



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is a Blessing*

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

**MONTHLY PRESTORMING**

**JUNE 2020**

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



## INDEX

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| 01-06-2020 ..... | 3   |
| 02-06-2020 ..... | 8   |
| 03-06-2020 ..... | 12  |
| 04-06-2020 ..... | 16  |
| 05-06-2020 ..... | 21  |
| 06-06-2020 ..... | 26  |
| 08-06-2020 ..... | 30  |
| 09-06-2020 ..... | 35  |
| 10-06-2020 ..... | 39  |
| 11-06-2020 ..... | 45  |
| 12-06-2020 ..... | 50  |
| 13-06-2020 ..... | 54  |
| 15-06-2020 ..... | 59  |
| 16-06-2020 ..... | 63  |
| 17-06-2020 ..... | 69  |
| 18-06-2020 ..... | 73  |
| 19-06-2020 ..... | 77  |
| 20-06-2020 ..... | 79  |
| 22-06-2020 ..... | 84  |
| 23-06-2020 ..... | 88  |
| 24-06-2020 ..... | 92  |
| 25-06-2020 ..... | 98  |
| 26-06-2020 ..... | 102 |
| 27-06-2020 ..... | 107 |
| 29-06-2020 ..... | 112 |
| 30-06-2020 ..... | 116 |

**01-06-2020**

1) With respect to *Responsible AI for Youth Programme*, consider the following statements:

1. It act as a one stop digital platform for AI related developments in India such as sharing of resources, integrating companies and educational institutions related to AI in India.
2. The programme has been jointly implemented by the National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and NASSCOM from the IT industry.

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

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

2) *Ameri Ice Shelf*, often seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following regions?

- a. Canada
- b. Antarctica
- c. Greenland
- d. Russian Arctic

3) With respect to a report released recently, *Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint report of International Energy Agency, World Bank and World Health Organization.
2. The 7th Sustainable Development Goal aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Which of 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 *National Artificial Intelligence Portal of India*

1. It is a platform that aims to empower the young students of India with relevant AI skill-sets to make them digitally ready for the future.
2. It will be jointly run by the National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and Intel India, with support from Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L).

Which of 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 *National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)*

1. It is an Indian research and development institution, situated in Magadan Oblast, Russian Arctic.
2. It is an autonomous Institution under the Ministry of Science and 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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *G-7 Group*

1. The G-7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters.



2. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defence system*

- It is an anti-ballistic missile defense system developed by US.
- The missile carries a warhead and relies on the kinetic energy to destroy the incoming missile.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Line of Control (LoC)*

- The LAC is only a concept, it is not agreed upon by the two countries, neither delineated on a map or demarcated on the ground.
- LoC is delineated on a map signed by both armies and has the international sanctity of a legal agreement.

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

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

9) *Antifa* sometimes seen in news is

- An Anti-ballistic missile of North Korea
- A SpaceX rocket carrying humans into orbit
- A far-left political activist movement
- None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Milk and Dairy sector*

- India ranks first among the world's milk producing Nations since 1998 and has the largest bovine population in the World.
- A1 type milk is mostly produced by Indian breeds and it consumed all across India.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has recently launched a National Program for the youth: "**Responsible AI for Youth**".

### **Responsible AI for Youth Programme**

- The National Programme is **open to students of classes 8 - 12** from Central and State government-run schools (including KVS, NVS, JNV) from across the country - all 28 States and 8 Union Territories.
- The aim of this Program is to give the young students of our country a platform and empower them with appropriate new age tech mind-set, relevant AI skill-sets and access to required AI tool-sets to make them digitally ready for the future.
- The Program has been created and launched by the **National e-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics & IT** in

collaboration with **Intel India**, with support from **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Human Resource Development**.

- DoSE&L will help reach-out to State Education Departments to nominate teachers as per eligibility criteria.

2. b

- *National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa has recently predicted that there would be a 24 per cent increase in the expansion of the **Ameri Ice Shelf (AIS)** boundaries in **Antarctica** by 2021 and another 24 per cent by 2026 from its 2016 positions.*
- The prediction made by NCPOR is based on a 16-year-long satellite-based observation that covered an area of 60,000 sq km across the AIS.
- This study would help understand the ongoing changes in the ocean and atmospheric forcing better.
- NCPOR carried out this study based on the satellite data collected from 2001-2016.

#### **Ameri Ice Shelf (AIS)**

- The AIS is one of the largest glacier drainage basins in the world, located on the east coast of Antarctica.
- The AIS dynamics and mass balance help in understanding the changes in the global climate scenario.

3. a

#### **Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report**

- The Energy Progress Report was released by the **International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and the World Health Organization**.
- The United Nations-mandated SDG 7 is aimed at **ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030**.
- According to the report, the global electrification rate progressed steadily from 2010 to 2018, rising to 90 per cent of the

world's population in 2018 from 83 per cent in 2010.

- But the effort made since 2016 has not been sufficient, between 2016 and 2018, electrification grew by just 0.82 percentage points per year.
- According to the report, it is believed that to achieve the target of universal access of electricity by 2030, the world needed to do electrification with an increase of 0.87 percentage points a year, This was required to be done before COVID-19 era.
- In 2018, India was among top three countries with largest deficits regarding access to electricity. Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and India had the three largest deficits: 85 million, 68 million and 64 million people respectively.
- The world needed progress with three percentage points to achieve the goal of universal access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking since 2010, the report said.
- But it progressed at an annualized average of just 0.8 percentage points.
- The latest data on SDG 7 progress, before the onset of the pandemic, demonstrated that there was a need to accelerate efforts towards targets at urgent basis.

4. d

- *The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has recently launched the **National Artificial Intelligence Portal of India**.*

#### **National Artificial Intelligence Portal**

- This portal has been jointly developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and IT Industry.
- **National e-Governance Division** of Ministry of Electronics and IT and **NASSCOM** from the IT industry will jointly run this portal.
- This portal shall work as a one stop digital platform for AI related developments in India, sharing of resources such as articles, startups, investment funds in AI, resources, companies and educational institutions related to AI in India.

- The portal will also share documents, case studies, research reports etc.
- It has section about learning and new job roles related to AI.

5. d

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

- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, (NCPOR) formerly known as the **National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR)** is an Indian research and development institution, situated in **Vasco da Gama, Goa**.
- It is an autonomous Institution of the **Department of Ocean Development (DOD), Ministry of Earth Sciences** which is responsible for administering the Indian Antarctic Programme and maintains the Indian government's Antarctic research stations, Bharati and Maitri.
- NCPOR complex is a home to a special low-temperature laboratory and is setting up a National Antarctic Data Centre and a Polar Museum.

Apart from this the NCPOR operates in different fields or tasks:

1. Operating the Himadri and IndARC Arctic research stations in Svalbard, Norway.
2. Managing the oceanic research vessel ORV Sagar Kanya, the flagship of India's fleet of oceanographic study vessels.

6. c

- Recently, US President says he wants to include India, Russia, South Korea, and Australia in the G7 group.
- Last year, the G-7 summit was held on August at Biarritz in southwestern France, where Prime Minister of India was invited as a special guest of French President.
- The G-7 or 'Group of Seven' are **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US**.
- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** that was formed in 1975 by the top economies of the time as an informal forum to discuss pressing world issues.

- Canada joined the group in 1976, and the European Union began attending in 1977.
- The G-7 was known as the 'G-8' for several years, **Russia was expelled** as a member in 2014 following the latter's annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine.
- The G-7 nations meet at **annual summits** that are presided over by leaders of member countries on a rotational basis and the summit is an **informal gathering**.
- The G-7 **does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters**.
- The **decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding**.

7. a

- Recently, **China** has issued a statement reiterating its long-standing **objections to the presence of the US THAAD missile defence system in South Korea**.
- Its opposition came following reports of an overnight operation to bring in new, replacement interceptor missiles to the US base in South Korea.
- Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (**THAAD**) is an **anti-ballistic missile defense system developed by US**.
- It is designed to shoot down short, medium and intermediate range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase.
- The **missile carries no warhead**, but relies on the kinetic energy to destroy the incoming missile.
- A kinetic energy hit minimizes the risk of exploding conventional warhead ballistic missiles and nuclear tipped ballistic missiles will not detonate upon a kinetic energy hit.
- U.S and South Korea agreed to deploy the THAAD to counter the threat of missile launches by North Korea.

8. c

- The tensions continue between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).



- The **LAC is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.**
  - India considers the LAC to be 3,488 km long, while the Chinese consider it to be only around 2,000 km.
  - It is divided into three sectors: the eastern sector which spans Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, the middle sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the western sector in Ladakh.
  - India's claim line is the line seen in the official boundary marked on the maps as released by the Survey of India, including both Aksai Chin and Gilgit-Baltistan.
  - In China's case, it corresponds mostly to its claim line, but in the eastern sector, it claims entire Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.
  - The LoC emerged from the 1948 ceasefire line negotiated by the UN after the Kashmir War.
  - It was designated as the **LoC** in 1972, following the Shimla Agreement between **India and Pakistan.**
  - It is **delineated on a map** signed by DGMOs of both armies and **has the international sanctity of a legal agreement.**
  - The **LAC, in contrast, is only a concept, it is not agreed upon by the two countries, neither delineated on a map or demarcated on the ground.**
9. c
- As massive protests following the death of George Floyd continued to rock the United States, President Donald Trump announced that the **group Antifa would be designated as a terrorist organisation** by government.
  - **Antifa** is a **far-left, anti-fascist, militant political activist movement.**
  - Antifa has been around for several decades, dates back to Nazi Germany, describing the etymology of 'antifa' as "borrowed from German Antifa, short for antifaschistische 'anti-fascist'".
  - While the movement has had a presence in several European countries and has come into focus in the United States in recent years.
  - **Antifa does not have a formal organisational structure.**
  - It draws its members from other movements such as Black Lives Matter and the Occupy movement.
  - The movement has been known to have a presence in the US in the 1980s.
  - It shot into prominence following the election of President Trump in 2016, with violence marking some of its protests and demonstrations.
10. a
- **World Milk Day** established by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations** is **observed** across the world **on June 1** to recognise the importance of milk and the dairy sector.
  - **India ranks first among the world's milk producing Nations** since 1998 and **has the largest bovine population in the World.**
  - Milk production in India during the period 1950-51 to 2017-18, has increased from 17 million tonnes to 176.4 million tonnes as compared to 165.4 million tonnes during 2016-17 recording a growth of 6.65 %.
  - FAO reported 1.46% increase in world milk Production from 800.2 million tonnes in 2016 to 811.9(Estim) million tonnes in 2017.
  - Cow milk has 87-88% water and 12-13% solids that includes lactose/sugar (4.8 %), fat (3.9%), protein (3.2 %), minerals (0.7 %).
  - About 80% of milk protein is casein, 30-35% of which, in turn, comprises beta-casein.
  - The latter can further be either **A1 or A2 beta-casein.**
  - Milk containing **A1 beta-casein**, at the time of digestion in the small intestine, releases a bioactive peptide called beta-casomorphin-7 or BCM-7.
  - This is an opioid, having an inhibitory effect on immune function and suspected to induce type-1 diabetes, heart disease, infant death and autism.



- The **A1 type of milk is mostly produced by European cow breeds** such as Holstein Friesian (HF), Ayrshire and British Shorthorn.
- The **cattles of Africa and Asia produce A2 milk**, which does not release BCM-7.
- **98% of Indian cow breeds and 100% of our buffaloes produce A2 milk.**

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

**02-06-2020**

1) Consider the following pairs

**Research stations – Locations**

- Bharati – Arctic**
- Himadri – Antarctica**
- IndARC – Indian Ocean**

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

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

2) **Jyeshtha Ashtami** is a festival celebrated in which of the following states?

- Odisha
- Mizoram
- Rajasthan
- Jammu and Kashmir

3) With respect to **Kutch of Gujarat**, consider the following statements:

- It is a land of salt desert, grasslands and mangroves.
- Dumhal** is a renowned folk dance performed by the Watal tribes of Kutch.
- Dholavira**, the second largest Harappan site in India and an UNESCO's World Heritage Site is located in Kutch.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

4) **Anupam Varma Committee**, which is in news recently, related to which of the following?

- Reforms in Agricultural marketing
- Tackling Non-Performing Assets in the banks
- Assessing the scenario of testing kids for COVID-19 across the country
- None of the above

5) With respect to **Kharai Camels**, consider the following statements:

- It is a unique breed of camel found only in Kutch, which feeds on mangroves.
- They have the special ability to survive on both dry land as well as in the saline water.
- The Kharai was recognised as a separate breed in 2015 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

- It aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to all rural household by 2024.
- Extra budgetary resources are made available for JJM and is allocated along with Gross Budgetary Support among States/ UTs as per the allocation criteria.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Official Court language in India*

- The Constitution Of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High court shall be in English Language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.
- The Governor of a State, with the previous consent of the President, authorise the use of the Hindi language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court, provided that decrees, judgments or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *ELISA-based Antibody Test*

- It is a blood-based test which has a high sensitivity and specificity.
- It is used for confirming Covid-19 infection and it is a form of rapid test.

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

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

9) *Project Ahana* sometimes seen in news is?

- To employ skilled migrant workers who have returned to their respective states
- To work towards an AIDS free generation
- To boost the immune system to fight COVID 19
- None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Cyclone Nisarga*

- It is headed towards the coastline of West Bengal and Bangladesh.
- Cyclones formed in the Arabian Sea side are more frequent and stonger than those on the Bay of Bengal side.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

### Research Stations – Location

- Himadri – Arctic
  - IndARC – Arctic
  - Bharati – Antarctica
  - Maitri – Antarctica
- IndARC** is India's first **underwater moored observatory** in the Arctic region.
  - It was deployed in 2014 at Kongsfjorden fjord, Svalbard, Norway which is midway between Norway and North Pole.
  - Its research goal is to study the Arctic climate and its influence on the monsoon.

2. d

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently extended his wishes to the Kashmiri Pandit*

community on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami.

### Jyeshtha Ashtami Festival

- Jyestha Ashtami is celebrated at the shrine of **Khir Bhawani** in Tullamula in honour of their patron goddess **Ragnya Devi** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- 'Kheer' (rice boiled in milk) is prepared on this day as a food offering.
- The annual Mela Kheer Bhawani is the biggest Hindu festival in Jammu & Kashmir after the Amarnath Yatra.

3. b

- Kutch is a **land of salt desert, grasslands and mangroves**.
- Interestingly, the mangroves here are known for an amazing phenomenon of being world's only Inland Mangrove.
- The Rann of Kutch alone produces three-fourth of total salt supply of India.
- The place is also the home to the Kharai breed of camel which has the special ability to survive on both dry land as well as in the saline water.
- They can even swim in sea water and feed on saline water and plants.
- They are well-adapted to the extreme climate of the desert and high salinity of water.
- Banni grassland reserve is also located in the Kutch district of Gujarat.
- Dumhal is a dance performed in **Jammu and Kashmir** by the Watal tribes.

