



IAS PARLIAMENT
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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

MONTHLY PRESTORMING

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01-07-2019

1) Which one of the following is the most appropriate objective of Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN)?

- a. To provide reservation and socio economic benefits to the indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland
- b. To prevent issuance of indigenous inhabitant certificates to ineligible persons
- c. To provide Schengen type permit to indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland to travel to any north eastern states
- d. None of the above

2) Red Dot Campaign sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Fire fighting drills in schools
- b. De-stigmatizing Menstrual talks
- c. Promoting blood donation among youths
- d. To check the irrational use of antibiotics

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF)

- 1. It is basically a tiger protection force named after the rhino since the threat of poaching is more for the one-horned herbivore.
- 2. It has been raised at the initiative of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Which of 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 Ambubachi Mela

- 1. It is the world's largest tribal festival celebrated in the southern state of Telangana.
- 2. It was recently granted the UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage of humanity tag.

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

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

5) With respect to Dragonfly sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a drone to study the suitability for microbial life in Saturn's largest moon Titan.
- 2. It was launched recently by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Which of 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 ISALEX 19

- 1. It is a joint security exercise between India and El Salvador.
- 2. The First edition of this exercise is recently held in Abu Dhabi.

Which of 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 countries is/are the member(s) of the International Security Alliance (ISA)?

1. India
2. U.A.E
3. France
4. Singapore

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

8) How is the Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system different from the National Electronic Funds Transfer system (NEFT)?

1. In NEFT, the transactions received up to a particular time are processed in batches, whereas in RTGS, the transactions are processed continuously on a transaction by transaction basis.
2. RTGS is used for real time transfers of funds up to Rs. 2 lakh, Whereas NEFT is used for fund transfers above Rs. 2 lakh.

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

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

9) Consider the following pairs

1. Tamizh Yeoman – State Flag of Tamil Nadu
2. Jammi Chettu – State Tree of Andhra Pradesh

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

10) Consider the following statements

1. They are one of the 16 Naga ethnic tribes.
2. They inhabited the Mon district of Nagaland.
3. They are known as head hunters of North East India.

Identify the tribal community that matches correctly with the above description?

- a. Kuki
- b. Mikir
- c. Garo
- d. Konyak

Answers

1. b
 - The Government of Nagaland has decided to set up the **Register of Indigenous Inhabitants Certificates of Nagaland (RIIN)**, with an objective to prevent issuance of fake indigenous inhabitant certificates.
 - It is a variant of the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** followed in Assam.
2. b
 - In its endeavour to make 'Women Health and Hygiene empowerment' the biggest social movement of the 21st Century, **Sanfe**, a leading feminine Hygiene brand incubated by **IIT Delhi**, has launched **Red Dot Campaign to normalise period pain talk for women**.
 - The campaign intends to generate widespread awareness around the discomfort caused by a period pain in the life of women and how it restricts them from reaching new heights in various walks of life.
 - **Red line campaign is to check the irrational use of antibiotics.**
3. c

- **Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF)** is basically a **tiger protection force** named after the rhino since the threat of poaching is more for the one-horned herbivore.
 - This force has been raised at the initiative of **National Tiger Conservation Authority** for the conservation and protection of Assam's pride, one horned rhinos from poachers.
 - Recently, an 82-member SRPF was deployed in **Kaziranga National Park (KNP)**.
4. d
- **Assam's** largest religious congregation, the Ambubachi mela at **Kamakhya temple** atop Nilachal Hills, was recently inaugurated.
 - During the mela, the temple door of the Kamakhya will remain closed.
 - Kamakhya temple is one of the 51 Shakti shrines representing the different body parts of shiva's consort sati.
 - During the four-day event, it is believed that the presiding goddess of the temple, Devi kamakhya, goes through her annual cycle of menstruation.
5. a
- NASA is sending a drone called **Dragonfly** to explore **Saturn's** largest moon, **Titan**.
 - The drone is slated to launch in **2026** and arrive at Titan in **2034**.
 - Using propellers, the drone will fly and land on several spots on the icy moon to study **whether it can support microbial life**.
 - The nuclear-powered mission is part of NASA's competitive New Frontiers program, which launched the New Horizons spacecraft that became the first to visit dwarf planet Pluto.
6. b
- Representatives of 50 law enforcement agencies of the **International Security Alliance** are taking part in the **first joint security exercise ISALEX 19** in **Abu Dhabi** beginning recently.
7. c
- The International Security Alliance, launched in 2017 in Abu Dhabi, is an international working group to confront organised, transnational and extremist crimes.
 - The alliance now comprises nine countries, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, France, Italy, Spain, Senegal, Singapore, and the Slovak Republic.
 - **India is not a member.**
8. a
- National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) is an electronic fund transfer system in which the transactions received up to a particular time are processed in batches.
 - Contrary to this, in Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), the transactions are processed continuously on a transaction by transaction basis throughout the RTGS business hours.
 - The RTGS system is primarily meant for large value transactions.
 - The minimum amount to be remitted through RTGS is Rs. 2,00,000/- with no upper or maximum ceiling.
 - The NEFT system is used for fund transfers of up to 2 lakh rupees.
 - *Fund transfer through RTGS and NEFT systems is set to become cheaper after the Reserve Bank of India decided it will not impose any charges on such transactions.*
9. d
- **Tamil Yeoman** (Cirro-chroa thais) also known as **Tamizh Maravan**, a butterfly species endemic to Western Ghats, has been declared as the **State Butterfly of Tamil Nadu**.
 - **Jammi Chettu** is the State Tree of **Telangana**.
10. d
- **Konyak** is one of the **16 Naga ethnic tribes** and they are inhabited in **Nagaland's Mon district**.
 - They are known for its fierce headhunting history.

- Tattoos were earned for taking an enemy's head.

02-07-2019

1) Which of the following is *not* one of the five key interventions under the recently launched *Jal Shakti Abhiyan*?

- a. Bore well recharge structures
- b. Micro irrigation technologies
- c. Water conservation and rainwater harvesting
- d. Renovation of traditional and other water bodies

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Jal Shakti Abhiyan*

1. It aims to reduce water pollution by 20-30% by 2024, taking 2017 as base year.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Jal Sakthi.

Which of 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) Recently, a high-power committee headed by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis was formed to recommend for?

- a. Ethical use of Artificial Intelligence
- b. Smooth transition to electric vehicles
- c. Transformation of Indian Agriculture
- d. Prevention of Droughts in arid regions

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *STRIDE Scheme*

1. This scheme aimed at strengthening research culture and innovation in universities and colleges of the country.

2. It was launched 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

5) *Go Tribal Campaign* sometimes seen in the news recently aims to?

- a. Impart vocational training to tribal youths
- b. Promote tribal's education in global universities
- c. Selecting potential tribal youths for Olympic Games
- d. Promote tribal arts, crafts in global markets

6) With respect to *Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)*, consider the following statements

1. It divides the Korean Peninsula into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the north and Republic of Korea on the south.
2. It was created in 1949 after the end of the Second World War.

Which of 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 *Inner Line Permit (ILP)*

1. It is an official travel document required by Indian citizens residing outside certain protected states while entering them.
2. It is issued by the Government of India and is obligatory for all those who reside outside the protected states.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Akademik Lomonosov*

- 1. It is the world's first floating solar power station.
- 2. It was launched by Russia.
- 3. Its main aim is to supply power for research works in Antarctic Regions.

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

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

9) With respect to Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, consider the following statements:

- 1. It provides for complete prohibition of employment of children below age 14 in any occupation without any exceptions.
- 2. The number of violations and convictions under the Act has seen a steady decline since 2014.

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

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

10) Consider the following pairs

- 1. Kushiro – Japan
- 2. Khartoum – Syria

3. Pevek – North Korea

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

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

Answers

1. b

There are five key intervention areas under the movement including

- 1. Water conservation and rainwater harvesting
- 2. Renovation of traditional and other water bodies
- 3. Reuse
- 4. Borewell recharge structures
- 5. Watershed development and intensive Afforestation

2. b

- **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has recently launched the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan** to create awareness on the benefits of water conservation and declining sources of water in the country.
- It has been launched in two phases.
- Under the campaign, focus will be on 256 water stressed districts and 1,592 water stressed blocks.
- There is no additional funding or **specific targets** for the campaign to achieve.

3. c

- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis will head a new high-powered committee to recommend **structural reforms in Indian agriculture**, including changes to the way farmers market their produce, and norms for contract farming and essential commodities.
- It will suggest measures to attract private investment and modernise the agricultural market system.

- The creation of the panel was originally announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at last month's Niti Aayog Governing Council meeting.
4. c
- University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently launched the Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy' (STRIDE) scheme.
 - It aimed at strengthening research culture and innovation in universities and colleges of the country.
 - It will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.
5. d
- Organised by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), the 'Go Tribal' campaign will promote and make available tribal handcrafted textiles, jewellery, and other accessories through global online market spaces.
6. a
- The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) divides the Korean Peninsula into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the north and Republic of Korea on the south.
 - Recently, Donald Trump becomes the first serving American President to visit the area.
 - The DMZ was created after **the 1953 Korean War** Armistice Agreement, which ended the Korean War.
7. c
- **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** is an official travel document required by Indian citizens residing outside certain "protected" states while entering them.
 - The ILP is issued by the Government of India and is **obligatory for all** those who reside outside the protected states.
 - With the ILP, the government aims to regulate movement to certain areas located near the international border of India.
8. a
- **Akademik Lomonosov** often dubbed as the "**Floating Chernobyl**" is the *world's only floating Nuclear Power Station*.
 - Russia is planning to tow this Nuclear power station to the **Arctic** port town of Pevek, Russia.
 - Upon connection to the grid, it will become the world's so far only operational floating nuclear power plant and the northernmost nuclear installation in the world.
9. b
- The Act stated that, No **child** shall be employed or permitted to work in any occupation or process.
 - But it exempts the following:
 1. A child helps his family or family enterprise, which is other than any hazardous occupations or processes set forth in the Schedule, after his school hours or during vacations.
 2. A child works as an artist in an audio-visual entertainment industry, including advertisement, films, television serials or any such other entertainment or sports activities except the circus, subject to such conditions and safety measures, as may be prescribed.
 - *A recent data from the labour ministry revealed that, the number of violations and convictions under the Act has seen a steady decline since 2014.*
10. a
- Pevek – Russia
 - Kushiro - Japan
 - Khartoum – Sudan

03-07-2019

1) Which one of the following is **not** a criterion for declaring a language as a classical language?

- a. High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1,500-2,000 years
- b. A body of ancient literature/texts which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers

- c. Should be speak at least by a population not less than 2 lakhs and have minimum two generational speakers
- d. A literary tradition that is original and not borrowed from another speech community

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *E-Foreigners Tribunals (e-FTS)*

- 1. It is a platform which digitises records of all native people living in the state of Assam.
- 2. The platform will store biometrics such as fingerprints and iris scans.

Which of 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 *Cooperative Sector Exports Promotion Forum (CSEPF)*

- 1. It aims to achieve the target of doubling farm exports to USD 60 billion by 2022.
- 2. It will be set up under the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Which of 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 Article 341 of the Indian Constitution

- 1. President, in consultation with the governor of a state concerned may notify a caste as a Scheduled Caste.

- 2. Under the Article, the power to make changes in the Scheduled Caste list lies only with the Parliament.

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

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

5) With respect to *RBI Board*, consider the following statements:

- 1. It consists of both official and non-official directors.
- 2. Official directors include the Governor and not more than four Deputy Governors.
- 3. The RBI Governor has to call a Board meeting at least six times in a year, and at least once each quarter.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the territory of *Hong Kong*

- 1. It is a former British colony located in the Pacific Ocean.
- 2. It is being governed by China under the principle of Two State Solution.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)*

1. It is an autonomous research organisation works under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Indian Antarctic Programme including the maintenance of India's permanent station in Antarctica.

Which of 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) "Himansh" sometimes seen in the news recently is a/an?

- a. Nuclear powered submarine
- b. High altitude research station
- c. Wild life conservation centre
- d. None of the above

9) *Working on a Warmer Planet - The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work* is a report published recently by?

- a. International Labour Organisation
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- d. None of the above

10) With respect to *Kisan Credit Card (KCC)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is available only for agricultural farmers and not available for fisheries and animal husbandry farmers.
2. The farmers eligible under the KCC scheme include small farmers, marginal farmers, share croppers, oral lessee and tenant farmers.

Which of 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 criteria for declaring a language as classical mandates:

1. High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1,500-2,000 years.
2. A body of ancient literature/texts which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
3. A literary tradition that is original and not borrowed from another speech community.
4. Since the classical language and literature is distinct from the modern, there can also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.
- A proposal for granting Marathi the status of a classical language was under "active consideration" and the proposal is placed before a committee of linguistic experts for consideration.

2. b

- The government is enabling a platform to digitise records of all persons who will be declared **foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunals (FTs)** in Assam after the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) is published.
- The **E-Foreigners Tribunals (e-FTs)** will store biometrics such as **fingerprints and iris scans** of such persons, and help the External Affairs Ministry expedite deportation in appropriate cases by reducing paperwork.

3. c

- Union Commerce Minister has recently announced formation of a **Cooperative Sector Exports Promotion Forum (CSEPF)** to achieve the target of

doubling farm exports to USD 60 billion by 2022.

- It will be set up under the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** which will work with 20 states and union territories in the area of export.

4. c

Under Article 341:

- The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and **where it is a State after consultation with the Governor** thereof, by public notification, specify a caste as a Scheduled Caste.
- Parliament may by law** include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under 341 (1)

5. d

- According to the RBI, the “general superintendence and direction of the affairs and business of the RBI is entrusted to the Central Board” and the Board exercises all powers and does all acts and things that are exercised by the RBI.
- The Board consists of **official directors**, who include the Governor and up to four Deputy Governors, **non-official directors**, who include up to ten directors from various fields and two government officials, and one director from each of four local boards of the RBI.
- The Governor has to call a Board meeting **at least six times** in a year, and **at least once each quarter**.

6. d

- Hong Kong is a former British colony became a special administrative region of **China** in 1997.
- It is governed under the principle of "**One Country, Two Systems**", under which China has agreed to give the region a high degree of autonomy and to preserve its economic and social systems for 50 years from the date of the handover.
- Hong Kong is located in China's southern coast and is **surrounded by the South China Sea on all sides except the north**.

- Recently, protesters in Hong Kong have broken into the LegCo (Legislative Council), the Parliament building of Hong Kong and vandalised it.

- This was in protest against the now-suspended Extradition bill that would allow people to be sent to mainland China to face trial in courts controlled by the Communist Party.

7. b

- The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)** was established as an autonomous Research and Development Institution under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- With a mission mandate that is quite challenging, the Centre is designated as the nodal organization for the co-ordination and **implementation of the Indian Antarctic Programme**, including the **maintenance of India's permanent station in Antarctica**.

- The NCPOR has also been doing research in the Arctic region and the Antarctica continent.

8. b

- Six Himalayan glaciers monitored by the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)** have been retreating in the range of 13 to 33 millimetres per year.
- The NCPOR has established a **high altitude research station** named '**Himansh**' in Himalaya at 4,000 metres altitude at Sutri Dhaka, a remote location in Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.

9. a

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) has released a report named '**Working on a Warmer Planet - The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work**'.
- According to the report, India is projected to lose 5.8% of working hours in 2030 due to global warming, particularly impacting agriculture and construction sectors.
- It stated that working hours will be lost because it is too hot to work or because workers work at a slower pace.

10. b

- Government has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to **fisheries and animal husbandry** farmers to help them meet their working capital needs.
- The KCC facility will help fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to meet their short term credit requirements of rearing of animals, poultry birds and other aquatic organisms and capture of fish.

04-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gangetic river dolphins*

1. They were found in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.
2. It is blind and finds its way and prey in the river waters through echoes.
3. It has been listed as endangered under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Adjournment Motion*

1. It only terminates a sitting of the House and not a session of the House.
2. Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device.

Which of 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. Constitutional Amendment is required to change the name of a State.
2. State's approval is not mandatory to change the name of a State.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*

1. It was one among the specialized agencies of the United Nations (UN).
2. It was established in response to India's first nuclear operation held in 1974 code named as "Smiling Budha".
3. India joined IAEA in 1993 after the Second Pokhran Test which was held in 1992.

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

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

5) *State of the Education Report for India: Children with Disabilities 2019* was published recently by?

