOI 700 d**”, orbiting its star in the “**habitable zone**”, also called the “**Goldilocks zone**”.
- The **Goldilocks zone** is the **range of orbital distances from a star** at which **liquid water can exist on the surface of a planet**, without water boils away or freezes.
- This **range of distances changes depending on the size and temperature of the star.**

- **Bigger hotter stars have their Goldilocks Zones further out**, while smaller cooler stars have habitable zones much closer in.

9. c

- **BSNL** have organised a function for **commencement** of cable-laying of **Chennai - Andaman & Nicobar Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Cable System.**
- It will **connect Port Blair to Chennai** and will have further landings in 7 islands: Swaraj Dweep, Long Island, Rangat, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta and Great Nicobar.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are divided into 2 island groups, the **Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands**, which are separated by the **10°N parallel.**



10. a

- The Mizoram State Government is organising “**Zo Kutpui Festival**” across 10 states in the country and also in other countries.
- It will also be organized in Maryland in the **USA**, Tahan in **Myanmar**, Churachandpur in **Manipur** and **Bangladesh.**
- The move is an attempt to **unify and strengthen** the brotherhood among **various Mizo tribes** living in different parts of the world.
- The Mizoram Government is trying to **unify the Mizo population** in the country and also across the world.



- In India, the Mizo population is found in Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram. There are 12 Mizo clans identified.

### 10-01-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *MILAN 2020*

- It is a multilateral naval exercise aimed to enhance professional interaction between friendly foreign navies.
- The theme for the event is “Synergy across the Seas”.
- The event was hosted by India in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY)*

- It aims at strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission & distribution (ST&D) infrastructure in rural areas.
- Financial support for the scheme will be provided 75% by the Ministry of New and Renewable and the remaining 25% through World Bank.
- The Project is proposed to be implemented by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Limited.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)*

- It is the apex body tasked with adjudicating requests by the industry to raze forest land for commercial ends.
- It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements

- It is one among the most venomous four Indian snakes, which are collectively called the infamous “big four”.
- They can be found throughout India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan.
- Recently, scientists were able to decode their genome and identify 14 key toxins.

Identify the species that correctly matches with the above description:

- Indian Cobra
- Common Krait
- Russell’s Viper
- Saw Scaled Viper

5) Which of the following animals were *not* found in Australia?

- Dingo
- Koala
- Echidna
- Wombat

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 3 only
- 2 and 3 only

- c. 1 and 4 only  
d. None

**6) Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger is the project of?**

- a. Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages  
b. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation  
c. Center for Applied Linguistics  
d. Institute of International Education

**7) Consider the following**

1. Crime in India
2. Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India
3. Prison Statistics India
4. Drug Situation Report for India
5. Report on National Cyber Crime

**Which of these reports are published by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)?**

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

**8) Consider the following statements with respect to Lunar Eclipse**

1. Penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon moves through the faint, outer part of Earth's shadow.
2. Total Lunar Eclipse occurs when the entire Moon passes through Sun's umbral shadow.

**Which of 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 term Open-loop scrubber sometime seen in news is related to?**

- a. To remove SOx from the exhaust and operates utilising seawater in marine engines  
b. Primary air filters used in the Nuclear Power plants  
c. To capture heavy particulate matter and reduce carbon emissions from automobiles  
d. None of the above

**10) Consider the following statements with respect to World Health Organization (WHO)**

1. World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO and it is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States.
2. WHO is set to host Health for All Film Festival.

**Which of 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

- MILAN 2020 is a week-long multilateral exercise aimed at enhancing professional interaction and learn from one another's strengths and best practices in the maritime domain.
- The Exercise with the theme 'Synergy across the Seas' would provide an excellent opportunity for Operational Commanders of friendly foreign navies to interact with each other in areas of mutual interest.
- Of the 41 navies invited, confirmations from over 30 navies have been received towards their participation in MILAN 2020.
- With the huge increase in the number of invites, the exercise venue has been shifted this year from *Andaman and Nicobar* to

**Visakhapatnam** for logistical and administrative convenience.

2. d

**Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY) Phase-II**

- **Applications covered:** Solar Street Lights.
- **Financial support:** 75% of the cost by MNRE and balance 25% through MPLAD.
- **Targets:** A total of 3,04,500 Solar Street Lights (SSLs) will be installed in the following states/ regions:
  1. States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Assam, which were covered in Phase-I of the Scheme as there is additional demand in these States.
  2. Hilly States/UTs of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
  3. North Eastern States including Sikkim.
  4. Islands of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep.
  5. Parliamentary constituencies covering 48 aspirational districts of States other than those covered in (i) to (iii) above.
- **Implementing framework:** Project is proposed to be implemented by EESL. Hon'ble MPs of concerning parliamentary constituencies will provide consent letter along with location of lights.
- Respective DM will issue sanction for allocation of funds from MPLAD funds.
- **Achievements:** During Phase I of the Scheme, sanction for allocation of funds from MPLAD fund received for 96 parliamentary constituencies. Out of sanctioned 1.45 lakh Solar Street Lights 1.34 lakh have been installed.
- **Current Status:** Ph-II of the Scheme is under implementation. Consent letters for installation of 1,31,586 SSLs have been received from 120 Hon'ble MPs against which sanction from DMs has been received for 31,426 numbers of SSLs and 13,583 SSLs have been reported installed.

3. c

- The **Forest Advisory Committee**, an apex body tasked with adjudicating requests by the

industry to raze forest land for commercial ends, has recently approved a scheme that could allow “forests” to be traded as a commodity.

- **If implemented**, it allows the **Forest Department** to **outsource** one of its responsibilities of **reforesting** to non-government agencies.
- In the current system, industry needs to make good the loss of forest by finding appropriate non-forest land – equal to that which would be razed.
- It also must pay the State Forest Department the current economic equivalent – called Net Present Value – of the forest land.
- It's then the Forest Department's responsibility to grow appropriate vegetation that, over time, would grow into forests.
- The proposed '**Green Credit Scheme**', as it is called, allows agencies – they could be private companies, village forest communities – to identify land and begin growing plantations.
- After three years, they would be eligible to be considered as compensatory forest land if they met the Forest Department's criteria.
- An industry needing forest land could then approach the agency and pay it for parcels of such forested land, and this would then be transferred to the Forest Department and be recorded as forest land.

4. a

- **Indian Cobra** can be found throughout **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan**.
- Indian cobras belong to the family **Naja Naja**.
- The Indian cobra is now protected in India under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act (1972).
- **Recently, scientists were able to decode their genome and identify 14 key toxins**.
- Scientists hope this discovery will help them produce **anti-venoms**.

- Indian cobra is the first among the most venomous four Indian snakes, which are collectively called the infamous “**big four**”, to be genetically mapped.
- The **Indian cobra**, together with the **common krait**, **Russell’s viper** and **saw scaled viper**, accounts for nearly 46,000 snake bite deaths in the country every year.



5. d

#### **Animals found in Australia**

1. Kangaroo
2. Koala
3. Echidna
4. Wombat
5. Dingo

6. b

- Recently, The New York Times reported that the “**near-extinct**” Nepalese language ‘**Seke**’ has just 700 speakers around the world.
- **UNESCO’s Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger**, project is intended to raise awareness about language endangerment and the need to safeguard the world’s linguistic diversity among policy-makers, speaker communities and the general public.
- It acts as a tool to monitor the status of endangered languages and the trends in linguistic diversity at the global level.
- **UNESCO** provide a **classification system to show just how ‘in trouble’ the language is:**
- **Vulnerable** - most children speak the language, but it may be restricted to certain domains (e.g., home)
- **Definitely endangered** - children no longer learn the language as a ‘mother tongue’ in the home
- **Severely Endangered** - language is spoken by grandparents and older generations; while the parent generation may understand it, they do not speak it to children or among themselves
- **Critically Endangered** - the youngest speakers are grandparents and older, and they speak the language partially and infrequently
- **Extinct** - there are no speakers left.
- As per **UNESCO**,

  1. 57% of the world’s estimated 6,000 languages are safe,
  2. 10% are vulnerable,
  3. 10.7% are definitely endangered,
  4. 9% are severely endangered,
  5. 9.6% are critically endangered and
  6. 3.8% of all languages are extinct since 1950.

7. c

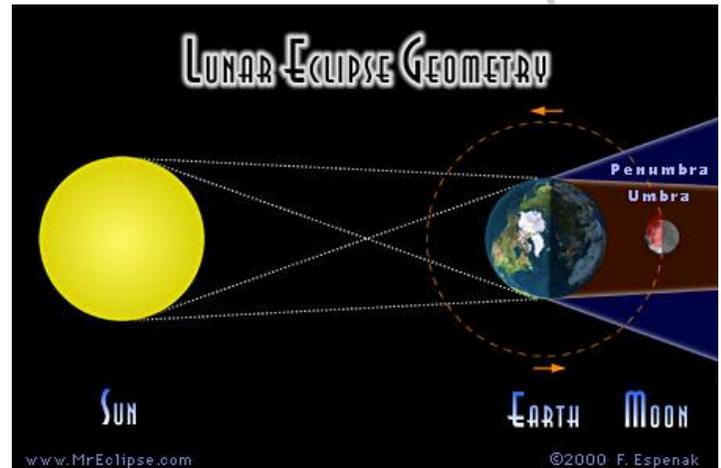
- Latest NCRB crime report shows shifting trends in causes of riots.

- The overall number of cases has dropped, driven by a decline in riot cases over communal and political issues.
- On the other hand, cases due to industrial and water disputes have multiplied.
- **NCRB brings out 3 annual reports, Crime in India, Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India, Prison Statistics India.**
- These reports are principal reference points for police officers, researchers, media & policy makers.
- More women were killed after being raped in 2018 than in 2017.
- According to the latest **NCRB data**, there was a 31% spurt in cases of rape with murder in 2018 as compared to 2017.
- This is the first time NCRB has out out such comparative data.
- It began collecting data on rape with murder only 2017. Such cases were earlier recorded as murder.
- According to the 2018 report, a person has the best chance of getting a complaint registered as an FIR if she is able to go to the police station with an order from a court.
- 99% of complaints that are routed through a court are registered as FIRs, the data show.

8. a

- The first **Lunar eclipse** of the year 2020 fall on January 10, where the Earth will cast a shadow on the Moon when it passes directly behind the planet.
- A lunar eclipse happens when the Sun, the Earth, and the Moon are aligned in a line and the Earth is between the Sun and the Moon blocking the sunlight from reaching the Moon.
- The **lunar eclipse of January 10 will be a "Penumbral eclipse"** where the **Moon moves through the faint, outer part of Earth's shadow.**
- A **penumbral lunar eclipse** happens when the **three bodies are imperfectly aligned** and usually this eclipse is mistaken as a full moon.

- **Partial Lunar Eclipse** - A portion of the **Moon** passes through **Earth's umbral shadow.**
- **Total Lunar Eclipse** - The **entire Moon** passes through **Earth's umbral shadow.**



9. a

- Recent report shows that a **Huge increase in Open-loop scrubber usage in ships.**
- It is to **remove SOx from the exhaust and operates utilising seawater in marine engines.**
- **Open loop scrubbers release sulphur exhaust** that they clean in ships back into the sea and are thus **more harmful than Closed loop scrubbers.**
- According to GlobalData, a data and analytics company, there are currently 3,756 vessels with scrubbers installed, compared to just 767 in 2018. Out of these, only 65 have closed-loop, rest are all open-loop.
- The **International Maritime Organisation's (IMO)** adopted the **International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex VI** in 2008.
- It regulates the prevention of air pollution from ships and prohibits deliberate emissions of ozone-depleting substances such as sulphur oxides and nitrous oxides.
- Following the adoption, **exhaust scrubbers have become one of the most preferred**

**ways of reducing sulphur exhaust** as they 'scrub' pollutants out of emissions.

- c. 1, 2 and 3  
d. None

10. c

- On the occasion of **73rd World Health Assembly**, WHO will host the **first-ever "Health for All Film Festival"** in Geneva.
- Films are a powerful way to raise awareness, improve understanding and encourage action.
- WHO is inviting filmmakers, both amateur and professional, to participate in the inaugural film festival by submitting short videos falling in one of 3 categories.
- Working with 194 Member States, across 6 regions, WHO united in a shared commitment to achieve better health for everyone, everywhere.
- **The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO.**
- It is **attended by delegations from all WHO Member States** and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.
- The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.

**11-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal**

1. It is a citizen-centric initiative that will enable citizens to report cyber crimes online through the portal.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. This portal also focuses on specific crimes like financial crime and social media related crimes.

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

- a. 1 only  
b. 1 and 2 only

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **State Energy Efficiency Index 2019**

1. The Index highlights the achievements of India's energy policies and provides recommendations to support the government's goals of promoting well-functioning energy markets and boosting deployment of renewables.
2. It was released by International Energy Agency, in partnership with NITI Aayog.

Which of 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 **India 2020: Energy Policy Review Report**

1. The report incorporates qualitative, quantitative and outcome-based indicators to assess energy efficiency initiatives, programs and outcomes in five distinct sectors.
2. The Report is prepared by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in association with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).

Which of 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) **Baba Kalyani committee** is related to which of the following?

- a. Special Economic Zone Policy



- b. Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises Policy
- c. Loss making Public Sector Undertakings
- d. National Education policy Review

5) *Global Economic Prospects Report 2020* was published recently by which of the following organisations?

- a. World Bank
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. International Monetary Fund
- d. None of the above

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

1. A specific family of viruses which affects mammals such pigs, cattle, cats, dogs, camels but not humans.
2. MERS and SARS are the types of Coronaviruses.

Which of 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 *Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)*

1. It functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. The Organization is headed by secretary to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)*

1. The Chairman and non-official members, all of whom are appointed by Central Government.
2. It also regulates and certifies the content available on Over The Top platforms.

Which of 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) *Wings India 2020* which was in news recently to be organised by?

- a. Ministry of Civil Aviation
- b. Airports Authority of India
- c. FICCI
- d. All of the above

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

1. Ukraine is separated from Russia by the Kerch Strait, which connects the Sea of Azov to the Black Sea.
2. Bulgaria shares border with Ukraine.

Which of 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

- *Ministry of Home Affairs* has recently inaugurated the *Indian Cyber Crime*

**Coordination Centre (I4C)** and also dedicated **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** to the Nation recently.

- This state-of-the-art Centre is located in New Delhi.
- **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** ([www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)) is a citizen-centric initiative that will enable citizens to report cyber crimes online through the portal.
- All the cyber crime related complaints will be accessed by the concerned law enforcement agencies in the States and Union Territories for taking action as per law.
- It enables filing of all cyber crimes with specific focus on crimes against **women, children**, particularly child pornography, child sex abuse material, online content pertaining to rapes/gang rapes, etc.
- This portal also focuses on specific crimes like **financial crime and social media related crimes** like stalking, cyber bullying, etc.
- This portal will improve coordination amongst the law enforcement agencies of different States, district.

2. d

- **State Energy Efficiency Index 2019** tracks the progress of Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives in 36 states and union territories based on 97 significant indicators.
- The index is developed by **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** in association with **Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)**.
- It will help states contribute towards national goals on energy security and climate action by helping drive EE policies and program implementation at the state and local level, tracking progress in managing the states' and India's energy footprint and institutionalising the data capture and monitoring of EE activities by states.
- The State Energy Efficiency Index 2019 incorporates qualitative, quantitative and outcome-based indicators to assess energy efficiency initiatives, programs and outcomes in **five distinct sectors – buildings,**

**industry, municipalities, transport, agriculture, and DISCOMs.**

- New indicators for this year include adoption of **Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017, energy efficiency in MSME clusters**, etc.
- For rational comparison, States/UTs are grouped into four groups based on aggregated Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) required to meet the state's actual energy demand (electricity, coal, oil, gas, etc.) across sectors.
- TPES grouping shall help states compare performance and share best practices within their peer group.
- Under four categories based on TPES, Haryana, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Puducherry and Chandigarh have been evaluated as progressive states/UTs in the State Energy Efficiency Index 2019.
- In partnership with **NITI Aayog, International Energy Agency (IEA)** has recently released the first in-depth review of India's energy policies.
- The report **highlights the achievements** of India's energy policies and **provides recommendations to support the government's** goals of promoting well-functioning energy markets and boosting deployment of renewables.
- IEA regularly conducts in-depth reviews of energy policies for its member and association countries.
- This is the **first review carried out for India**, which has been an IEA-association country since March 2017.

### **Highlights of the Report**

- The IEA report congratulates the Indian government on its outstanding achievements in extending citizens' access to electricity, affordable efficient lighting and clean cooking in record time through historic schemes like SAUBHAGYA, UJALA and UJJWALA, while pursuing energy market reforms and the swift deployment of renewable technologies.