4. d

### Anupam Varma Committee

- It is an expert committee formed **to frame a policy for monitoring of pesticide residue in Fruits and Vegetables**.
- Based on its recommendation, Agriculture ministry has banned 18 pesticides in 2018.
- Union government recently has issued a draft order proposing a ban on import, manufacturing, sale, transport and distribution of 27 insecticides, a move that is likely to impact agro chemicals firms.

5. d

- The **Kharai Camel**, also known as the "**Swimming Camel**", is a unique breed of camel **found only in Kutch**, which feeds on mangroves.
- These camels are unique, because they have the special ability to survive on both, dry land and in the sea.
- They swim in seawater and feed on saline plants and mangroves.
- The Kharai was recognised as a separate breed in 2015 by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.

6. c

- The Government of India has approved Rs 445 crore for the implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission in Chhattisgarh** in 2020-21.
- The Chhattisgarh government has prepared a roadmap to achieve 100% Functional Tap Water Connection (FHTC) by year 2023-24 under which it will provide tap connections to 20 lakh households out of the total of 45 lakh households in the State.
- The mission aims to ensure HarGharJal (piped water supply), Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to all rural household by 2024.
- **Jal Shakti Ministry** is the nodal ministry for this mission.
- Water is the State subject. Thus, the implementation has to be done through the States.
- The fund released by Central Government to the State Governments is to be deposited in one Single Nodal Account (SNA) that will be maintained by SWSM.
- Public Finance Management System (PFMS) should be used for tracking the funds.
- **Extra budgetary resources are made available for JJM** and it is allocated along with Gross Budgetary Support among States/ UTs as per the allocation criteria.

7. d

- The **Haryana Government's decision to enforce use of Hindi in all courts and**

**tribunals across the state has been challenged in the Supreme Court, recently.**

- According to **The Haryana Official Language (Amendment) Act, 2020**, “In all Civil Courts and Criminal Courts in
- Haryana subordinate to the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, all revenue Courts and Rent Tribunals or any other court or tribunal constituted by the State Government, work shall be done in Hindi language.”
- **Article 348 (1)** of the Constitution provides that **all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High court shall be in English** Language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.
- **Article 348 (2)**, states that the **Governor of the State** may, with the previous **consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language** used for any official purpose of the State, **in the proceedings of the High Court** having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgments or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.
- **Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963**, provides that the **use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State** for purpose of judgments made by the High Court.

8. a

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has sent an advisory to all states to expand the survey, to check the Covid-19 infection in the community using **Elisa-based antibody testing**,
- The **Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays (ELISAs)** based test is a laboratory technique used for the detection of antibodies that are produced by the body to fight against antigens or foreign substances.
- **ELISA-based tests are blood-based tests, which have high sensitivity and specificity.**

- The **sensitivity** of a test refers to the percentage of results that will correctly find out the presence of infection in a person.
- The **specificity** refers to the percentage of results that will correctly find out whether or not a person is infected.
- According to the Union Health Ministry, the **ELISA-based antibody test developed by the National Institute of Virology, Pune, has a sensitivity of 92% and its specificity is 97%.**
- The ELISA-based test developed at National Institute of Virology, Pune, is called **COVID Kavach ELISA.**
- It is an **IgG Elisa-based test.** This means that the test will be done to detect the Immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody.
- The body produces Immunoglobulin M (IgM) and IgG antibodies to fight against a pathogen.
- If the IgG antibody is detected, it can be concluded that the person was exposed to SARS-CoV-2.
- It is a **form of a rapid test are not used for confirming Covid-19 infection** and are **only used for surveillance purpose.**
- Those who test positive using this tests are usually tested with **RT-PCR tests.**
- **RT-PCR tests are considered as the gold standard for confirming the presence of SARS-CoV-2.**
- RT-PCR is a time consuming, lab-based test and involves the collection of throat and nasal swabs and is not a blood-based test.

9. b

- **Project Ahana is Plan India's** (an NGO) **national programme working towards an AIDS free generation** in partnership with the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).
- In partnership with the national programme, the project works in 9 states: Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 218 districts.

10. d

- **Cyclone Nisarga** which recently formed in Arabian Sea is **headed towards the coastline of north Maharashtra and south Gujarat.**
- **Cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal side of the north Indian Ocean are more frequent and stonger** than those on the Arabian Sea side.
- Meteorologists suggest the **relatively cold waters of the Arabian Sea discourage the kind of very strong cyclones** that are formed on the Bay of Bengal side; Odisha and Andhra Pradesh face the brunt of these cyclones every year.

**03-06-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC)*

1. The council was constituted under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.
2. Union Minister for Rural Development is the ex-officio chairperson of the CEGC.
3. It is responsible to establish a central evaluation and monitoring system, besides advising the government on the implementation of MGNREGA, 2005.

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

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

2) *Bimal Julka Committee*, sometimes seen in the news recently, was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- a. To review the extant Economic Capital Framework of the Reserve Bank of India

b. To rationalize the Film Media Units and to review the Autonomous Bodies of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

c. To scrutinize the implementation of the lockdown and movement of migrants and the central government's coordination with the states

d. None of the above

3) Which of the following States has recently provided industry status to sports?

- a. Haryana
- b. Mizoram
- c. Manipur
- d. Maharashtra

4) Consider the following statements about new definition of MSMEs

1. For an enterprise to come under the category of MSME it has to fulfil both investment and turn over conditions.
2. Under the Investment definition, a firm up to investment of Rs 1 crore is to be called Micro unit, of Rs 10 crore is to be called as small unit and investment greater than Rs 20 crore will be called as medium unit.
3. Under the Turn-over definition a firm with turnover of Rs 5 crore is to be called a micro unit, of Rs 50 crore will be called as small unit and turn over greater than Rs 100 core is to be called as Medium unit.

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) *Thaali Dance*, a balancing dance performed to commensurate the celebrations of marriage and child birth, is a famous dance of which of the following regions?



- a. Kutch, Gujarat
- b. Palakkad, Kerala
- c. Deogarh, Odisha
- d. Garo Hills, Meghalaya

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kisan Credit Card*

1. It is implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives.
2. It does not cover the farmers engaged in Animal Husbandry & Fisheries.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the state of *Telangana*

1. It is surrounded by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the North.
2. The prominent perennial rivers Godavari and the Krishna flows through the 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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ultraviolet (UV) light*

1. With respect to wavelength, Ultraviolet light comes between visible light and X-rays.
2. The shorter the wavelength, the more harmful the UV radiation.

Which of 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) *Remdesivir* sometimes seen in news is?

- a. An antiviral drug to treat for Ebola
- b. An antimalarial drug to treat Malaria
- c. A part of Antiretroviral therapy (ART) to suppress the HIV virus
- d. None of the above

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

1. There will be only one award every year to be given to an individual sportsperson.
2. The award will not be given posthumously.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

- The 21st Meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council was held recently under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar through Video-Conferencing.

### Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC)

- It was constituted under Section 10 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005.

- Union Minister for Rural Development is the ex-officio chairperson of the CEGC.

### **Functions of Council**

- The Central Council shall perform and discharge the following functions and duties:
- Establish a central evaluation and monitoring system
- Advise the Central Government on all matters concerning the implementation of this Act
- Review the monitoring and redressal mechanism from time to time and recommend improvements required
- Promote the widest possible dissemination of information about the Schemes made under this Act
- Monitoring the implementation of this Act
- Preparation of annual reports to be laid before Parliament by the Central Government on the implementation of this Act
- Any other duty or function as may be assigned to it by the Central Government.

2. b

- *The Expert Committees on Rationalisation/Closure/Merger of Film Media Units under the aegis of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and on Review of Autonomous Bodies under the Ministry submitted their report to Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting recently.*
- Both the Committees on review of autonomous bodies and Rationalisation/Closure/Merger of Film Media Units was **headed by Shri. Bimal Julka.**

### **Recommendations**

- The committee had recommended specific roadmaps for the development of National Film Development Corporation, Films division, Children's Film Society of India, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Directorate of Film Festivals, and National Film Archives of India etc.

- The committee has found overlapping activities undertaken by multiple institutes and has suggested an umbrella configuration with 4 broad verticals under which institutes should work viz. Production, Festival, Heritage and Knowledge.

- These verticals would be headed by professionals. The report recommends creation of Film Promotion Fund to fund independent filmmakers for making commercial films.

3. b

- *To tap the potentials of players, Mizoram Cabinet has granted industry status to sports, a move aimed at generating employment.*
- Mizoram government seek to invest more in sports for the generation of employment and increasing value.
- The industry status would help the state to meet the requirements of sportspersons and others involved in the sector.
- The State has a pool of footballers playing for premier clubs across the country.

4. d

- Previously, an enterprise with investment up to Rs 25 lakh was called a micro unit.
- Under the new Investment definition, a firm up to investment of Rs 1 crore is to be called Micro unit, of Rs 10 crore is to be called as small unit and investment greater than Rs 20 crore will be called as medium unit.
- Under the new Turn-over definition a firm with turnover of Rs 5 crore is to be called a micro unit, of Rs 50 crore will be called as small unit and turn over greater than Rs 100 core is to be called as Medium unit.
- It is to be noted that for an enterprise to come under the category of MSME it has to **fulfill both investment and turn over conditions.**
- Also, under the new definition, the differentiation between the manufacturing and service based MSMEs are being removed.

- The revision of the definition of MSME was done after 14 years since the MSME Development Act came into existence in 2006.
5. a
- **Thaali Dance**, a balancing dance performed to commensurate the celebrations of marriage and child birth is one of the salient attractions of Kutch, Gujarat.
  - **Toofaan**, one of the famous wild dance of the ocean also known as “Samundar ki Masti” is also a famous dance of Kutch.
6. a
- The government has set a target to provide **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** to one crore 50 lakh dairy farmers belonging to Milk Unions and Milk producing Companies under a special drive within next two months.
  - Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said, the card will be provided from June to 31st of July.
  - The Kisan Credit Card scheme was announced in 1998 to fulfil the financial requirements of the farmers at various stages of farming through institutional credit.
  - It is **implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives.**
  - The Card is **valid for 5 years** subject to annual review.
  - The **recent initiatives for KCC includes farmers engaged in Animal Husbandry & Fisheries.**
7. b
- **June 2** is observed as **Telangana Formation Day** as this is the day when the Telangana state was officially formed.
  - Telangana is the 29th state of India, formed on the 2nd June 2014.
  - After decades of movement for a separate State, Telangana was created by passing the AP State Reorganization Bill in both houses of Parliament.
  - Telangana is **surrounded by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh in the North**, Karnataka
- in the West and Andhra Pradesh in the South and East directions.
- **Telangana has prominent perennial rivers such as Godavari in the north and the Krishna in the south.**
  - Other rivers such as Bhima, Manair, Penganga, Akeru, Dindi, Manjeera, Paleru, and Pedda Vagu also irrigate the state.
  - Bhima is one of the prominent tributaries of Krishna River in Telangana.
  - River Godavari, the other most important river of Telangana, is the second-longest river of the country.
8. c
- **Ultraviolet radiation in the 200-300 nanometre range is known to destroy the virus**, making it incapable of reproducing and infecting, according to a new research by Pennsylvania State University.
  - **Ultraviolet radiation is one of two methods for sanitising and disinfecting public spaces from bacteria and viruses** the other being chemicals.
  - In the broad spectrum of electromagnetic radiation that comes from the sun, and which is transmitted in waves or particles, visible light is just one of several regions that are defined based on the wavelength and frequency of these waves or particles.
  - When these regions are arranged **according to wavelength, ultraviolet light comes between visible light and X-rays.**
  - The wavelength of UV light is smaller than that of visible light and greater than that of X-rays.
  - The wavelength of ultraviolet radiation is between 10 nanometres and 400 nanometres (1 nanometre is a billionth part of a metre).
  - There are three types of UV radiation according to their wavelength, **UVA, UVB and UVC.**
  - **Short-wavelength UVC is the most damaging type of UV radiation** but it is completely filtered by the atmosphere and does not reach the earth's surface.

- The **shorter the wavelength, the more harmful the UV radiation.**
- However, shorter wavelength UV radiation is less able to penetrate the skin.

9. a

- The Government of India has approved **antiviral drug Remdesivir** for emergency use in treating COVID-19 patients.
- It was initially **manufactured to treat for Ebola** and since it has been used to treat for MERS and SERS, both caused by members of the coronavirus family.
- It doesn't cure coronavirus but the experimental drug, which may speed up recovery from a COVID-19 infection.
- Recently, the FDA has authorized emergency use of the antiviral drug to treat COVID 19.

10. a

- The BCCI has nominated Rohit Sharma for the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.**
- It is the highest sporting honour of the Republic of India.
- It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The objective of the award is to recognize the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of 4 years immediately preceding the year during which the award is to be given.
- There will be **only one award every year** to be given to an individual sportsperson. **This condition will be relaxed only in exceptional circumstances.**
- The award **may be given posthumously** if such an occasion arises.

**04-06-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *PM-SVANidhi*

1. It is a special micro-credit facility scheme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

2. It aims to provide affordable loans to street vendors to resume their work and earn livelihoods.

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

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

2) The State has more than 1000 Archaeological Sites and the Culture is Agriculture based. The Folk Dances of the State are Ghangor, Jhoomar, chhati which showcases the Culture along with the Folk Music. It is a land of Museums, it has more than 20 Museums. It can also be known as the state of Festivals. The important aspect of the state in socializing are Community involvement, respectful, wearing pakhdi, sitting in Choupal and enjoying Hookhas. The state got its name by being the land of lord Shiva, and Lord Vishnu.

Which of the following Indian States had been mentioned in the above paragraph?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Haryana
- c. Chhattisgarh
- d. Himachal Pradesh

3) *Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)* is a subordinate office under which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of AYUSH
- b. Ministry of Home Affairs
- c. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- d. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *SWADES Initiative*

1. It aims to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under

the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme.

2. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs.
3. NITI Aayog is the implementation agency for the project SWADES.

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

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

5) *Global Economic Prospects (GEP)*, a semi-annual flagship publication on the state of the world economy is released by?

- a. World Bank
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. International Monetary Fund
- d. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

6) Consider the following

1. Maize
2. Linseed
3. Wheat
4. Paddy

Which of these are *Kharif Crops*?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Essential Commodities Act (ECA)*

1. The Act empowers government to impose curbs on stocking of

commodities which it declares 'essential' in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.

2. The list of items under the Act include drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.
3. A State can choose not to impose any restrictions on the stock-holding limits notification made by Centre.

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS)*

1. It is a cloud-based online platform for granting licenses and registration to Food Business Operators (FBOs).
2. It will replace the existing Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS).