- a. UNESCO
- b. NITI Aayog
- c. Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d. None of the above

6) *Tapan Ray Committee* sometimes seen in the news recently was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- To suggest for revamping of PM National Disaster Relief Fund
- To study issues in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act
- To review the framework for Core Investment Companies
- None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mahananda River*

- It is a trans-boundary river that flows through India and Bangladesh.
- It is a tributary of River Ganga.
- Gangetic River Dolphins were found in this river.

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

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

8) Consider the following pairs

Places in News – Country

- Tware dam – China
- Atacama Desert – Brazil
- Balochistan – Pakistan

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

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

9) *Lampedusa Island* sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following regions?

- Black Sea
- Sea of Azov

- Caspian Sea
- Mediterranean Sea

10) With respect to *Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)*, consider the following statements:

- It has been constituted by an Act of Parliament.
- It was constituted originally to assist displaced persons from Pakistan.
- It consists entirely of public contributions and does not get any budgetary support.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answers

1. d

- Gangetic river dolphins fall under Schedule I of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act and have been declared an **endangered** species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The Gangetic river dolphin is one of the four freshwater dolphin species in the world.
- The other three are found in the Yangtze river in China, the Indus river in Pakistan and the Amazon river in South America.
- The Gangetic river species – found in **India, Bangladesh and Nepal** – is blind and finds its way and prey in the river waters through echoes.
- A population of endangered Gangetic river dolphins has been found for the first time in the **Mahananda river**, a tributary of the Ganga, in Bihar's Kishanganj district.

2. b

- Adjournment Motion** is introduced in the Parliament to draw attention of the

House to a definite matter of urgent public importance, and needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

- As it interrupts the normal business of the House, it is regarded as an extraordinary device.
- It involves an element of censure against the government and hence **Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device**.
- The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.
- Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has suggested to the Member of Parliaments **not to move adjournment motions in the House if there is no urgency**, because such practice hamper the productivity of Parliament.
- **Adjournment is different from the Adjournment Motion**

3. c

- The Constitution authorises the Parliament to form new states or alter the areas, boundaries or **names** of the existing states **without their consent**.
- The Union Minister of the State for Home Affairs has recently informed the Rajya Sabha that **Constitutional Amendment is required for changing the name of the state** in response to the proposal by the Government of West Bengal to change its name to Bangla.

4. d

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was created in **1957** in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology.
- It was established as an autonomous organization which is **not under direct control of the UN**, but reports to both the UNGA and Security Council.
- It is widely known as the world's "**Atoms for Peace**" Organization.
- India joined IAEA in **1957**.

5. a

6. c

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a working group **to review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CIC)**.
- The group will be headed by **Tapan Ray**, non-executive chairman, Central Bank of India and former Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

7. c

- Mahananda River is a trans-boundary river flow through **northern India and Bangladesh**.
- A population of endangered Gangetic river dolphins has been found for the first time in the **Mahananda river**, a tributary of the Ganga, in Bihar's Kishanganj district.

8. a

- 1. Tiware dam – Maharashtra, India
- 2. Balochistan – Pakistan
- The U.S. had recently designated the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) as a terror organisation.
- Tiware dam located in Ratnagiri in Maharashtra has been breached recently.

9. d

- A 31 year old German woman Carola Roackette was recently arrested and released later in Italy for rescuing nearly 40 migrants and docking her vessel in the **Lampedusa Island** located in the **Mediterranean Sea** against the Italian police in defiance of Italy's anti-migrant interior minister.

10. c

- In pursuance of an appeal by the then Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in January, 1948, the **Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)** was established with public contributions **to assist displaced persons from Pakistan**.
- The fund consists **entirely of public contributions** and does not get any budgetary support.
- PMNRF has **not been constituted by the Parliament**.

- **Prime Minister is the Chairman of PMNRF** and is assisted by Officers/ Staff on honorary basis.

05-07-2019

1) The main objective of MOSAiC mission sometimes seen in the news recently is?

- To study the impact of emissions created by Internal Combustion Engines
- To study the possibility of mining on sea at inner core Region
- To study the impact of climate change in the Antarctic Region
- None of the above

2) With respect to Project Manav sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- It aims to connect India's super computers with the Indian educational Institutions.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

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

3) Gaddhika is an art form performed by who among the following?

- Irula Tribes – Tamil Nadu
- Koya Tribes – Odisha
- Adiya Tribes – Kerala
- None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Jagannatha Temple

- Located in Odisha, this temple is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of Lord Shiva.
- A Nila Chakra is mounted on the top of the shikara of this temple.

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

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

5) Which of the following is/are located in Italy?

- Etna
- Vesuvius
- Stromboli

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

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

6) With respect to Parliamentary Privileges, consider the following statements:

- It does not extend to the President who is also an integral part of the Parliament.
- They were exhaustively codified in the Indian Constitution under the Article 105.

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

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

7) **Schizophrenia** refers to which of the following?

- a. Mental Disorder
- b. Pancreatic Cancer
- c. Thrombotic Disorder
- d. None of the above

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

1. It is a Spanish territory located at the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula.
2. The strait of Gibraltar connects the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

Which of 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) **NAPRT1 Gene** sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Molecular Scissors
- b. Social bonding gene
- c. Resistant against Fall Army Worm
- d. None of the above

10) **Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in which of the following states?

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Madhya Pradesh
- c. Goa
- d. Chhattisgarh

Answers

1. d

- The MOSAiC mission, which stands for **Multidisciplinary drifting**

Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate, hopes to enhance understanding of **Arctic** climate change and its global implications, and lead to safer maritime and offshore operations and better informed policy development.

2. d

- A new **human atlas initiative** has been launched to create a unified database of molecular network of all the tissues in the human body and to derive a holistic picture of working of the human body.
- The project named **Manav** has been launched by the **Department of Biotechnology** and Persistent Systems, a biotechnology company.

3. c

- The **Adiya** tribesmen of Wayanad, **Kerala** have recently started to perform '**Naduzhiyal**' as part of their ritualistic art form '**Nadugaddhika**' in villages of the hill district for the prosperity of the public.
- The tribes believe that 'gaddhika' brings prosperity to the hamlet and wards off evil hill district for the prosperity of the public.
- There were two types of the art form – Puja Gaddhika and Naadu Gaddhika.

4. b

- **Lord Jagannath** is a form of Lord Vishnu.
- The Nila chakra is said to face you from wherever you view it in Puri.

5. d

- Recently, **Stromboli** – a volcano erupts in Sicily in Italy.
- Italy's two other active volcanoes are **Etna** in Sicily and **Vesuvius** near Naples.

6. a

- Parliament, till now, has not made any special law to exhaustively codify all the privileges.
- They are based on five sources, namely,
 1. Constitutional provisions,
 2. Various laws made by Parliament,

3. Rules of both the Houses,
 4. Parliamentary conventions, and
 5. Judicial interpretations.
7. a
- Schizophrenia is a **severe mental disorder**, characterized by profound disruptions in thinking, affecting language, perception, and the sense of self.
 - It often includes psychotic experiences, such as hearing voices or delusions.
 - It can impair functioning through the loss of an acquired capability to earn a livelihood, or the disruption of studies.
8. b
- The **British overseas territory** of Gibraltar, a limestone outcrop on the **southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula**, occupies a commanding position at the western gateway to the Mediterranean Sea.
 - Iran has condemned interception of one of its oil tankers in Gibraltar where authorities said they suspected it was carrying crude to Syria in violation of EU sanctions.
9. d
- A recent study identified a gene called **NAPRT1** – that encodes an enzyme involved in vitamin B₃ metabolism – **is directly linked to schizophrenia**.
 - Schizophrenia is a severe mental disorder**, characterized by profound disruptions in thinking, affecting language, perception, and the sense of self.
10. b
- The **Kheoni sanctuary**, located in the Kannod tehsil of Dewas district, Madhya Pradesh was established in 1955.
 - It is home to mostly cheetal, sambhar, blue bull, four-horned antelope, wild boar, barking deer and wolves.
 - Recently, five tigers, including an adult male, two adult females and two cubs have been captured for the first time by night-vision cameras in Madhya Pradesh's Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary.

06-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana*

- The Scheme aims to address critical gaps in value chain including infrastructure modernization, traceability, production, productivity, post-harvest and quality control.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

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

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

2) **Obesogens** are chemicals that interact with the genes that makes one fatter. Which of the following are obesogen chemicals?

- Curcumin
- Genistein
- Capsaicin
- Zingiberene

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Calling Attention motion*

- It is introduced in the Parliament by a member to call the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance.
- It can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha.
- Like zero hour, it is also an Indian innovation.

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

- 1 and 2 Only
- 2 and 3 Only
- 1 and 3 Only

d. 1, 2 and 3

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Dastak Campaign*

1. It was launched by the government of Uttar Pradesh.
2. It aims to eradicate Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis.
3. It is done in association with the help of World Health Organisation.

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 *New Space India Limited*

1. It was established to tap the benefits of research and development carried out by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. It will be established based on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model.

Which of 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) *Jal Jeevan Mission* recently seen in the news aims to?

- a. Identifying presence of water and life in Mars
- b. Cleaning river Ganga under Ganga Rejuvenation Project
- c. Creation of local infrastructure for water sustainability
- d. Establishment of sanitary water treatment plants

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

1. Gandhipedia is being developed in order to sensitise society, particularly the youth.
2. It is being developed under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

8) Consider the following taxes

1. Securities Transaction tax
2. Angel tax
3. Goods and Service tax
4. Capital Gains tax

Which of the above comes under direct tax?

- a. 1 and 4 Only
- b. 1 and 2 Only
- c. 1, 2 and 4 Only
- d. All of the above

9) Pygmy hog is a critically endangered species found only in?

- a. Kaziranga National Park
- b. Manas National park
- c. Orang National Park
- d. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

10) The ex-officio members of the National Human Rights Commission are:

1. National commission for STs
2. National commission for Women
3. Chief Central commissioner for Disabled persons

4. National commission for Minorities

5. National commission for SCs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answers

1. c

2. b

- According to a study, genes tend to interact with obesogens in the environment to make the person fatter.
- Obesogen are chemicals — pesticides, phthalates, medicines — that affect body functions and makes one fat.
- Obesogen include chemicals such as:
 1. Monosodium glutamate — popularly called ajinomoto
 2. Clozapine, an anti-psychotic drug, **Genistein** — found in soy products like milk and baby food,
 3. Bisphenol A (BPA): Used in plastic and baby bottles and in sealing food cans,
 4. Arsenic: Chemical present in rocks and soil, percolates into groundwater and accumulates in crops,
 5. Nicotine: An addictive chemical found in tobacco,
 6. Dichloro-diphenyltrichloroethane or DDT popular insecticide.

3. c

- Calling Attention Motion is introduced in the Parliament by a member to call the attention of a minister to a **matter of urgent public importance**, and to seek an authoritative statement from him on that matter.
- It can be introduced **in any house of the parliament**.

- Like the zero hour, it is also an **Indian innovation** in the parliamentary procedure and has been in existence since 1954.

- However, unlike the zero hour, it is **mentioned in the Rules of Procedure**.

4. a

- Uttar Pradesh government has launched a massive campaign called 'Dastak' to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease.
- As part of campaign, entire state machinery with help of **UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund) went door to door in 38 districts affected by JE and AES.
- For the first time, the Cultural Department will join the Health Department in combating the virus in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

5. a

- A **Public Sector Enterprise** viz. New Space India Limited (NSIL) has been incorporated as a new commercial arm of Department of Space to tap the benefits of the Research & Development carried out by ISRO.
- The Company will spearhead commercialization of various space products including production of launch vehicles, transfer to technologies and marketing of space products.

6. c

- **Jal Jeevan Mission** will focus in *creation of local infrastructure for water sustainability – piped water supply for all homes in rural areas*.
- The newly constituted Jal Shakti ministry will helm the program.
- This mission will focus on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level, including the creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.

7. a

- **Gandhipedia** is being developed by **National Council for Science Museums**.

- It aims to sensitise youth and society at large about positive Gandhian values under **Ministry of Culture**.

8. c
9. b

- Only one viable population remains in the Manas Tiger Reserve, but even there, threats due to livestock grazing, poaching, fire, and tigers persist.

10. a

09-07-2019

1) What is the main objective of *Utkarsh 2022* sometimes seen in the news recently?

- a. To clean the most polluted rivers in the state of Uttarakhand by 2022
- b. To improve regulation and supervision of the Reserve Bank of India
- c. To promote Uttarkashi as one of the top tourist destination around the world
- d. It is a three year action plan to eradicate Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in the state of Uttar Pradesh

2) The *Global Study on Homicide 2019* was published recently by which of the following organisations?

- a. UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- b. UN Human Rights Council
- c. UN Relief and Work Agency
- d. Amnesty International

3) Gliese 3470 b sometimes seen in the news recently refers to a/an

- a. Star
- b. Comet
- c. Black Hole
- d. Exo-planet

4) With respect to *Foreigners Tribunal*, consider the following statements:

1. They are quasi-judicial bodies.
2. Under the tribunal, the onus of proving one's nationality lies upon such person.

Which of 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) *Prosecco Hills* was recently included in the UNESCO's World Heritage Site. *Prosecco Hills* are located in?

- a. Italy
- b. Egypt
- c. Australia
- d. Switzerland

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)*

1. It aims to serve as a major resource centre for the arts, especially written, oral and visual source materials.
2. It is an autonomous institution 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

7) Which one of the following is not the function of *Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)*?

- a. It organizes festivals at all over the country
- b. It gives grants-in-aid for research, documentation, and publishing in the performing arts

- c. It documents and records the performing arts for its audio-visual archive
- d. None of the above

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Ecological Succession

1. Primary Succession occurs when an ecological community first enters into a new form of habitat that it has not been present in before.
2. Secondary Succession occurs in already established habitat.
3. In Climax stage, an ecosystem becomes balanced and there is a little risk of an interfering event to influence the environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9) The well of Zamzam sometimes seen in the news recently is located in?

- a. Israel
- b. Jordan
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. Pacific Ocean

10) Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is located in which of the following states?

- a. Jharkhand
- b. Chhattisgarh
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Answers

1. b

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board has recently finalised a three-year roadmap **to improve regulation and supervision**, among other functions **of the central bank (RBI)**.

- This medium term strategy — named **Utkarsh 2022** — is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.

2. a

- The **Global Study on Homicide 2019** was published recently by the **UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**
- **Asia**, which accounts for 60% of the global population, recorded the **lowest rate of homicide** in 2017 with only 2.3 killings per 1,00,000 people while the Americas had the highest homicide rate, according to the UN report.

3. d

- Two NASA telescopes — Hubble and Spitzer, joined their (metaphorical) telescope hands for the first time to seek out chemical 'fingerprints' of an exoplanet 12.6 times the size of Earth.
- The planet in question, called **Gliese 3470 b**, is **not in our solar system**, which is why it is called an '**exo-planet**'.
- Gliese 3470 b is almost a cross between planets Earth and Neptune and has a large, rocky core.
- Scientists thought this planet would have heavier elements like oxygen and carbon, too, but its atmosphere is dominated with hydrogen and helium, much closer in composition to the Sun.

4. c

- The Foreigners' Tribunals are **quasi-judicial bodies** meant to "furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner within the meaning of Foreigners Act, 1946".
- Section 9 of the Foreigners Act says that "**the onus of proving** that such person is not a foreigner or is not a foreigner of such particular class or description, as the case may be, shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, **lie upon such person**".

5. a
- **Italy's** Prosecco hills **northeast of Venice**, which have been cultivated for centuries, were recently added to the World Heritage list by the UN cultural organisation (UNESCO).
6. c
7. d
- *Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)* organizes festivals at all over the country, gives grants-in-aid for research, documentation, and publishing in the performing arts; organizes and subsidizes seminars and conferences of subject specialists; documents and records the performing arts for its audio-visual archive.
8. d
9. c
- The well of Zamzam is located in **Mecca in Saudi Arabia** and many Haj pilgrims bring the holy water from the well for family and friends.
10. c

10-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Start up Village Entrepreneurship Program*

1. It aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set up local enterprises.
2. It is a sub component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
3. It was implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

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

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

2) **Plan Bee** sometimes seen in the news recently is a/an

- Project aimed to safeguard Elephants
- Alternative plan to combat Climate Change
- Scheme to promote Apiculture in rural areas
- None of the above

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Walled city of Jaipur*

1. It is an exceptional example of a late medieval trade town in South Asia and defined new concepts for a thriving trade and commercial hub.
2. The historic walled city of Jaipur in Gujarat was founded in 1727 AD under the patronage of Sawai Jai Singh II.
3. It has been recently inscribed as the UNESCO's World Heritage Site.