- The report highlights the strong growth of renewables in India, which now accounts for almost 23% of the country's total installed capacity.
  - The review also found that energy efficiency improvements in India avoided 15% of additional energy demand, oil and gas imports, and air pollution as well as 300 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions between 2000 and 2018.
  - India is becoming increasingly influential in global energy trends. The country's demand for energy is set to double by 2040, and its electricity demand may triple, according to the IEA report.
  - The report will help India to design implementation strategies to achieve secure and sustainable energy access for its citizens.
4. a
- *Union Commerce and Industry & Railways Minister recently chaired a meeting in New Delhi to review the remaining recommendations of the **Baba Kalyani report on Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy of India.***
  - Commerce and Industry Minister examined the revamp of the SEZ policy with a view to meeting the global challenges being faced by Indian exporters.
  - Discussions were also held to find a way out for implementation of the remaining recommendations in order to facilitate the ease of doing business in the present global market scenario.
  - The Baba Kalyani led committee was constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to study the existing SEZ policy of India and had submitted its recommendations in November 2018.
  - The objectives of the committee were to evaluate the SEZ policy and make it WTO compatible, suggest measures for maximizing utilization of vacant land in SEZs, suggest changes in the SEZ policy based on international experience and merge the SEZ policy with other Government schemes like coastal economic zones, Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor, national industrial manufacturing zones and food and textile parks.
5. a
- The **World Bank** had recently cut India's growth for financial year 2020 to 5% from 6% estimated earlier.
  - The lowered GDP forecast comes recently after the country's statistics office pegged growth in the current fiscal at five per cent, which is the lowest in 11 years.
  - The bank's **Global Economic Prospects report** released recently cited a **lingering weakness in credit from non-banking financial companies** (NBFCs) as the main cause for the downgrade.
6. b
- On January 9, 2020, the WHO reported that a **new coronavirus** had been preliminarily **identified by Chinese authorities.**
  - The virus is **associated with an outbreak of pneumonia** in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
  - **Coronaviruses** are a **specific family of viruses**, with some of them causing less-severe damage, such as the common cold, and others causing respiratory and intestinal diseases.
  - A coronavirus has many "regularly arranged" protrusions on its surface, because of which the entire virus particle looks like an emperor's crown, hence the name "**coronavirus**".
  - **Human coronaviruses** are common throughout the world.
  - **Six different coronaviruses**, that scientists know of, **can infect people and make them sick.**
  - **Apart from human beings, coronaviruses can affect mammals** including pigs, cattle, cats, dogs, martens, camels, hedgehogs and some birds.
  - The best known are the **SARS corona virus** and the **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)** coronavirus, **both of which can cause severe respiratory diseases.**

- **Two newer human coronaviruses, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, have been known to frequently cause severe illness.**
7. a
- Government launches **paperless licensing through PESO for road tankers**, with a view to promote ease of doing business.
  - **Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)**, is the nodal Organization to look after the safety requirements in manufacture, storage, transport and use of explosives and petroleum.
  - The **Organization is headed by Chief Controller of Explosives** with its headquarter located at Nagpur.
  - It is a **statutory authority under** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
8. a
- **CBFC starts implementation of new certificate design**, the certificate will have a new and modern look.
  - The new design underlines the positive, user-friendly and dynamic approach of the CBFC and its board.
  - **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** is a **statutory body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**
  - It regulates the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.
  - The Certification process is in accordance with,
    1. The Cinematograph Act, 1952,
    2. The Cinematograph (certification) Rules, 1983, and
    3. The guidelines issued by the Central government u/s 5 (B).
  - The Board consists of **non-official members and a Chairman all of whom are appointed by Central Government.**
  - At present it does not regulate or certify the content available on Over The Top platforms OTTs.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has sought to undertake the ginormous task of regularising and certifying the content available on OTTs, calls for talks with the major stakeholders of the prevalent OTTs, including Netflix, Amazon Prime Now, Hotstar.
9. d
- **Wings India 2020** is the **Asia's largest and most popular gathering in the industry**, to be held at Hyderabad from 12-15 March 2020.
  - **Organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt. of India, AAI and FICCI.**
  - The event is expected to attract top leaders, special invitees in foreign ministers for civil aviation and global CEOs, suppliers, strategic partners, organizations and the media.
  - It is a platform for the aviation fraternity to discuss challenges along with new developing growth spots that can be targeted to ensure a positive curve.
10. a
- Iranian military admitted to unintentionally shooting down a Ukrainian aircraft.
  - **Ukraine**, country located in eastern Europe, the second largest on the continent after Russia.
  - The capital is Kyiv (Kiev), located on the Dnieper River in north-central Ukraine.
  - **Ukraine's international border** is 4,345 miles in length and is **shared with the following 7 countries:**
    1. Moldova
    2. Poland
    3. Hungary
    4. Russia
    5. Slovakia
    6. Belarus
    7. Romania
  - **Ukraine is separated from Russia by the Kerch Strait**, which connects the Sea of Azov to the Black Sea.

- The **Dnieper River**, with its hydroelectric dams, huge reservoirs, and many tributaries, dominates the entire central part of Ukraine.



- 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 *The NIA Amendment Act 2019*

- The amendment enables the central government to designate sessions courts as special courts for NIA trials.
- It gives NIA extra-territorial jurisdiction, allows the agency to register a case when Indians living abroad or India's assets based in a foreign country come under attack from terrorists.

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

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

**18-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Yada Yada virus*

- It belongs to a group of viruses that only infect mosquitoes.
- Yada Yada virus outbreak was recently reported in China.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)*

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.
- Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are the member states of SCO.

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

4) *Taal Volcano* which was recently in news is located in

- New Zealand
- Philippines
- The island of Hawaii
- Indonesia

5) Consider the following statements with respect to '*Classical*' languages in India

- Currently only six languages enjoy the Classical status.
- Malayalam is the latest addition to the Classical languages list.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Blue Flag' certification

1. It can be obtained by a beach or a sustainable boating tourism operator and serves as an eco-label.
2. The certification is awarded by the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS).

Which of 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 Commissionerate system*

1. The office has magisterial powers, including those related to regulation, control, and licensing.
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) *Kyaukpadaung town* which was in news recently is located in

- a. Hong Kong
- b. Myanmar
- c. Taiwan
- d. Bangladesh

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Article 131 of the Constitution of India*

1. The provision under which the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction to deal with any dispute between the Centre and a state.
2. It can be used to settle political differences between state and central governments headed by different parties.

Which of 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 the *A(H9N2) virus* which was in news recently

1. It is a subtype of the influenza A virus, which causes human influenza as well as bird flu.
2. The viruses are found in wild birds and are endemic in poultry in some countries.

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

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

### Answers

1. a

- A novel virus detected in Australian mosquitoes has been named the **Yada Yada virus (YYV)**.
- When the team of researchers extracted RNA from a large number of mosquitoes in **Australia's Victoria state**, they found a **new alphavirus**, which belonged to a group

that includes other alphaviruses such as chikungunya virus and the eastern equine encephalitis.

- Yada Yada is an alphavirus, a group of viruses that the researchers described as small, single-stranded positive-sense RNA viruses.
- Even so, the **novel virus poses no threat to human beings**, because **it is a part of a group of viruses that only infect mosquitoes**.
- Other viruses in the same group include the **Tai forest alphavirus** and the **Agua Salud alphavirus**.
- In **China**, the **disease is caused by a Coronavirus**, a member of a family of viruses that can cause respiratory ailments ranging from colds to pneumonia.

2. a

- India to invite Pakistan PM Imran Khan to regional **SCO summit**.
- **India set to host the SCO summit for the first time** later this year.
- The SCO is a **China-led economic and security bloc** to which India and Pakistan were admitted in 2017.
- It is a **permanent intergovernmental international organisation**, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China).
- The **SCO comprises 8 member states** namely,
  1. The Republic of India,
  2. The Republic of Kazakhstan,
  3. The People's Republic of China,
  4. The Kyrgyz Republic,
  5. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
  6. The Russian Federation,
  7. The Republic of Tajikistan, and
  8. The Republic of Uzbekistan.
- The SCO counts **4 observer states** namely,
  1. the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,
  2. the Republic of Belarus,

3. the Islamic Republic of Iran and
4. the Republic of Mongolia.
- The SCO has **6 dialogue partners** namely,
  1. the Republic of **Azerbaijan**,
  2. the Republic of Armenia,
  3. the Kingdom of Cambodia,
  4. the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal,
  5. the Republic of Turkey, and
  6. the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- The SCO's **official languages are Russian and Chinese**.

3. d

- Recently the Chhattisgarh government moved the Supreme Court against the **National Investigation Act 2008**, stating it is violative of the Constitution.
- In its civil suit, the government told the apex court the NIA should have no power over state policing matters.
- According to the state, the Act allows the Centre to create an agency for investigation, which is a function of the state police.
- **Police** is an entry in the **State List** of the Constitution's 7th Schedule.
- The **2019 NIA Amendment Act** expanded the type of offences that the investigative body could investigate and prosecute.
- The amendment also enables the **central government to designate sessions courts as special courts for NIA trials**.
- The **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment (UAPA)**, also passed in **2019**, allows an NIA officer to conduct raids, and seize properties that are suspected to be linked to terrorist activities without taking prior permission of the Director General of Police of a state.
- The investigating officer only requires sanction from the Director General of NIA.
- It **gives NIA extra-territorial jurisdiction**, it allows the agency to register a case when Indians living abroad or India's

assets based in a foreign country come under attack from terrorists.

4. b

- In the **Philippines**, a **volcano called Taal** on the island of Luzon, erupted on Sunday (January 12).
- Although **Taal is a tiny volcano**, the eruption has caused concerns in the Philippines.
- **Taal is classified as a “complex” volcano** by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).
- A complex volcano, **also called a compound volcano**, is defined as one that **consists of a complex of two or more vents**, or a volcano that has an associated volcanic dome, either in its crater or on its flanks. Examples include Vesuvius, besides Taal.
- The **volcano is currently at alert level 4**, which means that a **“hazardous eruption”** could be imminent within a few hours to a few days.
- Hazardous eruptions are characterised by intense unrest, continuing seismic swarms and low-frequency earthquakes.
- Because the country is situated at the boundaries of 2 tectonic plates, the **Philippines** Sea Plate and the Eurasian plate, it is particularly **susceptible to earthquakes and volcanism**.

5. a

- At the recently concluded 93rd edition of the **Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan**, a **resolution was passed demanding the declaration of Marathi as a ‘Classical’ language**.
- The **Sammelan**, an **annual conference of Marathi writers**, was started in 1878, and over the years has been headed by leading Marathi intellectuals.
- Currently, **six languages enjoy the ‘Classical’ status**: Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).
- **Odia** is the **latest addition** to the list.

6. a

- Recently, the Centre issued an **Extraordinary Gazette Notification** declaring a list of activities and facilities that would be permissible in the **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)** areas of certain beaches, which have been identified for obtaining the **‘Blue Flag’ certification**.
- In July 2019, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) had identified 13 beaches across the country for the Blue Flag certification, and announced a list of activities that would be permissible in their respective CRZ zones for that purpose.
- The new notification issued on January 9 contains a bigger list, and supersedes the previous notification.
- The **‘Blue Flag’** is a certification that **can be obtained by a beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator**, and serves as an **eco-label**.
- The certification is **awarded by the Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**.
- It is **awarded annually to beaches and marinas in FEE member countries**.
- The world-renowned **certification is known as an indication of high environmental and quality standards**.
- **47 countries currently participate in the program**, and 4,573 beaches, marinas, and boats have this certification.
- In its July 2019 notification, the Environment Ministry identified the **following beaches in India for Blue Flag certification**: Shivrajpur (Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat), Bhogave (Sindhudurg, Maharashtra), Ghoghla (Diu, Daman and Diu), Miramar (Panjim, Goa), Kasarkod (Karwar, Karnataka), Padubidri (Udupi, Karnataka), Kappad (Kozhikode, Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Mahabalipuram (Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu), Rushikonda (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Puri, Odisha), and Radhanagar (Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar).

7. c
- The **Uttar Pradesh** Cabinet approved the **Commissionerate system of policing** for state capital **Lucknow and Noida**.
  - In the arrangement in force at the district level, a **'dual system' of control exists**, in which the **Superintendent of Police (SP) has to work with the District Magistrate (DM)** for supervising police administration.
  - At the **metropolitan level**, many states have replaced the dual system with the **commissionerate system**, as it is supposed to allow for **faster decision-making** to solve complex urban-centric issues.
  - In the **commissionerate system**, the **Commissioner of Police (CP) is the head of a unified police command structure**, is responsible for the force in the city, and is accountable to the state government.
  - 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. b
- **China to develop a multi-billion-dollar deep sea port in Myanmar's Kyaukpyu town** along the Bay of Bengal.
  - A development that will concern India which already has two Chinese-built ports around it.
  - Under **China's Belt and Road project**, the deal between Beijing and Nay Pyi Taw was signed on Thursday after years of stalled talks over the financing of the project.
  - Located on the western coast of Myanmar in Rakhine state, the scaled-down port, part of a special economic zone (SEZ)
9. a
- **Kerala** became the **first state to challenge the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) before the Supreme Court**.
  - The **Kerala government has moved the apex court under Article 131** of the Constitution.
  - The provision under which the **Supreme Court has original jurisdiction to deal with any dispute between the Centre and a state**; the Centre and a state on the one side and another state on the other side; and two or more states.
  - For a dispute to qualify as a dispute under **Article 131**, it **has to necessarily be between states and the Centre**, and **must involve a question of law or fact** on which the existence of a legal right of the state or the Centre depends.
  - **Article 131 cannot be used to settle political differences** between state and central governments headed by different parties.
10. c
- **Indian scientists have detected the country's first case of infection with a rare variant of the virus** that causes avian influenza, or bird flu.
  - **India's first case of Avian influenza or Bird flu caused by a rare variety of H9N2 virus** has been reported in a 17-month-old boy of Maharashtra.
  - **H9N2 is a subtype of the influenza A virus**, which causes **human influenza** as well as **bird flu**.
  - The H9N2 subtype was isolated for the first time in Wisconsin, US in 1966 from turkey flocks.
  - The **viruses are found in wild birds and are endemic in poultry in some countries**.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ virus \_\_\_\_\_ has, **spread extensively among poultry populations**.
  - As per NIV scientists, **H9N2 viruses have been witnessed in Indian poultry several times, but for the first time, a**

**human case has come up.** This infection is mostly transmitted by air droplet, dust, feed, or water.

- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None

**20-01-2020**

**1) Women Business and the Law (WBL) 2020 Index was released recently by which of the following organisations?**

- a. World Bank
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. UN Women
- d. World Trade Organisation

**2) Which of the following is/are true with respect to Hydrophones?**

- 1. It converts electrical energy into acoustic energy
- 2. It transmits sounds underwater and help in large scale fishing
- 3. They are also used in reflection seismology to record the energy waves reflected by the subsurface geology

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**3) With respect to Irrawaddy dolphins, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is not a true river dolphin, but an oceanic one.
- 2. They were found in South and Southeast Asia.
- 3. It is listed as endangered species under the IUCN Red list.

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

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

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to K-4 Missiles**

- 1. It is a nuclear capable ballistic missile having a strike range of 3500km.
- 2. It is being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- 3. It is developed for being deployed on the fleet of the Kalvari Class nuclear submarines.

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

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

**5) A new Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Blockchain Technology was inaugurated recently by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology at which of the following?**

- a. Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- b. Hyderabad, Telangana
- c. Kolkata, West Bengal
- d. Bengaluru, Karnataka

**6) TrueNat which was in news recently is related to?**

- a. A new class of antibiotics to combat drug resistance
- b. A Earth-like exoplanet
- c. A new molecular test to diagnosis TB
- d. None of the above



7) Consider the following statements with respect to *The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) report*

1. The report is based on an annual survey on Schools across India.
2. The 'Early Years' ASER collects data on the schooling or pre-schooling status of children in the age group 4-8 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) Consider the following statements with respect to *Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery & Artefacts*

1. Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal and is voluntary in nature.
2. In India, gold and silver have been brought under the purview of hallmarking.

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

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

9) India's first ever *Model Sports Village* is set to be launched in?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Karnataka
- c. Haryana
- d. Uttar Pradesh

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bru Community*

1. Bru also known as Reang are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group in Tripura and Mizoram.
2. Under the new agreement the Bru refugees would get all the rights that normal residents of the States get.

Which of 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

- India placed **117th** among 190 countries on the **Women Business and the Law (WBL) 2020 Index** to measure economic empowerment of women, released by World Bank recently.
- India scored 74.4 on a par with Benin and Gambia and way below least developed countries like Rwanda and Lesotho.
- The global average was 75.2 – a slight increase from 73.9 in the previous index released in 2017.
- The study tracked “how laws affect women at different stages in their working lives and focusing on those laws applicable in the main business city”.
- The Index is based on the countries’ formal laws and regulations that have a bearing on women’s economic participation, covering eight areas (eg, parenthood, equality of pay).
- Only eight economies scored a perfect 100 – Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Sweden.
- Those countries have ensured equal legal standing to men and women on all the eight indicators of the index.