Which of 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 *Asian Elephants*

1. The Asian Elephants are included in the Appendix I of UN Convention on Migratory Species.
2. Hunting/trading elephants can attract rigorous imprisonment of up to seven years in India.
3. It is classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)*

- It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- It set standards of drugs in the country.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has recently launched a Special Micro-Credit Facility Scheme – PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).*

### About the Scheme

- It aims for providing **affordable loans to street vendors**.
- This scheme will go a long way in enabling them to resume work and earn livelihoods.
- Urban Local Bodies will play pivotal role in the implementation of the scheme.
- The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.
- On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries

through Direct Benefit Transfer on six monthly basis.

- There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.

2. b

- Ministry of Tourism has recently organized a webinar on "Haryana: Culture, Cuisine and Tourism" showcasing the rich and varied heritage of Haryana.*

### Highlights

- The information regarding Haryana is being divided into two parts namely, the **Deswali Belt** and the **Bagari Belt**.
- The session threw light into some lesser known information like divisions of the state into regions basis of Soil i.e. (Khadar, Nardak, Bagad, Bangar), Demographic basis i.e. (Ahirwal, Mewat, Braj) and on the basis of Eco Cultural Zones i.e. (Ahirwal, Mewat, Bagar, Nardak, Khadar).
- Haryana also is home to celebrity Sportspersons and Actors like Kapil Dev, Sushil Kumar, Mallika Sherawat, Meghana Malik, Randeep Hudda.
- This webinar session traced how the state got its name by being the **land of lord Shiva, and Lord Vishnu**.
- The Name of Haryana came from "**Hari ka aana**" from its History.
- Haryana was known by so many names due to its glorious history.
- Haryana has more than 1000 Archaeological Sites which depicts that the Culture of Haryana is.
- The three battles were fought in Panipat in 1526, 1556 and 1761.
- The Culture of Haryana is Agriculture based.
- The Folk Dances of Haryana are Ghangor, Jhoomar, chhati showcases the Culture of Haryana along with the Folk Music.
- Haryana is a land of Museums, it has more than 20 Museums.
- It can also be known as the state of Festivals.

- The important aspect of Haryana in socialising are Community involvement, respectful, wearing pakhdi, sitting in Choupal and enjoying Hookhas.
3. a
- *Union Cabinet has recently approved the establishment of **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)** as Subordinate Office under **Ministry of AYUSH** by **merging into it** Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL)- the two central laboratories established at Ghaziabad since 1975.*
  - PLIM & HPL being the subordinate offices and PCIM&H- an autonomous organization under Ministry of AYUSH are going to be merged to establish PCIM&H, as a subordinate office of the Ministry with a common administrative control.
  - The merger is aimed at optimizing the use of infrastructural facilities, technical manpower and financial resources of the **three organizations** for enhancing the standardization outcomes of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs towards their effective regulation and quality control.
4. a
- SWADES Initiative**
- *The Government of India has recently launched a new initiative **SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support)** to conduct a **skill mapping exercise** of the returning citizens under the **Vande Bharat Mission**.*
  - It is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs** which aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience to tap into and fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.
  - The collected information will be shared with the companies for suitable placement opportunities in the country.
- The returning citizens are required to fill up an online SWADES Skills Card.
  - The card will facilitate a strategic framework to provide the returning citizens with suitable employment opportunities through discussions with key stakeholders including State Governments, Industry Associations and Employers.
  - MSDE's implementation arm **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** is supporting the implementation of the project.
5. a
- *The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have "**severe**" short and long term effects on economic growth, the World Bank said in its **Global Economic Prospects (GEP) June 2020 report** released recently.*
  - EMDEs (Emerging Market and Developing Economies) are especially vulnerable, the report says.
- Global Economic Prospects**
- It is a **World Bank Group's** flagship report that examines global economic developments and prospects, with a special focus on emerging market and developing economies.
  - It is issued twice a year, in January and June.
6. d
- Recently, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has suggested that the government allow use of **Maize for production of ethanol** in the country, a move that could help growers fetch better prices.
  - In its price recommendations for **Kharif 2020-21**, CACP said major policy changes were required for pricing, procurement and utilisation of maize in the country.
  - The **main Kharif crops include paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, cotton, sugarcane, groundnut, pulses** etc.
  - The **main Rabi crops include wheat, gram, oat, barley, potato, and seeds like mustard, linseed, sunflower, coriander, cumin, etc.**
7. d

- The Union Cabinet has approved an amendment to the 65-year-old Essential Commodities Act, removing cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities.
  - The Cabinet also approved ordinances to remove restrictions on farmers selling their produce outside notified market yards, as well as to facilitate contract farming and allow farmers to engage in direct marketing, according to an official statement.
  - The ECA has been used by the Government to regulate the production, supply and distribution of a whole host of commodities it declares “essential” in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.
  - The list of items under the Act include drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.
  - The Centre can include new commodities as and when the need arises, and take them off the list once the situation improves.
  - If the Centre finds that a certain commodity is in short supply and its price is spiking, it can notify stock-holding limits on it for a specified period.
  - The States act on this notification to specify limits and take steps to ensure that these are adhered to.
  - A State can, however, choose not to impose any restrictions.
  - But once it does, traders have to immediately sell into the market any stocks held beyond the mandated quantity. This improves supplies and brings down prices.
  - Under the Act, the government can also fix the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an “essential commodity”.
8. c
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launches its upgraded cloud-based online compliance platform.
- The food safety regulator aims to make Food Safety and Compliance System (FoSCoS) as the one-stop point for all its regulatory and compliance engagements with Food Business Operators (FBOs).
  - This new online platform is for granting licenses and registration to food business operators (FBOs) as well as regulatory compliances.
  - It will also replace the existing Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS).
  - A single regulatory platform will act as pan-India integrated response system to any food fraud and ensure an advanced risk-based, data driven regulatory approach.
9. c
- Pregnant wild elephant dies in Kerala after cracker filled pineapple explodes in her mouth.
  - There are three subspecies of Asian elephant, the Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan.
  - In that, India is home to between 50 and 60% of all of Asia’s wild elephants and about 20% of the domesticated elephants.
  - Asian elephants, Jaguars and Great Indian bustards were among 10 new species added to the Appendix I of UN Convention on Migratory Species, 13th COP held at Gandhinagar recently.
  - A migratory species may be listed in Appendix I provided that, the best scientific evidence available indicates that the species is endangered.
  - Asian elephants are listed as ‘Endangered’ in the IUCN Red List.
  - The elephant has been accorded the highest possible protection under the Indian wildlife law through its listing under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - This means that hunting/trading this species can attract rigorous imprisonment of up to seven years and fine.
10. b

- Recently, the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**, has proposed ending animal test, **Abnormal Toxicity Test (ATT)** for human vaccines.
- **IPC is an autonomous institution** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- It **sets standards for all drugs** that are manufactured, sold and consumed in India.
- Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) is published by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC).
- The **ATT** was originally developed in the 1950s to detect external contaminants in vaccines and has remained the de-facto gold standard despite mounting scientific evidence against its reliability and value.
- The European Union and United States pharmacopoeia deleted the ATT on the WHO's recommendations in November 2018.

**05-06-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Gulf of Mannar*

1. The Gulf of Mannar region is enriched with productive habitats such as coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves.
2. The GEF-UNDP in collaboration with Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India had initiated, Conservation and sustainable use of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve's coastal bio-diversity, a project in securing the involvement of local communities in the conservation management in the area.

Which of 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 *TULIP Program*

1. It is a dedicated window to provide internship opportunities for fresh graduates in Urban Local Bodies and in smart cities.
2. It is an initiative of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Ministry of HRD, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)*

1. It aims to provide employment and unemployment data in the country and it is conducted by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
2. The definition of employment does not include those engaged in unpaid family labour.

Which of 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 *Starlink Network Project*

1. It is joint initiative of SpaceX and NASA to provide a low-cost and reliable space-based Internet services to the world.
2. It intends to deploy Starlink satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Which of 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 *World Environment Day*

1. The World Environment Day is hosted by a different country every year and India is set to host it in 2020.
2. The World Environment Day 2020's theme is beating plastic pollution.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)*

1. It is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament.
2. The chairman of SERB is the ex-officio Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

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

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

7) With respect to *MARPOL Convention*, consider the following statements:

1. It intends to address all the issues around ship recycling and concerns about working and environmental conditions in many of the world's ship recycling facilities.
2. The Convention was adopted on 1973 at International Maritime Organization (IMO).

3. India is a party to the MARPOL convention and has ratified all of its six annexes.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Global Vaccine Summit 2020*

1. Saudi Arabia is the host country for the Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
2. The summit raises funds to immunise 300 million more children in the world's poorest countries against diseases like measles, polio and diphtheria by the end of 2025.

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance*

1. It is a public-private international health partnership that aims to save children's lives and improve people's health by increasing access to vaccines in poor and developing countries.
2. It holds a pledging conference every five years to raise funds for its next strategic period.
3. India is the single largest donor to the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

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

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

- c. 1, 2 and 3  
d. None

**10) Consider the following statements with respect to Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board (ASUDTAB)**

1. It is a statutory body under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
2. It advises the central and state governments in regulatory matters of Accelerated Shelf Life Testing (ASLT) drugs.

**Which of 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 COVID-19 lockdown has had a positive impact on the coastal ecosystems of the **Gulf of Mannar**.
- A study conducted by the by the Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute in Thoothukudi, **showed an increase in the number of fish species and a reduction in the levels of plastic pollution**.
- The **Gulf of Mannar** region is **enriched with productive habitats such as coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves**, estuaries, rocky shores and sandy beaches.
- The diverse nature of ecosystems in the Gulf of Mannar supports a wide variety of significant species.
- The **GEF-UNDP** in collaboration with **Government of Tamil Nadu** and **Government of India** initiated a new beginning under a **project** mode on **“Conservation and sustainable use of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve’s coastal bio-diversity”**.

- Its implementation is being coordinated by a special agency, **The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust (GOMBRT)**, a registered Trust of the Government of Tamilnadu to ensure effective inter-sectoral co-ordination and facilitating main streaming of bio-diversity conservation issues into the productive sector and policy development.

2. c

- **The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP)** is a program for providing fresh graduates experiential learning opportunities in the urban sector.
- The platform is a **dedicated window to internship opportunities in Urban Local Bodies/smart cities**.
- The platform will aggregate opportunities from across India for graduates on a single platform and allow them to apply for internships in the domain of urban governance.
- It is an **initiative of AICTE, Ministry of HRD, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development**.

3. d

- Recently, the government has released the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**, Annual Report (July, 2018 – June, 2019).
- **PLFS** is an initiative **aimed at generating estimates of various labour force indicators**.
- The **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** conducts the survey.
- **NSSO’s definition of ‘employment’ includes in itself ‘self-employment’ as well as ‘wage employment’**.
- Within the category of **‘self-employed’**, the survey also counts those engaged in **‘unpaid family labour’**.
- Both the **locational and gender** dimensions are considered.

4. b

- **SpaceX** recently launched another **60 internet-beaming Starlink satellites**, bringing the company's constellation to around 480.
- The project “**Starlink network**” of **SpaceX**, is to provide a low-cost and reliable **space-based Internet services** to the world.
- It intends to deploy constellation of Starlink satellites in **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** in coming years.

5. c

- World Environment Day is the most renowned day for environmental action.
- Since 1974, it has been **celebrated every year on 5th June**, engaging governments, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue.
- Every World Environment Day is hosted by a different country, in which official celebrations take place.
- **This year's host is Colombia in partnership with Germany** with the **theme ‘Celebrate Biodiversity’**.
- **India hosted the 2018 World Environment Day** with the **theme beating plastic pollution**.

6. a

#### **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**

- It was established through an Act of Parliament, viz. the Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008.
- The mandate is to support basic research in emerging areas of Science & Engineering.
- Promoting basic research in Science and Engineering and to provide financial assistance to persons engaged in such research, academic institutions, research and development laboratories, industrial concerns and other agencies for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto are the primary and distinctive mandate of the Board.
- SERB aims to build up best management systems which would match the best global

practices in the area of promotion and funding of basic research.

#### **Objectives**

- Serve as a premier agency for planning, promoting and funding of internationally competitive research in emerging areas.
- Identify major inter-disciplinary research areas, and individuals, groups or institutions and funding them for undertaking research.
- Assist in setting up infrastructure and environment for scientific pursuit.
- Enable in order to achieve synergy between academic institutions, research and development laboratories and industry for promoting basic research in science and engineering.
- Evolve a system of approach to expeditiously provide funding for research, including monitoring and evaluation, by adopting modern management practices.

7. c

#### **International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)**

- The MARPOL Convention was adopted on 2 November 1973 at IMO.
- The Convention includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships - both accidental pollution and that from routine operations - and currently includes **six technical Annexes**.
- The MARPOL Convention has six annexes (I to VI) and it deals with prevention of Pollution from ships by Oil, Noxious liquid substances, Dangerous goods in packaged form, Sewage, Garbage and Air pollution from ships respectively.

#### **India and MARPOL**

- India has signed the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).
- India has ratified all of its annexes (Annexes I to VI).

#### **Hong Kong Convention**

- It is aimed at ensuring that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their

operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risk to human health and safety or to the environment.

- India, one of the world's five major ship recycling nations, also acceded to the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Hong Kong Convention.
- The Hong Kong Convention was adopted at a Diplomatic Conference held in Hong Kong, China, in May 2009 and was developed with input from IMO Member States and non governmental organizations, and in co-operation with the International Labour Organization and the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.
- It intends to address all the issues around ship recycling, including the fact that ships sold for scrapping may contain environmentally hazardous substances such as asbestos, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, ozone depleting substances and others.
- It will address concerns about working and environmental conditions in many of the world's ship recycling facilities.

8. a

#### **Global Vaccine Summit 2020**

- The United Kingdom (UK) had recently organized the Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
- The funding raised through this summit will help immunise 300 million more children in the world's poorest countries against diseases like measles, polio and diphtheria by the end of 2025.
- It will also support health systems to withstand the impact of coronavirus and maintain the infrastructure necessary to roll out a future COVID-19 vaccine on a global scale.
- Gavi, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF have warned that 80 million children under the age of one are at risk of disease due to disruptions to vital immunisation programmes because of COVID-19.
- The UK remains the Vaccine Alliance's largest donor, pledging the equivalent of £330 million per year over the next five years.

9. b

- India has recently pledged 15 million dollars to Gavi, the international vaccine alliance while addressing the virtual Global Vaccine Summit hosted by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently.
- Over 50 countries - business leaders, UN agencies, civil society, government Ministers, and Heads of State participated in the Summit.

#### **Gavi, the International Vaccine Alliance**

- It is a public-private international health partnership that aims to save children's lives and improve people's health by increasing access to vaccines in poor and developing countries.
- UK is the single biggest donor to the international effort for finding the COVID-19 vaccine.
- It will also remain the **world's leading donor to GAVI** as it will be contributing 1.65 billion pounds over the next five years.

10. c

#### **Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board**

- ASUDTAB is a statutory body under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- It advises the central and state governments in regulatory matters of Accelerated Shelf Life Testing (ASLT) drugs.