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

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

4) *Helicobacter Pylori* is a bacterium resides in the human stomach. It can cause which of the following in humans?

- Ulcers
- Gastritis
- Stomach Cancers
- All of the above

5) With respect to *Payments Council of India*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an umbrella organization responsible for all retail payments in India.
2. It is an autonomous organisation works under the aegis of Reserve Bank of India.

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

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

6) With respect to *Credit Rating Agencies*, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are statutory bodies established under the Credit Rating Agencies Regulations Act, 1999.
- 2. Credit rating agencies in India are regulated by Reserve Bank of India.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements:

- 1. It is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- 2. It cuts through the Pir Panjal Range.
- 3. It links Manali and Leh by road.

Identify the pass that correctly matches with the above description?

- a. Zoji la
- b. Nathu La
- c. Banihal La
- d. Rohtang Pass

8) Which of the following are Plantation crops?

- 1. Areca nut
- 2. Cashew
- 3. Rubber
- 4. Cocoa

5. Oil Palm

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

9) Which of the following is/are *Credit Rating Agencies* recognised in India?

- 1. Brickwork Ratings
- 2. India Rating and Research Pvt. Ltd
- 3. Credit Analysis and Research limited
- 4. Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10) With reference to the Special officer for linguistic minorities, consider the following statements:

- 1. The reports of Special officer for linguistic minorities are placed before the Parliament by the President.
- 2. The procedure for removal of Special officer for linguistic minorities is provided in the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. d

- Start up Village Entrepreneurship Program aims **to support entrepreneurs in rural areas** to set up local enterprises.
- SVEP is a sub component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**) of the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

2. a

- Plan Bee**, an amplifying system imitating the buzz of a swarm of honey bees **to keep wild elephants away from railway tracks** has recently earned the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) the best innovation award in Indian Railways for the 2018-19 fiscal.

3. c

- The Walled City of Jaipur, known for its iconic architectural legacy and vibrant culture, has **recently made its entry into the UNESCO's World Heritage Site list**.
- The historic walled city of Jaipur in **Rajasthan**, was founded in 1727 AD under the patronage of **Sawai Jai Singh II**.
- It serves as the capital city of the culturally-rich state of Rajasthan.
- In town planning, it shows an interchange of **ancient Hindu, Mughal and contemporary Western ideas** that resulted in the form of the city.

4. d

- The bacterium **Helicobacter Pylori** resides in the human stomach can cause **ulcers, gastritis and stomach cancers**.
- A recent study has found that these cancer causing gut bacteria is developing **antibiotic resistance** to the three commonly used antibiotics such as **Metronidazole, Levofloxacin and Clarithromycin**.

5. d

- The Payments Council of India was formed under the aegis of **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** in the year

2013 catering to the needs of the digital payment industry.

- The Council was formed inter-alia for the purposes of **representing the various regulated non-banking payment industry players**, to address and help resolve various industry level issues and barriers which require discussion and action.
- PCI works closely with the regulators i.e. RBI, Finance Ministry, etc.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, an umbrella organisation for operating **retail payments and settlement systems in India**, is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

6. d

- All the credit rating agencies in India are regulated by **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** Credit Rating Agencies Regulations, 1999 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- The government is considering a slew of reforms to separate their review and rating approval functions to ensure there is no conflict of interest.

7. d

- In the given options, **Rohtang pass** is the only pass located in **Himachal Pradesh**.

8. d

The major plantation crops include:

- Coconut
- Arecanut
- Oil palm
- Cashew
- Tea
- Coffee
- Rubber
- Cocoa(minor plantation crop)

9. d

- There are a total of six credit agencies in India viz,
 1. ICRA Limited
 2. Brickwork Rating
 3. India Rating and Research Pvt. Ltd
 4. Credit Analysis and Research limited (CARE)
 5. Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL)
 6. Small and Medium Enterprises Rating Agency of India (SMREA)
 - *The government is considering a slew of reforms to separate their review and rating approval functions to ensure there is no conflict of interest.*
10. a
- The Constitution does not specify the qualifications, tenure, salaries and allowances, service conditions and procedure for removal of the Special officer for linguistic minorities.

11-07-2019

1) ASRAAM which recently appeared in news is a

- a. welfare mission for the destitute
- b. short range air to air missile
- c. Russian submarine
- d. None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with regards to locusts.

1. Locusts are related to grasshoppers, and the two insects behave in the same manner although they look differently.
2. A swarm of locusts (locusts in large groups) entering from East Asian countries is getting to be a menace in North-East India.
3. Locust swarms are harmful to environment and human beings.

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

- a. 1 and 2 only

- b. 2 Only
- c. 3 Only
- d. 2 and 3 Only

3) Consider the following statements on Central Apprenticeship Council.

1. The Central Apprenticeship Council is a statutory body
2. The council functions under the Ministry of Labour and Employment

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

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

4) Kharchi Puja is a festival observed in the state of

- a. Odisha
- b. Tripura
- c. Nagaland
- d. Kerala

5) Consider the following statements on measles.

1. Sri Lanka is the fifth country in WHO's Southeast Asia region to eliminate measles
2. India leads the South Asian region in eradicating measles

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

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

6) Hayabusa2 spacecraft was launched by

- Russian Aviation and Space Agency or the Roscosmos State Corporation
- NASA
- European Space Agency
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

7) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- Corporate bonds are debt securities issued by both private and public corporations**
 - A corporate bond does not involve an ownership interest in the company, unlike when one purchases a company's equity stock**
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

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

- Art 370 allows the Jammu and Kashmir legislature to define the list of 'permanent residents' of the state**
 - Article 35A provides temporary, transitional and special status to Jammu and Kashmir**
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Neither 1 nor 2
 - Both 1 and 2

9) Diamond Harbour is a port located in the state of -

- West Bengal
- Maharashtra
- Odisha
- Tamil Nadu

10) The Rohingya, often seen in news, is

- A tribal community in Cambodia
- A majorly Buddhist group in Myanmar
- An Indo-Aryan ethnic group
- None of the above

Answers

1. b

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to test-fire ASRAAM from the Russian Su-30 MKI and the Anglo-French Jaguar aircraft by the end of this year (2019).

- ASRAAM is the British **Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM)**.
- It is a Within-Visual-Range (WVR) dominance weapon with a range of over 25 km.
- It accepts target information via aircraft sensors, such as radar or helmet-mounted sight, but can also act as an autonomous infrared search and track system.

2. c

- Locusts are a certain species of short-horned grasshoppers.
- Locusts are related to grasshoppers, and the two insects **look similar but behave differently**. While lifestyle being much like grasshoppers, locusts have another behavioral phase called the gregarious phase. When environmental conditions produce many green plants and promote breeding, locusts can congregate into thick, mobile, ravenous swarms (dense groups).
- There has been an incursion of desert locusts **in Rajasthan and Gujarat** from areas bordering Pakistan, recently. They emerged from Sudan and Eritrea on Africa's Red Sea Coast and travelled through Saudi Arabia and Iran to enter Pakistan.
- Locust swarms **devastate crops** and cause major agricultural damage and associated human misery such as **famine and starvation**.

3. a

The 36th Central Apprenticeship Council meet was held recently.

- The Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC) is an apex statutory body under the Apprentices Act, 1961.
- The **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** (MSDE) organizes the meetings of the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC).
- The council aims to meet the aspirations of the Indian youth who strive to gain on-the-job training and secure better opportunities for employment.
- Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is the Vice Chairman of the council.
- Other members of the council include -
 1. representatives of the Establishment in the PSUs, Private Sector
 2. representatives from Central Ministries and State /UT Governments
 3. persons having special knowledge and experience on the matters relating to industries, labour
 4. representatives of the All India Council of Technical Education and UGC

4. b

Kharchi Puja, a centuries-old Puja, was recently inaugurated in Tripura's erstwhile capital Puran Habeli.

- The seven-day Kharchi Puja is an annual festival meant to cleanse the sins of mortal souls.
- Originally a Hindu tribals' festivity, it is now observed by all communities and religions.
- The worship starts with the dipping of 14 deities in the Howrah river, followed by the sacrifice of 108 animals in the presence of hundreds of thousands of devotees, all at government expense.

5. b

The WHO has recently declared the elimination of measles from Sri Lanka.

- Sri Lanka is the fifth country in WHO's Southeast Asia region to eliminate measles.

The other four countries are Bhutan, Maldives, DPR Korea and Timor-Leste.

- **India has still a long way to go in eradicating measles.** The concerns with and mistrust in vaccines is a huge challenge in this process. The Delhi High Court, in 2018, had put on hold a vaccination campaign, citing lack of parental consent.
- Measles is a deadly childhood infection (sometimes in adults) and a serious and highly contagious disease. It can cause debilitating or fatal complications, including encephalitis, severe diarrhoea and dehydration, pneumonia, ear infections and permanent vision loss.

6. d

- Hayabusa2 spacecraft was launched by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA.
- *JAXA recently confirmed that Hayabusa2 spacecraft successfully landed on a distant asteroid and collected underground samples (soil sample).*
- Hayabusa2 is the first to successfully collect underground soil samples from an asteroid.
- The asteroid is named Ryugu, after an undersea dragon palace in a Japanese folktale. It is about 300 million kilometers (180 million miles) from Earth.
- The achievement comes ahead of a similar mission planned by the US's NASA team at another asteroid.

7. c

In Budget 2019, the Finance Minister has announced fresh measures to boost the development of India's corporate bond market.

- Corporate bonds are debt securities issued by private and public corporations to raise money for a variety of purposes.
- A buyer buys a corporate bond, and lends money to the "issuer" i.e. the company that issued the bond, and gets periodical returns as interest until the principal amount is paid at a specified maturity date.
- Notably, a corporate bond does not involve an ownership interest in the company. This is unlike the case when one purchases the company's equity stock, which involves ownership terms.

8. d

- **Article 35A** allows the Jammu and Kashmir legislature to define the list of '**permanent residents**' of the state. It was added to the constitution through the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, a presidential order.
- **Art 370** provides temporary, transitional and **special status** to Jammu and Kashmir.

Recently, the government has informed the Parliament that no foreign government or organisation had any locus standi in repealing Article 370. The reply came in response to a question on whether repeal of these articles in any way violate UN regulations or any international obligation of the country.

9. a

- The Diamond Harbour in **West Bengal** is located at the mouth of river Hooghly.
- It was recently in news as it recorded the **maximum sea level increase**, among the major ports in India. Diamond Harbour is followed by Kandla port in Gujarat, Haldia in West Bengal, and Port Blair on South Andaman Island.
- Chennai and Mumbai recorded a sea level rise far below the global and the national averages.

10. c

Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently expressed concern over risks of monsoon floods threatening the lives of Rohingya refugees in camps in Bangladesh.

- Rohingya are an **Indo-Aryan ethnic group, largely comprising Muslims**, who predominantly live in the **Western Myanmar province of Rakhine**.
- They speak a dialect of Bengali, as opposed to the commonly spoken Burmese language.
- Though they have been living in the South East Asian country for generations, Myanmar considers them as persons who migrated to their land during the Colonial rule. So, it has not granted Rohingyas full citizenship. Sectarian violence between Rohingyas and Rakhine's Buddhist natives began flaring up in 2012.

- Thousands of Rohingya have been fleeing Myanmar, many of whom are moving to Bangladesh and India, which is leading to a refugee crisis.

12-07-2019**1) Consider the following statements.**

1. Aadhaar number can be used as a proof of identity of a person, only by authentication.
2. The UIDAI can decide whether an entity can use Aadhaar or not.
3. The fees and revenue collected by the UIDAI goes to the Consolidated Fund of India

Which of the following are true according to the recent changes brought through the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019?

- a. 1 Only
- b. 2 Only
- c. 3 Only
- d. None of the statements is true

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

1. The Union Cabinet has approved a new definition for child pornography in its amendments to the POCSO Act
 2. Child pornography is already defined in Section 67 of the IT Act and Section 293 of the IPC (on sale, etc., of obscene objects to young person)
- a. 1 Only
 - b. 2 Only
 - c. Both 1 and 2
 - d. Neither 1 nor 2

3) The Eradi Tribunal was set up to reassess availability and sharing of water in connection with

- a. Mahadayi river dispute

- b. Satluj-Yamuna Link canal issue
 - c. Mullaperiyar dam dispute
 - d. Zangmu dam issue
- 4) 'Operation Thirst' is an initiative of the**
- a. Ministry of Railways
 - b. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 - c. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
 - d. Ministry of Rural Development
- 5) Anti-defection law is dealt with in the constitution in the**
- a. 7th Schedule
 - b. 8th Schedule
 - c. 9th Schedule
 - d. 10th Schedule
- 6) Which of the following comes under the applications of facial recognition technology?**
1. Payments
 2. Access and security
 3. Criminal identification
 4. Advertising
 5. Healthcare
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**
- a. 1, 2, and 3 Only
 - b. 2 and 3 Only
 - c. 4 and 5 Only
 - d. All of the above
- 7) The International Cooperation Scheme is related to which of the following Ministry?**
- a. Ministry of External Affairs
 - b. Ministry of Human Resource Development
 - c. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- d. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- 8) Consider the following statements on Worker safety code Bill.**
1. Worker safety code Bill subsumes existing laws regarding minimum wages and other workers' remuneration issues.
 2. It would apply to all establishments with 10 or more workers.
 3. It is the first of the four proposed codes that aim to merge 44 labour laws.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are not correct?**
- a. 1 and 2 Only
 - b. 1 and 3 Only
 - c. 2 and 3 Only
 - d. None of the above
- 9) Which of the following is correct regarding the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)?**
1. The CPCB was constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.
 2. The CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.
- Which of 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 on Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).**
1. PLFS measures employment every 3 months in urban areas and once a year in both rural and urban areas.

2. The quarterly survey only captures data classed as current weekly status (CWS), while the annual survey measures both the usual status and CWS.
3. The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducts the survey.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 Only
- b. 2 and 3 Only
- c. 1 and 3 Only
- d. All the statements are correct

Answers

1. b

The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was recently passed in the Parliament.

- Under the Bill, an individual may voluntarily use his/her Aadhaar number to establish his/her identity, by **authentication or offline verification**. [Authentication – submitting Aadhaar number and biometric or demographic information to the Central Identities Data Repository. Offline verification - other modes specified by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)]
- The existing Act allowed State or a corporate entity under any law to use Aadhaar. Under the Amendment Bill, the **UIDAI can make a decision on entities using AADHAAR**.
- The Amendment Bill provides for a dedicated **Unique Identification Authority of India Fund**, which will receive all fees and revenue collected by the UIDAI. Earlier, it goes to the Consolidated Fund of India.

2. a

The Union Cabinet has approved amendments in POCSO Act to make punishment more stringent for sexual crimes against children.

- **Neither Section 67 of the IT Act nor Section 293 of the Indian Penal Code defines child pornography.**

- The Union Cabinet has approved a new definition for child pornography.
- In line with the Women and Child Development Ministry's initiative on zero tolerance to child pornography, the Cabinet has approved a new definition for child pornography.
- Under this, any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child will be punishable.
- These include photographs, video, digital or computer generated image indistinguishable from an actual child and an image created, adapted or modified but appear to depict a child. It will also apply to animated content depicting children and where adults pretend to be children.

3. b

A recent Supreme Court order asked Punjab, Haryana and Centre to sort out SYL (Satluj-Yamuna Link canal) issue amicably.

- Apart from Ravi and Beas, **Sathuji and Yamuna** are two major rivers that flow through **Punjab and Haryana**. The dispute is about water sharing between two states depending on agriculture, with Punjab saying it has no water to spare.
- The Eradi Tribunal headed by Supreme Court Judge V Balakrishna Eradi was set up to reassess availability and sharing of water in SYL. The tribunal gave its verdict in 1987. However, the dispute is still unresolved.
- **Mahadayi river dispute** - Karnataka and Goa
- **Mullaperiyar dam dispute** - Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- **Zangmu dam issue** - India-China; a dam built by China on the Brahmaputra river near Zangmu in Tibet

4. a

- 'Operation Thirst' is an all India drive initiated by the Ministry of Railways, recently.
- The objective is to curb the menace of unauthorized PDW (packaged drinking water) in Railway premises.