2. d
- A **hydrophone** is an underwater listening device.
  - Just as a microphone is used to detect sound in the air, a hydrophone detects sounds in the water and converts the **acoustic energy into electrical energy**.
  - Hydrophones listen to sounds in the sea, but **do not transmit any sound**, making them passive listening devices.
3. c
- *146 Irrawaddy dolphins were sighted recently in Chilika during the annual census conducted by Forest department.*
  - India's largest brackish water lake Chilika is home to their highest single lagoon population.
  - The Irrawaddy dolphin is **not a true river dolphin**, but an oceanic one that **lives in brackish water** near coasts, river mouths and in estuaries.
- Highlights of 2020 Census**
- 146 dolphins sighted in the lagoon.
  - GPS tracking binocular used for first time.
  - Motorised boats by fishermen and tourist boats barred during the day.
  - 113 dolphins sighted in 2019.
  - 162 spotted in 2018.
4. b
- India had successfully test-fired the **3,500 km strike range nuclear-capable K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile** off the coast of Andhra Pradesh.
  - The test-firing was carried out from an underwater platform in the sea during the daytime.
  - The missile is being developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for being deployed on the fleet of the **Arihant Class** nuclear submarines being built by India.
  - **K-4** is one of the two underwater missiles that are being developed by India for its submarine force.
- The other one is the over **700-kilometre** strike range **BO-5**.
5. d
- A new Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Blockchain Technology, which will strive to adapt emerging technology to create e-governance solutions, was inaugurated recently by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
  - **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** has set up the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology and is the third such centre, following CoE for **Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence**.
  - The Centre of Excellence will facilitate the Government Departments in building proof of concepts for use of Blockchain technology in different dimensions of governance leading to large scale deployment of some such applications.
  - With National Informatics Centre (NIC) providing a robust and an agile infrastructure, the CoE shall also provide Blockchain as a Service (BaaS) for efficient hosting of Blockchain network.
6. c
- Recently, WHO had mentioned that the **India-made Truenat MTB, a molecular diagnostic test for pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB and rifampicin-resistant TB, has high accuracy**.
  - Truenat is developed by the Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics.
  - The company was provided with technical assistance and resources by the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) to help commercialise Truenat.
  - ICMR had assessed and validated the diagnostic tool.
  - Truenat is battery operated and portable, hence, it can be used in remote places.
7. b
- The **Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)** is being released by a non-governmental organisation **Pratham** since 2005.

- Recently, **ASER 2019 report** was released by **Pratham**.
- The report is based on an **annual household survey**.
- It focus on **children aged between 6 years and 14 years in Rural India**.
- The **'Early Years' ASER** collects data on the schooling or pre-schooling status of children in the **age group 4-8 years**.
- In addition, it explores the selected competencies that international research has identified as important predictors of future success.
- These competencies can be categorized in 4 domains: early language acquisition, early numeracy skills, cognitive abilities, and social and emotional learning.

8. c

- The government has made **hallmarking** for gold jewellery and artefacts **mandatory from 15 January 2021**, to ensure quality.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs will issue a notification for making gold hallmarking mandatory.
- **Currently gold hallmarking is voluntary, this will become mandatory from January 15, 2021.**
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is already running a hallmarking scheme for gold jewellery since April 2000 and around 40% of gold jewellery is being hallmarked currently.
- Instead of 10 grades earlier, hallmarked gold jewellery will now be available **in three grades of 14 carat, 18 carat and 22 carat**.
- For violation of the norms, there is a provision for a fine of a minimum Rs 1 lakh and up to 5 times of the value of article as well as 1 year jail.
- In India, **at present 2 precious metals namely gold and silver** have been brought under the purview of **hallmarking**.

9. d

- **'Bahadurpur'** and **'Kheri Viran'** villages in **Uttar Pradesh** are set to **become India's first 'Model Sports Villages'**.
- It is a part of **Institute of Management Technology (IMT)** Ghaziabad's plan to evolve a sports culture in the country.
- Under the **'Adarsh Khel Gram' program**, IMT in association with NGO **'Sports: A Way of Life'**, will evolve sports culture and increase sports literacy in the twin villages.
- This will be carried out by distributing free booklets, sports magazines and books that will provide the villagers with basic knowledge.
- All verandahs, courtyards will be developed as primary sports ground management.
- One hour everyday from 4pm-5pm will be the designated time to play sports.
- **IMT** will also provide all Olympic related sports equipment to every child in every house.
- Talent hunt will be carried with the help of several inter and intra village tournaments among other things.

10. b

- Recently, the Centre, Tripura, and Mizoram government have signed an agreement with the **Bru/Reang community** that promises to end their 23-year-old internal displacement crisis.
- The agreement, allowing 30,000 Bru tribals to permanently settle in Tripura, and would be given aid from the Centre to help with their rehabilitation and all round development, through a package of around Rs 600 crores.
- These **people would get all the rights that normal residents of the States get** and they would now be able to enjoy the benefits of social welfare schemes of Centre and State governments.
- **Bru or Reang is a community indigenous to Northeast India**, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam.
- In **Tripura**, they are **recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.

**21-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *U.N. Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)*

1. It has been established by UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution.
2. It has been tasked with monitoring the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan.
3. The number of observers under the UNMOGIP was doubled recently following the demand of Government of India.

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

2) With respect to *Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Treaty*, consider the following statements:

1. It was brought in 1974, in response to the Indian nuclear test: "Smiling Buddha".
2. All the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are among its members.
3. India, Pakistan and Israel are the only nuclear countries that are non signatories to this agreement.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme*

1. It is being organised by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. The programme aims at providing an opportunity to tribal youth to visit different places to understand the culture, language, lifestyles.

Which of 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) *Global Social Mobility Report* was recently released by?

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- c. UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- d. Amnesty International

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Economic Forum (WEF)*

1. It is the International Organization for public-private cooperation established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation.
2. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. This organisation was formerly known as the European Management Forum.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Declaration of 'Reciprocating territory' by India*

1. Orders passed by certain designated courts from a reciprocating territory can be implemented in India.
2. United Arab Emirates and Singapore are the only countries declared as reciprocating territory by 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 *Xenobots*

1. It is a tiny robots built from the cells of clawed frog, that can move around on their own.
2. It is a cloned species of animal.

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) *Time To Care* report which was in recently is released by?

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. World Health Organisation
- c. Paris School of Economics
- d. Oxfam International

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Duty-free gifts imports in India*

1. The import of goods including those purchased from e-commerce portals through post or courier where Customs clearance is sought as gifts, is prohibited.

2. The life-saving drugs/medicines and rakhi are the only things exempted from this prohibition.

Which of 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 *Permafrost*

1. It is any ground that remains completely frozen at or below 32°F for at least two years straight.
2. It is made of a combination of soil, rocks and sand.
3. A layer of soil on top of permafrost stays frozen all year.

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. b

- **UNMOGIP** has been established by UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution and started its operations in 1949.
- It has been tasked with monitoring the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan has recently said that there was an urgent need for the U.N. Security Council to insist India to allow the U.N. Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) return to Kashmir.
- India maintains that the UNMOGIP has outlived its utility and is irrelevant after the

Simla Agreement and the consequent establishment of the Line of Control.

2. a

- India, Pakistan, Israel and **South Sudan** have not signed the treaty.
- **North Korea** acceded to the NPT in 1985 and then withdrew in 2003.
- *Iran has recently said that, it will consider withdrawing from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) if a dispute over its atomic programme goes before the United Nations Security Council.*
- Britain, France and Germany launched a process, charging Iran with failing to observe the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal.
- Iran has accused the three European Union member states of inaction over sanctions the United States re-imposed on it after unilaterally withdrawing from the landmark accord in 2018.
- **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)** was brought in 1974– in response to the Indian nuclear test (*Smiling Buddha*).

3. b

- 12th **Tribal Youth Exchange Programme** has been jointly organized by the **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)** of **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** and **Puducherry Government** with a view to ensure development and empowerment of the tribal youths.
- The programme aims at providing an opportunity to tribal youth to visit different places to understand the culture, language, lifestyles, educational avenues, development activities and educational opportunities.

4. a

- India has been ranked very low at 76th place out of 82 countries on a new **Social Mobility Index** compiled by the **World Economic Forum**, while Denmark has topped the charts.
- The Global Social Mobility Report, released ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the WEF, also lists India among the five countries that stand to gain the most from a better social mobility score that seeks to measure parameters necessary for creating societies

where every person has the same opportunity to fulfil his potential in life irrespective of socioeconomic background.

5. d

- The World Economic Forum is the International Organization for **Public-Private Cooperation**.
- It was established in **1971** as a **not-for-profit foundation** and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- It is independent, impartial and not tied to any special interests.
- This organisation was formerly known as the **European Management Forum**.
- The Forum strives in all its efforts to demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest while upholding the highest standards of governance.

6. a

- Last week, the **Ministry of Law and Justice** issued an Extraordinary Gazette Notification, **declaring the United Arab Emirates to be a “reciprocating territory”** under **Section 44A of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908**.
- The notification also declared a list of courts in the UAE to be “superior Courts” under the same section.
- **Apart from Dubai, the other countries declared to be “reciprocating territories” are:** United Kingdom, Singapore, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Trinidad & Tobago, New Zealand, the Cook Islands (including Niue) and the Trust Territories of Western Samoa, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Aden.
- The orders passed by certain designated courts from a ‘reciprocating territory’ can be implemented in India, by filing a copy of the decree concerned in a District Court here.
- The courts so designated are called ‘superior Courts’.
- “Reciprocating territory” means any country or territory outside India which the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare to be a reciprocating territory.

- **Section 44A (1)** provides that a decree passed by “a superior Court” in any “reciprocating territory” can be executed in India by filing a certified copy of the decree in a District Court, which will treat the decree as if it has been passed by itself.
- According to Explanation-2, the scope of the Section is restricted to decrees for payment of money, not being sums payable “in respect of taxes or other charges of a like nature or in respect of a fine or other penalty”
- It also cannot be based on an arbitration award, even if such an award is enforceable as a decree or judgment.
- The decision is believed to help bring down the time required for executing decrees between the two countries.
- Indian expatriates in the UAE would no longer be able to seek safe haven in their home country if they are convicted in a civil case in the UAE.

7. b

- Scientists in the United States have created the **world’s first “living machines”**, tiny robots built from the cells of the African clawed frog, that can move around on their own.
- They have named the millimetre-wide robots “**Xenobots**”, after the species of aquatic frog found across sub-Saharan Africa from Nigeria and Sudan to South Africa, *Xenopus laevis*.
- Scientists have repurposed living cells scraped from frog embryos and assembled them into entirely new life-forms.
- They have the ability to move independently and in a group and all of their movements can be programmed as well.
- The xenobots can move toward a target, perhaps pick up a payload (like a medicine that needs to be carried to a specific place inside a patient) and heal themselves after being cut.
- They were neither a traditional robot nor a known species of animal, but **a new class of artefact - a living, programmable organism.**

8. d

- Recently, **Oxfam**, an international non-profit organisation has released the **study ‘Time to Care’** ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- **Oxfam’s annual report** reveals that the hidden engine of world economy is driven by the unpaid care work of women and girls.
- Oxfam is a global movement of people, working together to end the injustice of poverty.
- **Oxfam India** is leading NGO of people and organisations **working hand on hand to fight inequality in India.**
- The report flagged that global inequality is shockingly entrenched and vast and the number of billionaires has doubled in the last decade.
- India's richest 1% hold more than four-times the wealth held by 953 million people who make up for the bottom 70% of the country's population, while the total wealth of all Indian billionaires is more than the full-year budget.

9. c

- Recently, the Pravasi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) has raised the concern over the government move to ban duty-free ‘gifts’ imports in India.
- According to PCCI the Centre’s move to clamp down on Chinese goods coming into the country through the e-commerce route as duty-free ‘gifts’ could affect genuine gifts sent by individuals working in foreign countries to their family and friends and a distinction needs to be made between the two.
- **As per a notification of the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade** last month, **import of goods, including those purchased from e-commerce portals through post or courier where Customs clearance is sought as gifts, is prohibited, except for life-saving drugs/medicines and ‘rakhi’.**
- The move to ban such ‘gifts’ was aimed at stopping Chinese e-commerce Websites such as Ali Express, Club Factory, and Shein which were prolific users of the route.

- Prior to this the Centre allowed 'gifts' up to Rs. 5,000 to be shipped to customers through customs without payment of customs duties.
- The **PCCI** is a Kerala-based body representing interests of Indian workers abroad, especially in the GCC countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and UAE.

10. a

- A **recent study** makes a disturbing connection between the **loss of Arctic sea ice and thawing of Permafrost** in the region, with global implications.
- Researchers found that loss of sea ice was the primary driver of thawing permafrost throughout Earth's climate history.
- The study shows that permafrost in the Siberian region was thawing intermittently during the period when Arctic summer sea ice was absent (between 1.5 and 0.4 million years ago).
- After 0.4 million years ago the permanent sea ice was established in the Arctic.
- At the same time, Siberian permafrost became constant with no thawing events occurring till present.
- **Permafrost** is any ground that remains **completely frozen at 32°F (0°C) or colder for at least two years straight.**
- These permanently frozen grounds are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth's higher latitudes near the North and South Poles.
- It is **made of a combination of soil, rocks and sand that are held together by ice.**
- The soil and ice in permafrost stay frozen all year long.
- A **layer of soil on top of permafrost does 'not' stay frozen all year.** This layer, called the **'active layer'**, thaws during the warm summer months and freezes again in the fall.
- As Earth's climate warms, the permafrost is thawing, that means the ice inside the permafrost melts, leaving behind water and soil.

- Thawing permafrost can have dramatic impacts on our planet and the things living on it.

**22-01-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Startup Advisory Council***

1. It aims to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and start-ups in the country.
2. It will be chaired by the Minister for Commerce & Industry.
3. The council will consist of both official and non official members.

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *East Asian Observatory***

1. It is formed by East Asian Core Observatories Association (EACOA).
2. India is a full member of this consortium formed for the purpose of pursuing joint projects in astronomy within the East Asian region.

**Which of 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 *Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC)***

1. It was established in Durban, South Africa by India.

2. It is the first centre to be established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

- c. 1, 2 and 3  
d. None

Which of 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 *Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana*

- Under the scheme, if a farmer or any member of his family dies while working in a field then they will be given financial assistance of 10 lakh rupees.
- It was launched by the Government of Telangana.

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

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

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

- It is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It is the only cosponsored Joint Programme in the United Nations system.
- It is the only United Nations entity with civil society represented on its governing body.

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

- a. 1 only  
b. 3 only

6) Consider the following

- Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)
- Hydrobromofluorocarbon (HBFC)
- Halons
- Methyl bromide
- Carbon tetrachloride

Which of these are Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)?

- a. 1, 2, 4 and 6 only  
b. 1, 3, 5 and 6 only  
c. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only  
d. All of the above

7) *Mauna Kea* which was in news is located in?

- a. Island of Hawaii  
b. Papua New Guinea  
c. Borneo Island  
d. Caribbean Islands

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*

- It is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly.
- It is part of the UN Secretariat and it reports to the UN General Assembly and the Economic & Social Council.
- World Investment Report and Review of Maritime Transport are its Flagship Reports.

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pulse Polio Programme*

1. Children in the age group of 0-6 years are administered polio drops under this programme.
2. WHO removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild polio virus transmission.

Which of 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

1. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
2. The International Development Association (IDA)
3. The International Finance Corporation (IFC)
4. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
5. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)
6. The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

Which of these are a part of *World Bank Group*?