#### **Accelerated Shelf Life Testing**

- It is an indirect method of measuring and estimating the stability of a product by storing the product under controlled conditions that increase the rate of degradation occurring in the product under normal storage conditions.
- ASLT is useful for a number of purposes like:
  1. To predict product stability including color.
  2. To determine product safety under abuse conditions.
  3. To troubleshoot in the initial stages of product development.
  4. To assess the packaging performance of a product.



**06-06-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme*

1. It promotes decentralised solar power production.
2. It aims to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 202
3. It is being implemented through the State Nodal Agencies of MNRE.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Genome India Project*

1. It aims to ultimately build a grid of the Indian reference genome, to understand the genetic nature of Indo-Aryan people in the Indian population.
2. It is being spearheaded by the IISc's Centre for Brain Research institute.
3. A genome is an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Near-Earth Objects (NEOs)*

1. These are comets and asteroids that have been nudged by the gravitational

attraction of nearby planets into orbits that allow them to enter the Earth's neighborhood.

2. It is composed mostly of water ice with embedded dust particles.

Which of 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

1. Egypt
2. Chad
3. Eritre
4. Ethiopia
5. Central African Republic

Which of these Countries share it's border with *Sudan*?

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Elections to Rajya Sabha*

1. Members of a state's Legislative Assembly directly vote for each seat.
2. NOTA option is not available in Rajya Sabha elections.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Aerosol Radiative Forcing (ARF)*

1. ARF is the effect of anthropogenic aerosols on the radiative fluxes at the top of the atmosphere and at the surface and on the absorption of radiation within the atmosphere.
2. ARF is larger than the global averages over the trans-Himalayas in spite of the clean atmosphere.

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

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

7) The *State of India's Environment in Figures, 2020 Report* was published recently by? The *State of India's Environment in Figures, 2020 Report* was published recently by?

- a. Sanctuary Asia
- b. World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- c. Centre for Science and Environment
- d. Jointly by A and C

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)*

1. It is one of the leading research Institutes which specializes in observational Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences.
2. It is a part of National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways Campaign*

1. It is a campaign supported by the World Bank Group.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

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

10) "Eco friendly measures to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife" is a set of guidelines issued by?

- a. National Green Tribunal
- b. Indian Board for Wildlife
- c. Wildlife Institute of India
- d. Animal Welfare Board of India

## Answers

1. d

- Recently, the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has cautioned people against fraudulent websites claiming to be registration portals for **PM-KUSUM Scheme**.
- MNRE has recently noticed that few new websites have cropped up as registration portal for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme.
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the PM KUSUM Scheme for farmers **for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants** in the country.

- The scheme **aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022** with total central financial support of Rs. 34,422 Crore including service charges to the implementing agencies.
  - **State Nodal Agencies(SNAs) of MNRE** will coordinate with States/UTs, Discoms and farmers **for implementation of the scheme.**
  - It promotes **decentralised solar power production.**
  - The Scheme consists of **three components:**
    1. Component A: 10,000 MW of **Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable** Power Plants of individual plant size up to 2 MW.
    2. Component B: Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.
    3. Component C: Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.
2. b
- Recently, Scientists at **Genome India** propose study of COVID's genetic dimension
  - The team wants to study and develop more insights into how this new viral disease, resistance to it and susceptibility might have a genetic component.
  - The Government of India has launched a **gene-mapping project called "Genome India"**.
  - It **aims to build a grid of the Indian "reference genome", to understand fully the type and nature of diseases and traits that comprise the diverse Indian population.**
  - This is **spearheaded by the Centre for Brain Research** at Bengaluru-based **Indian Institute of Science** as the **nodal point of about 20 institutions.**
  - Each of these institutions will do their bit in collecting samples, doing the computations, and then the research.
- A **genome** is defined as an **organism's** complete set of **Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid (DNA)**, including all of its genes.
  - Each genome contains all of the information needed to build and maintain that organism.
  - In humans, a copy of the entire genome more than 3 billion DNA base pairs is contained in all cells that have a nucleus.
3. c
- NASA announced that a giant asteroid is expected to pass Earth (at a safe distance) on June 6.
  - The asteroid is estimated to be between 250-570 meters in diameter, according to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).
  - A **Near-Earth Object (NEO), the asteroid** is called 163348 (2002 NN4) and is **classified as a Potentially Hazardous Asteroid (PHA).**
  - NEOs occasionally approach close to the Earth as they orbit the Sun.
  - **NEOs as comets and asteroids** nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits which allows them to enter the Earth's neighbourhood.
  - These objects are **composed mostly of water ice with embedded dust particles.**
  - The scientific interest in comets and asteroids is largely due to their status as relatively unchanged remnant debris from the solar system formation process over 4.6 billion years ago.
  - Therefore, these NEOs offer scientists clues about the chemical mixture from the planets formed.
  - Potentially Hazardous Asteroid (**PHA**), which means the asteroid has the potential to make threatening close approaches to the Earth.
4. d
- **Sudan-Ethiopia border tensions** escalate despite government efforts.
  - Diplomatic efforts to diffuse a security crisis on the border between Sudan and Ethiopia have been ongoing, but the situation on the ground

has escalated in recent days, with **Sudanese troops and Ethiopian militias assembling forces in the area.**

- **Sudan** is a sovereign nation situated in the northeast part of **Africa**.
- **Sudan shares its expansive border with 7 countries:** Egypt, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Libya.

5. b

- The **elections to 18 Rajya Sabha seats** that were deferred owing to the lockdown to be held on June 19.
- **MLAs don't vote for each seat directly**, they have to give their order of preference for each candidate, in what is called **proportional representation with the single transferable vote (STV) system**. Each MLA's vote is counted only once.
- To win a Rajya Sabha seat, a candidate should get a required number of votes.
- The number is found out using the formula,

1. **Required vote = Total number of votes / (Number of Rajya Sabha seats + 1) + 1.**

- Every candidate in the race requires one-fourth of the total number of votes plus one to get elected.
- Each voter ranks his preferences and if the candidate who is the first choice has enough votes already or no chance of being elected, the vote is transferred to the second choice and so on.
- The **Supreme Court, ruled out that NOTA will not be allowed in Rajya Sabha elections** and the Legislative Council election.

6. c

- *Researchers at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital have recently found that **Aerosol Radiative Forcing larger than the global averages**, implying some amount of radiative effects, in spite of the clean atmosphere over the **trans-Himalayas**.*
- The paper under publication in the journal Science of the Total

Environment shows that monthly-mean atmospheric radiative forcing of aerosols **leads to heating rates** of 0.04 to 0.13 C per day.

- Further, the temperature over the Ladakh region is increasing 0.3 to 0.4 degrees Celsius per decades from the last 3 decades.

### **Radiative Forcing**

- Also called as the **Climate Forcing**, it is the difference between insolation (sunlight) absorbed by the Earth and energy radiated back to space.
- Changes to Earth's radiative equilibrium, that cause temperatures to rise or fall over decadal periods, are called climate forcings.
- Positive radiative forcing means Earth receives more incoming energy from sunlight than it radiates to space. This net gain of energy will cause warming.
- Conversely, negative radiative forcing means that Earth loses more energy to space than it receives from the sun, which produces cooling.
- A system in thermal equilibrium has zero radiative forcing.

### **Aerosol Radiative Forcing (ARF)**

- The atmospheric aerosols play a key role in the regional/global climate system through scattering and absorption of incoming solar radiation and by modifying the cloud microphysics.
- The effect of aerosols on climate is normally quantified in terms of aerosol radiative forcing.
- Aerosol radiative forcing is defined as the effect of anthropogenic aerosols on the radiative fluxes at the top of the atmosphere (TOA) and at the surface and on the absorption of radiation within the atmosphere.
- The effect of the total (anthropogenic + natural) aerosols is called aerosol radiative effect or total aerosol forcing.

7. c

- *The State of India's Environment in Figures 2020 Report is an annual publication from **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down To Earth Environment Magazine**.*

**State of India's Environment 2020 in Figures' report**

- The report outlines the status of sustainable development, livestock, forests, water, waste, air, land, wildlife and other natural resources, environmental crimes and global economic risk.
- It states that India had around 50 lakh internal displacements caused by disasters and extreme weather conditions like floods, cyclones and drought in 2019.
- According to it, the internal displacements in India were the highest in the world in 2019.
- Internal Displacement refers to the forced movement of people within the country they live in, due to conflict, violence, development projects, natural disasters and climate change.
- It refers to the number of movements, not people, as individuals can be displaced several times.

Major Factors of Internal Migration in India are as follows:

- Natural Disasters (such as cyclones, flood and droughts)
- Forced Migration
- Impact of Covid-19

8. b

**Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**

- It is an **autonomous research institute** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- It is one of the leading research Institutes which specializes in observational Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences.
- It is situated adjacent to the picturesque hill town of Nainital, Himachal Pradesh.
- The unique position of ARIES (79° East), places it at almost in the middle of 180° wide longitude band, between Canary Island (20° West) and Eastern Australia (157° East), and therefore complements observations which might not be possible from either of these two places.

9. d

- **Union Ministry for Road Transport & Highways** has recently launched the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) national awareness campaign on 'Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways'** via video conference on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- The Minister also underlined the need for generating awareness and education for the masses at large towards reducing or eliminating mortality on the roads of both human beings and animals.
- The Minister informed that India witnesses nearly five lakh road accidents every year, in which about 1.5 lakh lives are lost.
- The Ministry is endeavoring to bring down these figures by 20-25 per cent by the coming 31st March.
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has identified over five thousand black spots, and the process for their rectification including temporary and permanent measures is being carried out on urgent basis.
- The **Wildlife Institute of India**, supported by MOEFCC, NTCA and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) came up with a set of guidelines titled **"Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife."**
- This document is the first of its kind in South Asia.

**08-06-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Nagar Van Scheme**

- 1. The Scheme aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years.**
- 2. These urban forests will primarily be on the existing forest land in the City or any other vacant land offered by local urban local bodies.**

**Which of 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 *Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)*

1. It has been created to encourage deployment of Point of Sale (PoS) infrastructure, both physical and digital, in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states.
2. The fund will be managed and administered by an advisory council constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Which of 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 *Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative*

1. It was launched by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
2. The initiative aims to address the challenges of retrofitting existing buildings and air conditioning systems so that they are both healthy and energy efficient.

Which of 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 *MAITREE program*

1. It is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Ministry of Power and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
2. The program aimed at accelerating the adoption of cost-effective energy efficiency as a standard practice within buildings, and specifically focuses on cooling.

Which of 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 about *Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme*

1. The programme aims to engage 20 students with postgraduate degrees for a period of one year through an open, transparent, online competitive process to support biodiversity conservation projects.
2. It is implemented by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Which of 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) *iCommit initiative* which was in news recently is

- a. To create a robust and resilient energy system in the future
- b. An e-commerce marketing platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products

- c. To develop urban forest and conservation of environment  
d. None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Border Area Development Programme*

1. It is implemented through the State Governments as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.
2. It covers only the border areas of the western region with Pakistan.

Which of 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 *World Food Safety Day*

1. The United Nations has declared this day to draw global attention to the health consequences of contaminated food and water.
2. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is the apex food regulator in India.

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

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

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

1. It is a wildlife trade monitoring network which also covers plants.

2. 'Don't Buy Trouble' is an initiative of *TRAFFIC* India.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB)*

1. It is designated as a Centre of Excellence, by UNESCO's Global Network of Molecular and Cell Biology.
2. It operates under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

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

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

## Answers

1. c

- Union government has recently announced the implementation of the *Nagar Van Scheme* on the occasion of the *World Environment Day* (5th June).

### *Nagar Van Scheme*

- The *Nagar Van* (Urban Forests) aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years.
- *Warje Urban Forest* in Pune (Maharashtra) will be considered as a role model for the Scheme.
- The Scheme enforces people's participation and collaboration between the Forest Department, Municipal bodies, NGOs, Corporates and local citizens.

- These urban forests will primarily be on the existing forest land in the City or any other vacant land offered by local urban local bodies.
- The finances for the scheme will be paid for by the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016) funds.

2. a

- *Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the creation of a Rs. 500-crore Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF).*

### **Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)**

- PIDF has been created **to encourage deployment of Point of Sale (PoS)** infrastructure, both physical and digital, in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states.
- The setting of PIDF is in line with the measures proposed by the vision document on payment and settlement systems in India 2019-2021.
- It is also in line with the RBI's proposal to set up an Acceptance Development Fund which will be used to develop card acceptance infrastructure across small towns and cities.
- It has a **corpus of Rs. 500 crore** in which the RBI has made an initial contribution of Rs. 250 crore.
- The remaining will come from the card-issuing banks and card networks operating in the country.
- The PIDF will also receive recurring contributions to cover operational expenses from card-issuing banks and card networks. RBI will also contribute to yearly shortfalls, if necessary.
- **The fund will be governed through an advisory council but will be managed and administered by the RBI.**

3. c

### **Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings**

- The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) MAITREE program, launched the "Healthy

and Energy Efficient Buildings" initiative that will pioneer ways to make workplaces healthier and greener.

- The initiative was launched on the occasion of the World Environment day (5th June).
- This initiative is to address the challenges of retrofitting existing buildings and air conditioning systems so that they are both healthy and energy efficient.
- The initiative, implemented by the EESL in its office, will pave the way for other buildings to take appropriate steps to be healthy and energy efficient.
- This will help in developing specifications for future use in other buildings throughout the country, as well as aid in evaluating the effectiveness and cost benefits of various technologies and their short and long-term impacts on air quality, comfort, and energy use.

4. c

### **Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE)**

- It aimed at accelerating the adoption of cost-effective energy efficiency as a standard practice within buildings, and specifically focuses on cooling.
- It is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Ministry of Power and U.S. Agency for International Development.

5. c

- Recently Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had launched "Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme" towards conservation of biodiversity.
- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the programme.
- It proposes to engage 20 students with postgraduate degrees for a period of one year through an open, transparent, online competitive process.
- It wishes to engage dynamic and creative students, who are willing to learn about natural resource management and biodiversity

conservation and to support the projects of NBA in various State and Union Territories and to technically assist the State Biodiversity Boards/UTs Biodiversity Council in discharge of their mandates.

- It will be an open, transparent, online competitive process.

6. a

- **Ministry of Power** has initiated the **'iCommit' campaign** on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- The initiative is a clarion call to all stakeholders and individuals to **continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.**
- The initiative is driven by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, under the administration of the **Ministry of Power.**

7. a

- To ramp up infrastructure along the China border, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has decided to spend 10% funds of a Centrally sponsored scheme only on border projects in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.
- The **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)** has been allocated Rs 784 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal and the money is distributed to the border States and Union Territories (UTs).
- The **Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs** has been implementing the **Border Area Development Programme (BADP) through the State Governments** as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.
- The **programme aims to meet the special development needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas** situated near the international border.
- **BADP was initiated in the border areas of the western region** with Pakistan during that Seventh Five Year Plan period.