5. d

Anti-defection Law appeared in news recently in connection with political developments in Karnataka, Goa and some other states.

- The anti-defection law is contained in the **10th Schedule** of the Constitution.
- It was passed through the **Constitution 52nd Amendment Act, 1985** and came into effect the same year.

6. d

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) recently released a Request for Proposal for an Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS) to be used by police officers

- Facial recognition is the process of identifying or verifying the identity of a person using their face. It captures, analyzes and compares patterns based on the person's facial details. The artificial intelligence technology used for pattern-finding and matching, in this regard, is called "neural networks".
- The AFRS, being implemented by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), is a component of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).
- All of the areas given above could be benefited with facial recognition technology.
- In advertisement field, the FaceTech helps companies recognise certain demographics (age and gender), and facilitates marketers and advertisers better targeting. In healthcare, it helps medical professionals identify illnesses by looking at a patient's features and better streamlining of appointment process.

7. c

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing the International Cooperation (IC) Scheme.

- The objective is to enhance the competency of MSMEs, capturing new markets for their products, exploring new technologies for improving manufacturing capacity, etc.
- Under it, financial assistance is provided on reimbursement basis to the eligible State/Central Government Organisations and Registered Industry Associations, societies /trusts associated with promotion and development of MSME sector.

8. b

The Union Cabinet recently approved the Code on Wages Bill and the Worker safety code Bill.

- The **Worker safety code Bill** seeks to **merge 13 labour laws** into one code on **occupational safety, health and working conditions**.
- It is the **Code on Wages Bill** that subsumes existing laws regarding minimum wages and other workers' remuneration issues as part of the efforts to improve ease of doing business.
- Worker safety code Bill would apply to all establishments with 10 or more workers.
- **Worker safety code Bill is the second** of four proposed codes that aim to merge 44 labour laws. The **first** is the **Code on Wages Bill**.

9. c

The CPCB recently pulled up 52 companies for not specifying a timeline or a plan to collect the plastic waste that results from their business activities.

- Both statements are right.
- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is a statutory organisation **constituted** in 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- Further, CPCB was entrusted with the **powers and functions** under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**

10. d

PLFS is a recent initiative aimed at generating estimates of various labour force indicators. All the given statements are correct.

15-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS)

1. It is the only dolphin sanctuary in India.
2. It is located in Bihar on the Ganga River.
3. National Water Way – 1 passes through this sanctuary.

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

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

1. It is an analytics tool that aims to monitor and track time-bound investigation.
2. It is a part of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS).

Which of 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) Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2019 Report was published recently by which of the following?

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. UN Inter Agency Group
- c. Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- d. Both B and C

4) Consider the following with respect to *Rewa Power Project*

1. It is Asia's largest solar power project.
2. It is located in the state of Maharashtra.

Which of 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) *Orchids of India: A pictorial guide* was recently published by which of the following?

- a. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- b. Ministry of Science and Technology
- c. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- d. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

6) Match the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Lithophyte – | a. plants growing on another plant including those growing on rock boulders |
| 2. Terrestrial – | b. plants growing on land and climbers |
| 3. Mycoheterotrophic – | c. plants which derive nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi that are attached to the roots of a vascular plant |

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Non Communicable Diseases*

1. About 61 per cent of deaths in India were attributed to Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), including cancer, tuberculosis and diabetes.
2. Almost 23 per cent are at risk of premature death due to Non Communicable Diseases.

Which of 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 Epiphytes

1. These are plants growing on other plants and derive its nutrition source from the supporting plant.
2. The occurrence of epiphytic orchids decreases with the increase in altitude.

Which of 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) “NotPetya” sometimes seen in the news recently is a

- a. Ransomware
- b. Crypto currency
- c. Hydrogen Car
- d. Super Computer

10) Operation Vijay is associated with which of the following?

- a. Annexation of Goa (1961)
- b. Annexation of Hyderabad (1948)
- c. Indo-Pakistan war of (1971)
- d. Pokhran –I nuclear test (1974)

Answers

1. d

- The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS), from Sultanganj to Kahalganj on the Ganga in Bihar is the only dolphin sanctuary in the country.
- The Sultanganj-Kahalgaon stretch of National Waterway-1 passes through this sanctuary.

2. c

- In February 2019, the Home Ministry launched an analytics tool — **Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO)** to monitor and track time-bound investigation.
- It is part of the **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS)** that connects over 15,000 police stations across the country.
- *ITSSO analysis has recently found out that nearly half of sex offence cases not being investigated in time.*

3. c

- The **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)** has recently released the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report for 2019.
- It has found that Jharkhand has made the fastest improvement among Indian states in reducing poverty.

4. a

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, continuous rain has damaged **Asia's largest solar Power project in Rewa**.
- The damage was caused after heavy rain triggered a mudslide.
- As per the estimates, this project has suffered a loss of more than Rs 20 crores by rain.

5. d

- **Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide**, a publication detailing all the species of India was unveiled recently by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

6. a

Orchids can be broadly categorised into three life forms:

1. Epiphytic (plants growing on another plants including those growing on rock boulders and often termed lithophyte)
2. Terrestrial (plants growing on land and climbers)

3. Mycoheterotrophic (plants which derive nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi that are attached to the roots of a vascular plant)

7. b

- **Tuberculosis** is a **communicable** disease.

8. b

Orchids can be broadly categorised into three life forms:

1. Epiphytic (plants growing on another plants including those growing on rock boulders and often termed lithophyte)
 2. Terrestrial (plants growing on land and climbers)
 3. Mycoheterotrophic (plants which derive nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi that are attached to the roots of a vascular plant)
- **Epiphyte**, also called **air plant or Lithophyte**, are any plant that grows upon another plant or object merely for physical support.
 - Epiphytes have no attachment to the ground or other obvious nutrient source and are **not parasitic on the supporting plants**.
 - The epiphytic orchids are abundant up to 1800m above the sea level and **their occurrence decreases with the increase in altitude**.

9. a

10. a

- **Operation Vijay (1961)** refers to the **annexation of Goa** by the Indian Government from the Portuguese forces.
- Commemorating the 20th anniversary of '**Operation Vijay (1999)**', defence minister Rajnath Singh has recently ignited a 'victory flame' from the National War Memorial.
- **Operation Vijay**, wherein brave soldiers of the Indian Army overcame seemingly insurmountable odds, hostile terrain, weather, and a determined enemy occupying dominating heights, to win the **Kargil war**.

16-07-2019

1) Indrasaurus wangi sometimes seen in the news recently is a/an

- a. Paravian Dinosaur
- b. Ancient Lizard species
- c. Dolphin native to River Indus
- d. None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Blue Flag Programme

1. It is an eco-label awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.
2. It is jointly operated under the auspices of the International Maritime Organisation and UN-Oceans.
3. Shivrajpur and Bhogave beaches are the only beaches in India that have attained the Blue Flag.

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

3) Which of the following tribe(s) is/are not belonging to the state of Sikkim?

1. Bhutia
2. Lepcha
3. Limboo
4. Tamang

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Van Mitra Portal*

1. It is an online portal launched by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. It acts as a platform for citizens to report poaching and illegal trade of forest resources.

Which of 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) *FinSpy* sometimes seen in the news recently is a

- a. Bio capsule
- b. Spyware virus
- c. Vaccine for TB
- d. Disinfectant resistant Pathogen

6) With respect to *Related Party Transactions (RPT)*, consider the following statements

1. These are transactions that a company does with parties related to it.
2. In India, Related Party Transactions are banned under the Companies Act, 2013.

Which of 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) With respect to *Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is the sum total of all the charges and taxes that a digital payment entails.
2. It is alternatively referred to as the Transaction Discount Rate (TDR).

3. Budget 2019-20 has proposed to levy zero MDR for all merchants and as well as Customers.

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

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

8) How is the *Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)* different from the *Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)*?

1. PSLV is designed mainly to deliver the earth-observation or remote-sensing satellites, whereas the GSLV is designed mainly to deliver the communication-satellites.
2. PSLV does not have enough power to carry heavier satellites, whereas GSLV can carry heavier payloads.
3. PSLV does not have enough power to go deeper into space, whereas GSLV can travel deeper into space.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

9) Which one of the following best describes the term *Trade Deficit*?

- a. It occurs when the total expenditures exceed the revenue that it generates
- b. It occurs when a country's exports exceed its imports
- c. It is a part of fiscal deficit indicating the difference in interstate trade
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *El Nino*

1. It is a condition wherein the surface waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, off the coast of South America, become unusually warm.
2. It is known to suppress rainfall in India during the monsoon months.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- A team of researchers has recently discovered a new specimen of a microraptor -- volant dromaeosaurid Microraptor zhaoianus -- **with the remains of a nearly complete lizard preserved in its stomach**.
- The researchers have **named the lizard after Lord Indra**.
- The lizard is unlike any previously known from the Cretaceous and represents a new species-Indrasaurus wangi.
- The name Indrasaurus was inspired by a Vedic legend in which the **god Indra was swallowed by a dragon** during a great battle (the dragon here referring to Microraptor).

2. a

- The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised **voluntary eco-labels** awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.
- The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the **Foundation for Environmental Education**).
- In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety,

and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained.

- **Japan and South Korea** are the only countries in South and South-Eastern Asia to have Blue Flag beaches.
- *The Union Environment Ministry has recently selected 12 beaches in India to vie for a 'Blue Flag' certification.*

3. d

List of Tribes in Sikkim:

1. Bhutia (including Chumbipa, Dophapa, Dukpa, Kagatey, Sherpa, Tibetan, Tromopa, Yolmo)
 2. Lepcha
 3. Limboo
 4. Tamang
- *A proposal for reservation of seats for Limboo and Tamang communities in Sikkim Legislative Assembly is under consideration of the Government of India.*

4. d

- The **Madhya Pradesh government** has recently began **organising gram sabhas** in villages to consider afresh rejected claims of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers to forest land rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- **To streamline the application process and deal with the bulk of claims**, the State has also launched an online application system, **Van Mitra**, in the Hoshangabad district on a pilot basis.

5. b

- **FinSpy** is the latest version of **spyware virus** designed to track nearly every interaction on a mobile device.
- FinSpy collects data from instant messengers—even if they are using encryption programs—such as Russian developed messaging app Telegram, Facebook's WhatsApp, Skype, Signal, China's WeChat and BlackBerry Messenger.
- It can work both on iOS and Android devices.

6. a

- **Related Party Transactions** are just that – transactions that a company does with parties related to it.
- So, if Company A buys goods or services from its director X, it counts as an RPT.
- In RPTs, there is a risk that the related party may be favoured with terms that could harm the interests of the company's shareholders.
- For instance, if Company A rents office premises from Y, a relative of its director X, and pays higher than market rent in a sweetheart deal, it helps Y and indirectly X, but harms shareholders of Company A.
- That said, RPTs need not always be bad for a company's shareholders.
- In many cases, RPTs make commercial and operational sense for the company.
- So, the **Companies Act has not banned RPTs** but instead laid down safeguards to be followed.
- As a result, RPTs, in general, need the approval of the company's Board of Directors and the Audit Committee.

7. d

- Merchant Discount Rate (alternatively referred to as the **Transaction Discount Rate** or TDR) is the sum total of all the charges and taxes that a digital payment entails.
- For instance, the MDR includes bank charges, which a bank charges customers and merchants for allowing payments to be made digitally.
- Similarly, MDR also includes the processing charges that a payments aggregator has to pay to online or mobile wallets or indeed to banks for their service.
- Finance Minister, in the Union Budget 2019-20 has proposed that no charges or Zero Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be imposed on customers as well as merchants.
- The payments industry has raised concerns over the Budget proposal to levy zero MDR on all merchants and has said it will lead to the collapse of the payments acquiring industry.

8. d

- PSLV is designed mainly to deliver the "earth-observation" or "remote-sensing" satellites with lift-off mass of up to about 1750 Kg to Sun-Synchronous circular polar orbits of 600-900 Km altitude.
- The GSLV is designed mainly to deliver the communication-satellites to the highly elliptical (typically 250 x 36000 Km) Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- PSLV does not have enough power to carry heavier satellites, or to go deeper into space.
- GSLV can carry heavier payloads and travel deeper into space.

9. d

- A trade deficit is an economic measure of international trade in which a country's imports exceed its exports.
- A trade deficit represents an outflow of domestic currency to foreign markets.
- It is also referred to as a negative balance of trade (BOT).
- **Trade Deficit = Total Value of Imports – Total Value of Exports**

10. d

- El Nino is a condition wherein the surface waters in the **equatorial Pacific Ocean**, off the coast of South America, become **unusually warm**.
- Its opposite condition, when it becomes unusually cold, is termed, La Nina.
- The two conditions influence weather events worldwide, including the Indian monsoon.
- El Nino is known to suppress rainfall during the monsoon months.

17-07-2019

1) Which one of the following is the objective of **Kan Sikul, Kan Huan Scheme** which was launched recently in the state of Mizoram?

- a. To make schools self-sufficient in the local variety of fruits and vegetables by March 2020
- b. To promote recycling of grey water by giving equipments at subsidised rate

- c. To encourage people to do away the practice of shifting cultivation
- d. To promote export of milk and reduce the wastage by 50% by 2022

2) With respect to National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD), consider the following statements

- 1. It is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- 2. It aims to reduce hearing impairment and deafness burden by 25% of the existing burden by the end of 12th Five Year Plan.

Which of 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) The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 report was published recently by which of the following organisations?

- a. International Food Policy Research Institute
- b. UN Food and Agriculture Organization
- c. World Health Organisation
- d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Chandipura Vesiculovirus (CHPV)

- 1. The virus spreads mainly through the bite of sand flies.
- 2. It predominantly infects children aged below 14.
- 3. It is known to cause inflammation of the brain, progress rapidly from an influenza-like illness to coma and death.

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

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

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

5) Consider the following statements

- 1. It is a serene marshland with shallow waters located in the state of Gujarat.
- 2. It is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- 3. It is a paradise for migratory birds declared as a Ramsar site in 2012.

Identify the sanctuary that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Marine Sanctuary
- b. Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary
- c. Great Rann Wildlife Sanctuary
- d. Chharidhund Conservation Reserve

6) Wolbachia sometimes seen in the news recently is a

- a. Naturally occurring bacteria
- b. Strain of Aedes aegypti mosquito
- c. World's first nuclear powered aircraft
- d. Festival celebrated in Nagaland

7) Biplab Kumar Sarma Committee sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Assam Accord
- b. Naga Peace Process
- c. Instrument of Accession
- d. Naxal insurgency

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Internet Saathi Programme

- 1. It aimed to empower rural women on how to use the Internet.
- 2. It was launched by Microsoft along with Tata Trusts.

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

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

9) Consider the following pairs

1. Neelum Valley – Jammu and Kashmir
2. Spiti Valley – Himachal Pradesh

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

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

10) Consider the following statements regarding coral bleaching

1. It occurs when coral polyps expel zooxanthellae that live inside their tissues.
2. Increase in sea surface temperature is the only cause for coral bleaching.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. a

- Kan Sikul, Kan Huan. In the Mizo language, it means '**My School, My Farm**'.
- It was recently launched in the Lawngtlai district of Mizoram.
- The aim of the scheme is to make every school, Anganwadi, child care institution and hostel in

Lawngtlai self-sufficient in the local variety of fruits and vegetables by March 2020.

- This is to reduce malnutrition and stuntedness among children.

2. b

- As per the guidelines of National Health Mission (NHM), the funding pattern between the Centre and State under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) is 60:40 for all states except for the North Eastern and Himalayan States where the ratio is 90:10.
- In case of Union Territories, Central funding is 100 % for all UTs except the UTs with legislature (i.e. Delhi and Puducherry), where this ratio is 60:40.
- Its long term objective is to prevent and control major causes of hearing impairment and deafness, so as to reduce the total disease burden by 25% of the existing burden by the end of 12th Five Year Plan.

3. b

- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 report, released by the **UN Food and Agriculture Organization**(FAO), estimated that 820 million people worldwide did not have enough to eat in 2018, up from 811 million in the previous year.
- At the same time, the number of overweight individuals and obesity continue to increase in all regions.

4. d

- The Chandipura Vesiculovirus (CHPV), first discovered by two virologists of the Pune-based National Institute of Virology (NIV) in 1965, predominantly infects children.
- The majority of infected patients are children aged below 14.
- Named after the town in Maharashtra where the discovery was made and isolated, Chandipura virus is known to cause inflammation of the brain, progress rapidly from an influenza-like illness to coma and death.
- The virus spreads mainly through the bite of sand flies, and sometimes through mosquitoes.