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

- The Central Government has recently notified the structure of the **National Startup Advisory Council** to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.
- It will be chaired by **Minster for Commerce & Industry**.
- The Council will consist of the **non-official members**, to be nominated by Central Government, from various categories like founders of successful startups, veterans who have grown and scaled companies in India, persons capable of representing interests of investors into startups, persons capable of representing interests of incubators and accelerators and representatives of associations of stakeholders of startups and representatives of industry associations.
- The **term of the non-official members** of the Startup Advisory Council will be for a period of **two years**.
- The nominees of the concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, will be **ex-officio members** of the Council.
- **Joint Secretary**, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) will be the **Convener of the Council**.
- The Council will suggest measures to foster a culture of innovation amongst citizens and students in particular,
  1. Promote innovation in all sectors of economy across the country, including semi-urban and rural areas
  2. Support creative and innovative ideas through incubation and research and development to transform them into valuable products
  3. Processes or solutions to improve productivity and efficiency and create an environment of absorption of innovation in industry.
- It will also suggest measures to
  1. Facilitate public organizations to assimilate innovation with a view to improving public service delivery

## Answers

1. d

2. Promote creation, protection and commercialization of intellectual property rights
  3. Make it easier to start, operate, grow and exit businesses by reducing regulatory compliances and costs
  4. Promote ease of access to capital for start-ups
  5. Incentivize domestic capital for investments into start-ups
  6. Mobilize global capital for investments in Indian start-ups
  7. Keep control of startups with original promoters
  8. Provide access to global markets for Indian startups.
2. a
- The **EAO (East Asian Observatory)** is formed by **EACOA (East Asian Core Observatories Association)** for the purpose of pursuing joint projects in astronomy within the East Asian region.
  - East Asian Observatory consists of **China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea** as **full members** and **Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia** as **'observers'**.
  - India is in preliminary discussions to be a part of the East Asian Observatories Consortium of eight countries committed to build large telescopes and pool resources.
  - The intention of EAO is to build and operate facilities, which will enhance and leverage existing and planned regional facilities.
  - The intention of EAO is to raise funding and to build an observatory staff, separate from that of the EACOA institutions.
  - As partners of the EAO, the EACOA institutes will help to establish the funding and to oversee the governance of EAO.
  - The communities represented by the partners in EAO would have full access to all EAO facilities.
3. b
- *Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou jointly inaugurated the first convention centre established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi recently.*
- The establishment of the **Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC)** is a landmark for India-Niger friendship, as also a symbol of India's firm commitment towards Africa.
  - It is the first centre to be **established in Africa by India** to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi whose 150th Birth Anniversary was observed last year.
4. d
- Uttar Pradesh Government has launched the **Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana** which will provide financial assistance to family of farmers who die or become handicapped while working in fields.
  - Under the scheme, if a farmer or any member of his family dies while working in a field then they will be given financial assistance of **five lakh rupees**.
  - For the first time, the scheme will also include the **Bataidars**, who work in the field of other persons and share the crop after it is harvested.
  - The scheme will cover farmers and their family members in the age group of 18-70 years.
  - U.P government has also decided to implement **Mukhyamantri Paryatan Samvardhan Yojana** to boost tourism in state.
  - Under Mukhyamantri Paryatan Samvardhan Yojana one tourist point will be developed with a fund of 50 lakh rupees in each and every assembly segment of the state.
5. c
- UNAIDS**
- It is leading the global effort **to end AIDS** as a public health threat by **2030** as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.
  - UNAIDS is a model for United Nations reform and is the **only cosponsored Joint Programme** in the United Nations system.
  - It draws on the experience and expertise of 11 United Nations system Cosponsors and is

the **only United Nations entity with civil society represented on its governing body.**

- It places people living with HIV and people affected by the virus at the decision-making table and at the centre of designing, delivering and monitoring the AIDS response.
- It charts paths for countries and communities to get on the Fast-Track to ending AIDS and is a bold advocate for addressing the legal and policy barriers to the AIDS response.
- The Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) and Chemical & Fertilizers participated in the High-level roundtable of UNAIDS (The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) held recently on the theme “**Access for all: Leveraging Innovations, Investments and Partnerships for Health**” at World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.

6. d

- A new study from researchers at Columbia University examined the greenhouse warming effects of Ozone-depleting substances (ODS).
- It found that the Ozone-depleting substances acted as a strong supplement to carbon dioxide, the most pervasive greenhouse gas.
- **Ozone-depleting substances** caused half of Arctic warming and sea ice loss from 1955 to 2005, causing about a third of all global warming during that period, reveals a study.
- Ozone depleting substances are man-made gases that destroy ozone once they reach the ozone layer.
- Ozone depleting substances include:
  1. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
  2. Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)
  3. Hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs)
  4. Halons
  5. Methyl bromide
  6. Carbon tetrachloride
  7. Methyl chloroform.
- A class of widely used chemical coolants known as **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC)** also contributes to ozone depletion by a **small but measurable amount**, countering

a decades-old assumption, according to a NASA study.

7. a

- India, co-builder of **Hawaii telescope**, wants it shifted out of proposed site.
- The \$2 billion project, a joint venture involving 5 countries, has been marred by protests for over a decade; proposed site is considered sacred to the island’s indigenous people.
- The **TMT or Thirty Metre Telescope**, as it is called, is a joint venture (JV) involving 5 countries, proposed at **Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano in Hawaii.**
- It is an inactive volcano that rises 13,796 feet (4,205 meters) above sea level.
- **Hanle, in Ladakh**, was also in the running to host the TMT, but lost out to Mauna Kea, which is considered a superior site due to the imaging possibilities it offers and its stable weather.

8. d

- **India** attracted \$49 billion FDI in 2019, among top 10 recipients of overseas investment according to the **UNCTADs - Global Investment Trend Monitor report.**
- With 16% surge in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in 2019, India drove the FDI growth in South Asia.
- In the developed economies, FDI flows fell by 6% to an estimated \$643 billion from their revised \$683 billion in 2018.
- It remained at a historically low-level, at half of their peak in 2007.
- FDI flows to developing economies remained stable at an estimated \$695 billion, added the report.
- According to the report, the global FDI remained flat in 2019, at \$1.39 trillion, a decline of 1% from a revised \$1.41 trillion in 2018.
- This is against the backdrop of weaker macroeconomic performance and policy uncertainty for investors, including trade tensions.

9. b

- January 18 marked the beginning of this year's **Pulse Polio Programme**.
- The Union health ministry has launched the campaign to check the disease that affects children at a young age.
- With the global initiative of eradication of polio in 1988 following World Health Assembly resolution in 1988, **Pulse Polio Immunization programme was launched in India in 1995**.
- **Children in the age group of 0-5 years** administered polio drops during National and Sub-national immunization rounds (in high risk areas) every year.
- The Pulse Polio Initiative was started with an objective of achieving hundred per cent coverage under Oral Polio Vaccine.
- **WHO** on 24th February 2012 **removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild polio virus transmission**.
- The last polio case in the country was reported from Howrah district of West Bengal with date of onset 13th January 2011.

10. b

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** blames India for global slowdown, lowers 2019 growth forecast to 4.8%.
  - The IMF estimated world economic growth at 1.9% for 2019, 0.1% point lower than its earlier forecast.
  - The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** is an organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.
  - The **World Bank Group** consists of **5 Institutions, 1 Group**
1. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
  2. The International Development Association (IDA)

3. The International Finance Corporation (IFC)
  4. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
  5. The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
- The World Bank Group is a unique global partnership, 5 institutions working for sustainable solutions that reduce poverty and build shared prosperity in developing countries.
  - **To become a member of the World Bank**, under the IBRD Articles of Agreement, a country must first join the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Membership in IDA, IFC and MIGA are conditional on membership in IBRD.

**What is the difference between the World Bank Group and the IMF?**

Founded at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944, the two institutions have complementary missions. The **World Bank Group** works with developing countries to reduce poverty and increase shared prosperity, while the **International Monetary Fund** serves to stabilize the international monetary system and acts as a monitor of the world's currencies. The **World Bank Group** provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments, and also focuses on strengthening the private sector in developing countries. The **IMF** keeps track of the economy globally and in member countries, lends to countries with balance of payments difficulties, and gives practical help to members. Countries must first join the IMF to be eligible to join the World Bank Group; today, each institution has 189 member countries.

**23-01-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to INTERPOL notices**

1. **Yellow Notice** is issued to help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
2. **Orange Notice** is issued to seek the location and arrest of wanted persons



wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements

- Congress passed the Poorna Swaraj resolution in its 1929 Lahore Session.
- Motilal Nehru was the president of that Congress session.

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

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

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

- It is a half-humanoid robot developed by ISRO which will travel to space as part of its manned space mission.
- It has been configured to attain launch and orbital postures, generate warnings for CO<sub>2</sub> and canister replacements.

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 *Yarrabubba*

- It is the Earth's oldest known impact structure.

- Earth's surface is geologically active and constantly changing making it difficult to determine the impact craters.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *NIRVIK scheme*

- It is a Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) introduced by Ministry of Finance.
- It is to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process.

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

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

6) With respect to *SERVICE Scheme* which was launched recently, consider the following statements:

- It will promote and facilitate philanthropist activities by the Central Government employees across India in a structured manner.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

7) India drops 10 ranks in *Democracy Index* which was released recently. It was prepared by?

- UN Democracy Fund
- International Democracy Watch
- The Economist Intelligence Unit
- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

8) The Government of Kerala is planning to implement the following initiatives. Consider the following pairs with respect to those initiatives:

*Initiatives – Inspired from*

- Sponge City Initiative – Russia
- Room for River Programme – Netherlands

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

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

9) With respect to *Sub-categorization within Other Backward Classes Committee*, consider the following statements:

- It's one of the objective is to study the various entries in the Central List of OBCs and recommend correction of any repetitions, ambiguities, inconsistencies and errors of spelling or transcription.
- The Commission was constituted under Article 371 of the Indian Constitution.
- The Commission was headed by Justice (Retd.) Rohini.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar*

- It was instituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It aims to felicitate meritorious children, individuals and institutions of the country.
- It is given under three categories namely Bal Shakti Puraskar, Bal Kalyan Puraskar and Bal Nirmal Puraskar.

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

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

### Answers

1. a

- Recently INTERPOL issued a **Blue Corner notice** to help locate fugitive self-styled godman Nithyananda, weeks after the Gujarat Police sought the agency's intervention for this.
- INTERPOL Notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.
- Notices are published by the General Secretariat at the request of a National Central Bureau and are made available to all our member countries.
- Notices can also be used by the United Nations, International Criminal Tribunals and the International Criminal Court to seek persons wanted for committing crimes within their jurisdiction, notably genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- Orange Notice - To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.

2. b

- 26 January 1950 was the day India's Constitution came into effect, and the country became a republic.
- The day 26 January was chosen for a particular reason, as it marked a key event in the struggle for India's freedom.
- In **1929, Lahore** hosted the Indian National Congress session, in which **Jawaharlal Nehru was president**.
- On **December 31, 1929, Nehru hoisted the tricolour** on the banks of the Ravi river and **demanding "Poorna Swaraj"** or complete self-rule, and the date set for independence was January 26, 1930.
- The day was then celebrated as Poorna Swaraj day for the next 17 years.
- On **January 26, 1930, the Congress passed the Poorna Swaraj resolution** or the Declaration of Independence.
- The Poorna Swaraj day, January 26 has since been celebrated as the country's Republic Day.

3. b

- **ISRO** has presented a prototype of the **half-humanoid, named Vyommitra**, that will be sent into space.
- It is a **part of the 'Unmanned' mission** in December 2020.
- **Before India actually sends humans** to venture out into space **in 2022, the ISRO is sending a half-humanoid robot** by the **end of 2020**.
- The **human team will consist of 3 men**. Although there is no female onboard the Gaganyaan when it finally takes off in 2022, the **humanoid robot is a woman**.
- **Vyommitra** has been configured to attain launch and orbital postures, respond to the environment in the crew module, generate warnings for CO<sub>2</sub> and canister replacements.
- She can also operate switches, can receive voice commands and can respond via speech.
- The **humanoid can speak in two languages** and can lip-sync to speech.

4. c

- Evidence that the 70km wide **Yarrabubba crater** in outback **Western Australia** may be the **Earth's oldest known meteorite impact** structure has been presented in the journal Nature Communications.
- **Dated at 2.229 billion years**, 200 million years older than the next known asteroid strike at Vredefort Dome in South Africa.
- **Unlike the moon, Earth's surface is geologically active and constantly changing**.
- This makes it difficult to determine the oldest impact craters because erosion and active tectonic plates bury the evidence.
- To determine that Australia's Yarrabubba crater is the oldest, researchers conducted an isotopic analysis of minerals within the crater. Zircon and monazite, both minerals found at the site, had undergone "shock" recrystallization caused by an asteroid strike.

5. b

- Union Cabinet to consider **Nirvik (Niryat Rin Vikas Yojana) scheme** to give fillip to export credit.
- **Ministry of Commerce & Industry through Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC)** has introduced a new **Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS)** called **NIRVIK**.
- It is **to enhance loan availability** and ease the lending process.
- Under ECIS, insurance cover percentage has also been enhanced to 90% from the present average of 60% for both Principal and Interest.

6. d

- **Minister of Steel** has recently launched a scheme by **SAIL for Voluntary Philanthropist Activities (VPA)** by its employees.
- The scheme called **"SAIL Employee Rendering Voluntarism and Initiatives for Community Engagement (SERVICE)"** will promote and facilitate philanthropist activities by the employees in a structured manner.

- A portal for the employees to register for the scheme was also launched.
- “The dedicated interactive **“SAIL SERVICE” portal** for implementation of this scheme shall act as a platform for enabling faster interaction and communication amongst the various stakeholders.
- It shall eventually be developed as a repository of knowledge management in this regard.

7. c

- India dropped 10 places in the Democracy Index’s global ranking to 51st place, with the survey describing the erosion of civil liberties in the country as the primary cause of the democratic regression.
- The Democracy Index - prepared by **Economist Intelligence Unit**, the research and analysis division of The Economist Group - provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories.
- It is based on **electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture and civil liberties**.
- India’s overall score, on a scale of 0-10, fell from 7.23 in 2018 to 6.90 in 2019, with the survey listing India among countries where there were “regressions”.
- In the Asia and Australia region, India ranked eighth, behind countries such as Timor-Leste, Malaysia and Taiwan.
- By contrast, Norway topped the index, with a score of 9.87, while North Korea was at the bottom of the global rankings, with a score of 1.08.
- China’s score fell to 2.26, and it is now ranked 153rd, close to the bottom of the rankings.

8. b

- The floods in the past two years had devastating effects on the state of Kerala.
- Learning from the disasters, the irrigation department is planning major initiatives to reduce the intensity and frequency of floods.

- One of the major initiatives planned is **‘Sponge City’**, which was effectively implemented in **China**.
- The department is planning to implement a similar sponge city initiative in Kochi on a pilot basis, and later in other urban areas.
- In sponge city, urban areas with more spaces for wetlands, ponds and permeable spaces, can passively absorb rainwater and thus reduce the severity of floods.
- In addition to China’s sponge city, the department is also planning to implement **‘Room For River’ programme** inspired from the **Netherlands** in Kuttanad.

9. b

- The Government has constituted a Commission on 2nd October, 2017 under **article 340 of the Constitution** to examine the issues of the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes with the following terms of reference:
  1. To examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes or communities included in the broad category of Other Backward Classes with reference to such classes included in the Central List;
  2. To work out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters in a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within such Other Backward Classes; and
  3. To take up the exercise of identifying the respective castes or communities or sub-castes or synonyms in the Central List of Other Backward Classes and classifying them into their respective sub-categories.
- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the extension of the term of the Commission by six months that is up to 31.7.2020.
- The Cabinet has also approved addition of following Term of Reference to the existing Terms of Reference of the Commission.
  4. **To study the various Entries in the "Central List of OBCs and recommend correction of any repetitions, ambiguities, inconsistencies and errors of spelling or transcription."**



- The Commission was headed by **Justice (Retd.) Smt. G. Rohini**.
10. b
- Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar instituted by **Women and Child Development Ministry** to felicitate meritorious **children, individuals and institutions** of the country is given under **two categories** i.e., Bal Shakti Puraskar and Bal Kalyan Puraskar.
  - The **Bal Shakti Puraskar** aims to give **recognition to children** who have made extraordinary achievements in various fields including innovation, scholastic, sports, art and culture, social service and bravery, whereas the **Bal Kalyan Puraskar** is given as **recognition to individuals and institutions**, who have made an outstanding contribution towards service for children in the field of child development, child protection and child welfare.
  - These awards are given by the President of India on the week preceding Republic Day every year.

**24-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)**

1. It is a national multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to study the sustainability standards ecosystem in India.
2. It will be developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI).

Which of 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) An e-waste clinic was recently opened at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Consider the following statements with respect to that e-waste clinic:

1. It is India's first e-waste clinic set up to enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units. .
2. It is jointly setting up by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of 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 **Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)**

1. FEMBoSA was established at the 3rd Conference of Heads of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of SAARC Countries held at New Delhi.
2. 10th annual meeting of the FEMBoSA is hosted by the Election Commission of India at New Delhi.
3. India is the Vice Chair of FEMBoSA for the year 2020.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to **Genocide Convention**

1. According to the Convention, genocide is a crime that can take place both in time of war as well as in time of peace.

2. The definition of genocide under the convention does not include cultural genocide.
3. India and Myanmar ratified the convention.

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

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

5) The *Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)* is an index published annually by?

- a. German Watch
- b. Oxfam International
- c. World Economic Forum
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Enemy properties in India*

1. Enemy properties were those left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan only.
2. The enemy properties were vested by the concerned state government in the Custodian of Enemy Property for 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) Which of the following are correct according to the *Preamble* of the Constitution of India?