- The **programme now covers 394 border blocks of 111 border districts in 17 States**, which includes 167 border blocks in 55 districts of 8 North East, States (including Sikkim), located along the international land border.
- The **State covered are** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

8. b

- The second **World Food Safety Day (WFSB)** is celebrated on **7th June 2020.**
- The first-ever World Food Safety Day, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018.
- It was celebrated on 7 June 2019 under the **theme "Food Safety, everyone's business".**
- **WHO, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organised it.**
- The **United Nations has declared this day to draw global attention to the health consequences of contaminated food and water.**
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** is the **apex food regulator in India.**
- **FSSAI** has been mandated by the **FSS Act, 2006** for performing its function.

9. c

- Amid the ongoing coronavirus lockdown, a significant increase in wildlife poaching reported, according to a **World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF) report** released recently.
- The study was carried out by WWF-India's programme division **TRAFFIC.**
- **TRAFFIC** is an NGO working globally on **trade in wild animals and plants** in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

- It is a strategic **alliance of IUCN and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**.
- **“Don’t Buy Trouble” is one of TRAFFIC India’s first consumer awareness campaign** advised tourists to be careful against buying illegal wildlife products during their travel.

10. c

- Recently, **CCMB** finds cheaper, more effective RT-PCR method to test COVID-19 samples.
- The **Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) is a premier research organization in frontier areas of modern biology**.
- The **objectives** of the Centre are to conduct high quality basic research and training in frontier areas of modern biology, and promote centralized national facilities for new and modern techniques in the inter-disciplinary areas of biology.
- It **operates under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- It is **designated as a Centre of Excellence, by UNESCO's Global Network of Molecular and Cell Biology**.

**09-06-2020**

**1) Government of India has recently set up a Task Force headed by Ms. Jaya Jaitly for which of the following purposes?**

- To examine the Inter-sectoral issues relating to the Tribal Development
- To examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR
- To assess the effectiveness of gender budgeting and suggest specific measures to ensure the fund/benefits flow to women
- To make a study on the status of women since 1989 and give recommendations based on the present needs of women

**2) Consider the following statements**

- The national park is also known as **tiger’s heaven** and captures the scenic beauty of around **32 hills**.
- Apart from the tigers, this national park is a home for butterflies which are smaller than a thumbnail and Indian Bison which is one of the largest bovine species in the world.
- Influenced by the natural habitat of this National Park, a group of elephants migrated from Odisha to this national park and are living here since October, 2018.

**Identify the National Park using the above information:**

- Simlipal National Park
- Sunderban National Park
- Bandhavgarh National Park
- Guru Ghasidas National Park

**3) Which of the following is the only National Park in India where walking safari is permitted?**

- Satpura National Park
- Gorumara National Park
- Bandhavgarh National Park
- Mathikettan Shola National Park

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to Gavi Covax AMC**

- It is a new financing instrument aimed at incentivizing vaccine manufacturers to produce sufficient quantities of eventual COVID-19 vaccines, and to ensure access for developing countries.
- It was launched by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance at Global Vaccine Summit 2020.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2



d. Neither 1 nor 2

5) **NAIMISHA 2020**, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an event organized by?

- Sangeet Natak Akademi
- National School of Drama
- National Gallery of Modern Art
- Indian Council for Cultural Relations

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code*

- It applies to companies and as well as individuals.
- Under IBC, either the creditor or the loaner can initiate insolvency proceedings.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Forex reserves in India*

- The majority of foreign currency reserves are held in the securities like Treasury bills of foreign countries.
- The Special Drawing Right (SDR) of World Bank is neither a currency nor a claim.

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

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

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

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, performing functions as provided in the Environment Protection Act, 1986 .
- Project Tiger is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Government of India which was launched for in-situ conservation of wild tigers in designated tiger reserves.

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

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

9) Consider the following *Rivers*

- Subarnarekha
- Vamsadhara
- Baitarani

Which of the above rivers flows through *Odisha*?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Seeding Of Rice*

- Direct seeding of rice (DSR) is a traditional transplantation technique of paddy which is prevalent in India.
- In DSR, there is no need of nursery preparation or transplantation.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

## Answers

1. b

- The Government of India has recently set up a Task Force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues.

### Terms of Reference:

- To examine the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with
  1. Health, medical well-being and nutritional status of mother and neonate/infant/child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter
  2. Key parameters like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), Child Sex Ratio (CSR) etc.
  3. Any other relevant points pertaining to health and nutrition in this context.
- To suggest measures for promoting higher education among women.
- To suggest suitable legislative instruments and/or amendments in existing laws to support the recommendations of the Task Force.

### Background

- Union Finance Minister, during her Budget Speech for 2020-21 in the Parliament stated that “Women’s age of marriage was increased from fifteen years to eighteen years in 1978, by amending erstwhile Sharda Act of 1929.
- As India progresses further, opportunities open up for women to pursue higher education and careers.
- There are imperatives of lowering MMR as well as improvement of nutrition levels.

2. c

- To showcase the mesmerizing natural beauty and eco-system of Madhya Pradesh, Ministry of Tourism presented a webinar on ‘Wild

*Wonders of Madhya Pradesh’ under Dekho Apna Desh webinar series.*

- The webinar provided an immersive virtual safari experience to one of the most biodiversity rich hotspots in the world: The State of Madhya Pradesh, which is also known as the heart of Incredible India.
- Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series is an effort to showcase India’s rich diversity under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.

### Madhya Pradesh

- The state is an amalgamation of natural wildlife, history and mythology.

### Bandhavgarh National Park

- It is also known as tiger’s heaven.
- This national park captures the scenic beauty of around 32 hills.
- Bandhav means brother and Garh means fort, which revolves around the mythological story of Lord Ram who gifted the fort (which is situated at the top of the national park) to his brother Laxman and that’s how this national park got its name as Bandhavgarh National Park.
- Apart from the tigers, this national park is a home for many other wonderful species such as butterflies which are smaller than a thumbnail and Indian Bison which is one of the largest bovine species in the world.
- Influenced by the natural habitat of Bandhavgarh National Park, a group of elephants migrated from Odisha to this national park and are living here since October, 2018.

### Other salient features

- Apart from Bandhavgarh National Park, there are other places in the heart of India that are showcasing the bio-diversity of our country such as Sanjay Dubri National Park, Panchmari Biosphere Reserve which is famous for its scenic views and waterfalls.
- **Satpura National Park which is the only national park in India where walking safari is permitted.**
- Apart from the natural bio-diversity Madhya Pradesh is also home to many UNESCO World

Heritage sites such as Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, Sanchi Stupa and Khajurao Group of temples which is next to Panna Tiger Reserve.

- One can also witness the endangered species such as Gharial at the unexplored Son river & National Chambal River Sanctuary.

3. a

4. c

#### **Gavi Covax AMC**

- Gavi Advance Market Commitment for COVID-19 Vaccines
- It is a new financing instrument aimed at incentivising vaccine manufacturers to produce sufficient quantities of eventual COVID-19 vaccines, and to ensure access for developing countries.
- It was launched by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance at the Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
- It will not be a stand-alone financing instrument but rather represents the first building block in broader efforts to develop a COVID-19 Global Vaccine Access Facility (Covax Facility) aimed at ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for all countries, at all levels of development, that wish to participate.

5. c

- The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi will organize online NAIMISHA 2020- Summer Art Program from 8th June 2020 to 3rd July 2020, to reach its audiences during the Covid-19 outbreak.
- It is an initiative to provide a chance to participants and art enthusiasts to create and learn from practicing artists.
- The programme includes online workshops sessions on painting, sculpture, printmaking and indrajaal (an interdisciplinary creative workshop).
- The exhibition of selected artworks from the program will be displayed on So'ham, the cultural media platform of NGMA.

#### **So'ham**

- It is the first cultural media platform of India, under the banner of NGMA.

- The platform aims to develop a dialogue between NGMA, artists and art enthusiasts.
- It is inspired by the Vedic philosophy of So'ham, which stands for one's identity and its connection to the universe.

#### **National Gallery of Modern Art**

- NGMA was established in 1954, at the Jaipur House, New Delhi.
- It is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- The NGMA has two branches, one at Mumbai and the other at Bengaluru.
- One of its objectives is to acquire and preserve works of modern art from the 1850s onward.

6. c

- The Central government has issued an **Ordinance to suspend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for 6 months**, and it can be extended up to an year.
- The pandemic has created uncertainty and stress for business for reasons beyond their control.
- Insolvency and bankruptcy code 2016 was introduced to resolve the bankruptcy crisis in corporate sector.
- It **applies to companies and individuals**. It provides for a time-bound process to resolve insolvency.
- When a default in repayment occurs, creditors gain control over debtor's assets and must take decisions to resolve insolvency within a 180-day period.
- Under IBC, **either the creditor (banks) or the loaner (defaulter) can initiate insolvency proceedings**.

7. a

- **India's Foreign exchange reserves are rising** and are slated to hit the \$500 billion mark soon.
- In the month of May, forex reserves jumped by \$12.4 billion to an all-time high of \$493.48 billion (around Rs 37.30 lakh crore) for the week ended May 29.

- **Forex reserves are external assets in the form gold, SDRs (special drawing rights of the IMF) and foreign currency assets** (capital inflows to the capital markets, FDI and external commercial borrowings) accumulated by India and controlled by the Reserve Bank of India.
  - The **RBI Act, 1934 provides the overarching legal framework for deployment of reserves in different foreign currency assets and gold** within the broad parameters of currencies, instruments, issuers and counterparties.
  - As much as **64% of the foreign currency reserves is held in the securities like Treasury bills of foreign countries**, mainly the US, **28% is deposited in foreign central banks** and **7.4% is also deposited in commercial banks abroad**, according to the RBI data.
  - The **SDR** is an international reserve asset, **created by the IMF** in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves.
  - The **SDR is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF.**
  - Rather, it is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members. SDRs can be exchanged for these currencies.
8. b
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a statutory body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, stated that tigers have been brought back from the brink to an assured path of recovery.
  - The NTCA is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, performing functions as provided in the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
  - **Environment Minister** is the **Chairman** of the NTCA.
  - **Project Tiger** is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of Government of India which was launched for **in-situ conservation** of wild tigers in designated tiger reserves.
9. d
- **Illegal sand mining rampant in Vamsadhara river** at Andhra and Odisha border (AOB) areas.
  - The **river starts in Odisha and passes through Srikakulam district** in Andhra Pradesh.
  - There is also an ongoing **river water dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in Vamsadhara river**. The Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal was formed to resolve the dispute.
10. b
- The Punjab government has decided to deploy **Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) technique instead of the traditional transplantation of paddy this year.**
  - This is due to the shortfall of agricultural labourers triggered by reverse migration in the wake of the pandemic.
  - In **Conventional transplantation, farmers prepare nursery seedbed** in the 5-10% of the area to be transplanted.
  - Here, the paddy seeds are sown and raised into young plants.
  - These **seedlings are then uprooted and transplanted** 25-35 days later in the main field.
  - In **DSR, there is no nursery preparation or transplantation.**
  - The **seeds are directly drilled into the field** by a tractor-powered machine.
- 10-06-2020**
- 1) With respect to *Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT)*, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:
1. This pod will be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude area, isolated and remote places.

2. It was designed and developed by the Indian Air Force.
3. Supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat call, only indigenous materials have been used to fabricate this pod.

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Heeng (asafoetida)*

1. Heeng is a perennial plant and it produces oleo-gum resin from the roots after five years of plantation.
2. It can be grown in unutilized sloppy land of cold desert region.

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

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

3) *Turant Customs' Scheme* is a flagship programme of which of the following?

- a. Central Board of Direct Taxes
- b. Goods and Services Tax Council
- c. Central Economic Intelligence Bureau
- d. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Central Administrative Tribunal*

1. It had been established under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution.
2. Unlike National Green Tribunal (NGT), CAT is guided by the procedure prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code

in deciding cases and is not bound by the principles of natural justice.

Which of 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 *ANANYA* – a Nano-technology based disinfectant spray, sometimes seen in the news recently

1. This spray can be used on contaminated surfaces such as medical instruments, PPEs, hospital linens, as well as masks.
2. This Nano-technology assisted formulation will not only stop the novel coronavirus from entering human body, but it will also kill the virus.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Challenger Deep*

1. It is the deepest point on Earth located in the Pacific ocean.
2. They are formed with the collision of tectonic plates.

Which of 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 *Permafrost*

1. It is any ground that remains completely frozen at 32°F or colder for at least two straight years.
2. It is made of a combination of soil, rocks and sand that are held together by ice.
3. A layer of soil on the top of permafrost does not stay frozen all year.

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *UNSC's Non-Permanent members election*

1. The election to Non-Permanent members is held by a secret ballot and there are no nominations.
2. A retiring member is eligible for immediate re-election.

Which of 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) *Mera Pani Meri Virasat Scheme* which was in news recently is launched in?

- a. Punjab
- b. Haryana
- c. Rajasthan
- d. Uttar Pradesh

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Drone Regulations in India*

1. A Unique Identification Number (UIN), which is an equivalent of a number plate is required for all category of drones.
2. Foreigners are allowed to fly drones in India after getting permission from the local police.

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

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

### Answers

1. d

- The **Indian Air Force** has designed, developed and inducted an Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT).

### **Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT)**

- This pod will be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude area, isolated and remote places.
- Supporting the “Atmanirbhar Bharat” call, only indigenous materials have been used to fabricate this pod.
- This indigenously designed system has been developed at a cost of Rs Sixty Thousand only, which is very less as compared to the imported systems costing up to Rs Sixty Lakh.

### **Specific features**

- The system has been developed as a lightweight isolation system made from aviation certified material.
- It has a transparent and durable cast Perspex for enhanced patient visibility which is larger, higher and wider than the existing models.
- The isolation system caters for suitable number of air exchanges, integration of medical monitoring instruments, and ventilation to an intubated patient.

- In addition, it generates high constant negative pressure in the isolation chamber for prevention of infection risk to aircrew, ground crew and health care workers involved in air transportation.
- The ARPIT utilises **High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) H-13** class filters and supports invasive ventilation using Transport Ventilator.
- The design integrates life support and monitoring instruments (defibrillator with multipara monitor, pulse oximeter, Infusion pumps etc), long arm gloves for use by health care professionals and power pack with high endurance.



2. c

- **Saffron** and **Heeng (asafoetida)** are the most valuable spices of the world and widely used in Indian cuisine since time immemorial.
- In India, the annual demand for Saffron spice is 100 tons per year but its average production is about 6-7 tons per year.
- Hence a large amount of Saffron is being imported.
- Similarly, there is no production of heeng in India and currently about 1200 tons of raw heeng worth Rs 600 crore is being imported from Afghanistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan.
- To increase the production of these two spices in India, **the Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT)**

**and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh, have forged strategic and implementation partnership** based on their mutual strengths.