5. b

- **Nalsarovar** is a serene marshland with shallow waters that is spread over 120 sq km, about 60 km away from **Ahmedabad**.
- A paradise for migratory birds, Nalsarovar was declared a Ramsar site in 2012.
- It is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- *Seven islands that are a part of the protected Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary located near Ahmedabad are facing human encroachment.*

6. a

- To control the spread of dengue and chikungunya, scientists at the ICMR have developed a strain of the Aedes aegypti mosquito — the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue — into which **Wolbachia, a naturally occurring bacteria**, is introduced.
- Wolbachia inhibits viral infection, which means, people will feel the mosquito bite but they will not be infected.
- The bacteria will not allow the virus to replicate in the mosquito and so, the virus won't be transmitted through a bite.

7. a

- The Government has notified a high-level committee that is expected to look into the implementation of a clause of **Assam Accord** that seeks to provide safeguards to preserve and promote social, cultural and linguistic identity of Assamese people.
- The committee, headed by retired Gauhati High Court judge **Biplab Kumar Sarma**, will also make recommendations on reservation for Assamese people in the Assembly, and other local bodies.

8. a

- Google India's 'Internet Saathi' programme aimed to empower rural women on how to use the Internet has now added two more states -- Punjab and Odisha.
- With this, the programme has now reached 2.6 lakh villages in 20 states.

- Launched as a pilot project in 2015, along with Tata Trusts, 'Internet Saathi' programme focuses on educating women on how to use the Internet.

9. c

10. a

18-07-2019

1) Ploonet sometimes seen in the news recently refers to which of the following?

- a. These are moons that escape their planet and behave like a planet
- b. Amazon's project to connect rural areas with low cost internet connectivity
- c. A type of technical textile used in the health care sector
- d. It is a project aimed at finding reasons for the dwarfness of the planet Pluto

2) Which of the following is/are the applications of IRNSS?

1. Navigational purposes
2. Disaster management
3. Geodetic data capture
4. Fleet management

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Ebola

1. The virus is most often spread by close contact with bodily fluids of people.
2. People living with HIV, malnutrition or diabetes, or people who use tobacco, have a much higher risk of falling ill.

3. WHO has recently declared the Ebola crisis in the DR Congo a public health emergency of International concern.

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

4) "Find the Incredible You" is a campaign launched by which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of Tourism
- b. Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare
- c. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d. Ministry of Human Resources and Development

5) With respect to *National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019*, consider the following statements:

1. It enhances the jurisdiction of NIA to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India targeting Indians as well as Indian assets abroad.
2. It curtails the functions of NIA to investigate offences related to human trafficking and counterfeit currency.

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

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

6) With respect to *International Court of Justice (ICJ)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
2. Only States are eligible to appear before the Court in contentious cases.

3. Judgments delivered by the Court in disputes between States are binding upon the parties concerned.

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

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

7) With respect to *Atal Bimbit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana*, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Scheme, the government will pay 8.33% EPS contribution of the employer for the new employment.
2. All industries registered with Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) can apply for availing benefits under the scheme.

Which of 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) Which of the following are not the components of *Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) Scheme*?

1. National Cybercrime Training Centre
2. National Cybercrime Reporting Portal
3. National Cyber Research and Innovation Centre
4. National Cybercrime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Long Period Average (LPA)*

1. It is the average rainfall received by the country as a whole during the southwest monsoon, for a 100-year period.
2. This acts as a benchmark against which the rainfall in any monsoon season is measured.

Which of 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 *Contract Farming*

1. It can be defined as an agricultural production carried out according to an agreement between a buyer and farmers.
2. The buyer has the mandatory obligation to provide the supply of farm inputs, land preparation and the provision of technical advice.

Which of 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
 - If a **moon** of an exoplanet turns rogue (as it moves nearer to its star, **breaking away** — or being forced out of its orbit by the planet) and going off on its own trip, in effect behaving like a planet in its own right is called as a "**Ploonet**".
2. d
3. c
 - The IRNSS can provide Standard Positioning Service (SPS) to all users, and an encrypted Restricted Service (RS) to authorised users.
 - The IRNSS has a position accuracy better than 20 metres in the primary service area.

It can help in

 1. Terrestrial, aerial and marine navigation
 2. Disaster management
 3. Vehicle tracking and fleet management
 4. Integration with mobile phones
 5. Precise timing
 6. Mapping and Geodetic data capture
 7. Terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers
 8. Visual and voice navigation for drivers
4. a
 - **Ebola** is a virus that initially causes sudden fever, intense weakness, muscle pain and a sore throat.
 - It progresses to vomiting, diarrhoea and both internal and external bleeding.
 - People are infected when they have direct contact through broken skin, or the mouth and nose, with the blood, vomit, faeces or bodily fluids of someone with Ebola.
 - Patients tend to die from dehydration and multiple organ failure.
 - **Health care workers** are often at high risk.
 - *The World Health Organization has recently declared the Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo a "public health emergency of international concern".*
 - *For such a declaration, an outbreak must constitute a risk to other countries and require a coordinated response.*
 - *Declaring a disease as global health emergency often brings an increase in international attention and aid.*
5. b
 - The "**Find the Incredible You**" campaign of the **Tourism Ministry**, has won the **Pacific**

Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award, 2019.

- The campaign focuses on digital and social media and the promotion of niche tourism products of the country.
5. a
- Parliament has recently passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
 - The legislation aims at enhancing the jurisdiction of NIA to investigate scheduled offences **committed outside India** targeting **Indians as well as Indian assets abroad**.
 - The latest amendment will **enable the NIA to additionally investigate** offences related to human trafficking, counterfeit currency, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.
 - It also provides for constituting **special courts** for the trial of scheduled offences such as human trafficking and cyber terrorism.
6. d
- The Court is the principal judicial organ of the **United Nations**.
 - It was established by the United Nations Charter, which was signed in 1945 in San Francisco (United States), and began work in 1946 in the Peace Palace, The Hague (Netherlands).
 - **Only States are eligible** to appear before the Court in contentious cases.
 - The Court has **no jurisdiction** to deal with applications from **individuals, non-governmental organizations**, corporations or any other private entity.
 - Judgments delivered by the Court (or by one of its Chambers) in disputes between States are **binding** upon the parties concerned.
7. d
- **Employees' State Insurance Corporation** under Ministry of Labour and Employment has rolled out Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna.
- The scheme covers Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.
 - It **aims to provide cash relief to unemployed insured person**.
 - The relief will be payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.
8. a
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has rolled out a scheme '**Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**' for the period 2018-2020, to combat cyber crime in the country, in a coordinated and effective manner.
 - The scheme has following **seven components**:
 1. National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit.
 2. National Cybercrime Reporting Portal.
 3. Platform for Joint Cybercrime Investigation Team.
 4. National Cybercrime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem.
 5. National Cybercrime Training Centre.
 6. Cybercrime Ecosystem Management Unit.
 7. National Cyber Research and Innovation Centre.
9. b
- LPA is the average rainfall received by the country as a whole during the south-west monsoon, for **a 50-year period**.
 - The current LPA is **89 cm**, based on the average rainfall over years 1960 and 2010.
 - This acts as a benchmark against which the rainfall in any monsoon season is measured.
 - *The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is likely to revise downward by 2% the quantity of 'normal' monsoonal rain.*
10. a
- The buyer has **no obligation** to provide the supply of farm inputs, land preparation and the provision of technical advice. (It is **voluntary** only)

19-07-2019

1) Which of the following is the application of Resveratrol, commonly found in grape skin and blueberries?

- It acts as a sedative agent widely used in health care sector
- To keep astronauts preserve their muscle mass during trips in space
- To act as a preservative in personal care products
- To help mountaineers preserving their body against low atmospheric pressure

2) Consider the following statements

- It is located near the equator in the Pacific Ocean.
- It is slightly west of the International Date Line.
- Geographically, it is part of the larger island group of Micronesia.

Identify the Island based on the description given above:

- Tahiti Island
- Hawaii Island
- Bouvet Island
- Marshall Islands

3) Consider the following statements with respect to IUCN Red List

- Species added to IUCN Red List has been increased at an unprecedented rate in recent times.
- Habitat destruction and hunting by humans are the major reasons for decrease in the number of species.

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

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

4) Which of the following rivers flows through the Kaziranga National Park?

- Payaswini
- Rangpo
- Diphlu
- Mora Dhansiri
- Brahmaputra

Select the correct answers using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Hand Made in India project sometimes seen in the news recently

- It aimed at capacity building for 5000 weavers, artisans and traders to promote hand-made art in five states.
- It was launched by the Ministry of skill development and Entrepreneurship.

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

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

6) Larak Island sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following region?

- Persian Gulf
- Bay of Bengal
- Andaman Sea
- Mediterranean Sea

7) Consider the following pairs

1. Narasimham Committee – Banking reforms
2. Aruna Sundarajan Committee – Telecom Sector
3. Bimal Jalan Committee – RBI reforms

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)*

1. It is a multi-disciplinary organization under Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. It was established in January 2003 based on the recommendation of Naresh Chandra Committee on corporate governance.

Which of 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 regard to “Recognition of National Party” by the Election Commission of India

1. A party which got recognition as a state party in at least four states would be recognized as a National Party
2. For granting recognition as a national party, the party’s performance over two consecutive Lok Sabha or assembly elections will be considered

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only

- b. 2 only

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

10) The term “INS Kalvari”, sometimes seen in the News, is related to

- a. Nuclear powered submarine
- b. Indigenous amphibious warship
- c. Scorpene class submarine
- d. Stealth guided missile destroyer

Answers

1. b

- A recent study has showed that the red wine component **“Resveratrol” commonly found in grape skin and blueberries** substantially preserves muscle mass and strength in rats exposed to the wasting effects of simulated Mars gravity.

2. d

3. c

- Mankind’s destruction of nature is driving species to the brink of extinction at an unprecedented rate, the IUCN warned recently, as it added more than 7000 animals, fish and plants to its endangered “Red List”.
- Habitat destruction and hunting by humans are reasons for such fall in numbers.

4. b

- The park area is circumscribed by the **Brahmaputra River**, which forms the northern and eastern boundaries, and the **Mora Diphlu**, which forms the southern boundary.
- Other notable rivers within the park are the **Diphlu** and **Mora Dhansiri**.
- Rangpo – Sikkim
- Payaswini – Kerala

5. a

- **Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India** (EDII) (an autonomous

and **not-for-profit institute**) has developed a plan named '**Hand Made in India**' (HMI).

- It will be implemented in three years and in the first phase; it has been extended to six centres.
- It aimed to develop entrepreneurial competencies in about 5,000 weavers, artisans and traders to promote hand-made art.

6. a

- Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) stopped and seized an oil tanker near **Larak Island** in the **Strait of Hormuz**.

7. d

1. Narasimham Committee – Banking reforms
2. Aruna Sundarajan Committee – Telecom Sector
3. Bimal Jalan Committee – RBI reforms

8. c

- SFIO was established in January 2003 based on the recommendation of **Naresh Chandra Committee** on corporate governance.

9. c

10. c

20-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Paramarsh Scheme** which was launched recently

1. Under the scheme, the leading institutions will provide regular mentoring to help colleges achieve high quality standards.
2. It will be operationalized through a "Hub & Spoke" model.
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

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

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

2) Which of the following is/are the reasons for Assam being a flood-prone region?

1. Deforestation
2. Incessant Rainfall
3. River Brahmaputra
4. Earthquake prone Region
5. Population growth in catchment areas

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

3) **Deeksharambh** – a guide to Student Induction Programme was recently released by which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of Home affairs
- b. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- c. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d. Ministry of Human Resources and Development

4) Consider the following statements with respect to **Unified District Information on School Education (UDISE) Report, 2017-18** which was recently tabled in the Parliament

1. Tripura, Sikkim, and Nagaland have the best Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) in India.
2. Among larger states, Kerala has the best Right to Education (RTE) compliance.
3. Larger states showed a better Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) than smaller states and Union Territories.

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 *North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP)*

1. It is a World Bank aided project implemented by Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region.
2. It aims for the holistic development of north east region and is operational in all north eastern states.
3. It provides skill development training, vocational training to unemployed youths & Self Help Groups (SHGs) members for job placement and self-employment.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Solar Charkha Mission*

1. It was launched for the implementation of 50 Solar Charkha Clusters across the country to generate direct employment for nearly one lakh persons.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Which of 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 *Mission Sagar Maitri – 2*

1. It is an initiative of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

2. The prime objective of the mission is to conduct deep ocean hydrographic survey in the Antarctic 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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP)*

1. It aims to promote enterprise development by establishing community based micro-credit organizations and non-farm enterprises in its project areas.
2. It is being operational only in the states of Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
3. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

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

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

9) *INS Sagardhwani* sometimes seen in the news recently is a

- a. Offshore Patrol Vessel of Indian Navy
- b. Oceanographic research vessel of DRDO
- c. Deep submergence Rescue Vehicle of Indian Coast Guard
- d. Hydrographic Survey vessel of Indian Navy

10) Which of the following countries is/are members of G7 Grouping?

1. India

2. France
3. Canada
4. China

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answers

1. d

- **MHRD** has recently launched '**Paramarsh**' – a **University Grants Commission (UGC)** scheme for **Mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) Accreditation Aspirant Institutions** to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education.
- The scheme will be a paradigm shift in the concept of mentoring of institution by another well performing institution to upgrade their academic performance and enable them to get accredited.
- The Scheme will be operationalized through a "Hub & Spoke" model wherein the Mentor Institution, called the "Hub" is centralized and will have the responsibility of guiding the Mentee institution through the secondary branches the "Spoke" through the services provided to the mentee for self-improvement.

2. d

- Apart from **incessant rainfall during the monsoon**, there are many contributory factors that causes floods in Assam, natural and man-made.
- At the crux is the very nature of the **river Brahmaputra –dynamic and unstable**.
- Because of the **earthquake-prone nature of the region**, the river Brahmaputra has not been able to acquire a stable character.

- Following the devastating earthquake of 1950, the level of the Brahmaputra rose by two metres in Dibrugarh area in eastern Assam.
- Besides these natural factors are the man-made ones – **habitation, deforestation, population growth in catchment areas**(including in China) – which lead to higher sedimentation.
- For example, the sediment deposition itself creates temporary sandbars or river islands.

3. d

- **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has recently released the "**Deeksharambh**", an UGC Guide to Student Induction Programme.
- Deeksharambh aims to help new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment, inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution, help them build bonds with other students and faculty members, and expose them to a sense of larger purpose and self-exploration.

4. b

- Tripura, Sikkim, and Nagaland have the best Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), according to a report compiled by the Unified District Information on School Education (UDISE) in 2017-18 and tabled by the government in Parliament.
- **Smaller states and UTs showed a better PTR than larger states.**
- The PTR norm in the country has been set at 30:1 for primary level, and at 35:1 for the upper primary level.
- The report found the PTR at national level 23:1 for primary schools and 24:1 for upper primary schools.
- **Bihar**, with 67.94% primary schools and 77.86% upper primary schools non-compliant with the standards, as well as a PTR of 38:1 and 39:1 in those schools respectively, is at the **bottom on all four counts**.
- UP and Jharkhand too have poor ratios and compliance ratios.
- Among larger states, **Kerala has the best RTE compliance**, with less than 5% non-

compliance at both primary and upper primary schools.

5. a

- North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP) is a livelihood and rural development project aimed to transform the lives of the poor and marginalized tribal families in North East (NE) India.
- NERCORMP is a joint developmental initiative of the **North Eastern Council (NEC)**, **Ministry of DoNER** and **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**.
- **Objective:** To improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through **improved management of their resource base** in a way that contributes to the preservation and restoration of the environment.
- The scheme has facilitated in **establishing community based micro-credit organizations** and **non-farm enterprises** in its project areas which provides employment to Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- It is operational in 10 districts of **4 States of NER** namely **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya**.

6. a

- The **Ministry of MSME** has **launched** the Mission Solar Charkha for implementation of 50 Solar Charkha Clusters across the country.
- The scheme is envisaged to generate direct employment for nearly one lakh persons.
- Solar Charkha units have been classified as Village Industries.
- The scheme is being **implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**, Mumbai.

7. a

- It is a unique initiative of **DRDO** which aligns with the broad objective of "**Safety And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**" to promote closer co-operation in socio-economic aspects as well as greater scientific interaction especially in ocean research

among **Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries**.