- a. In our Constituent Assembly this 26th day of November, 1949, do hereby Adopt, Enact and solemnly resolved to give Ourselves this Constitution

b. In our Constituent Assembly this 26th day of November, 1949, do hereby Adopt, Enact And Give to the people of India, this Constitution

c. In our Constituent Assembly this 26th day of November, 1949, do hereby Adopt, Enact And Give to Ourselves this Constitution

d. None of the above

8) *Global Talent Competitive Index* is released by?

- a. World Intellectual Property Organization
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. INSEAD
- d. Both A and C

9) Consider the following

1. Senegal
2. Guinea
3. Mali

*Gambia* shares border with which of these country/Countries?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Electoral bonds*

1. The electoral bond will be valid only for fifteen days from the date of purchase.
2. The donor will get a tax deduction and the recipient, or the political party, will get tax exemption, provided returns are filed by the political 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

## Answers

1. d
- NITI Aayog has recently released its vision for the **National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)**.
  - The platform will be developed by **NITI Aayog**.
  - The platform aims to democratize access to publicly available government data.
  - It will host the latest datasets from various government websites, present them coherently, and provide tools for analytics and visualization.
  - NDAP will follow a **user-centric approach** and will enable data access in a simple and intuitive portal tailored to the needs of a variety of stakeholders.
  - NDAP with its mission to be a one-stop and user-friendly data platform, will go a long way in transforming India's data ecosystem.
2. a
- The India's **first e-waste clinic** is being opened in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh recently.
  - It will enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from **both household and commercial units**.
  - The e-waste clinic is jointly setting up by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC)**.
  - The e-waste clinic is being started on the basis of a three-month pilot project.
  - If this project is successful, e-waste clinics will be established at other places in the country.
  - BMC officials informed that electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the e-waste clinic.
  - The CPCB will provide technical support to the clinic.
3. b
- The **Election Commission of India** is going to host the **10th annual meeting** of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) at New Delhi.
- India will also take over as **Chair of FEMBoSA for 2020**.
  - FEMBoSA was established at the 3rd Conference of Heads of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of **SAARC Countries** held at New Delhi from April 30 to May 2, 2012 through a unanimously adopted resolution on 1st May, 2012 to establish the Forum.
  - The Conference also unanimously adopted the Charter of the Forum.
  - The annual FEMBoSA meeting is held by **rotation among the members**.
  - The last (9th) annual meeting of FEMBoSA was held in Dhaka in September 2018.
  - Besides ECI, the other 7 members are EMBs from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
  - The FEMBoSA represents a very large part of the democratic world and is an active regional association of the election management bodies of South Asia.
  - The objectives of the Forum are:
    1. To promote contact among the EMBs of the SAARC countries
    2. Share experiences with a view to learning from each other
    3. Cooperate with one another in enhancing the capabilities of the EMBs towards conducting free and fair elections.
4. d
- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (**Genocide Convention**) is an instrument of international law that codified for the first time the crime of genocide.
  - According to the Convention, genocide is a crime that can take place both in time of **war as well as in time of peace**.
  - The definition contained in Article II of the Convention describes genocide as a crime committed with the intent to destroy a

national, ethnic, racial or religious group, in whole or in part.

- It **does not include political groups or so called “cultural genocide”**.
- About 45 United Nations Member States have not yet ratified the Genocide Convention.
- **India and Myanmar** ratified the convention.
- **The International Court of Justice (ICJ) at Hague recently ordered the Myanmar government to take measures to prevent the genocide of Rohingyas as part of its obligations under the Genocide Convention.**

5. d

- India has been ranked at the 80th position among 180 countries and territories in the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2019** prepared by **Transparency International**.
- India's score of 41 out of 100 remains the same.
- The CPI, released at the WEF 2020 ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption.
- Denmark and New Zealand have cornered the top spot, followed by Finland, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland in the top ten.
- With a score of 41, India is at the 80th spot.
- The rank is also shared by China, Benin, Ghana and Morocco. Neighbouring Pakistan is ranked at the 120th place.

## Status check

The Corruption Perceptions Index uses a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The global average for 2019 is 43

Country	Score In 2019	Rank In 2019	Change In rank from '18
Denmark	87	1	0
New Zealand	87	1	1
U.K.	77	12	-1
U.S.	69	23	-1
India	41	80	-2
China	41	80	7
Brazil	35	106	-1
Pakistan	32	120	-3
Russia	28	137	1
Bangladesh	26	146	3
Somalia	9	180	0

6. d

- A Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Home Minister will monitor the disposal of over 9,400 enemy properties, which are likely to fetch about Rs.1 lakh crore to the exchequer.
- **Enemy properties** were those **left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China**.
- The **Enemy Property Act, enacted in 1968**, provided for the continuous vesting of enemy property in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India.
- The **central government** through the **Custodian** is in possession of enemy properties spread across many states in the country.
- Some movable properties too, are categorised as enemy properties.

7. c

- Recently, Maharashtra government directed rural local bodies to hold a **collective reading of the Preamble** to the Constitution before flag-hoisting ceremonies, starting January 26.
- It had made it mandatory for school students across the state to read the Preamble during the morning assembly.

- A preamble is an introductory statement in a document that explains the document's philosophy and objectives.
- The Preamble reads - IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.
- The **ideals behind the Preamble** to India's Constitution were laid down by **Jawaharlal Nehru's Objectives Resolution**, adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947.

8. c

- **India climbed 8 positions** in a year to reach **rank 72** in the **Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2020**.
- The index is **developed by INSEAD** in partnership with The Adecco Group and Google.
- This index looks at the ability to attract, grow and retain talent by a country.
- The index, which includes 70 variables and covers 132 countries. **Switzerland, the US and Singapore lead the index**.
- The 6 metrics used to decide a country's rank are - enable, attract, grow, retain, vocational skills and global knowledge skills.
- GTCI is an Input-Output model in the sense that it combines an assessment of what countries do to produce and acquire talents (Input) and the kind of skills that are available to them as a result (Output).

9. b

- Recently, the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** ruled that **Myanmar** must take effective measures to protect its **Rohingya** Muslims.
- In November last year, the **Republic of the Gambia** moved the ICJ against Myanmar over alleged violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
- The **Gambia urged the ICJ to direct Myanmar to stop the genocide** and allow

the safe and dignified return of forcibly displaced Rohingya.

- The **Gambia and Myanmar are parties to the Genocide Convention** that allows a party to move the ICJ for violations.
- **Gambia is a West African country that rests within the broader African nation of Senegal.**
- The only border of Gambia that is not encompassed by Senegal is Gambia's westernmost border, which lies on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Gambia's northernmost point of extremity lies in a place by the name of **Ker Maka Tukolor**.



10. c

- The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) released a report on the sale of **electoral bonds** since the scheme was launched in 2018.
- The report, based on a response to a query under the RTI Act, said 12,313 electoral bonds worth Rs 6,128.72 crore were sold in 12 phases from March 2018 to October 2019, and political parties redeemed 12,173 of these for Rs 6,108.47 crore. This accounts for 99.67% of the total bond value.
- The electoral bond will be valid only for fifteen days from the date of purchase.

- The bonds not encashed within the validity period of 15 days are to be deposited by the authorised bank with the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.
- The **donations are tax deductible**. Hence, a **donor will get a deduction** and the **recipient**, or the political party, **will get tax exemption**, provided returns are filed by the political party.

**25-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)*

1. It is a quasi judicial institution specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts.
2. The orders passed by the ITAT are final, an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.

Which of 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 *NISHTHA Programme*

1. It aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian and foreign institutions.
2. The programme will be organized by constituting National Resource Groups (NRGs) and State Resource Groups (SRGs) at the National and the State level.

Which of 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 *Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution*

1. It deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur.
2. Union Territory of Ladakh was recently granted 6th Schedule Area status.

Which of 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) In which of the following matters, the powers and status of the State Legislative Councils are unequal to that of the State Legislative Assembly?

1. Selection of ministers including the chief minister.
2. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the assembly and not in the council.
3. The council is not even a revising body like the Rajya Sabha; it is only a dilatory chamber or an advisory body.
4. The council cannot remove the council of ministers by passing a no confidence motion.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Voters' Day (NVD) 2020*



1. It is being organized by the Election Commission of India.
2. The theme for NVD 2020 is “Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy”.

Which of 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 *Polio*

1. For a country to be declared polio-free, wild transmission of poliovirus type 2 has to be stopped.
2. Oral polio vaccine (OPV) contains inactivated (killed) poliovirus strains of all three poliovirus type

Which of 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 *Measles*

1. It is a highly contagious viral disease and a cause of death among young children globally.
2. India was the 5th country in WHO's Southeast Asia region to eliminate measles.

Which of 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 *Reproductive and Sexual Rights of Women*

1. In India the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 provides for termination of pregnancy only up to 24 weeks.
2. MTP Act allows AYUSH doctors and Nurses to provide the abortion service.

Which of 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 term *Archaea* sometime seen in news is related to?

- a. A newly discovered Asteroid
- b. A disease caused by Coronavirus
- c. A new invisible Monster galaxy
- d. A single-celled Microorganism

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Hemorrhagic septicemia (Sahana disease) outbreak* which was in news recently

1. It is a severe bacterial disease that mainly affects cattles.
2. It can be transmitted by ingestion or inhalation, either during direct contact or via fomites such as contaminated feed and water.

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

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

### Answers

1. c

- *Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)* is a quasi judicial institution set up in January, 1941 and specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts.
  - The orders passed by the ITAT are **final**, an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.
2. b
- The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the Elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called **NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement** under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **Samagra Shiksha in 2019-20**.
  - NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".
  - It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.
  - The functionaries (at the state, district, block, cluster level) shall be trained in an integrated manner on learning outcomes, school based assessment, learner – centred pedagogy, new initiatives in education, addressing diverse needs of children through multiple pedagogies, etc.
  - This will be organized by constituting **National Resource Groups (NRGs) and State Resource Groups (SRGs)** at the National and the State level who will be training 42 lakhs teachers subsequently.
  - A robust portal/Management Information System (MIS) for delivery of the training, monitoring and support mechanism will also be infused with this capacity building initiative.
3. d
- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, on the other hand, deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Union Tribal Affairs Ministry has recently **proposed** 6th Schedule Area status to Union Territory of Ladakh.
4. b
- The constitutional position of the council (as compared with the assembly) can be studied from two angles:
1. Spheres where council is equal to assembly.
  2. Spheres where council is unequal to assembly.
- Equal with Assembly**
- In the following matters, the powers and status of the council are broadly equal to that of the assembly:
1. Introduction and passage of ordinary bills. However, in case of disagreement between the two Houses, the will of the assembly prevails over that of the council.
  2. Approval of ordinances issued by the governor.
  3. Selection of ministers including the chief minister. Under the Constitution the, ministers including the chief minister can be members of either House of the state legislature. However, irrespective of their membership, they are responsible only to the assembly.
  4. Consideration of the reports of the constitutional bodies like State Finance Commission, state public service commission and Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
  5. Enlargement of the jurisdiction of the state public service commission.
- Unequal with Assembly**
- In the following matters, the powers and status of the council are unequal to that of the assembly:
1. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the assembly and not in the council.
  2. The council cannot amend or reject a money bill. It should return the bill to the assembly within 14 days, either with recommendations or without recommendations.
  3. The assembly can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendation of the council. In both the cases, the money bill is deemed to have been passed by the two Houses.
  4. The final power to decide whether a particular bill is a money bill or not is vested in the Speaker of the assembly.

5. The final power of passing an ordinary bill also lies with the assembly. At the most, the council can detain or delay the bill for the period of four months—three months in the first instance and one month in the second instance. In other words, the council is not even a revising body like the Rajya Sabha; it is only a dilatory chamber or an advisory body.
  6. The council can only discuss the budget but cannot vote on the demands for grants (which is the exclusive privilege of the assembly).
  7. The council cannot remove the council of ministers by passing a no confidence motion. This is because, the council of ministers is collectively responsible only to the assembly. But, the council can discuss and criticise the policies and activities of the Government.
  8. When an ordinary bill, which has originated in the council and was sent to the assembly, is rejected by the assembly, the bill ends and becomes dead.
  9. The council does not participate in the election of the president of India and representatives of the state in the Rajya Sabha.
  10. The council has no effective say in the ratification of a constitutional amendment bill. In this respect also, the will of the assembly prevails over that of the council.
  11. Finally, the very existence of the council depends on the will of the assembly. The council can be abolished by the Parliament on the recommendation of the assembly.
5. c
- The 10th **National Voters' Day** is being celebrated recently.
  - It is celebrated at over ten lakh locations across the country including Polling Stations, District and State headquarters.
  - The theme this year is '**Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy**'.
  - It sets the tone for year-long activities focusing on voter education and renewal of citizens' faith in the electoral process.
  - The Day is celebrated since 2011 to mark the Foundation day of Election Commission of India, which was established on 25th January 1950.
6. d
- In the last 1 year or so, polio has made a comeback in countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia, Ghana, Myanmar, China, Cameroon, Indonesia and Iran, mostly as vaccine-derived polio infection.
  - All these countries had wiped the virus out at various times during the last couple of decades; some, such as Iran and Malaysia, had done so even earlier.
  - **Oral polio vaccine (OPV) contains an attenuated (weakened) vaccine-virus**, activating an immune response in the body.
  - When a child is immunized with OPV, the weakened vaccine-virus replicates in the intestine for a limited period, thereby developing immunity by building up antibodies.
  - During this time, the vaccine-virus is also excreted.
  - In areas of inadequate sanitation, this excreted vaccine-virus can spread in the immediate community.
  - In very rare instances, the vaccine-virus can genetically change into a form that can paralyse this is what is known as a circulating **vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV)**.
  - **Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) consists of inactivated (killed) poliovirus strains** of all three poliovirus types.
  - IPV is given by intramuscular or intradermal injection and needs to be administered by a trained health worker.
  - There are **3 variants of the polio virus**, numbered 1 to 3.
  - **For a country to be declared polio-free, wild transmission of all 3 kinds has to be stopped.**
  - For eradication, cases of both wild and vaccine-derived polio infection to be reduced to zero.

7. a
- **India** has stepped in to help the **Maldives tackle** a recent **outbreak of Measles**.
  - It despatched over 30,000 doses of measles and rubella (MR) vaccine to the island nation.
  - It is a **highly contagious viral disease** and is a cause of death among young children globally.
  - **Sri Lanka** was the **5th country** in the WHO southeast Asia region to **eliminate measles**.
8. d
- Abortion in India is legal under the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971**.
  - The MTP Act provides for **termination only up to 20 weeks**.
  - There is a **proposal** to amend MTP Act immediately to **allow AYUSH doctors and Nurses to provide it**.
  - According to MTP, women are allowed to terminate an unwanted pregnancy without providing any reason within 12 weeks and for pregnancy exceeding 20 weeks, women have to get certificate or recommendation from two certified doctors/medical practitioners.
9. d
- Scientists at the **National Centre for Microbial Resource – National Centre for Cell Science (NCMR-NCCS)** in Pune have **reported a new Archaeon**, which they **discovered in Sambhar Salt Lake in Rajasthan**.
  - **Archaeon** (a kind of microorganism), are a **primitive group of microorganisms** that thrive in extreme habitats such as hot springs, cold deserts and hypersaline lakes.
  - These slow-growing organisms are **also present in the human gut**, and have a potential relationship with human health.
  - They are **known for producing antimicrobial molecules**, and for anti-oxidant activity with **applications in eco-friendly waste-water treatment**.
  - The new archaeon has been named **Natrialba Swarupiae**.
- As archaea are relatively poorly studied, very little is known about how archaea behave in the human body.
10. c
- Recently **40 buffaloes** die of **Haemorrhagic septicaemia (Sahana disease)** in Odisha's Kendrapara.
  - **Hemorrhagic septicemia is a severe bacterial disease** caused by certain strains.
  - The disease is also spread through contact with infected animals, contaminated clothing, equipment, and through ingestion or inhalation of the bacteria.
  - It is an **important cause of livestock mortality in tropical regions of Asia, Africa and the Middle East**.
  - It **also occurs occasionally in other animals** and has caused severe outbreaks in endangered saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*) in Kazakhstan.
  - One outbreak in 2015 killed more than half the saiga population.
  - **Buffalo are especially sensitive**. Goats, sheep, pigs and horses may also get the disease, whereas people are not affected.
  - The disease is caused by a **bacteria called Pasteurella Multocida**.
  - The bacteria may be present in animals without causing disease.
  - Under some circumstances when the animals are weaker and more stressed than normal the bacteria multiply and disease suddenly appears.

**27-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bharat Parv*

1. It is an annual event organised to encourage foreign tourists to visit different tourist spots in India.
2. The Central theme of *Bharat Parv 2020* is 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' and 'Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi'.

3. It is being organised by the Ministry of Tourism.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Padma Awards*

1. Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.
2. The award may be conferred posthumously.
3. The award may be conferred to foreigners also.