- This partnership is expected to provide immense benefits to Himachal Pradesh by way of increased farm income, livelihood promotion, and rural development.
- To facilitate this development, a number of steps will be undertaken such as transfer of innovations by means of capacity building, skill development, and other extension activities of prospective farmers and officers of the Department of Agriculture.
- A state-of-the-art tissue-culture lab will be established for large-scale production of quality planting material of these crops.

### Heeng

- **Heeng (asafoetida)** is a perennial plant and it produces oleo-gum resin from the roots after five years of plantation.
- It can be grown in unutilized sloppy land of cold desert region.

3. d

- **The Central Board of Customs and Indirect Taxes (CBIC)** has recently rolled out its **faceless assessment groups (FAGs)** and the **“Turant Suwidha Kendras”** in Bengaluru.
- FAGs and the Kendras are part of the reforms in the customs clearance process under the umbrella of **‘Turant Customs’ (immediate customs) scheme**, with the objectives of **speedy clearance, transparency in decision-making and ease of doing business**.

### Faceless Initiatives

- They will carry out a ‘faceless assessment’ of imported goods falling under Chapter 84 (Machinery & parts) and Chapter 85 (Electronic goods) at any Customs Station in Chennai or Bengaluru Zones.
- The Kendras have been set up to facilitate the importers/ customs brokers to submit bonds/bank guarantees; register any scheme

scripts, carry out any verification of documents, permit licenses etc.

- The scheme includes self-registration of goods by importers; automated clearances of bills of entry; digitisation of customs documents; paperless clearance by eOOC and eGatepass; online amendment of BE facility, etc.
- All these initiatives are extremely useful to ensure much-needed physical distancing in wake of Covid-19.

4. d

- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has recently inaugurated the 18th Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh through a Video Conference.

#### **Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)**

- It had been established under **Article 323-A** of the Indian Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
- The Central Administrative Tribunal has been established as a specialist body comprising of Administrative Members and Judicial Members who by virtue of their specialized knowledge are better equipped to dispense speedy and effective justice.
- The Tribunal is **guided by the principles of natural justice** in deciding cases and is **not bound by the procedure, prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code**.
- The Central Administrative Tribunal is empowered to frame its own rules of procedure and practice.

#### **Article 324**

- Article 324 in the Indian Constitution gives power to the Election Commission to direct, control, and conduct elections to all Parliament, to the Legislature of every state and of elections to the offices of the President and Vice President held under the Constitution.

5. c

- *Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, a Deemed University, Pune has recently developed a Nano-technology based disinfectant spray, named as ANANYA, to combat COVID-19 by disinfecting all types of surfaces.*

#### **ANANYA**

- This can be used by anyone, from a common man to a healthcare worker, for individual as well as large scale use.
- This spray can be used on masks, PPEs, hospital linens, as well as other likely contaminated surfaces such as medical instruments, elevator buttons, door knobs, corridors and rooms.
- This Nano-technology assisted formulation will not only stop the novel coronavirus from entering human body, but it will also kill the virus when the virus comes in contact with this formulation layer on masks and PPEs.
- This is a water based spray and will be effective for more than 24 hours after spray.
- This formulation adheres very effectively to fabric, plastic and metallic objects, and its toxicity to humans is negligible.
- The shelf life of the spray is said to be more than 6 months.

6. c

- Recently, **Astronaut and Oceanographer Kathy Sullivan**, who was the first American woman to walk in space in 1984, became the first woman and the fifth person in history to descend to the deepest known spot in the world's oceans.
- It is called the **Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench**, which is seven miles **below the surface of the Pacific Ocean**.
- According to NOAA, the deepest part called the **Challenger Deep**, which is **located below the surface of the western Pacific Ocean** is approximately 36,200 feet deep.
- The Mariana Trench is part of a global network of deep troughs that cut across the ocean floor. **They form when two tectonic plates collide.**

- At the collision point, one of the plates dives beneath the other into the Earth's mantle, creating an ocean trench.
7. d
- The **principal reason** that led to the recent **20,000-tonne oil leak** at an **Arctic region** power plant in **Russia** that is now being recognised is the **sinking of ground surface due to permafrost thaw**.
  - The **thermoelectric plant** at **Norilsk**, Moscow is **built entirely on permafrost**, whose weakening over the years due to climate change caused the pillars supporting a fuel tank at the plant to sink, leading to loss of containment.
  - **Permafrost is ground that remains completely frozen at 32°F (0°C) or below for at least two years**.
  - It is defined solely based on temperature and duration.
  - The **permanently frozen ground, consisting of soil, sand, and rock held together by ice**, is believed to have formed during glacial periods dating several millennia.
  - These grounds are known to be below 22% of the land surface on Earth, mostly in polar zones and regions with high mountains.
  - They are spread across 55% of the landmass in Russia and Canada, 85% in the US, and possibly the entirety of Antarctica.
  - A **layer of soil on the top of permafrost does not stay frozen all year**, is called the **'active layer'**.
8. a
- **India is all set to become a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council** for the eighth time.
  - The elections to be held on June 17 by the UN General Assembly to elect 5 of the ten non-permanent members.
  - As stipulated in **rule 144** of the rules of procedure, **a retiring member is 'not eligible for immediate re-election**.
- In accordance with **rule 92** of the rules of procedure, the **election is held by secret ballot** and there are **no nominations**.
  - Under **rule 83** of the rules of procedure, the non-permanent members are **elected by a two-thirds majority**.
9. b
- **Haryana Government launches 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat Scheme'** for **Crop Diversification**.
  - The scheme is to **address the issue of water shortage and support crop diversification** in the state.
  - Under this scheme, **farmers taking up alternative crops other than paddy during this season will get an incentive** of Rs 7,000 per acre.
  - Farmers can switch to crops that require less water like maize, bajra, urad dal, arhar dal, til and cotton.
  - Apart from this, the Haryana government will also provide an **80% subsidy to farmers adopting drip irrigation or other micro-irrigation systems**.
10. d
- **Chennai is set to become a drone manufacturing hub**, facilitating better pandemic and disaster response using drones.
  - A meeting of senior officials and scientists is scheduled to explore the possibility of turning Chennai into a drone manufacturing hub.
  - Once **drones** are manufactured at a large scale at an affordable cost, the system **could be used in traffic management, forestry, agriculture and disaster response, and during the pandemic**.
  - **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)**, commonly known as **Drones**, are **legal to fly in India** from December, 2018.
  - The consumer drones are categorized in 5 different categories:
    1. **Nano** – less than or equal to 250 grams,
    2. **Micro** – greater than 250 grams and less than or equal to 2 kg,

3. **Mini** - greater than 2 kg and less than or equal to 25 kg,
  4. **Small** - greater than 25 kg and less than or equal to 150 kg and
  5. **Large** – greater than 150 kg.
- Most consumer drones manufactured today fall under the Nano and Micro categories.
  - **Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)** is the set of regulations issued by DGCA to be complied with by all drone pilots in controlled and uncontrolled airspaces.
  - A **Unique Identification Number (UIN)**, which is an equivalent of a number plate **will be required for all drones 'except' drones in the Nano category.**
  - Informing the local police 24 hours prior to flying is a must for all.
  - **Foreigners** are currently **not allowed to fly drones in India.**
  - For commercial purposes, **they need to lease the drone to an Indian entity** who in turn will have to obtain a UIN and UAOP from DGCA.

**11-06-2020**

1) Consider the following

1. Tribes – Gonds, Madiya, Muria
2. Karkabhat – Megalithic burial site
3. Dipadih – Temple complex dating back to the 7th Century
4. Ghotul – It is both an ancient tribal system of education as well as the campus with its own system of hierarchs.
5. Sonabai – Famous bas relief ornamentation works

Which one of the following States is associated with the above pairs?

- a. Odisha
- b. Jharkhand
- c. Chhattisgarh
- d. West Bengal

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

1. It is an autonomous body of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
2. Its objective is to establish and operate national accreditation structure and to monitor and administer the National Quality Campaign.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Asiatic Lions*

1. The population estimation of Asiatic Lions is conducted at an interval of four years.
2. The number of Asiatic Lions in Gir forest in Gujarat has increased recently by nearly 30%, the highest rise between the two census years.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Food Safety Index 2019-20*

1. It was released by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
2. It was released on World Food Safety Day under the theme: Food Safety is everyone business.

Which of 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) *Operation Desert Chase*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is related to which of the following?

- a. Anti-espionage
- b. Prevent Infiltration
- c. Elimination of Tropical disease
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Coral Reefs*

1. The Coral Triangle Day is a multilateral partnership of six countries including India to shed light on ocean conservation and the numerous ways to protect and conserve the Coral Triangle.
2. World's Largest 3D-Printed Reef was installed in the Maldives to repopulate the coral reefs.

Which of 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 *GIFT City*

1. It is a global financial and IT Services hub, where the Rupee denominated transactions can not be undertaken.
2. GIFT SEZ is the only place in India which is designated as International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

Which of 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 Countries

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. Russia
4. Sweden
5. Norway

Which of the above Countries are a part of the *Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC)*?

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

9) *Baghjan Oil Field* sometimes seen in news recently is located in?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Assam
- d. Anadaman and Nicobar Islands

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Hope Mars Mission*

1. It is the first uncrewed, interplanetary satellite spearheaded by the European Space Agency.
2. It will be the first probe to provide a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere and its layers.

Which of 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 30th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series titled “**Hidden Treasures of Chhattisgarh**” was released recently.

### Highlights of Chhattisgarh

- It is the 9th largest state in India.
- Being Central Eastern state of India, it borders 7 states, 44% of land covered by forest, 34% of tribal population.
- With 3 National parks, 11 Wildlife sanctuaries, 1 Bio-sphere reserve it is one of India’s greenest state and well connected with rest of the country by air, rail and road network.
- Some of the best waterfalls of country are in Chhattisgarh, few of them are Chitrakote, Amritdhara, Pawai, Machli etc.,
- Chhattisgarh is also blessed with three shaktipeeths Champaranya, Rajim and Sheorinarayan.
- Wrought iron, bell metal and terracotta are famous handicrafts of Chhattisgarh.

### Places and Experiences

- **Karkabhat** – Megalithic burial site generally ignored by tourists. Studies conducted in the area have identified 3 types of menhirs-Conical, pointed obliquely and bifurcated like a fish tail.
- **Dipadih** – Temple complex dating back to the 7th Century is probably the best kept archaeological secret of Chhattisgarh. Excavated stone pillars have been erected along the path next to the entrance on which are exhibited the mythological creatures.
- **Ghotul** – It is both an ancient tribal system of education as well as the campus with its own system of hierarchs.
- **Sonabai** – Famous bas relief ornamentation works of Chhattisgarh got its roots when Sonabai made little toys for her son Daroga Ram to lull him to sleep.

### Bastar

- It is one of the unexplored destinations which is in south of Chhattisgarh.
- Bastar region has spectacular scenic views, roads and hidden waterfalls.
- Kotumsar caves, which are largest series of caves after Meghalaya are in Chhattisgarh.
- Bastar Dussehra world’s longest festival which is celebrated for 75 days has a different story related to goddess Dhanteswari.
- Gond’s, Madiya, Muriaya’s are some of the tribes making Bastar as the land of indigenous tribes.
- Handicrafts history dates back to Harappan civilization the technique used is lost wax technique.
- Third largest lord Ganesha statue in the world which made of a single sand stone. Cave paintings with 12000 years of history are in Bastar region.

2. d

- *National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), the two accreditation boards of the Quality Council of India (QCI) has recently organized a Webinar to commemorate the World Accreditation Day (WAD).*
- The World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated on 9th June every year to highlight as well as promote the role of accreditation in trade & economy.
- The theme for WAD 2020 is “**Accreditation: Improving Food Safety**”, as decided by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

### Quality Council of India (QCI)

- It is an autonomous body of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Govt. of India.
- It has been created jointly with Indian industry represented by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) &

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM).

- The main objectives of QCI are (a) to establish and operate national accreditation structure (b) to monitor and administer the National Quality Campaign.

3. b

- The population of Asiatic Lions has shown a steady increase with a population of 674 individuals with an **increase rate of 28.87%** (one of the highest growth rate so far) from the previous growth of 27% during 2015 (523 lions).
- The distribution of the lions has increased from an area of 22000 sq. km in 2015 to 30000 sq. km in 2020 thus **increasing the distribution area by 36%**.
- Multiple strategies and interventions have been implemented in the Asiatic Lion Landscape that have majorly contributed to the current conservation success of the Asiatic lions viz. people's participation, use of modern technology, wildlife health care including as import of CDV vaccine, habitat management, increase in prey base, human-lion conflict mitigation, etc.

#### Background

- Asiatic lions are present in Protected Areas and agro-pastoral landscape of Saurashtra covering nine districts in a sprawling expanse of over 30000 sq. km which is termed as the Asiatic Lion Landscape.
- The population estimation of Asiatic Lions is conducted at an interval of **five years**.
- The last population estimation exercise was conducted in May 2015 which pegged the lion numbers at 523, a 27% increase from the estimation of 2010.

4. c

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India recently launched food safety index of the year 2019-20.
- The states of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have topped the ranking.
- Among the smaller states, Goa topped the ranking followed by Manipur and Meghalaya.

Among Union Territories Chandigarh, Delhi and Andaman islands topped the ranking.

- The Food Safety Index was released on World Food Safety Day under the theme **Theme: Food Safety is everyone business**.

The index was prepared based on five parameters as follows

1. Training
2. Capacity
3. Compliance
4. Food Testing Facilities
5. Human Resource and Institutional Data

5. a

- *The Rajasthan Police has recently arrested two civil defence employees in Jaipur based on Military Intelligence inputs passed under the Operation Desert Chase.*

#### Operation Desert Chase

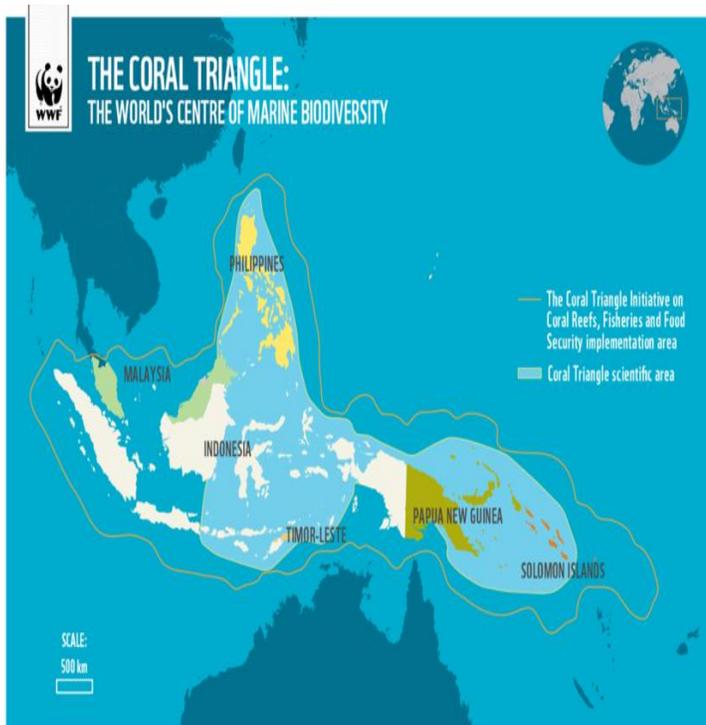
- It is an **anti-espionage operation** that was started by the Military Intelligence in 2019.
- The Directorate of Military Intelligence (M.I.) is the Intelligence arm of the Indian Army.