- **INS Sagardhwani**, a Marine Acoustic Research Ship (MARS) of the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi and **operated by the Indian Navy** has set sail from Kochi for a scientific venture called '**Marine & Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative (MATRI)**'.
- The prime objectives of the Mission are data collection from the **entire North Indian Ocean**, focussing on the **Andaman Sea and adjoining seas** and establishing long-term collaboration with eight IOR countries in the field of ocean research and development.
- The Mission commemorates the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's lone research ship **INS Kistna's** missions as part of the historic International Indian Ocean Expeditions (IIOE), which took place during 1962-65.
- As part of the mission, INS Sagardhwani will **revisit the selected tracks of INS Kistna** and provide NPOL scientists ample opportunities to collaborate and garner a close working relationship with the oceanographic counterparts of the IOR countries.

8. c

- North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP), a **World Bank aided project**, being implemented by Ministry of DoNER, **provides skill development training, vocational training** to unemployed youths & Self Help Groups (SHGs) members for job placement and self-employment in 11 districts of four North East States namely **Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura**.

9. b

- **INS Sagardhwani** is the Oceanographic Research Vessel (ORV) of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, maintained and operated by the **Indian Navy**.
- It is a 'Marine Acoustic Research Ship' (MARS) designed and developed by 'Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory' (NPOL), Kochi.

- The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art equipments like the latest wave height measuring radars, marine radio etc.

10. c

Members of G7 grouping:

- France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

22-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Ayush Grid Project

1. It is the proposed IT backbone for the entire AYUSH sector in the fields of healthcare delivery at all levels, research, education, schemes and various health programs.
2. It will be developed jointly by the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

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

2) The main objective of Har Medh Par Ped campaign is?

- a. To promote agro-forestry
- b. To promote the cultivation of bio-fuel crops
- c. To promote the export of agricultural products
- d. To eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Jaivik kheti portal

1. It is a one stop solution for facilitating organic farmers to sell their organic product and promoting organic farming and its benefits.

2. It is being implemented under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare.

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

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

4) Export of honey and other bee hive products is being regulated in India by which of the following agencies?

- a. Export Inspection Council
- b. Export Promotion Council of India
- c. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- d. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Safdarjung Tomb

1. It is the last enclosed garden tomb in Delhi in the tradition of Humayun's Tomb.
2. It was built in 1753- 54 as mausoleum of Safdarjung, the viceroy of Awadh.

Which of 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 Exercise Garuda 2019

1. It is a bilateral Indo- Russia large force employment warfare exercise.
2. It was hosted by Indian Air Force (IAF) at Noida, 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 *Thirty Meter Telescope*

1. Thirty Metre refers to the 30-metre diameter of the mirror which makes it three times as wide as the world's largest existing visible-light telescope.
2. It is being built by the Government of United States of America in its territory of Hawaii.

Which of 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) *Global Innovation Index* will be released annually by which of the following organizations?

- a. World Intellectual Property Organisation
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. UN Conference on Trade and Development
- d. NITI Aayog

9) Consider the following statements with respect to the Rajya Sabha

1. The states of India have unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha.
2. All the seven Union Territories of India have equal representation in the Rajya Sabha.
3. The President can nominate two members from Anglo-Indian Community if the community is not adequately represented in the Rajya Sabha.

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

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

10) With reference to the concept of Vertical Farming, which of the following will be the advantages of this concept?

1. Under this farming the crops will be safe from extreme weather occurrences such as droughts and floods.
2. This concept will reduce the use of traditional fertilizers as well as chemical pesticides.
3. In vertical farming more crops can be grown in a small land area.
4. Vertical farms use more water by depending on hydroponics or aeroponics.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answers

1. c
 - The AYUSH Grid Project is the proposed **IT backbone** for the entire **AYUSH sector** covering the healthcare systems Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy.
 - It is envisaged as an omnibus digital ecosystem that would lead to all round development of the AYUSH sector in fields of healthcare delivery at all levels, research, education, schemes and various health programs.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed between **Union Ministry of**

Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Union Ministry of AYUSH.

- As per MoU, MeitY has agreed to advice and give technical support to AYUSH Ministry for planning and development of **AYUSH GRID Project**.
2. a
- Under the "**Har Medh Par Ped**" campaign, **agro forestry is being promoted** for supplementing farm income, increase risk management and climate resilient agriculture as an important component of Integrated Farming Systems.
3. c
- Jaivik Kheti portal has been created for promotion and sale of organic produce to connect farmers involved in organic farming with consumers directly for better prices.
 - Already 80,000 farmers are registered on the portal.
4. a
- The export of honey and other bee hive products is being regulated by the **Export Inspection Council (EIC)**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
5. c
- **Safdarjung's Tomb** is the last enclosed garden tomb in Delhi in the tradition of Humayun's Tomb, though it is far less grand in scale.
 - It was built in 1753- 54 as mausoleum of Safdarjung, the viceroy of Awadh under the **Mughal Emperor, Mohammed Shah**.
 - It has several smaller pavilions with evocative names like **Jangli Mahal**, (Palace in the woods), **Moti Mahal** (Pearl Palace) and **Badshah Pasand** (King's favourite).
 - The complex also has a madarsa. The archaeological Survey of India maintains a library over the main gateway.
6. d
- Ex Garuda 2019, a bilateral **Indo-French** large force employment warfare exercise hosted by **French Air Force (FAF)** at Mont-de-Marsan France.

7. a

- The telescope is being built by **an international collaboration of government organizations** and educational institutions, at a cost of \$1.4 billion.
- "Thirty Metre" refers to the 30-metre diameter of the mirror, with 492 segments of glass pieced together, which makes it three times as wide as the world's largest existing visible-light telescope.
- The larger the mirror, the more light a telescope can collect, which means, in turn, that it can "see" farther, fainter objects.

8. a

- GII will be published by **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** in association with INSEAD and Cornell University.

9. b

10. b

23-07-2019

1) Project Sampark sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. National Clean Air Programme
- b. Border Roads Organisation
- c. Defence Research and Development Organisation
- d. None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS)

1. It helps service voters to cast their vote on an electronically received postal ballot, from anywhere outside their constituency.
2. It is a fully secured system, having two security layers.
3. There will be no duplication of casted ETPB due to the unique QR Code in the portal.

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) **Urja Ganga Project**, sometimes seen in the news is related to

- a. Gas pipeline project aims to provide PNG and CNG to residents and vehicles respectively
- b. Massive solar power project over the canals of Ganga which aims to generate solar energy
- c. It's a kind of "Waste to Energy" process which will be implemented as a part of clean Ganga mission
- d. It's a kind of hydroelectric power project aims to generate 600 MW of electricity from Ganga water

4) A person can enroll him/herself as a Service Voter, if he/she is

- 1. In the Armed Forces of India
- 2. From the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India
- 3. Employed under the Government of India, in a post outside India
- 4. Member of an Armed Police Force of a State, and serving outside that state

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to **GSLV Mk III**

- 1. It is a two-stage launch vehicle developed by ISRO.

- 2. The vehicle has two solid strap-ons, a core liquid booster and a cryogenic upper stage.

- 3. The vehicle is designed to carry 10 tons of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 4 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to **Chandrayaan-2**

- 1. It comprises a fully indigenous Orbiter, Lander and a Rover.
- 2. Its primary goal is to understand the evolution of the Martian system and the distribution of water molecules on its surface.

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

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

7) **JATAN** sometimes seen in the news recently is a

- a. Jel like Tablets
- b. Malicious Software
- c. Fifth generation bio-fuel
- d. Virtual Museum Software

8) Consider the following statements with respect to **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

- 1. It provides for an increase in the tenure of Chairpersons of NHRC and SHRC to five years from the current three years.

2. Under the bill, a former Supreme Court Judge can also become the NHRC Chairperson apart from the former Chief Justice of India (CJI).
3. Under the bill, the Members and Chairperson shall be eligible for reappointment.

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

9) **Hope Island** has been developed as a world Class Coastal & Eco Tourism Circuit in India. It is located in which of the following states?

- a. Kerala
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Andhra Pradesh
- d. Karnataka

10) Ministry of Tourism under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme has recently identified Tirthankar Circuit. The sites covered under this circuit are associated with which of the following?

- a. Zoroastrianism
- b. Buddhism
- c. Jainism
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. b
 - Union Defence Minister has recently inaugurated the One km long Ujh bridge in Kathua district and 617.40 Metre long Basantar bridge in Samba district of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - Both these bridges have been constructed under the **Project Sampark**.
2. d
 - Project Sampark was raised by **Border Roads Organisation** (BRO) in 1975 with its Headquarters at Jammu.
3. a
4. d

A person can enroll as a Service Voter if he/she is

 1. in the Armed Forces of India
 2. from Assam Rifles, CRPF, BSF, ITBF; GREF in Border Road Organisation; Central Industrial Security Force
 3. employed under the Government of India, in a post outside India
 4. member of an Armed Police Force of a State, and serving outside that state
5. a
 - GSLV Mk III is a **three-stage** launch vehicle developed by ISRO.
 - The vehicle has **two solid strap-ons, a core liquid booster** and **a cryogenic upper stage**.
 - The vehicle is designed to carry **4 ton** class of satellites into **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)** or about **10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
6. a
 - Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the moon.
 - It comprises a **fully indigenous** Orbiter, Lander (**Vikram**) and Rover (**Pragyan**).

- The Rover Pragyan is housed inside Vikram lander.
 - The mission objective of Chandrayaan-2 is to develop and demonstrate the key technologies for end-to-end lunar mission capability, including soft-landing and roving on the lunar surface.
 - On the science front, this mission aims to further expand our knowledge about the Moon through a detailed study of its topography, mineralogy, surface chemical composition, thermo-physical characteristics and atmosphere leading to a better understanding of the **origin and evolution of the Moon**.
7. d
- The **Ministry of Culture** has embarked upon an ambitious project of the **digitization of the collections of the Museums**.
 - In this endeavour, the Ministry of Culture, through the technical expertise of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C – DAC) Pune and the Art Institute of Chicago got standardized a software entitled "**JATAN**" for implementation in its Museums.
 - The twin purpose of the project is making effective utilization of technology in museum management and bringing the collections of these museums closer to the public by making them **available for online** viewing over the internet.
8. c
- The Parliament has recently passed the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
 - The Bill amends the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**.
 - It provides for the **reduction of the term** of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission and the State Commissions from **five to three years** and shall be **eligible for re-appointment**.
 - The bill also states that besides the former Chief Justice of India, as is the current requirement, a **former Supreme Court Judge** can also become the NHRC Chairperson.
- Similarly, a former High Court Judge can also become a State Human Rights Commission Chairperson besides a High Court Chief Justice.
9. c
10. c
- Ministry of Tourism under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme has identified Tirthankar Circuit as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development in the country.
 - All the sites associated with **Jainism** are covered under this circuit.
- 24-07-2019**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to the **UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India**
1. It aims to generate up to 200 opportunities for undergraduate students at UK universities to visit India by March 2021.
 2. The programme will be funded by the UK and Indian governments as part of the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKEIRI).
- Which of 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 Health Accounts Estimates 2015-16**
1. Jammu and Kashmir and Assam spent the largest fraction of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) on public health.
 2. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have spent least of their GSDPs on public health.
- Which of 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) **Tiangong-2** often seen in the news recently is a

- a. Space Station
- b. Space Telescope
- c. Super Computer
- d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements

1. He was the chief strategist of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).
2. He became very popular after the Kakori Train robbery in 1925 and the killing of the assistant superintendent Saunders in 1928.
3. Bhagat Singh joined with him following the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Identify the correct personality using the description given above:

- a. Sachin Sanyal
- b. Ramprasad Bismil
- c. Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee
- d. Chandra Shekhar Azad

5) **The oceanic pole of inaccessibility** often called as **The Point Nemo** refers to?

- a. The most remote location on Earth
- b. The most remote location on Atlantic Ocean
- c. An imaginary line joining the inaccessible areas of the planet Earth
- d. The most remote location on Moon

6) Consider the following statements with respect to **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019**

1. It has been jointly developed by the World Economic Forum (WEF), Cornell University and Paris-based business school Insead.
2. The theme for the year 2019 is Creating Healthy Lives - The Future of Medical Innovation.
3. India has been ranked the most innovative country in the Central and Southern Asia Region every year since 2011.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements

1. A person who is appointed to be a governor of a state should be an outsider, that is, he/she should not belong to the respected state.
2. While appointing the governor, the president is required to consult the chief minister of the state concerned.

Which of the above is/are mentioned in Indian Constitution as the qualification for the appointment of a person as a Governor of a State?

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

8) Consider the following statements

1. He was an Indian social reformer and freedom activist.
2. He was also called the 'Father of Indian Unrest'.

3. He was the author of the book “Gita Rahasya”.

Identify the correct personality using the description given above:

- Rash Behari Ghosh
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Madan Mohan Malaviya
- None of the above

9) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution*

- If the member voluntarily gives up the membership of the party, he shall be disqualified.
- If there is a merger between two political parties and one-third of the members of a legislature party agree to the merger, they will not be disqualified.

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

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

10) *Markanda* and *Tangri* are the tributaries of which of the following rivers?

- Son
- Gomti
- Mahanadi
- Ghaggar

Answers

1. c

- The “UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India”, an initiative of **Universities UK International (UUKI) and British Council India**, was launched recently.

- It aims to generate up to 200 opportunities for undergraduate students at **UK universities to visit India** by March 2021.
- Priority for the programme to visit India during their courses will be given to students from traditionally underrepresented groups.
- The programme will be **funded by the UK and Indian governments** as part of Phase 3 of the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKEIRI) and delivered by the British Council, Universities UK International and EdCIL in India.

2. a

- Jammu and Kashmir and Assam** spent the **largest** fraction of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) on public health, according to **National Health Accounts Estimates 2015-16**, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has told the Parliament recently.
- The share of Government Health Expenditure (GHE) in the GSDPs of J&K and Assam were 1.7% and 1.5% respectively, the data show.
- Haryana and Maharashtra** are towards the lower end of the table, having spent 0.6% and 0.7% of their GSDPs on health respectively.

3. a

- Tiangong-2 was a **manned Chinese space station** that was destroyed upon its controlled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere over the Pacific Ocean on July 19.
- Tiangong-2 was retired from service after it had completed its experiments in space.
- Tiangong-2 was 10.4 metres long and 3.35 metres wide at its widest point, and weighed 8.6 metric tonnes.
- It was launched on September 15, 2016 and, in late 2016, hosted two Chinese astronauts for 30 days in what was China's longest manned space mission so far.

4. d

- The revolutionary activity in Punjab, United Provinces and Bihar was dominated by the **Hindustan Republican Association/Army or HRA**.

- The HRA was founded in October 1924 in Kanpur by **Ramprasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee and Sachin Sanyal.**
 - Under the leadership of **Chandra Shekhar Azad**, the name of **HRA** was changed to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (**HSRA**) after the death of its founder, Ram Prasad Bismil, and three other prominent party leaders.
 - The participants included Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Bhagwaticharan Vohra from Punjab.
 - Bhagat Singh joined Azad following the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, after he was beaten by police officials.
 - Azad trained Singh and others in covert activities.
5. a
- Point Nemo, officially known as “**the oceanic pole of inaccessibility**,” or, more simply put, the point in the ocean that is farthest away from land.
 - The spot is quite literally the **middle of nowhere**, surrounded by more than 1,000 miles of ocean **in every direction**.
 - Point Nemo is located over 1,000 miles (1,600km) equidistantly from the coasts of three far-flung islands.
 - Ducie Island (one of the Pitcairn islands) is to the north, Motu Nui (of the Easter Island chain) is to the north-east and Maher Island (off the coast of Antarctica) is to the south.
 - *Most of Tiangong-2 burnt up in the atmosphere, and the remaining debris fell near Point Nemo, the most remote location on Earth, which is so far from land.*
6. c
- The GII has been jointly developed by the **WIPO**, Cornell University and Paris-based business school Insead.
 - The theme of the 2019 GII is Creating Healthy Lives - The Future of Medical Innovation, which aims to explore the role of medical innovation as it shapes the future of healthcare.
7. d
- India has been ranked the most innovative country in the Central and Southern Asia Region every year since 2011.
 - India has consistently outperformed on innovation relative to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita.
8. b
- The **Constitution** lays down **only two qualifications** for the appointment of a person as a governor. These are:
 1. He should be a citizen of India.
 2. He should have completed the age of 35 years.
 Additionally, **two conventions** have also developed in this regard over the years.
 1. He should be an outsider, that is, he should not belong to the state where he is appointed, so that he is free from the local politics.
 2. While appointing the governor, the president is required to consult the chief minister of the state concerned, so that the smooth functioning of the constitutional machinery in the state is ensured.
 However, both the conventions have been violated in some of the cases.
9. a
- There are two grounds on which a member of a legislature can be disqualified.
 - One, if the member voluntarily gives up the membership of the party, he shall be **disqualified**.
 - Voluntarily giving up the membership is not the same as resigning from a party.
 - Even without resigning, a legislator can be **disqualified** if by his conduct the Speaker/Chairman of the concerned House

draws a reasonable inference that the member has voluntarily given up the membership of his party.