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

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

3) An Adhoc Committee instituted recently by the Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu has made 40 far reaching recommendations to prevent sexual abuse of children and to contain access to and transmission of child pornography content on the social media. Who among the following is the Chairman of the Committee?

- a. Amit Shah
- b. Thambidurai
- c. Jai Ram Ramesh
- d. Ravi Shankar Prasad

4) *Taal Volcano* sometimes seen in the news recently is located in?

- a. Japan

- b. Indonesia
- c. Philippines
- d. Guatemala

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)*

1. It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
2. It is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development.
3. It is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 199

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Spotted Owl*

1. They occur in a variety of habitat types centered around mature forests with dense canopies.
2. They are listed as Near Threatened in IUCN Red List.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bharat Ratna* Award

1. The recommendations for *Bharat Ratna* are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President. No formal recommendations for this are necessary.
2. The Award carry a monetary grant of Rs 10 lakhs.
3. Awardee can use the expression of the award in their biodata/letterhead/visiting card to indicate that he/she is a recipient of the award.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *G 77 (Group of 77)*

1. It is the largest intergovernmental organization with the membership of 77 developing countries in the United Nations.
2. Palestine has been elected as *G77* chair for 2020.

Which of 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) *GATI web portal* sometime seen in news is related to?

- a. People to file their complaints regarding the issues they face in the railway
- b. A Single platform which provides services to all Indian citizens from Central to local Government bodies as well as Private Organizations

c. Help the visually impaired recognize currency notes

d. Monitor Road & Highways Projects

10) Recently there was an excavations at *Nagardhan* which is located in?

- a. Madhya Pradesh
- b. Haryana
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Uttar Pradesh

### Answers

1. c

- *Bharat Parv, 2020* is being celebrated from 26th to 31st January, 2020 in front of Red Fort at Gyan Path and Red Fort grounds.
- ***Bharat Parv*** is an **annual event** organised by the **Ministry of Tourism**.
- The objective of *Bharat Parv* is to encourage **Indians** to visit different tourism places of India and to inculcate the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh'.
- The Central theme of this year's ***Bharat Parv*** is '***Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat***' and '***Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi***'.

2. d

- The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced **annually** on the eve of Republic Day.
- The Awards are given in three categories:
  1. Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service)
  2. Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order)
  3. Padma Shri (distinguished service)
- The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

- The Padma Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- The nomination process is open to the public. Even self-nomination can be made.
- All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards. However, **Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.**
- The award is **normally not conferred posthumously**. However, in highly deserving cases, the **Government could consider** giving an award posthumously.
- The total number of awards to be given in a year (excluding **posthumous awards** and to NRI/**foreigners/OCIs**) should not be more than 120.
- The award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name.
- All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee.
- The Padma Awards Committee is **headed by the Cabinet Secretary** and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members.
- The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.
- Among the Padma Shri award recipients this year are **two women from Sri Lanka** for their pioneering contributions in their individual fields and for strengthening India-Sri Lanka ties.
- *The awards have been conferred on Deshabandhu Dr. Vajira Chitrasena for her contribution to dance and Late Prof. Indra Dassanayake for her contribution to Hindi literature.*

3. c

- The Adhoc Committee of the Rajya Sabha instituted by Chairman Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has made 40 far reaching

recommendations to prevent sexual abuse of children and to contain access to and transmission of child pornography content on the social media.

- The report of the Committee was today presented by the Chairman of the Committee Shri **Jai Ram Ramesh** to Shri Naidu.

4. c

- The Philippine authorities have recently lowered the alert level at **Taal Volcano**, two weeks after it began spewing ash, steam and rocks, a move that will allow many of the region's 376,000 displaced villagers to return home.



5. d
- **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is a statutory body of, Government of India. **Ministry of Women & Child Development**
  - It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
  - CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003
  - CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.
6. c
- Recently Biologists warn in a study that northern **Spotted owls**, long endangered by logging operations in the Pacific Northwest, **face another threat, competition from the invasive barred owl species.**
  - Over the full extent of their range, **Spotted Owls occur in a variety of habitat types** centered around mature forests with dense canopies.
  - The Northern Spotted Owl requires unlogged, expansive, mature coniferous forest stands with large trees and a complex array of vegetation types, sizes and ages.
  - The California Spotted Owl similarly prefers forest stands with large-diameter trees and varied levels of vegetation.
  - The Mexican subspecies inhabits pine-oak forests or mixed-conifer forests dominated by Douglas-fir, pine, or fir.
  - They are listed as **Near Threatened** in IUCN Red List.
7. c
- **'Bharat Ratna', the highest civilian Award** of the country, was instituted in the year 1954.
- **Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.**
  - It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
  - **The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President.**
  - **No formal recommendations for this are necessary.**
  - **The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of 3** in a particular year.
  - There is **no monetary grant** associated with award.
  - On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a **Sanad (certificate) signed by the President** and a medallion.
  - In terms of **Article 18 (1)** of the Constitution, **the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix** to the recipient's name.
  - However, **should an award winner consider it necessary**, he/she may use the following expression in their biodata/letterhead/visiting card etc. **to indicate that he/she is a recipient of the award**, as "Awarded Bharat Ratna by the President" or "Recipient of Bharat Ratna Award".
8. d
- The **G 77 Group** is the largest coalition of Third World nations.
  - It was **established on 15 June 1964** by 77 developing countries signatories of the "**Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries**" issued at the end of the 1st session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) in Geneva.
  - The **Group of 77 is the largest intergovernmental organization** of developing countries in the United Nations.
  - The **membership of the G-77 has increased to 134 countries.**

- The chairmanship of the G77 is based on the system of geographical rotation.
  - Recently, **Guyana** has been **elected as G77 chair for 2020.**
  - The G77 grouping considers China as the member state.
  - China is providing consistent political support to the G77 and even makes financial contributions.
9. d
- Recently **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways** launched online **Web Portal 'GATI.'**
  - It is to **Monitor Road & Highways Projects.**
  - The portal has been **created by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** taking inspiration from the PRAGATI Portal used by PMO, the portal used by the Prime Ministers' Office (PMO) for monitoring projects.
  - It can be accessed from NHAI Website.
10. c
- Recent **excavations at Nagardhan** have brought new clarity on the life, religious affiliations and trade practices of the **Vakataka dynasty**, which ruled parts of Central and South India centuries ago.
  - **Nagardhan** is a large village in **Nagpur district, Maharashtra.**
  - The **Nagardhan Fort** stands south of present-day Nagardhan village.
  - This was **constructed during the Gond Raja period** and later renovated and **re-used by the Bhosales of Nagpur** during the late 18th and 19th centuries.
  - The area surrounding the fort is under cultivation and has archaeological remains.
  - Very little was known about the **Vakatakas, the Shaivite rulers of Central India between the 3rd and 5th centuries.**
  - All that was known about the dynasty, believed to hail from the Vidarbha region, was largely through some literature and copperplates.
- There were **assumptions that the excavated site of Nagardhan is the same as Nandhivardhan**, the capital city of the eastern branch of the Vakatakas.
  - It is the **first time clay sealings have been excavated** from Nagardhan.
  - The oval-shaped sealing belongs to the period when **Prabhavatigupta** was the **queen of the Vakataka dynasty.**
  - It **bears her name in the Brahmi script**, along with the depiction of a conch. The sealing is **1,500 years old.**
  - The presence of the conch, scholars say, is a sign of the Vaishnava affiliation that the Guptas held.
  - The **copperplate issued by Queen Prabhavatigupta** starts with a genealogy of the Guptas, mentioning the Queen's grandfather Samudragupta and her father Chandragupta II.
  - An **intact idol of Lord Ganesha**, which had no ornaments adorned, too was **found from the site.**
  - This confirmed that the **elephant god was a commonly worshipped deity** in those times.
  - On the means of living of the Vakataka people, researchers found **animal rearing to be one of the main occupations.**
  - Remains of seven species of domestic animals cattle, goat, sheep, pig, cat, horse and fowl were traced in an earlier study by the team.
  - Some terracotta objects even depicted images of gods, animals and humans, along with amulets, scotches, wheels, skin rubbers and spindle whorls.
- 28-01-2020**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Bodo Agreement**
1. It is a **bi-party agreement between Government of Assam and Bodo Representatives.**

2. The accord will provide political, economic, executive and land rights to Bodo tribals.
3. It proposes to set up a commission under Section 14 of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

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) With respect to *Vakatakas*, consider the following statements:

1. They are Vaishnavite rulers who ruled the Central India between the third and fifth centuries.
2. Prabhavatigupta was the powerful women ruler of Vakataka Dynasty who ruled for about 10 years.
3. Queen Prabhavatigupta had a pivotal role in propagation of Vaishnava practices in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

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) In which of the following multilateral forums, *India* and *Brazil* are not members?

1. G-20
2. IBSA
3. OECD
4. BRICS
5. BASIC

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 3 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- d. All of the above

4) With respect to *Lala Lajpat Rai*, consider the following statements:

1. He founded the Ghadr Party in North America.
2. He was also called as '*Punjab Kesari*' and an active member of the Arya Samaj.
3. He was the first President of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).

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

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

5) In November 2019, SEBI had constituted a nine-member committee, under the chairmanship of *Ramesh Srinivasan* to review the policy pertaining to?

- a. Credit rating agency
- b. Exchange Traded Funds
- c. Related Party Transactions
- d. External Commercial Borrowings

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Customs Organization (WCO)*

1. It is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters.
2. All the United Nations member states are the members to World Customs Organization (WCO)

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

- a. 1 only

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Union Budget of India*

1. The real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the most fundamental building block of a Budget
2. Annual Financial Statement is a document presented to the Parliament in every session under Article 112 of the Constitution

Which of 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) *Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo (Byculla Zoo)* which was in news recently is located in?

- a. Goa
- b. Indore
- c. Mumbai
- d. Kolkata

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *State Legislative Council*

1. 1/12th of it's members are elected by the registered graduates.
2. The Legislative Councils are permanent Houses, and like Rajya Sabha, two-third of their members retire every two years.
3. Governor nominates members from among those who have distinguished themselves only in literature, science, art, the cooperative movement, and social service.

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

1. Germany
2. Russia
3. Lithuania
4. Ukraine
5. Belarus

Which of the countries shares border with *Poland*?

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

## Answers

1. a

- The Union government has recently signed an accord with the Assam-based different insurgent groups and civil societies including the **National Democratic Front of Bodoland**.
- The **tripartite agreement** was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
- The accord will provide **political, economic, executive and land rights to Bodo tribals** and also will safeguard their cultural and linguistic identities.
- The Centre and State Government will provide financial assistance of 1,500 crore rupees for the economic development of the community.
- This agreement will maintain the territorial integrity of Assam and will also provide an opportunity for the holistic development of the Bodo community.

- The current agreement proposes to set up a commission under **Section 14 of the Sixth Schedule** to the Constitution of India, which will **recommend the inclusion or exclusion of tribal population residing in villages adjoining BTAD areas**.
- The commission will include representatives of State Government and other stakeholders.
- It will submit its recommendation within six months from the date of notification.

### Background

- It is the **third tripartite agreement** to end the violence in the region.
- Earlier, the tripartite agreements in 1993 and 2003 were signed leading to the creation of Bodoland Autonomous and Bodoland Territorial Councils.
- All Bodo Student Union and its associated organizations and different factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland had been raising the demand for separate statehood.
- Negotiations were held with Bodo organizations for a comprehensive and final solution to their demands while keeping intact the territorial integrity of Assam.

2. c

- *Recent archaeological excavations at Nagardhan in Ramtek taluka, near Nagpur, have provided concrete evidence on the life, religious affiliations and trade practices of the **Vakataka dynasty** that ruled parts of Central and South India between the **third and fifth centuries**.*

### Queen Prabhavatigupta

- The Vakataka rulers were known to have forged several matrimonial alliances with other dynasties of their times.
- One of the key alliances was with **Prabhavatigupta of the mighty Gupta dynasty**, which was then ruling north India.
- The Guptas, researchers say, were way more powerful than the Vakatakas.

- After marrying Vakataka king **Rudrasena II**, Prabhavatigupta enjoyed the position of Chief Queen.
- When she took over the Vakataka kingdom, after the sudden demise of Rudrasena II, her stature as a woman Vakataka ruler rose significantly.
- This is evident from the fact that the sealings were introduced and issued during her period as a ruler, that too from the capital city of Nagardhan.
- Scholars say Queen Prabhavatigupta was among a handful of women rulers in India to have reigned over any kingdom during ancient times.
- Also, there had been no evidence so far of any successor female ruler within the Vakataka dynasty, the researchers suggest.

### Spread of Vaishnavism

- **The Vakataka rulers followed the Shaiva sect of Hinduism while the Guptas were staunch Vaishnavites.**
- Excavators say that many religious structures indicating affinity to the Vaishnava sect, and found in Ramtek, were built during the reign of Queen Prabhavatigupta.
- While she was married into a family that belonged to the Shaiva sect, the queen's powers allowed her to choose a deity of worship, that is, **Lord Vishnu**.
- The researchers believe that the practice of worshipping Narasimha in Maharashtra emerged from Ramtek, and that **Queen Prabhavatigupta had a pivotal role in propagation of Vaishnava practices** in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.
- Some of the temples identified as **Keval Narasimha, Rudra Narasimha** and the one dedicated to **Varaha** could be traced to Ramtek, and showcase strong affinity to the incarnations of Lord Vishnu.
- None of these religious structures was, however, present here until the Queen took the throne.
- Queen Prabhavatigupta ruled for about 10 years until her son **Pravarasena II** succeeded.

3. a
- The inaugural session of the **India-Brazil Business Forum** was held recently in New Delhi.
  - India and Brazil share close relationship at the bilateral level as well as plurilateral fora like **BRICS, BASIC, G-20, IBSA** and **International Solar Alliance** and in larger multilateral bodies like **UN, UNESCO** and **WIPO**.
  - **Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD)** has 36 member including not only most advanced countries but also emerging countries like **Mexico, Chile** and **Turkey**.
  - **Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and South Africa** are key **partner countries** of OECD and **not members** of OECD.
4. c
- Lala Lajpat Rai is a nationalist from Punjab.
  - He was one of the leading members of the Radical group which was critical of the politics of petitions.
  - He is a fierce nationalist and his remarkable and heroic role during the Vandemataram movement and Simon go-back agitation inspires every Indian.
  - He was also an active member of the **Arya Samaj**.
  - All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was founded in 1920 with **Lala Lajpat Rai** as its **first President**.
  - In North America, the Ghadr was organised by **Lala Hardayal, Ramchandra, Bhawan Singh, Kartar Singh Saraba, Barkatullah, Bhai Parmanand**.
5. c
- In November 2019, **SEBI** had constituted a nine-member committee, under the chairmanship of **Ramesh Srinivasan**, Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Capital Company, to review the policy pertaining to **related party transactions (RPTs)**.
- Any person or any entity, directly or indirectly (including with their relatives), holding 20 per cent or more of the holding in a listed entity should also be considered as related party," says a new proposal by a SEBI panel.
  - The committee has also proposed a change in the definition to cover any person or entity that directly or indirectly exercises control, irrespective of shareholding. The move is to cover parties that exercise influence on a company.
  - The panel also recommends mandatory prior approval from the audit committee of the listed entity for transactions carried out between the listed entity or any of its subsidiaries, with a related party.
6. b
- The **International Customs Day (ICD)** was on **26th January 2020** with the slogan "**Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet**".
  - The **World Customs Organization (WCO)**, established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC).
  - It is an **independent intergovernmental body** whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
  - **WCO** is the **only international organization with competence in Customs matters** and can rightly call itself the voice of the international Customs community.
  - Today, the **WCO represents 183 Customs administrations across the globe** that collectively process **approximately 98% of world trade**.
  - It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. It plays leading role in discussion, development, promotion and implementation of modern customs systems and procedures.
7. d
- On February 1, Finance Minister will rise in the Lok Sabha to present the Union Budget for the next financial year (2020-21).