6. b

- The **Coral Triangle Day**, held every **June 9** is a massive celebration of the **Coral Triangle, the world's epicentre of marine biodiversity**.
- It is envisioned to be an **annual, open-sourced event** that brings together individuals, organizations, and establishments on one special day of the year **to shed light on ocean conservation and the numerous ways to protect and conserve the Coral Triangle**.
- The first **Coral Triangle Day** was celebrated on **June 9, 2012** in conjunction with **World Oceans Day** which is celebrated every year on **June 8**.
- It is a **multilateral partnership of six countries** which includes **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste**.
- The **Coral Triangle**, the world's epicentre of marine diversity, is **one of the 3 mega**

**ecological complexes on our planet, together with the Congo Basin and the Amazon Rainforest.**

- World's Largest **3D-Printed Reef** was installed in the **Maldives** to repopulate the coral reefs.
- Live corals were transplanted within the reefs with the expectation that these corals will repopulate within few years.



7. b

- Recently, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has allowed the debt-ridden **IL&FS** to sell its **50% stake in the GIFT City** to the **Gujarat government**.
- **GIFT City** is an **integrated development area** which includes Office spaces, Residential Apartments, Schools, Hospital, Hotels, Clubs, Retail and various Recreational facilities, which makes this City a truly "Walk to Work" City.
- **GIFT City consist of a conducive Multi-Service SEZ (Special Economic Zone) and an exclusive Domestic Area.**
- It is a new Financial & Technology Gateway of India for the World.

- GIFT is attracting domestic and international financial services and IT/ITES sectors.
- GIFT City has **two Zones: Domestic and Special Economic Zone (SEZ).**
- **All the domestic (Rupee denominated) transactions can be undertaken from GIFT domestic area.**
- It has been **designated as International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).**
- **GIFT SEZ is the only place in India which is designated as IFSC.**

8. c

- A **group of senior lawmakers from eight democracies** have launched a **new cross-parliamentary alliance** to counter what they say is the threat **China's growing influence** poses to global trade, security and human rights.
- The **Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC)** Comprised of the **US, Germany, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Norway**, as well as members of the European parliament.
- The group **aims to**, construct appropriate and coordinated responses, and to help craft a proactive and strategic approach on issues related to the People's Republic of China.
- It also aim to push for tough positioning against China, especially its handling of COVID-19 pandemic and its moves in Hong Kong.

9. c

- Recently, a **massive fire that erupted** at leaking **natural gas well in Baghjan oil field in Assam's Tinsukia district.**
- It is at an aerial distance of 900 metres from the **Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.**
- It was **drilled by Oil India Limited (OIL)** in 2006.
- It is one of the most prolific gas reservoirs owned by OIL.

10. b

- **Hope Mars Mission** is all set to blast off on July 15 is now in their final preparatory stage.
- The **Hope Mars Mission**, also called the **Emirates Mars Mission**, spearheaded by the **United Arab Emirates**.
- It is the **first planetary science mission** led by an Arab-Islamic country.
- It is the **first uncrewed, interplanetary satellite** of the UAE.
- It will be the **first probe to provide a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere and its layers** when it reaches the red planet's orbit in 2021.
- It will help answer key questions about the global Martian atmosphere and the loss of hydrogen and oxygen gases into space over the span of one Martian year.

**12-06-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Genetically Modified (GM) Crops*

1. In GM, a selected individual genes has been transferred from one organism into another, also between nonrelated species.
2. Herbicide tolerance is achieved through the introduction of a gene from a virus conveying resistance to some herbicides.
3. Bt cotton is the only GM crop that is allowed in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*

1. It brings together member countries and a range of partners that collaborate on key global issues at national, regional and local levels.
2. Colombia was the most recent country to join the OECD.
3. International Migration Outlook report is released by OECD.

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) Consider the following statements with respect to the *International Criminal Court (ICC)*

1. It is a permanent autonomous court established to investigate, prosecute and try individuals accused of committing the serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.
2. The Court has a jurisdiction with respect to any person who was under the age of 18 when the crimes concerned were committed.

Which of 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) *Athirappilly hydroelectric project* which was in news recently is proposed in?

- a. Kerala
- b. Andhra Pradesh
- c. Telangana
- d. Karnataka



5) Consider the following pairs

| <i>Boundary Lines</i> | – | <i>Countries</i>            |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. 17th Parallel      | – | USA and Canada              |
| 2. 38th Parallel      | – | North Korea and South Korea |
| 3. 49th Parallel      | – | North and South Vietnam     |

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

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

6) *India Rankings 2020 for Higher Educational Institutions* was launched recently by?

- University Grants Commission
- Ministry of Human Resource Development
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council
- None of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Exotic Live Species*

- Exotic Live Species are animals or plants species moved from their original range (location) to a new one.
- These species are introduced to a new location most often by people.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *IFLOWS-Mumbai*

- It is a state of art Integrated Flood Warning system for Mumbai to enhance

resilience by providing early warning for flooding.

- It was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements about *Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)*

- It was started by UNESCO to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems.
- It has recently designated 4 tea cultivation sites in Asia as GIAHS.
- Assam Tea cultivation is one of designated tea cultivation sites.

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

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

10) *Nature Index 2020*, released recently, is a database compiled by?

- Nature Research
- Green Peace International
- UN Environment Programme
- International Union for Conservation of Nature

### Answers

1. b

- The farmers' union Shetkari Sanghatana (Maharashtra) announced fresh plans in

its **agitation for use of genetically modified seeds.**

- In the current kharif season, **farmers would undertake mass sowing of GM seeds** for maize, soyabean, mustard brinjal and herbicide tolerant (Ht) cotton, **although these are not approved.**
- Farmers had carried out a similar movement last year, too.
- GM is a technology that involves **inserting DNA into the genome of an organism.** To produce a GM plant, new DNA is transferred into plant cells.
- It **allows selected individual genes to be transferred from one organism into another, also between nonrelated species.**
- The **alien gene** could be from a **plant, an animal** or even a **soil bacterium.**
- **Herbicide tolerance** is achieved **through** the introduction of a gene from a **bacterium** conveying resistance to some herbicides.
- **Virus resistance** is achieved **through** the introduction of a gene from certain **viruses** which cause disease in plants.
- **Bt cotton** is the **only GM crop that is allowed in India.**

2. d

- **World economy to contract** at least 6% in 2020, according to **OECD economic outlook.**
- It also stated that **India's economy could contract by** as much as **7.3% in FY21** in the event of second Covid outbreak.
- **OECD is an international economic forum** which brings together **Member countries and a range of partners that collaborate on key global issues at national, regional and local levels.**
- Today, it has **37 Member countries** as well as with **more than 70 non-member economies** to promote economic growth, prosperity, and sustainable development.
- The **most recent country to join** the OECD was **Colombia, in April 2020.**

- **International Migration Outlook, Government at a Glance report** are released by **OECD.**

3. a

- The **US President authorizes sanctions on International Criminal Court (ICC) officials.**
- The decision comes **in response to the court's decision to open an investigation into war crimes in Afghanistan** carried out by all sides, including the US.
- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** is a **permanent autonomous international court** established to **investigate, prosecute and try individuals accused of committing the most serious crimes** of concern to the international community as a whole, namely the **crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.**
- The ICC **prosecutes individuals**, not groups or States.
- The ICC is a permanent autonomous court and not an organ of UN.
- The ICC **does not replace national criminal justice systems**, rather, it complements them.
- The ICC **has jurisdiction only with respect to events which occurred after** the entry into force of its Statute on **1 July 2002.**
- The Court **has no jurisdiction with respect to any person who was under the age of 18 when the crimes concerned were committed.**

4. a

- Recently, the **Kerala government has given its nod** for the **Athirappilly hydroelectric project.**
- The government's NOC permitting the Athirappilly hydroelectric project **has evoked strong response from tribes people and ecologists who have been campaigning against it.**
- A **dam is also proposed** in this project, to be built on the **Chalakydy River.**

- The **Chalakydy River** is a **tributary of River Periyar** and it originates in the Anamalai region of Tamil Nadu.
5. b
- Recently, **North Korea announced it was cutting off all communication with Seoul**, calling **South Korea** the enemy.
  - According to experts, these moves may have been a **result of North Korea's frustrations at South Korea's inability to revive, under US pressure, inter-Korean economic projects** that had been beneficial to Pyongyang.
  - **38th parallel**, popular name given to latitude 38° N that in East Asia **demarcates North Korea and South Korea**.
  - The **17th Parallel** was the **provisional military demarcation line between North and South Vietnam** established by the Geneva Accords of 1954.
  - The **49th Parallel** is the line between **the US and Canada** and it is the longest undefended international boundary in the world.
6. b
- Ministry of Human Resource Development has recently released "**India Rankings 2020 of Institutions of Higher Education**" in various categories on the basis of their performance on five broad categories of parameters.
  - The Rankings 2020 was released virtually in 10 categories.
  - This is the fifth consecutive edition of India Rankings of the institutions of higher education in India.
  - In 2020, an addition to nine rankings i.e one domain "Dental" has been introduced for the first time bringing the total tally to 10 categories / subject domains.
7. c
- **Exotic live species** are animals or plant species moved from their original range (location) to a new one.
  - These species are introduced to a new location most often by people.
8. c
- Many citizen of the country have kept CITES (Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species) enlisted exotic animal species in their possession.
  - But, there is no unified information system available of such stock of species at the State/Central level.
  - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recently decided to collect stock information from the holders of such species through voluntary disclosure in next six months.
  - The registration will be done for the stock of animals, new progeny, as well as for import and exchange.
  - This will help in better management of the species and guide the holders about proper veterinary care, housing and other aspects of well-being of the species.
  - The database of exotic animals will also help in control and management of zoonotic diseases on which guidance would be available from time to time to ensure safety of animals and humans.
8. c
- Flood Warning System for Mumbai "**IFLOWS-Mumbai**" to be launched on June 12, 2020.
  - IFLOWS-Mumbai is developed as a state of art Integrated Flood Warning system for Mumbai to enhance the resilience of Mumbai by providing early warning for flooding specially during high rainfall events and cyclones.
  - **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, using in-house expertise and in close coordination with Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai developed the Integrated Flood Warning System for Mumbai
  - The system has provisions to capture the urban drainage within the city and predict the areas of flooding.
9. b
- Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by the FAO to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems.

- GIAHS are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
  - Three recognized GIAHS sites in India:
    1. Kuttanad below Sea Level Farming System of Kerala
    2. Koraput Traditional Agriculture of Odisha.
    3. Pampore Saffron Heritage of Kashmir.
  - Recently FAO has designated 4 tea cultivation sites in China, Korea and Japan as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.
    1. Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem (China)
    2. Fuzhou Jasmine and Tea Culture System (China)
    3. Traditional Tea-grass Integrated System (Japan)
    4. Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem, Hwagae-myeon (Republic of Korea)
10. a
- Three of the autonomous institutions of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India have found their place among top 30 Indian Institutions including universities, IITs, IISERs, and Research Institutions and Labs as per Nature Index 2020 ratings based on the research published in the top journals, a measure of research quality.
  - These are the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata at 7th position, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore at 14th position and S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata at 30th position.
  - Keeping out CSIR, which is a cluster of institutions, IACS is among the top three institutions in quality Chemistry Research in India. JNCASR ranks 4th among academic institutions in life sciences, 10th in Chemistry and Physical Sciences, 10th among Indian academic institutions, and 469th in global ranking.

### Nature Index

- The Nature Index is a database of author affiliation information collated from research articles published in an independently selected group of 82 high-quality science journals.
- The database is compiled by Nature Research.
- The Nature Index provides a close to real-time proxy of high-quality research output and collaboration at the institutional, national and regional level.

**13-06-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sahakar Mitra Scheme***

1. It will help cooperative institutions access new and innovative ideas of young professionals while the interns will gain experience of working in the field to be self-reliant.
2. It is an initiative of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)***

1. It is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament to look after the implementation of National Agriculture Market Scheme on e-platform.
2. The Society is governed by Board of Management which is chaired, ex-officio, by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as the President.

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements**

1. It is a World Heritage Site.
2. It spreads across four valleys-Sainj valley, Jiwa Nal valley, Tirthan Valley and Parvati valley.
3. Four of its mammal species including Snow leopard, and three of its bird species including western horned tragopan are globally threatened, .
4. The ambient temperature of the park can vary from  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  in January to  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  in June.

Identify the National Park that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Kaziranga National Park
- b. Silent Valley National Park
- c. Mount Harriett National Park
- d. Great Himalayan National Park

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

1. India has been classified into five seismic zones on the basis of historical seismic activity.
2. National Centre for Seismology is responsible for classifying India into different seismic zones.

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

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

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Data Lakes*, often seen in the news recently.**

1. It is a centralized repository that allows you to store all your structured and unstructured data at any scale.
2. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is the first construction sector organisation to go 'Fully Digital' using this platform.

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

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sedition Law (Section 124A)* in India**

1. Sedition includes an attempt to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India, where disaffection includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.
2. It is a non-bailable offence and a person charged under this law is barred from a government job, have to live without passport.

Which of 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 pairs**

- | <i>Pass</i>  | – | <i>Location</i>   |
|--------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Naku La   | – | Ladakh            |
| 2. Nathu La  | – | Sikkim            |
| 3. Bom Di La | – | Arunachal Pradesh |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?



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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Missions to Saturn*

- Cassini-Huygens spacecraft was the first to orbit the Saturn.
- Ganymede is the Saturn's largest satellite (moon).

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nile River*

- It rises south of the Equator and flows through Africa to drain into the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Atbara is one of the principal streams of river Nile.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Exotic Species*

- It is an invasive, non-indigenous species of plants or animals that are growing in a non-native environment.
- According to the new advisory in India, the exotic live species includes only the animals named under the Appendices I of the CITES.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

### Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP)

- It is an initiative of **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.
- It will provide the young professionals an opportunity of practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC and cooperatives as a paid intern.
- NCDC has also introduced a complementary scheme to promote start-up cooperative ventures.
- Sahakar Mitra would also provide an opportunity to professionals from academic institutions to develop leadership and entrepreneurial roles through cooperatives as Farmers Producers Organizations (FPO).
- Sahakar Mitra scheme is expected to assist cooperative institutions access new and innovative ideas of young professionals while the interns gain experience of working in the field giving confidence to be self-reliant.
- It is expected to be a win-win situation both for cooperatives as well as for the young professionals.
- Under the scheme, professional graduates in disciplines such as Agriculture and allied areas, IT etc. will be eligible for internship.
- Professionals who are pursuing or have completed their MBA degrees in Agri-business, Cooperation, Finance, International Trade, Forestry, Rural Development, Project Management, etc. will also be eligible.