- Second, if a legislator votes in the House against the direction of his party and his action is not condoned by his party, he can be disqualified.
- However, there is an exception that was provided in the law to protect the legislators from disqualification.
- The 10th Schedule says that if there is a merger between two political parties and **two-thirds** of the members of a legislature party agree to the merger, they will not be disqualified.

10. d

- Ghaggar originates from Dagshai village in Himachal's Solan district and flows through Haryana, Punjab, and then ends in Rajasthan.
- The river and its tributaries — **Markanda and Tangri** — pass from Kalka, Panchkula, Ambala, Kaithal, (in Haryana) and then enters Punjab's Patiala, Sangrur districts.

25-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH)*

1. It aims to promote intensive research to evaluate environmental stresses/factors at the workplace.
2. It is an autonomous institute works under the Ministry of Labour.
3. It was dissolved recently and merged with the National Institute of Miner's Health (NIMH).

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH)*

1. It conducts applied research in occupational health and hygiene and specializes in providing technical support services to mining and mineral based Industry.
2. It is an autonomous institute works under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Which of 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) With respect to *Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane*, consider the following statements:

1. The FRP of sugarcane is determined under Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.
2. The FRP is determined based on the recommendation of the Commission of Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP).

Which of 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 *North Eastern States Road Investment Programme (NESRIP) project*

1. It envisages the construction/up-gradation of roads in six North-Eastern States.
2. The project was assisted by the World Bank.
3. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is the executing agency

responsible for overall coordination and monitoring of progress.

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

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

5) Consider the following pairs

1. Rokhia Power Project – Tripura
2. Gumti Hydro Electric Project – Uttar Pradesh

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) Union Finance Minister has recently launched the “Taxologue”. It refers to?

- a. e-journal
- b. Tax calculation app
- c. Publicity Kit for tax awareness
- d. Awareness film about CBDT

7) Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline sometimes seen in the news recently is a transnational pipeline between which of the following two countries?

- a. India and Bhutan
- b. India and Nepal
- c. India and Bangladesh
- d. India and Afghanistan

8) Dokdo/Takeshima islands sometimes seen in the news recently is a disputed territory between which of the following two countries?

- a. Russia and South Korea
- b. China and Philippines
- c. Russia and Japan
- d. South Korea and Japan

9) Arrange the following from South to North

1. East Sea
2. East China Sea
3. South China Sea
4. Sea of Okhotsk

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10) Consider the following statements regarding the concept of Eclipse

1. When the shadow of the Earth falls on the moon it is called Lunar eclipse.
2. When the shadow of the moon falls on the Earth it is called Solar eclipse.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. a

- The **National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH)** is the premier institute, under the aegis of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved to dissolve **National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH)**, an autonomous Institute under Ministry of Mines (MoM) and merge / amalgamate with ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) with all assets and liabilities.
2. a
- **National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH)** is an autonomous Institute under **Ministry of Mines**.
 - It conducts applied research in occupational health and hygiene and specializes in providing technical support services to mining and mineral based Industry.
 - The Union Cabinet has recently approved to dissolve **National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH)**, an autonomous Institute under Ministry of Mines (MoM) and merge / amalgamate with ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) with all assets and liabilities.
3. c
- The **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane** is determined under Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.
 - This will be **uniformly applicable all over the country**.
 - The FRP is based on the recommendation of the **Commission of Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)** as per its report of August 2018 on the price policy for sugarcane for the 2019-20 season.
 - The CACP has recommended the same price for the 2019-20 sugar season as it was for the sugar season 2018-19.
4. a
- North Eastern States Roads Investment Programme (NESRIP) envisaged construction/up-gradation of total 433.425 km long roads in **6 North Eastern States** of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura.
- It is assisted by **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
 - **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** is the Executing Agency responsible for overall coordination with ADB and State Governments and monitoring of progress.
5. a
- **Rokhia** Power Project is located at West **Tripura** district whereas **Gumti** Hydro Electric Project is in Gomati district of **Tripura**.
 - Asian Development Bank has recently sanctioned 1,925 crore rupees project for up-gradation of power generation and distribution in Tripura.
6. a
- Union Finance Minister has recently launched an in-house **e-journal** "Taxalogue" or **Dialogue on Taxes**, which is a new initiative taken by **CBDT** being a **quarterly e-journal** where one can contribute articles on issues pertaining to taxation.
7. b
- The 69 km long **Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline** has been constructed by **India** in 15 months, half of its 30 months deadline.
 - It will ensure smooth, cost-effective and environment-friendly supply of petroleum products **to Nepal**.
 - It is the first transnational petroleum pipeline from India and first South Asian oil pipeline corridor.
 - It is also the first oil pipeline in Nepal.
 - The prestigious project is expected to be inaugurated soon by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli.
8. d
- South Korean media has recently reported that a Russian warplane recently violates its airspace.
 - The alleged incursion happened over the disputed **Dokdo/Takeshima islands**,

which are occupied by **South Korea but also claimed by Japan.**

9. b

- North Korea has recently launched two short-range missiles. The missiles were fired from Wonsan in eastern North Korea and landed in the **Sea of Japan**.
- Russia's plane was taking part in a joint air patrol by Russian and Chinese warplanes over the **Sea of Japan and the East China Sea** - the first-ever air patrol between the two countries.
- South Korean media has recently reported that a Russian warplane recently violates its airspace.

10. c

- An eclipse is an astronomical event that occurs when an astronomical object is temporarily obscured, either by passing into the shadow of another body or by having another body pass between it and the viewer.
- The term eclipse is most often used to describe either a solar eclipse, when the Moon's shadow crosses the Earth's surface, or a lunar eclipse, when the Moon moves into the Earth's shadow.

26-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **UN-SPIDER**

1. It was established in 2006 under the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).
2. It develops solutions to address the limited access developing countries have to specialized technologies that can be essential in the management of disasters and the reducing of disaster risks.

Which of 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 **Repco Bank**

1. It is a multi state cooperative society established in 1969 for the rehabilitation of repatriates from Burma and Sri Lanka.
2. It comes under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements

1. Wasted children are those who have low height for their age
2. It is a reflection chronic under nutrition

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to **Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram**

1. It aims to tap into the traditional knowledge of tribal people and to convert the tribal wisdom into a remunerative economic activity.
2. Implementation of Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram is through Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).

Which of 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 the *International Charter on Space and Major Disasters*

1. It is a worldwide collaboration among space agencies, through which satellite-derived information and products are made available to support disaster response efforts.
2. Only agencies that possess and are able to provide satellite-based Earth Observation data can be members of the International Charter.

Which of 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 *RTI (Amendment) Bill, 2019* which was passed recently by the Parliament

1. It seeks to amend the Right to Information Act, 2005.
2. It seeks to empower the Centre to make rules to decide the tenure, salary of Information Commissioners of the Chief Information Commissioners and also of State Information Commissioners.

Which of 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 about one horned rhinoceros

1. They are found only in India and Nepal.

2. Only male rhinoceros have horns.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements about Parliamentary committees

1. They draw their authority from Article 105 and Article 118.
2. Parliament is not bound by the recommendations of committees.

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

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

9) *Namdapha Tiger Reserve* is located in which of the following states?

- a. Assam
- b. Meghalaya
- c. Jammu and Kashmir
- d. Arunachal Pradesh

10) Consider the following statements with respect to

1. Tarapur Atomic Power Plant – Maharashtra
2. Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant – Tamil Nadu
3. Kaiga Atomic Power Plant – Karnataka

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

Answers

1. c
- The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) was established in 2006 under the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).
 - UN-SPIDER develops solutions to address the limited access developing countries have to specialized technologies that can be essential in the management of disasters and the reducing of disaster risks.
2. c
- Repco Bank is a multi state cooperative society established in 1969 by the Government of India for the rehabilitation of repatriates from Burma and Sri Lanka and is under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. d
- **Wasted** children are those who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under nutrition
 - **Stunted** children are those who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic under nutrition
4. a
- **Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram** aims to tap into the traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribal people by adding technology and Information Technology for up-gradation of output at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a remunerative economic activity.
 - Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram seeks to promote and leverage the collective strength of tribal people to achieve a viable scale.
 - Implementation of Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram is through **Van Dhan Kendras**.
5. c
- The International Charter on "Space and Major Disasters" is a worldwide collaboration among space agencies, through which satellite-derived information and products are made available to support disaster response efforts.
 - Only agencies that possess and are able to provide satellite-based Earth Observation data can be members of the International Charter.
 - The members cooperate on a **voluntary basis**.
6. c
7. a
- Both male and female rhinoceros have horns, but not newborn young.
8. c
- Parliamentary committees draw their authority from Article 105 (on privileges of Parliament members) and Article 118 (on Parliament's authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business).
9. d
10. d
- 1. Tarapur Atomic Power Plant – Maharashtra
 - 2. Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant – Tamil Nadu
 - 3. Kaiga Atomic Power Plant – Karnataka

27-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Scheme

1. It is a demand driven interest subsidy scheme.
2. It is a sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM).
3. Assistance under the AMI scheme is available only to individual farmers.

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) Consider the following statements with respect to *Green Revolution– Krishonnati Yojana*

1. It is an umbrella scheme consist of 12 schemes comprising both Central Sector as well as Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
2. National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is one of the mission under the Krishonnati Yojana.

Which of 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) A high-level 10-member Committee has been constituted recently under the Chairmanship of *Kiren Rijiju* for which of the following purposes?

- a. To coordinate and strategise the preparation for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics
- b. To draft a plan to ease the entry of rural talented youth in to the sports arena
- c. To examine the issues and to reconstitute the Sports Authority of India
- d. None of the above

4) *Ream Naval Base* sometimes seen in the news recently is located in?

- a. Hudson Bay
- b. Gulf of Aden
- c. Gulf of Thailand
- d. Gulf of Carpentaria

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)*

1. It was signed between Iran and the P5+1 Countries.

2. Under the agreement, Iraq agreed to restrict its capacity to enrich uranium.
3. Missile launches are not forbidden under the deal.

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

6) Consider the following statements

1. Elephant Census in India will be conducted once in 5 years under the aegis of Project Elephant.
2. According to 2017 Census, Kerala has the highest number of elephants and Maharashtra has the least number of elephants.

Which of 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) Why a knotweed *Polygonum molle* native to Himalayas is often mentioned in the news?

- a. It absorbs the pollutants in the atmosphere and helps to clean the air in the environment
- b. Its extract is widely used in the treatment of Barotrauma which is caused by a decrease in air pressure
- c. It is invasive and reduces the availability of land for the native species
- d. None of the above

8) *LightSail 2* sometimes seen in the news recently is a

- a. Space craft powered purely by the sunlight

- b. Intercontinental ballistic missile launched by Iran
- c. NASA's satellite to study the asteroid Hektor
- d. Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy

9) *Naegleria Fowleri* sometimes seen in the news recently is a

- a. Bonding Hormone
- b. Brain eating amoeba
- c. Carcinogenic agent
- d. Snake species endemic to Lakshadweep

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Dighi Port – Madhya Pradesh
2. Mormugao Port – Goa
3. Paradip Port – West Bengal

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

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

Answers

1. a
 - Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) is a **demand driven scheme**.
 - AMI Scheme is a sub-scheme of **Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM)**.
 - AMI scheme is a back ended **capital subsidy scheme** in which rate of subsidy is 25% and 33.33% based on the category of eligible beneficiary and is provided on capital cost of the project.
 - Assistance under the AMI sub-scheme is available to **individual farmers, groups of farmers/growers, registered Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** etc.
2. c

'Green Revolution– Krishonnati Yojana' is an Umbrella Scheme comprising both Central Sector as well as Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Missions.

This Umbrella Scheme has the following twelve Schemes/Missions:

 1. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH);
 2. National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP);
 3. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
 4. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA);
 5. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE);
 6. Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Material (SMSP);
 7. Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM);
 8. Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ);
 9. Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Census, Economics and Statistics;
 10. Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation;
 11. Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM);
 12. National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A).
3. a
 - A high-level 10-member Committee has been constituted recently under the Chairmanship of Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju to coordinate and strategise the preparation for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics**.
 - The objective of the committee is to ensure that the performance of the Indian athletes is optimised in the Olympics and other multidisciplinary events.
4. c
 - A recent report has alleged that China has signed a secret deal to allow its military troops

to be stationed at **Ream Naval Base on the Gulf of Thailand.**

5. c

- *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)* is an agreement reached between **Iran** and P5+1 countries (The US, France, The UK, China, Russia and Germany).
- As part of the deal, **Iran (Not Iraq)** agreed to reduce its number of centrifuges - tube-shaped machines that help enrich uranium- by two thirds.
- It also agreed to reduce its stockpile of enriched uranium by 98% and limit uranium enrichment to 3.67%.
- Missile launches are **not forbidden** under the 2015 nuclear deal.
- But, a **UNSC Resolution**, passed just as the agreement was reached, says that "Iran is called upon **not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles** designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology.
- *Iran fired a Shahab – 3 medium range missile recently.*

6. a

- Elephant census will be conducted **once in 5 years** under the aegis of **Project Elephant**.
- The last elephant census was conducted in **2017**.

7. c

- The knotweed, known as **Polygonum molle** (Sikkim knotweed), which has been recently reclassified as **Koenigia mollis**, has begun spreading along many streams and rivulets in the upper **Nilgiris**, especially around Doddabetta, Kodappamund, Adasolai and the Ketti Valley.
- It is **native to the Himalayas** and its spread has potentially **threatening biodiversity** along streams and rivers.
- It can cover huge expanses of land, leaving little to no space for other native plant species to grow.

8. a

- **LightSail 2** is the first steerable **solar sail** ever launched into Earth's orbit.
- Most rockets burn their onboard fuel to accelerate in space and then coast on their built-up momentum.
- Solar sails, on the other hand, are powered by photons emitted by the sun.
- They accelerate very slowly, but since their thrust is continuous, they can conceivably achieve tremendous speeds.

9. b

- *Naegleria Fowleri* is a **single celled organism** known as the **brain eating amoeba**.
- It is a **heat-loving amoeba**, known for striking swimmers during sweltering summer temperatures (it prefers temps up to 115°F/46°C).

10. a

1. Dighi Port – Maharashtra
2. Mormugao Port – Goa
3. Paradip Port – Odisha

29-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to the term **Green Bonus** sometimes seen in the news recently

1. It denotes the money which is to be given for the effort made by a country, state or community for preservation of green cover.
2. The contribution to the fund was made jointly by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Which of 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 *Iconic Tourist Sites Initiative*

1. It aims to develop 17 Iconic Tourist Sites in the country in to world class tourist destinations, to serve as a model for other tourism sites.
2. Ministry of Tourism will be the nodal agency for this project.

Which of 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 *Hepatitis*

1. It is an inflammation of the liver and Hepatitis viruses are the only cause of hepatitis in the world.
2. There are 5 main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E.
3. There is no vaccine available against the Hepatitis B.

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

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

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

1. It is a landlocked country located in Southern Africa.
2. Tropic of Capricorn passes through this country.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *2018 Tiger Census (All India Tiger Estimation 2018)*

1. At present India has the distinction of having the maximum number of tigers in the world.
2. According to the census, India has achieved the target of doubling the tiger population four years early ahead of 2022.

Which of 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 *Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill 2019*

1. It seeks to provide for a comprehensive mechanism to ban the unregulated deposit schemes other than deposits taken in the ordinary course of businesses.
2. The bill provides for attachment of properties or assets and subsequent realization of assets for repayment to depositors.

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

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

7) Benin is a country which shares its border with which of the following?