### Highlights

- The **Nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is the **most fundamental building block** of a Budget.
  - The **nominal GDP** is nothing but the value of all goods and services produced in the country at current market prices.
  - That's because without knowing the absolute amount of nominal GDP for the current year, there is no way one can make the Budget for the next year.
  - **Targets for the fiscal deficit are set in terms of "percentage of nominal GDP"**.
  - In other words, if the nominal GDP is higher, the government can borrow more money (in absolute terms) from the market to fund its expenditure.
  - It is true that **real GDP** is the variable that is **used for comparing the economic growth** of countries most of the time.
  - The real GDP growth is derived by subtracting the inflation rate (that is the rate at which prices are increasing in an economy) from the nominal GDP growth rate.
  - By doing this, real GDP growth provides a better picture of economic growth between countries that may have differing levels of inflation.
  - But **contrary to public perception, no one targets the real GDP growth rate.**
  - The **real GDP is a derived number.**
  - The **government, through its fiscal policy, targets nominal GDP** and the RBI, through its monetary policy, targets inflation rate.
  - The interplay of these two variables provides real GDP growth.
  - **Annual Financial Statement** is a document presented to the Parliament **every year under Article 112** of the Constitution.
  - It shows estimated receipts and expenditures of the Government of India for the coming year in relation to revised estimates for the previous year as also the actual amounts for the year prior to it.
8. c
- **Mumbai gets India's first and biggest 'Walk-through' aviary at the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo (Byculla Zoo).**
  - The aviary will house over 100 species of rare, exotic and common birds, living their natural environs.
  - Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo **also has India's first air-conditioned enclosure for Humboldt Penguins.**
  - The Zoo also boasts of 17 special enclosures for animals like bears, hyenas, leopards, foxes, Madras Pond Turtles, antelopes, etc.
9. c
- Recently, the **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet decided to abolish the state's Legislative Council.**
  - After passing the resolution, the government will send it to the Governor for his approval and then send it to Parliament for ratification.
  - About,
    1. 1/3rd of members are elected by members of the Assembly (MLAs),
    2. another 1/3rd by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state,
    3. 1/12th by an electorate consisting of teachers, and
    4. 1/12th by registered graduates.
    5. The **remaining members are nominated by the Governor from among those who have distinguished themselves in literature, science, art, the cooperative movement, and social service.**
  - The **Legislative Councils are permanent Houses**, and like Rajya Sabha, **one-third** of their members **retire every 2 years.**
  - Apart from Andhra Pradesh (58 members), **5 other states have Legislative Councils**, Bihar (58), Karnataka (75), Maharashtra (78), Telangana (40), Uttar Pradesh (100).

- Jammu and Kashmir too had a Council, until the state was bifurcated into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

10. c

- On January 27 this year, survivors of the **Holocaust** and international heads of state will **mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.**
- Auschwitz**, also known as **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, located in southern **Poland**.
- During the **WW-II**, the **government of Nazi Germany** killed approximately 17 million people across Europe in half a dozen camps specifically designated for killings.
- Of these seven killing centers, the **camp at Auschwitz**, perhaps the most well known, was the largest in size.
- The Red Army of the Soviet Union entered Auschwitz on January 27, 1945, finding hundreds of sick, starving and exhausted prisoners, who had somehow survived.
- In 2005, the UN-designated **January 27** as the **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**.
- The **Auschwitz concentration camp**, spread over a large area in the **town of Oswiecim, Poland**.
- There are **7 countries border Poland**, these are **Germany, Russia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Belarus**.
- Russia borders Poland through** Russia's exclave of **Kaliningrad Oblast**.

**29-01-2020**

1) **Indian Railways' first Waste to Energy Plant** was recently commissioned at **Bhubaneswar**. The plant uses a patented technology called **POLYCRACK**. Which of the following are true regarding **POLYCRACK Technology**?

- High capital cost and low operating cost
- Pre-segregation of waste is not required to reform the waste
- It has high tolerance to moisture hence drying of waste is not required
- All types of waste including plastic and e-waste can be converted to Light Diesel Oil
- All constituents are converted into valuable energy thereby making it Zero Discharge Process

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following pairs

- Nandur Madhameshwar – Maharashtra
- Keshopur Bird Sanctuary – Punjab
- Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary – Uttar Pradesh

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are designated **Ramsar Wetland Sites**?

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

3) **Bhuvan Panchayat V 3.0 Web Portal** which was launched recently was developed by?

- The project is meant to provide geo-spatial services to aid gram panchayat

development planning process of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

2. It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

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

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

4) "Operation Vanilla" sometimes seen in the news recently was launched by?

- Indian Navy
- Department of Space
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Food Processing

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Asiatic Cheetah*

- It is listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red list.
- Asiatic cheetah, which once roamed parts of India, is now only found in Iran.

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

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

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

- The Vice-Chairman of each council hold the office for a period of two years at a time.
- Each Zonal Council has a Standing Committee consisting of Chief Secretaries of the member States of their respective Zonal Councils.

- The Zonal councils are Constitutional bodies and they are advisory in nature.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the *National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)*

- The powers and functions of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) are prescribed under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
- NTCA is set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to '*Annie Besant*' ship

- It is an advanced patrol ships of the Indian Navy belongs to Saryu class.
- It has been indigenously designed, built and commissioned at Khidderpore Dock, Kolkata.

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 *Disease Outbreaks*

1. A Pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new infectious disease.
2. The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is an international network of institutions that provides health professionals and expert advice in time of outbreaks to countries.

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

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

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

1. It is is a space-borne observatory designed to study the early universe in Infrared light.
2. It is the part of ESA's Great Observatories Program.

Which of 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

- Indian Railways has recently commissioned its first **Waste to Energy Plant**, having capacity of **500 Kg** waste per day, in Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop at **Bhubaneswar** in East Coast Railway.
- This Waste to Energy Plant, a patented technology called **POLYCRACK**, is first-of-its-kind in Indian Railways and fourth in India.

- It is world's first patented heterogeneous catalytic process which converts multiple feed stocks into hydrocarbon liquid fuels, gas, carbon and water.
- Polycrack Plant can be fed with **all types of Plastic**, Petroleum sludge, Un-segregated MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) with moisture up to 50%, **E-Waste**, Automobile fluff, Organic waste including bamboo, garden waste etc., and Jatropha fruit and palm bunch.
- The process is a closed loop system and does not emit any hazardous pollutants into the atmosphere.
- The combustible, non-condensed gases are re-used for providing energy to the entire system and thus, the only emission comes from the combustion of gaseous fuels.
- The emissions from the combustion are found to be much less than prescribed environmental norms.
- This process will **produce energy in the form of Light Diesel Oil** which is used to light furnaces.

### Features of POLYCRACK Technology

Polycrack has the following advantages over the conventional approach of treating solid waste:-

- **Pre-segregation of waste is not required** to reform the waste. Waste as collected can be directly fed into Polycrack.
- It has **high tolerance to moisture** hence **drying of waste is not required**.
- Waste is processed and reformed within 24 hours.
- It is an enclosed unit hence the working environment is dust free.
- Excellent air quality surrounding the plant.
- Biological decomposition is not allowed as the Waste is treated as it is received.
- The foot print of the plant is small hence the area required for installing the plant is less when compared with conventional method of processing.

- All constituents are converted into valuable energy thereby making it **Zero Discharge Process**.
- **Gas generated in the process is re-used** to provide energy to the system thereby making it self-reliant and also bring down the operating cost.
- There is **no atmospheric emission** during the process unlike other conventional methods except for combustion gases which have pollutants less than the prescribed norms the world over.
- Operates around 450 degrees, making it a **low temperature process** when compared with other options.
- Safe and efficient system with built-in safety features enables even an unskilled user to operate the machine with ease.
- **Low capital cost and low operating cost**.
- **Fully automated system** requires minimum man power.

2. d

- Ramsar Convention has recently declared **10 more wetlands** from India as sites of “international importance”, taking the total number of Ramsar sites in India to **37**.
- Maharashtra gets its first, Punjab adds 3 and UP adds 6 to its list.

#### Ramsar Convention

- The Ramsar Convention, signed on February 2, 1971, is one of the oldest inter-governmental accords signed to preserve the ecological character of wetlands of international importance in the signatory countries.
- The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and sustain a network of wetlands by maintaining components of their ecosystem and processes.
- The wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines of the convention.

#### Newly added sites:

- Nandur Madhameshwar in **Maharashtra**, Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal in **Punjab**, Nawabganj, Parvati

Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and SarsaiNawar in **Uttar Pradesh**.

3. c

- For better planning and monitoring of government projects, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched the **Bhuvan Panchayat web portal's version 3.0**.
- In the project that will last for at least two years, ISRO will collaborate with the gram panchayat members and stakeholders to understand their data requirements.
- The project is meant to provide geo-spatial services to aid gram panchayat development planning process of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- The targeted audience for this portal are Public, PRIs and different stakeholders belonging to the gram panchayats.
- ISRO launched **SISDP project** to assist Gram Panchayats at grass root level with basic planning inputs derived from satellite data for preparing developmental plans, its implementation and monitoring the activities. SISDP phase I Project was successfully concluded in the year 2016-17.
- Based on the rich experience gained and encouraging feedback received from various stakeholders on SIS-DP-I Project “**SISDP-Update**” was initiated with enhanced objectives of providing value added geospatial products and services to aid Gram Panchayat development planning process of MoPR.
- For the first time, thematic database on **1:10,000** scale for the entire country is available with high integrated High Resolution satellite data for planning.

4. a

- **Indian Navy** has launched “**Operation Vanilla**” to provide **humanitarian assistance and disaster relief** at **Madagascar**.
- Operation Vanilla has been launched to provide assistance to the affected population of Madagascar post devastation caused by **Cyclone Diane**.

- The Indian Navy Ship is geared to set up medical camp and provide food, water and other necessary relief material.
5. c
- The Supreme Court has recently lifted its seven-year stay on a proposal to introduce African cheetahs from Namibia into the Indian habitat on an experimental basis.
  - The plan was to revive the Indian cheetah population.
  - In May 2012, the top court had stalled the plan to initiate the foreign cheetahs into the Palpur Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh fearing they may come into conflict with a parallel and a much-delayed project to reintroduce lions into the same sanctuary.
  - Asiatic Cheetah is categorised as **Critically Endangered** under the IUCN Red List.
  - The Asiatic cheetah, which once roamed parts of India, is now only found in Iran, where there are thought to be about 50 left.
6. c
- **Union Home Minister to chair the 22nd Central Zonal Council Meeting.**
  - The chief minister of 4 states, Chhattisgarh Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand attended the 22nd meeting of Council.
  - **Zonal Councils are the statutory bodies** and not the constitutional bodies.
  - They are **established by an Act of the Parliament**, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
  - The act divided the country into **5 zones** (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.
  - Each Zonal Council has set up a **Standing Committee consisting of Chief Secretaries of the member States** of their respective Zonal Councils.
  - These Standing Committees meet from time to time to resolve the issues or to do necessary ground work for further meetings of the Zonal Councils.
- **The Union Home Minister is the Chairman** of each of these Councils.
  - **The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman** of the Zonal Council for that zone **by rotation**, each holding office for a **period of 1 year at a time**.
  - **Each Zonal Council is an advisory body** and may discuss any matter in which some or all of the States represented in that Council.
7. b
- Recently, the **Supreme Court allowed the Centre to introduce the African cheetah** to suitable habitat in India.
  - The apex Court's decision followed a petition filed by **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** seeking permission for the **introduction of the African cheetah from Namibia** as rare Indian cheetah is almost extinct in the country.
  - **The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.
  - It is constituted **under enabling provisions of the 'Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972'**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, **as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act**.
  - **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** is the **Chairman of the NTCA**.
8. b
- Two **Indian Coast Guard Ships (ICGS) — Annie Besant** and **Amrit Kaur** were commissioned by Defence Secretary.
  - The **ship Annie Besant** is the **third Fast Patrol Vessel** of the **'Priyadarshini' class**.
  - The **ship has been indigenously designed and built** and was commissioned at Khidderpore Dock.
  - It is **fitted with modern navigational and communication equipment** and sensors.

- The ship's main armament is 40/60 Bofors gun with a 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun.
- It is **capable of undertaking multi-faceted maritime operations** such as Surveillance, search and Rescue.

9. c

- Recently, The World Health Organization (WHO) admitted an error in its assessment of Wuhan Coronavirus risk.
- The **Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)** coordinated by the WHO, is an international network of institutions that **provides health professionals and expert advice in time of outbreaks to countries.**
- It is a collaboration of existing institutions and networks, constantly alert and ready to respond.
- During outbreaks, the GOARN ensures that the right technical expertise and are skills are on the ground where and when they are needed most.
- A **Endemic** is an outbreak that **occurs at a predictable rate** in a **certain area** or among a set population.
- An **Epidemic** will see a **disease rapidly spread** amongst a large number of people in **a given population.**
- A **Pandemic** is the **worldwide spread** of a infectious disease.

10. a

- **NASA's Spitzer Mission, which studied the universe in infrared light** for more than 16 years, will come to an end since it is low on fuel and has been drifting away from Earth for a few years now.
- Engineers will decommission the Spitzer aircraft, after which it will cease to conduct science operations.
- The **Spitzer Space Telescope** is a space-borne observatory, one of the elements of NASA's Great Observatories.
- It represents the **4th and final element** in NASA's **Great Observatory program.**

- The **other 3** under this program are,
  1. Hubble Space Telescope,
  2. Compton Gamma Ray Observatory and
  3. Chandra X-ray Observatory.
- **Spitzer** fills in an important gap in wavelength coverage not available from the ground the thermal infrared.
- It is the **largest infrared telescope ever** launched into space.
- It also studied some of the most distant galaxies ever detected.

**30-01-2020**

**1) Section 438 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 often seen in the news recently deals with?**

- a. Defamation
- b. Anticipatory Bail
- c. Termination of Pregnancy
- d. Insulting the modesty of a woman

**2) YS Malik Committee sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?**

- a. Railways
- b. Port Trusts and Docks
- c. Road Transport and Highways
- d. None of the above

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)**

- 1. To study the tribes and other communities that form the population of India both from the biological and cultural point of view**
- 2. It works under the Ministry of Culture.**

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

- a. 1 only

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

**4) Biorock or Mineral Accretion Technology sometimes seen in the news recently is related to?**

- a. Polymetallic Nodules
- b. Coral Reefs Restoration
- c. Petroleum Extraction
- d. Emission free Energy generation

**5) Consider the following pairs**

**Active Volcanoes – Countries**

1. Erebus – Alaska
2. Taal – New Zealand
3. Stromboli – Iceland
4. Sinabung – Indonesia

**Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?**

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

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to India's No-fly list in Airlines**

1. In India, airlines have been empowered to straight away ban a person from taking their flights.
2. The decision of the appellate committee constituted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding the ban of a person shall be final and that any further appeal shall lie in a High Court.

**Which of 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 Palm oil import**

1. China is the world's largest importer of Palm oil.
2. India imports most of its refined palm oil from Malaysia and crude palm oil from Indonesia.

**Which of 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 Beating Retreat Ceremony**

1. The ceremony which takes place every year marks the commencement of the four-day Republic Day celebrations in India.
2. The ceremony is currently held by Armed Forces only in the UK and 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

**9) Consider the following statements with respect to INS Kavaratti**

1. It is the last of the four Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes built under Project 75.
2. It is equipped to fight in nuclear, chemical and biological warfare conditions.

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 *Palestine*

- Palestine referred to the geographic region located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River.
- None of the United Nations member countries recognize Palestine as an independent state.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- A five-judge Bench, led by Justice Arun Mishra, acknowledged that anticipatory bail helps thwart influential powers from implicating their rivals in false cases.
- Section 438** (anticipatory bail) of the **Code of Criminal Procedure** protects people from the ignominy of detention in jail for days on end and disgrace to their reputation.
- The protection of anticipatory or pre-arrest bail cannot be limited to any time frame or "fixed period" as denial of bail amounts to deprivation of the fundamental right to personal liberty in a free and democratic country, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court ruled recently.*
- The life or duration of an anticipatory bail order **does not normally end** at the time and stage when the accused is summoned by

the court, or when charges are framed, but can **continue till the end of the trial,**" the court held recently.

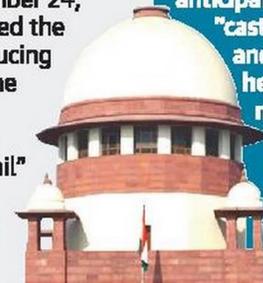
## The back story of advance bail

- The old Cr.PC of 1898 did not contain any specific provision corresponding to the present Section 438. There was a difference of opinion among various HCs whether court had an inherent power to grant pre-arrest bail
- Clause 447 of the Draft Bill of 1970 was enacted with some modifications and became Section 438 of the Cr.PC, 1973

A five-judge Supreme Court Bench in the 1980 case of **Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia vs. State of Punjab** interpreted that the power to grant anticipatory bail is

"cast in wide terms and should not be hedged in through narrow judicial interpretation". It held that courts could impose conditions which were appropriate

- The Law Commission of India on September 24, 1969, highlighted the need for introducing a provision in the Code enabling courts to grant "anticipatory bail" as an antidote to detention in false cases



2. c

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** had recently constituted a Committee headed by **YS Malik** to identify key issues and recommend methods for transforming **Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)** into a world – class premier institute on highway sector having full/comprehensive expertise on highway sector.
- Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)** is the premier institute for pooling of experience and sharing of knowledge on entire range of subjects involving management of highways.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.**

3. c

### Anthropological Survey of India

- It is the only research organisation to pursue anthropological research in a Governmental setup.
- The Anthropological Survey of India's genesis was from the Zoological and Anthropological

section of the Indian Museum, which became the Zoological Survey of India in 1916.

- It works under the **Ministry of Culture**.