- a. Gulf of Guinea

- b. Great Australian Bight
- c. Antongil Bay
- d. Bay of Biscay

- d. Uttar Pradesh

8) With respect to 2011 Census, consider the following statements

1. Migration to cities is mostly intra-state rather than inter-state.
2. Inter-State migration to the big cities often tends to be intra-regional, mostly driven by migrants' desire to be close to home.

Which of 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 PM Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVYY)

1. It is a pension scheme offered through the State Bank of India (SBI).
2. There is no upper limit on the age for subscription.
3. Only those who have completed 60 years of age are eligible to subscribe to it.

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

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

10) Pilibhit Tiger Reserve is located in which of the following states?

- a. Mizoram
- b. Karnataka
- c. Maharashtra

Answers

1. a

- Green Bonus is a new term in the environmental parlance denoting the money which is to be given for the effort made by a country, state or community for preservation of green cover.
- It is a compensation to be given to the people for the sacrifices they have made in preserving the green cover, which not only benefits them, but also benefits others nearby and humanity as a whole.
- **Eleven States belonging to the Himalayan Region** recently sought a 'Green Bonus' from the Centre considering their contributions to environmental conservation.
- The Himalayan states were also at a disadvantage because large swathes of land fell into eco-sensitive zones where all sorts of development activities could not be carried out.

2. c

- Union Finance Minister in her recent budget speech has said that 17 "Iconic Tourist Sites" in the country would be developed by the government "into world class tourist destinations, to serve as a model for other tourism sites".
- The initiative was aimed at enhancing India's soft power.
- The **Tourism Ministry** will be the nodal agency for this initiative.

3. a

- Hepatitis is an **inflammation of the liver**.
- The condition can be self-limiting or can progress to fibrosis (scarring), cirrhosis or liver cancer.
- Hepatitis viruses are the most common cause of hepatitis in the world but other infections, toxic substances (e.g. alcohol, certain drugs), and autoimmune diseases can also cause hepatitis.

- There are 5 main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E.
 - Hepatitis C is more dangerous than Hepatitis B, because there is **no vaccination** against it – yet.
4. a
- Indian PM has recently released the “**All India Tiger Estimation 2018**” on the occasion of Global Tiger Day in New Delhi.
 - According to the survey, the count of tigers in India has risen to 2,967.
 - India has **achieved the target** of doubling the tiger population four years early ahead of 2022.
 - India is now home to nearly 3,000 tigers, a third more than it had four years ago.
 - India is now one of the biggest and most secure habitats of tiger and is estimated to be home to around 70 percent of the world's tigers.
 - Due to concerted efforts under Project Tiger, at present India has the distinction of having the **maximum number of tigers in the world**.
6. d
- Parliament has recently passed the **Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill 2019**.
 - The bill seeks to provide for a comprehensive mechanism to ban the unregulated deposit schemes other than deposits taken in the ordinary course of businesses and to protect the interest of depositors.
 - The bill provides for attachment of properties or assets and subsequent realisation of assets for repayment to depositors.
 - The bill also proposes adequate provisions for repayment of deposits in cases where such schemes nonetheless manage to raise deposits illegally.
7. a
- President Ram Nath Kovind has reached **Benin** on the first leg of his three nations' tour to the West African region.
- The seven-day visit is the first high-level tour of any Head of State from India to the three West African countries- Benin, The Gambia and Guinea.
 - Its southern coastline is a part of the Gulf of Guinea in the northernmost tropical portion of the Atlantic Ocean.
8. c
- The 2011 Census data shows that much of the migration to the big cities is **intra-State rather than inter-State**.
 - It also shows that inter-State migration to the big cities often tends to be intra-regional, mostly driven by migrants' desire to be close to home.
 - For instance, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad have a greater proportion of migrants from the South than from the North.
9. c
- **PM Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVY)** is a pension scheme offered through the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.
 - **Only those who have completed 60 years of age** are eligible to subscribe to it.
 - There is **no upper limit** on the age for subscription.
 - It provides regular payout to those who invest in the scheme.
10. d
- **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve** is one among the two tiger reserves in the country -- the other is the Tadoba-Andhari reserve in Maharashtra -- that has seen **increased man-animal conflict** in recent years.

30-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to LCU L-56 sometimes seen in the news recently

1. **It is a Light Combat Utility Helicopter inducted recently in to the Indian Air Force (IAF).**
2. **Its primary role is to transport and deploy main battle tanks, armoured**

vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore.

Which of 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 *Grain by Grain Report* sometimes seen in the news recently

- 1. It is the complete assessment of the environmental performance of fertilizer industry in India.
- 2. It was released recently by the 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 *National Commission of Minorities (NCM)*

- 1. It is a statutory body set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- 2. Its mandate is to safeguard and protect the interests of minorities provided in the Constitution and laws enacted by Parliament and the State Legislatures.
- 3. It has powers to declare a community as a minority community.

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kodaikanal Malai Poondu (Kodaikanal Hill Garlic)*

- 1. It is grown in the Kodaikanal Hills of Tamilnadu.
- 2. It is known for its medicinal and preservative properties.
- 3. The Geographical Indications Registry has recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to *Kodaikanal Malai Poondu*.

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *All India Tiger Estimation - 2018*

- 1. In India, Tiger Census will be conducted once in every 5 years.
- 2. Karnataka is having the highest number of tigers in India followed by Madhya Pradesh.

Which of 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) *Microdots Technology* sometimes seen in the news recently is used to?

- a. Purification of sewage
- b. Prevent accidents in roads
- c. Replace Rat hole mining
- d. Prevent theft of vehicles

7) **Al Jufra airbase** sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following countries?

- Iran
- Libya
- Yemen
- Saudi Arabia

8) Consider the following statements with respect to **Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT)**

- It refers to technologies that involve the use of independent computers to record, share, and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers.
- All virtual currencies use Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT).

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

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

9) **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve** is located in which of the following states?

- Kerala
- Telangana
- Tamil Nadu
- Karnataka

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

- It is a combination of deep learning and fake.
- It is an Artificial Intelligence software that superimposes a digital composite on to an existing video or audio.
- These are created by machine learning models, which use neural networks to manipulate images and videos.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- Indian Navy Ship LCU L-56, the sixth of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV class ships, was recently commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- LCU L-56 is an **amphibious ship** with its primary role being transportation and deployment of main battle tanks, armoured vehicles, troops and equipment from **ship to shore**.

2. a

- 'Grain by Grain' report** is the complete assessment of the environmental performance of the **fertilizer industry** in India.
- Centre for Science and Environment** along with its **Green Rating Project (GRP)**, prepared the report based on 42 parameters.
- This is the 7th rating project undertaken by GRP, which has been hailed as one of the most credible and transparent instruments in India for assessing the environmental performance of Indian companies.
- GRP has, earlier, rated the pulp and paper, automobile, chlor-alkali, cement, iron and steel and thermal power sectors.

3. b

- The Union Government set up the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**.
- Section 2(c) of the NCM Act, 1992 itself clearly states that a community is notified as "minority" **only by the government**.

- The **National Commission of Minorities (NCM)** has no such jurisdiction to declare minorities.
 - The repository of such powers to declare a community as minority lies with the Central government.
4. d
- Also known by its scientific name *Allium Sativum*, **Kodaikanal Malai Poondu (Kodaikanal Hill Garlic)** is known for its **medicinal and preservative properties**.
 - It has anti-oxidant and anti-microbial potential, which is attributed to the presence of higher amount of organosulfur compounds, phenols and flavonoids compared to other garlic varieties.
 - It is grown in the **Kodaikanal Hills, Dindugul district, Tamil Nadu**.
 - It's usually white or pale yellow and each bulb weighs 20-30g on an average.
 - The Geographical Indications Registry has recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Kodaikanal Malai Poondu (Kodaikanal Hill Garlic).
 - According to the GI application, Kodaikanal Hill Garlic cultivation is done twice in a year, once around May and for second time in November depending upon the suitability of the climate.
 - The **hill altitude**, the **misty condition and the soil** prevailing in the Kodaikanal region are responsible for its medicinal property and the **long storage shelf life** of the garlic.
5. d
- According to the Tiger Census 2018, **Madhya Pradesh** saw the highest number of tigers at 526, closely **followed by Karnataka** at 524 with Uttarakhand at number 3 with 442 tigers.
 - The survey, the fourth such since 2006, is a gargantuan exercise and conducted **once in four years**.
 - India achieved its **commitment to the St.Petersburg Declaration**, of doubling Tiger population, much in advance to the 2022 deadline.
6. d
- **Microdot technology** involves spraying the body and parts of the vehicle or any other machine with **microscopic dots**, which give a unique identification.
 - Use of this technology will help check **theft of vehicles** and also **use of fake spare parts**.
 - The microdots and adhesive will become permanent fixtures/affixation which cannot be removed without damaging the asset, that is the vehicle itself.
 - *The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has recently issued a draft notification, amending Central Motor Vehicle Rules.*
 - *It allows motor vehicles and their parts, components, assemblies, sub-assemblies to be affixed with permanent and nearly invisible microdots that can be read physically with a microscope and identified with ultra violet light source.*
7. b
- **Libya's** internationally-recognised government has said it has struck an airbase used as a key staging post by forces loyal to renegade military commander **Khalifa Haftar** in transporting troops and supplies.
 - The air force struck a gathering of mercenaries at the **Al-Jufra airbase**, destroying a hangar for drones belonging to a hostile country.
 - **Turkey and Qatar** have been the main supporters of the United Nations-backed government, while **Egypt, Saudi Arabia** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** are backing Haftar.
8. c
- **Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT)** refers to technologies that involve the use of independent computers (also referred to as nodes) to record, share, and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers.
 - Keeping such distributed ledgers obviates the need for keeping the data centralized, as is done in a traditional ledger and **all virtual currencies use DLT**.

- A transaction under DLT essentially refers to the transfer of “value” from one to another.
- Blockchain is a specific kind of DLT that came to prominence after Bitcoin, a cryptocurrency that used it, became popular.
- Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin use codes to encrypt transactions and stack them up in blocks, creating Block chains.
- It is the use of codes that differentiates cryptocurrencies from other virtual currencies.
- RBI Act has the enabling provisions to permit the central government to approve a “Central Bank Digital Currency” (CBDC) as legal tender in India.

9. c

- The **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR), Tamil Nadu** has bagged the award for highest increment of tigers in the last cycle (the last four years) in the country.

10. d

31-07-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019**

1. It seeks to declare the practice of instant Triple Talaq as void and illegal.
2. It makes declaration of talaq a cognizable offence, attracting up to three years' imprisonment with a fine.
3. Under the bill, an affected muslim woman is entitled to seek subsistence allowance for her dependent children but only for the first two children.

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 **Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

1. It seeks to amend the Companies Act, 2013.
2. Under the Bill, any unspent annual CSR funds must be transferred to one of the funds under Schedule 7 of the Act within six months of the financial year.
3. Under the bill, it has been made mandatory for companies to have physical address and register to crack down on shell companies.

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

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

3) With respect to **Henderson Island** sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is an uninhabited coral atoll.
2. It lies at the centre of the South Pacific Gyre.
3. It was included on the UN World Heritage List in 1988.

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

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

4) Which of the following is/are not the applications of **5G technology**?

1. Reduce Pharmaceutical R&D costs
2. Development of Robotics in surgery
3. Improved public safety with more efficient trackers
4. Intelligent fleet and logistics management

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) 2021–2030 is observed by the United Nations (UN) as the decade of?

- a. Family Farming
- b. Action on Nutrition
- c. Ecosystem Restoration
- d. Eradication of Poverty

6) Which of the following languages is/are *not* mentioned in the eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution?

1. Nepali
2. Bodo
3. Santhali
4. English

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Which of the following best describes the term *Kleptocracy*?

- a. A Society without a publicly enforced government or political authority
- b. A system of governance where political power is in the hands of a small class of privileged individuals
- c. Rule by the proletariat, the workers, or the working class
- d. A society whose leaders make themselves rich and powerful by stealing from the rest of the people

8) Consider the following statements

1. It is a designated Ramsar Site.
2. It is the largest brackish, humid tropical wetland ecosystem located on the southwest coast of India.
3. It supports the third largest waterfowl population in India during the winter months.

Identify the wetland that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Point Calimere
- b. Pallikaranai Wetlands
- c. Kadulandi Wetlands
- d. Vembanad-Kol Wetlands

9) Which of the following is/are the challenges for 5G technology implementation in India?

1. Low Spectrum Fees
2. Financial Stress faced by the telecom service providers
3. Fast pace of approvals from different government agencies
4. Strengthening the security apparatus with evolving technologies

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10) *Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)* sometimes seen in the news recently belonged to which of the following space agencies?

- a. NASA
- b. ESA
- c. JAXA
- d. ROSCOSMOS

Answers

1. b

- The bill seeks to declare the practice of instant Triple Talaq as void and illegal and makes it a cognizable offence.
- It also provides allowance to women victims and their dependent children.
- The offence is made compoundable with the permission of the Magistrate at the instance of the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced.

2. d

- *The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was recently passed by the Parliament.*
- It amends the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- Under the Act, if companies which have to provide for CSR, do not fully spent the funds, they must disclose the reasons for non-spending in their annual report.
- Under the Bill, any unspent annual CSR funds must be transferred to one of the funds under Schedule 7 of the Act (e.g., **PM Relief Fund**) within **six months** of the financial year.
- To **crack down on shell companies**, the minister said it has been made **mandatory to have physical address** and register to ensure such companies exist on ground.

3. d

- **Henderson Island** is an uninhabited coral atoll that lies almost exactly halfway between New Zealand and Peru, with 5,500 kilometres (3,400 miles) of the ocean in either direction.
- Despite its extreme isolation, a freak confluence of geography and ocean currents means Henderson has **one of the highest concentrations of plastic pollution on the planet**.
- Henderson lies at the **centre of the South Pacific gyre**, a vast circular ocean current that runs anti-clockwise down the east coast of Australia and up the west coast of South America.
- The gyre should be a boon for the 10-kilometre-by-five speck of land, carrying rich

nutrients into the waters surrounding Henderson to feed huge colonies of sea birds.

- The atoll's ecosystem is so rich that Henderson was included on the **UN World Heritage List in 1988**, with the body hailing it as an untouched paradise.

4. a

- 5G technology promises **accelerated download and upload speeds**.
- Network latency, or the lag in data communication between wireless devices, is minimal on 5G networks.
- Also, 5G is a more versatile technology and can therefore be operated over three different spectrum bands, resulting in superior coverage and reception.

Applications

Health Care

- Reduce Pharmaceutical R&D costs
- Video/3D Video appointments for non-life threatening ailments
- Development of robotics in surgery
- More efficient health and fitness monitors

Smart Cities and Homes

- 3D Video calls and holograms
- Innovative augmented and Virtual Reality applications
- Improved public safety with more efficient trackers
- Remote device control

Transport

Connected vehicles which allow data collection from traffic signals and road-side sensors will lead to

- Reduced congestion
- Intelligent fleet and logistics management

Autonomous cars with little or no help from humans can

- Improve road safety
- Increase mobility

5. c

6. a
- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages:-
 - (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.
 - Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
 - Sindhi language was added in 1967.
 - Thereafter three more languages viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992.
 - Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.
 - Union Culture Minister has recently announced the inclusion of Nepali and Santhali languages in the Scheme for grant of Senior/Junior Fellowships of Culture Ministry.*
7. d
8. d
- Vembanad Lake**, a designated Ramsar site and one of the most polluted waterbodies in the world.
 - It is the largest brackish, humid tropical wetland ecosystem on the southwest coast of India, fed by 10 rivers and typical of large estuarine systems on the western coast, renowned for its clams and supporting the third largest waterfowl population in India during the winter months.
9. b
- Challenges for 5G implementation in India**
- High** Spectrum Fees
 - Financial Stress faced by the telecom service providers
 - Slow pace** of approvals from different government agencies
 - Permission from multiple local authorities to use public infrastructure for installing small cell network
 - Strengthening the security apparatus with evolving technologies
10. a
- Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** is a space telescope for NASA's Explorers program
 - It was launched in 2018 to detect small planets with bright host stars in the solar neighbourhood.
 - The spacecraft will be looking for a phenomenon known as a transit, where a planet passes in front of its star, causing a periodic and regular dip in the star's brightness.
 - It will do an all-sky survey from an orbit between the Earth and the moon.
 - Three new planets, which orbit a star situated 73 light years away from the Earth, have been discovered using TESS, **NASA's planet hunting satellite.**