#### **Principle Objectives:**

- To study the tribes and other communities that form the population of India both from the biological and cultural point of view
- To study and preserve the human skeletal remains, both from modern and Archaeological.
- To collect samples of arts and crafts of the tribes of India.
- To function as a training center for advanced students in anthropology and for administration.
- To publish the results of the researches

4. b

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), with help from Gujarat's forest department, is attempting for the first time a process **to restore coral reefs** using **Biorock or Mineral Accretion Technology**.
- Biorock is the name given to the substance formed by electro accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater on steel structures that are lowered onto the sea bed and are connected to a power source, in this case solar panels that float on the surface.

#### **Working Principle**

- The technology works by passing a small amount of electrical current through electrodes in the water.
- When a positively charged anode and negatively charged cathode are placed on the sea floor, with an electric current flowing between them, calcium ions combine with carbonate ions and adhere to the structure (cathode).
- This results in calcium carbonate formation.
- Coral larvae adhere to the  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and grow quickly.
- Fragments of broken corals are tied to the biorock structure, where they are able to grow at least four to six times faster than their actual growth as they need not spend their energy in

building their own calcium carbonate skeletons.

5. a

#### **Active Volcanoes - Countries**

1. Erebus – Alaska
2. Taal – Philippines
3. Stromboli – Italy
4. Sinabung – Indonesia
5. Whakaari – New Zealand

6. c

- Recently **4 Airlines in India**, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India and GoAir have **banned stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra from taking their flights** after he allegedly heckled television news anchor Arnab Goswami on an IndiGo flight.
- In 2017, **the Government issued rules** for preventing disruptive behaviour by air travellers and **laid down guidelines** for a **No-fly list**.
- As per the rules, **a complaint** of unruly behaviour needs **to be filed by the pilot-in-command**, and this is **to be probed by an Internal committee** to be **set up by the airline**.
- During the period of pendency of the inquiry, the rules empower the concerned airline to impose a ban on the passenger.
- The **committee is to decide** the matter **within 30 days**, and also specify the ban duration.
- **India** is one of the few countries where **airlines** have been **empowered to straight away ban a person from taking their flights**.
- The **internal committee is to consist of a retired district and sessions judge as Chairman**, along with a representative from a different scheduled airline and a representative from a passengers association or consumer association as members.
- **Any aggrieved person**, upon receipt of communication of a ban from the airline, **may appeal within 60 days** from the date of issue of the order, **to an Appellate**

**Committee constituted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.**

- The **Appellate Committee** consisting of a retired judge of a High Court as Chairman; a representative from a passengers' association or a consumer association; and an airlines representative not below the rank of vice-president or equivalent.
- The Civil Aviation Requirements state that **the decision of the appellate committee shall be final and that any further appeal shall lie in a High Court.**
- The **DGCA** has given an indicative **list of actions that may be construed as unruly**. These include, consuming alcohol or drugs resulting in unruly behaviour, smoking in an aircraft, using threatening or abusive language, intentionally interfering with the performance of the duties of a crew member etc.
- In aviation markets like the US or Canada, the no-fly list is more oriented to be a terror-watch program.

7. b

- Recently, **India** has **restricted Palm oil imports** after Malaysia
- This is to **curb imports from Malaysia** following criticism from Kuala Lumpur on India's actions in the Kashmir region and its New Citizenship Law.
- **India is the world's largest importer of palm oil** and a major market for Malaysia.
- **India imported \$10 billion worth of vegetable oil** in 2019-20, making it the **country's 5th most valuable import** after Mineral oil (\$141 bn), Gold (\$32 bn), Coal (\$26 bn), and Telecom instruments such as cell phones (\$17 bn).
- **India imports most of its refined palm oil from Malaysia and crude palm oil from Indonesia.**
- Malaysia's refining capacity equals its production capacity this is why Malaysia is keen on exporting refined oil.
- **Indonesia and Malaysia are the top 2 producers of palm oil** in the world,

together **produce 85% of the world's palm oil.**

- Restricting refined oil imports will not help farmers directly, as they are not involved in the process of refining.
- However, the restrictions have caused refined palm oil prices to increase.
- If prices continue to hold, farmers will get a better realisation for their crop.

8. d

- The ceremony, which **takes place on January 29** every year, **marks the culmination of the four-day Republic Day celebrations** in India.
- The **military tradition began in 17th century England**, when King James II ordered his troops to beat drums, lower flags and organise a parade to announce the end of a day of combat.
- The ceremony was then called 'watch setting' and took place at sunset after firing a single round from the evening gun.
- The ceremony is **currently held by Armed Forces in the UK, US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and India**, among others.
- **Section D (Ceremonials)** at the **Ministry of Defence** conducts the event in India.
- The ceremony consists of musical performances by the bands, who each year play Indian and western tunes.

9. b

- Defence PSU **Garden Reach Shibuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** is set to **deliver anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kavaratti** to the Navy soon.
- '**Kavaratti**' is the **last of the four** Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes built under **Project P28**.
- The **first 3 are, Kamorta** (commissioned in 2014), **Kadmatt** (2016) and **Kiltan** (2017).
- All these **4 corvettes** under the project are **named after islands** in the **Lakshadweep** archipelago in the Arabian Sea

- The ship is **equipped to fight in nuclear, chemical and biological warfare conditions** and its weapons and sensors suite is **predominantly (90%) indigenous**.
10. a
- Recently, \_\_\_\_\_ the **US President released the Middle East plan**, 'Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People'.
  - The plan says **Jerusalem will not be divided**, and it will remain "the sovereign capital of the State of Israel".
  - The **capital of Palestine** can occupy far-flung eastern neighbourhoods lying beyond "the existing security barrier", which **can be renamed Al Quds**, the Arabic name for Jerusalem.
  - According to the plan, Jerusalem's holy sites should be subject to the same governance regimes that exist today, and should remain open and available for peaceful worshippers of all faiths.
  - Palestine** referred to the geographic region **located between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River**.
  - The plan says the Jordan Valley, which is critical for Israel's national security, will be under Israeli sovereignty.
  - United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3236**, adopted by the General Assembly on November 22, 1974 **recognizes the Palestinian people's right** to self-determination, officializes UN contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization.
  - More than 135 United Nations member countries recognize Palestine as an independent state**.
  - Israel and some other countries, including the United States, don't make this distinction** as an independent state.



**31-01-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)*

- It is an annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- The theme for the year 2020 is "Mapping the Future Road for Energy".
- WSDS 2020 will focus on the need to assess global contributions made, and the next steps to be undertaken by the world community to meet the 17 SDGs.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU)*

- It was established in 1949 to promote understanding of the objects and purposes of UNESCO among the people of the Republic of India.
- Prime Minister of India shall be the President of the Commission.

3. The membership of the commission consists of the members of five Sub-Commissions on five different fields.

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

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

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

- It is a bilateral defence cooperation between India and Bangladesh.
- The exercise will be hosted alternately by the participating countries.
- The 9th edition of the exercise *SAMPRITI-IX* is being conducted at Meghalaya, India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) A committee constituted to review the *Micro Insurance Regulatory Framework* has submitted its report recently. It was constituted by \_\_\_\_\_ and headed by \_\_\_\_\_?

- RBI, Mahesh Kumar Jain
- LIC, T C Suseel Kumar
- IRDAI, Suresh Mathur
- Ministry of Finance, Rajiv Kumar

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kalakshetra Foundation*

- It was founded by Sucheta Kripalani in 1936.

- It was recognised by the Government of India as an Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament in 1993.

- It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Economic Survey*

- It is a flagship document of the Finance ministry which is presented along with the budget.
- The Government is constitutionally bound to present the Economic Survey.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Public Health Emergencies of International concern (PHEIC)*

- The responsibility of determining whether an event is within this category lies with the WHO Director-General and requires the convening of IHR Emergency Committee.
- All the members of the IHR Emergency Committee should be an expert nominated by a State Party within whose territory the event arises.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Maritime Organization (IMO)*

1. It is the UN specialized agency which regulates and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
2. Cape Town Agreement (CTA) was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Which of 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 *Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST)*

1. It is the most powerful solar telescope in the world.
2. The primary objective is to observe magnetic fields on the Sun in order to understand its dynamic behavior.

Which of 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 *H5N1 Avian Influenza*

1. It is a type of influenza virus which infects human easily, and spread from person to person.

2. India has been declared free of H5N1 Avian Influenza.

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

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

### Answers

1. c

- The *World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)* is the *annual* flagship event of *The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)*.
- It has in its journey of eighteen years (2001-2019) become a focal point for global leaders and practitioners to congregate on a single platform to discuss and deliberate over climatic issues of universal importance.
- The Summit series has emerged as the premier international event on sustainability which focusses on the global future, but with an eye on the actions in the developing world which could bend our common future.
- The WSDS has continued the legacy of the erstwhile Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) which was initiated in 2001 with the aim of making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal.
- **WSDS 2020 Theme: Towards 2030: Making the Decade Count**
- The 2020 edition of TERI's annual flagship event, the WSDS will focus on the need to assess global contributions made, and the next steps to be undertaken by the world community to meet the 17 SDGs.
- Under the broad theme of 'Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count', the Summit will hope to establish the terms of the discourse for making the most of the decade we have left.
- This it intends to do by weaving together the many strands of climate action, through myriad, high-level discussions.

2. b

- *Union Human Resource Development Minister has recently chaired the meeting of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) in New Delhi.*

### **Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO (INCCU)**

- India has been a member of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization**, a specialized agency of the United Nations since its inception in 1946.
- Article VII of the constitution of UNESCO requires that “each Member State shall make such arrangements as suit its particular conditions for purposes of associating its principal bodies interested in educational, scientific and cultural matters with the work of the Organization, preferably by the formation of a National Commission broadly representative of the government of such bodies”.
- It further defines that “National Commission or National Co-operating delegations to the General Conference and to their Governments in matters relating to the Organization and shall function as agencies of liaison in all matters of interest to it”.
- UNESCO is the **only UN body**, which has encouraged its Member States to establish National Commissions to have liaison with it.
- Accordingly, an interim Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO was set up in 1949 by the Government of India.
- A permanent Commission was established in 1951.

### **Functions of the Commission:**

- To promote understanding of the objects and purposes of UNESCO among the people of the Republic of India;
- To serve as a liaison agency between the Government of India and the institutions concerned with the working for the advancement of education, science and culture;

- To co-operate with the Government departments and with services, organizations and institutions concerned with questions within UNESCO’s competence;
- To encourage participation of national, governmental and non-governmental institutions and various individuals in the formulations and execution of UNESCO’s programmes so as to secure for UNESCO all the intellectual, scientific artistic or administrative assistance that it may require;
- To collaborate with the National Commissions of Asia and the Pacific and with UNESCO’s Regional Offices and centers in fostering regional, sub-regional and bilateral co-operation in education, the sciences, culture and information, particularly through the joint formulation and execution of programmes;
- To disseminate information on the objectives, programme and activities of UNESCO and endeavour to arouse public interest in them; and
- To advise the Government of India on matters relating to UNESCO.

### **Commission:**

- The **Minister of Human Resource Development** shall be the **President** of the Commission.
- He/She presides over the meetings of the commission.
- In the absence of the President, the Commission may elect a Chairman from among the members present to preside over each meeting.

### **Membership:**

The membership of the commission consists of the members of five Sub-Commissions namely, Sub-Commission for

1. Education
2. Natural Sciences
3. Social Sciences
4. Culture
5. Communication

3. d
- As part of the ongoing Indo-Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise **SAMPRITI-IX** is being conducted at **UMROI, Meghalaya, India** from 03 Feb to 16 Feb 2020.
  - Exercise SAMPRITI is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between **India and Bangladesh** and will be the **ninth edition** of the exercise which is hosted **alternately by both countries**.
4. c
- A committee set up by **IRDAI** to recommend changes in *Micro Insurance Regulatory Framework* has submitted its report to the insurance regulator.
  - Some of the important recommendations of the committee are:
    - General insurance policies need to be allowed for the longer.
    - Option to pay a single premium in daily /fortnightly /monthly /quarterly instalments should be allowed.
    - Stamp duty waiver for microinsurance plans, especially for life insurance policies.
    - E-KYC should be mandated
  - This committee was set up by IRDAI on April 25, 2019.
  - It was headed by Suresh Mathur.
- Purpose of Micro Insurance**
- It is specifically intended for the protection of low -income people, with affordable insurance products to help them cope with and recover from financial losses.
  - It also promises to support sustainable livelihoods of the poor.
5. b
- Kalakshetra Foundation** was recognised by the Government of India as an **Institute of National Importance** by an Act of Parliament in 1993 and is now an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
  - Kalakshetra, as the name suggests, is a centre for artistic endeavour.
- Founded in 1936 by the vibrant visionary **Rukmini Devi Arundale**, the Institution stands testimony to her dream of creating a space where the essence of Indian thought would find expression through artistic education.
6. d
- Economic Survey is a flagship document of the Finance ministry, as it provides a detailed, official version of the government's take on the country's economic condition.
  - One day before the Union budget**, the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) of the country **releases the Economic Survey**.
  - The Economic Survey for 2019-2020 will be then tabled in Parliament by the Finance Minister.
  - The document is **prepared** by the **Economic Division** of the **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** under the **guidance of the CEA**.
  - Once prepared, the Survey is approved by the Finance Minister.
  - The **Government is not constitutionally bound to present the Economic Survey** or to follow the recommendations that are made in it.
  - If the government so chooses, it can reject all suggestions laid out in the document.
  - But while the Centre is not obliged to present the Survey at all, it is tabled because of the significance it holds.
7. a
- Recently, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** has **declared the novel Coronavirus** infection as a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**.
  - Declaring a **PHEIC may lead to restrictions on travel and trade** by other countries.
  - The **WHO** uses the term **PHEIC** to refer to "**an extraordinary event**" concerning **public health**.
  - There are **2 criteria to define an outbreak** as such.

1. The outbreak must pose a risk to more than one country.
  2. The second requirement is that an outbreak requires a coordinated international response.
    - A **panel of experts**, called the **IHR Emergency Committee**, is convened to discuss the situation.
    - **IHR** stands for **International Health Regulations**, 196 countries including all WHO member states agreed to its most recent revision in 2005.
    - The **responsibility of determining** whether an event is within this category **lies with the WHO Director-General** and requires the convening of a committee of experts the **IHR Emergency Committee**.
    - This **committee advises the Director General** on the recommended measures to be promulgated on an emergency basis, known as temporary recommendations.
    - **At least one member** of the Emergency Committee **should be an expert nominated** by a **State Party within whose territory the event arises**.
8. b
- Recently, the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**, the **shipping agency of the United Nations**, issued **new rules** aiming to **reduce sulphur emissions**, due to which ships are opting for newer blends of fuels.
  - The **IMO** has **banned ships from using fuels** with a **sulphur content above 0.5%**, compared with 3.5% previously.
  - The **new regulations, called IMO 2020**, have been regarded as the biggest shake up for the oil and shipping industries in decades.
  - It affects more than 50,000 merchant ships worldwide.
  - **IMO** is the **UN Specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution** by ships.
  - IMO's work supports the UN SDGs.
- The **2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA)**, adopted by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**, which outlines fishing vessel standards.
  - It includes other regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers and provide a level playing field for industry.
  - India, ranked third in fisheries, is yet to ratify the CTA.
  - **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** is an **intergovernmental body** that organizes, **regulates and control all mineral (non-living resources) related activities** in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
  - It has an observer status to UN.
9. c
- Recently, the **World's largest Solar Telescope takes its first shot of the Sun**.
  - The **Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST)** shot is the **highest-resolution photo of the sun ever taken**.
  - The **National Science Foundation of United State's, Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope** is the **most powerful solar telescope in the world**.
  - It was **built and is operated by the National Solar Observatory (NSO)**, a research center operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation Division of Astronomical Sciences.
  - **DKISTs primary objective is to observe magnetic fields** on the Sun throughout the corona (the outermost region of its atmosphere) in order to understand its dynamic behavior.
  - It collects seven times more sunlight than any other solar telescope, producing the clearest, highest resolution images of our Sun ever taken.
10. b
- Recently, Officials at the **Odisha University of Agriculture Technology** **closed all shops selling chicken** near the university in

addition to **culling birds after some dead poultry tested positive** for the **H5N1 virus**.

- **H5N1** is a type of **Avian influenza virus** that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds called **avian influenza (or "bird flu")**.
- **Human cases** of **H5N1 Avian influenza occurs occasionally**.
- When people do become infected, the mortality rate is about 60%.
- The **virus does not infect humans easily, and spread from person to person appears to be unusual**.
- There is no evidence that the disease can be spread to people through properly prepared and thoroughly cooked food.
- At present, with effect from 3rd September 2019, **India has been declared free from Avian Influenza (H5N1)**, which has also been notified to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
- The status will last only till another outbreak is reported. **India was last declared free of the disease in 2017**.