2. b

### **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**

- It is an Autonomous Society promoted by Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.
- It was registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 on 18th January, 1994
- The Society is governed by Board of Management which is chaired, ex-officio, by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as the President and the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, is the ex-officio Vice-President.
- SFAC is implementing the central schemes of Government of India namely VCA, ECGGS for economic inclusion of small and marginal farmers in agribusiness activities.
- Society is pioneer in organising small and marginal farmers as Farmers Interest Groups, Farmers Producers Organisation and Farmers Producers Company for endowing them with bargaining power and economies of scale.
- It provides a platform for increased accessibility and cheaper availability of agricultural inputs to small and marginal farmers and in establishing forward and backward linkages in supply chain management.
- This initiative has triggered mobilization of farmers for aggregation across the country with ultimate aim of sustainable business model and augmented incomes.
- The Society has been entrusted with the task of implementation of the critically important Delhi Kisan Mandi and National Agriculture Market Scheme on e-platform to progressively free agricultural trade and offer price discovery to farmers.

3. d

### **Great Himalayan National Park**

- It is a **UNESCO's World Heritage Site** located in the Kullu region of Himachal Pradesh.
- Great Himalayan National Park is spread across four valleys-Sainj valley, Jiwa Nal valley, Tirthan Valley and Parvati valley.

- The park protects over 1,000 plant species, including many medicinal herbs, 31 mammal species and 209 bird species, as well as amphibians, reptiles and insects.
- Four of GHP's mammal species and three of its bird species are globally threatened, including the musk deer and the western horned tragopan.

4. d

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards** has classified regions in India into **four seismic zones** on the basis of historical seismic activity.
- These are zones II, III, IV and V.
- Among these, Zone V is the most seismically active region and zone II is the least active.
- According to Modified Mercalli scale, the seismic zone intensity are classified as zone II (low intensity zone), zone III (moderate intensity zone), zone IV (severe intensity zone) and zone V (very severe intensity zone).

5. d

- *As one of the biggest reform, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has gone 'Fully Digital', with the launch of unique cloud based and Artificial Intelligence powered Big Data Analytics platform – Data Lake and Project Management Software.*
- The entire project management work flow of NHAI is transformed from manual to online portal based, wherein the complete project execution operations including 'workflow with time lines' and 'alert mechanism' have been configured.
- All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through portal only.
- With advance analytics, the **Data Lake software will forecast the delays, likely disputes and will give advance alerts.**
- Thus apart from expediting the decision making, it will also facilitate in taking correct and timely decisions as the system is likely to predict financial impacts of different alternatives based on the historical data. This will reduce a lot of disputes.

### Data Lakes

- A data lake is a centralized repository that allows you to store all your structured and unstructured data at any scale.
- You can store your data as-is, without having to first structure the data, and run different types of analytics—from dashboards and visualizations to big data processing, real-time analytics, and machine learning to guide better decisions.

6. c

- A student-activist, jailed for **sedition** for allegedly raising slogan at an anti-CAA rally, was released on bail recently.
- The **Indian Penal Code (IPC) defines sedition (Section 124A) as an offence committed when "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India".**
- **Disaffection includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.**
- However, comments without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, will not constitute an offence under this section.
- Sedition is a **non-bailable offence**. Punishment under the Section 124A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which fine may be added.
- A **person charged** under this law is **barred from a government job**.
- They **have to live without their passport** and must produce themselves in the court at all times as and when required.

7. b

- Recently, there was a **standoff at Sikkim's Naku La pass**.
- The Chinese troops have reportedly set up tents across the international boundary, has added to the tension that started with an altercation in Ladakh.

- **Nathu La, Jelep La, Naku La** are located in **Sikkim**.
- **Bom Di La, Dihang Pass, Dipher Pass** are located in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Chang-La, Khardung La, Lanak La, Aghil Pass** are located in **Ladakh**.

8. a

- According to a new study, **Saturn's largest moon Titan is drifting away from Saturn** 100 times faster than we thought.
- **Cassini-Huygens spacecraft** is a joint **NASA-European Space Agency mission**.
- It is an unmanned spacecraft sent to the planet Saturn in 2004.
- It is the **fourth space probe to visit Saturn** (pioneer 11, Voyager1, Voyager 2) and **the first to enter orbit**.
- Its design includes a Saturn Orbiter and a Lander called "Huygens" for the moon Titan.
- **This was the first landing ever accomplished in the outer solar system.**
- **Titan is the largest moon of Saturn.**
- **Ganymede is the Saturn's is the largest and the largest satellite in solar system.**

9. c

- Recently, there was an uproar as **Uganda pursues plan to built a dam in river Nile**.
- It is the **longest river in the world** and is called the father of African rivers.
- It **rises south of the Equator** and flows northward through northeastern Africa to **drain into the Mediterranean Sea**.
- The Nile River forms an arcuate delta as it empties into the Mediterranean Sea.
- The **Nile is formed by 3 principal streams: the Blue Nile, the Atbara, and the White Nile**.
- **Drainage countries** - Parts of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Sudan, and the cultivated part of Egypt.

10. a

- The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has issued an advisory saying people importing “exotic live species” will have to make a voluntary disclosure.
- Exotic species, often referred to as alien, non-native, non-indigenous, or introduced species, are those that occur in areas outside of their natural geographic range.
- It includes an animal or plant species moved from their original range to a new one.
- According to the new advisory, the phrase “exotic live species” includes “animals named under the Appendices I, II and III of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- It does not include species from the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

**15-06-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Forex Reserves*

1. They are external assets in the form of Gold, Special Drawing Rights of World Bank and Foreign Currency Assets accumulated.
2. Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance functions as the custodian and manager of these forex reserves.
3. A rise in forex reserve may help in strengthening the rupee against dollar.

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

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

2) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently constituted a five-member Internal Working Group headed by *P K Mohanty* for which of the following purposes?

- a. To review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian Private Sector Banks
- b. To review prices for customers on ATM transactions, with a broader objective to improve rural penetration of teller machines
- c. To propose long term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSMEs
- d. None of the above

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

1. It is a National Healthcare Supply Chain Information Platform developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies for manufacturers, suppliers and customers.

Which of 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 *Raja Parba festival*

1. It is a three-day-long festival celebrated in the state of Odisha.
2. The festival is dedicated to Mother Earth and people do not undertake any construction works or tilling during the festival.

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

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



5) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Food Prize, 2020*

1. It aims to recognise scientists and others who have improved the quality and availability of food.
2. It has been awarded annually by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
3. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the father of India's green revolution, was the first recipient of this award in 1987.

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

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

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

1. Every decision of the GST Council shall be taken at a meeting, by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.
2. The Council is a Statutory body under GST 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

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

1. It is a RNA Viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes and there is no cure for the disease.
2. These same mosquitoes which transmit Chikungunya, transmit dengue virus

and they bite during the day and at night.

Which of 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 *Drip Irrigation system*

1. It is an efficient system which delivers water and nutrients directly to the plant's root zone.
2. The system is adaptable to any farmable slope or topographies.

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

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

9) *MB Lal Committee* sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a. Safety guidelines to be followed by oil companies at their installations
- b. Assess the overall impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on different sectors of the economy
- c. Provide impetus to the Make in India initiative
- d. None of the above

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

1. It is a fresh water lake, and the only known meteorite crater in basaltic rock.
2. It is a notified National Geo-Heritage monument.

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

- a. 1 only

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

## Answers

1. a

- India's foreign exchange reserves are rising and are slated to hit the \$500 billion mark soon.
- The level of foreign exchange reserves has steadily increased by 8,400 per cent from \$5.8 billion as of March 1991 to the current level.

### Forex Reserves

- They are external assets in the form gold, SDRs (special drawing rights of the **IMF**) and foreign currency assets (capital inflows to the capital markets, FDI and external commercial borrowings) accumulated by India.
- The Reserve Bank functions as the custodian and manager of forex reserves, and operates within the overall policy framework agreed upon with the government.

### Objectives

- The International Monetary Fund says official foreign exchange reserves are held in support of a range of objectives like **supporting and maintaining confidence in the policies for monetary and exchange rate management** including the capacity to intervene in support of the national or union currency.
- It will also limit external vulnerability by maintaining foreign currency liquidity to absorb shocks during times of crisis or when access to borrowing is curtailed.
- Reserves will provide a level of confidence to markets that a country can meet its external obligations, demonstrate the backing of domestic currency by external assets, assist the government in meeting its foreign exchange needs and external debt obligations and maintain a reserve for national disasters or emergencies.

2. a

- **The RBI has recently constituted an internal working group to review bank licensing norms, guidelines on promoter ownership and corporate structure for private sector banks.**
- The five-member panel will be headed by **Dr P K Mohanty**.
- The committee will review licensing guidelines and regulations relating to ownership and control in private banks and suggest appropriate norms shedding light on excessive concentration of ownership and control.
- Importantly, the committee will look into promoter shareholding norms at the initial licensing stage and later, along with the timelines for stake dilution.

3. b

- Union Government has recently launched a National Healthcare Supply Chain Information platform **AarogyaPath**.
- It is an initiative of **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)**.
- It aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies for manufacturers, suppliers and customers.

4. c

- **Apart from the world-famous Ratha Yatra, which takes place in June, Odia people of Odisha also celebrate a unique festival called Raja or Raja Parba.**

### Raja Parba

- It is a three-day-long festival dedicated to Mother Earth (Bhuma Devi) and womanhood at large.
- The festivities begin a day before Mithuna Sankranti and conclude two days after that.
- The first day of the festival is called **Pahili Raja**, the second is Mithuna Sankranti and the third **Bhu daha** or **Basi Raja**.
- During the Parba, Odia people do not undertake any construction works or tilling that requires the earth to be dug.
- And by not doing such activities, they pay ode to the Mother Earth who needs a break from routine work.

- This festival is also associated with the end of the summer season and the arrival of the monsoon. And therefore, it is also associated with agriculture and cultivation related communities and activities.

5. a

- *Indian-American soil scientist - Dr. Rattan Lal - has been declared the winner of the World Food Prize 2020.*

### **World Food Prize 2020**

- It is the foremost international honor recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world.
- The World Food Prize was created in 1986 with sponsorship by General Foods Corporation.
- It is presented by the **World Food Prize Foundation (USA)**, which has over 80 companies, individuals, etc. as donors.
- It is also known as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture".
- It is an **annual award** that recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply including plant, animal and soil science; food science and technology; nutrition, rural development, etc.
- It is open for any individual without regard to race, religion, nationality or political beliefs.
- In addition to the cash award of \$2,50,000, the laureate receives a sculpture designed by the noted artist and designer, Saul Bass.
- The Prize is presented each October on or around UN World Food Day (16th October).
- Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in global agriculture, conceived the Prize. He is also known as the Father of the Green Revolution.
- **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the father of India's green revolution, was the first recipient of this award in 1987.**

6. a

- Recently, Union Finance Minister chaired the 40th GST Council meet.

- This was the first meeting of the GST Council during lockdown in which the impact of Covid-19 on revenue collection was discussed.
- The **GST Council is a constitutional body established under Article 279A** of Indian Constitution.
- It **makes recommendations to the Union and State Government** on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- The GST Council is **chaired by the Union Finance Minister** and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.
- **Every decision of the GST Council** shall be taken at a meeting, **by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting**, in accordance with the following principles, namely: –
  1. the vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one third of the total votes cast, and
  2. the votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.
- The GST Council shall determine the procedure in the performance of its functions.

7. c

- Recently, a team from ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune, has noted **India as an endemic reservoir for chikungunya virus** with persistent global transmissions from the country.
- The paper published recently adds that, dispersal of the strains from India was noted to neighbouring and distant countries, such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and China.
- **Chikungunya** is a RNA **Viral disease** transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes.
- The virus is **most often spread to people by Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus** mosquitoes.
- These are the **same mosquitoes that transmit dengue virus**. They bite during the day and at night.

- There is **no cure for the disease**. Treatment is focused on relieving the symptoms.
8. d
- Recently, Centre allots Rs 4,000 cr to states under '**Per Drop More Crop**' component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
  - The Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare is implementing the "Per Drop More Crop" component of PMKSY-PDMC.
  - It focuses on enhancing water efficiency at farm level through micro irrigation technologies such as "drip and sprinkler" irrigation.
  - Drip irrigation is the **most efficient water and nutrient delivery system** for growing crops.
  - It delivers water and nutrients directly to the plant's roots zone.
  - The system is adaptable to any farmable slope or topographies.
9. a
- Recently, an **oil well in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district** experienced a **blowout**.
  - Machinery failure usually leads to a blowout, which is an uncontrolled release of crude oil or gas from a production well.
  - **Emergency Response Centres (ERCs)** to handle major oil fires in the fastest way possible are **yet to be set up in India**, more than a decade after they were recommended by the MB Lal Committee.
  - The **MB Lal committee** was constituted following a fire incident at the IOCL terminal at Jaipur, in 2009.
  - It had **nearly 118 recommendations** with regard to safety guidelines to be followed by oil companies at their installations.
  - All recommendations of the committee approved by the petroleum ministry were supposed to be implemented immediately.

10. b

- Recently, **Lonar Lake** in Maharashtra has **turned Pink**.
- A team of scientists from the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to visit the Lonar lake, to collect its water samples to analyse why it has turned pink.
- The oval-shaped **Lonar lake, formed after a meteorite hit the Earth around 50,000 years ago**.
- The water in the lake is both **saline and alkaline**.
- It is the **only known meteorite crater in basaltic rock**.
- It is a **notified National Geo-Heritage monument**.

**16-06-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)*

1. It is an international and multi-stakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
2. India is a founding member of GPAI.
3. GPAI will be supported by a Secretariat hosted by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

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 *Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE) Mission*

1. It aims to put a lander and rover on Moon's surface to obtain actual data regarding the quantity of water.
2. It is a joint mission between Japan's JAXA and India's ISRO.
3. The mission will be launched from India using a GSLV class launch vehicle.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) In which of the following conditions, State Legislative Councils are treated unequal with the State Legislative Assemblies?

- a. Introduction of a Money bill in the house
- b. Approval of ordinances issued by the governor
- c. Consideration of the reports of the constitutional bodies like State Finance Commission and state public service commission
- d. Enlargement of the jurisdiction of the state public service commission

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Malabar Gliding Frog*

1. The amphibian is endemic to the rainforest of Western Ghats.
2. It is listed as Least Concern Species under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*

1. It is think tank, dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament, based in Sweden.
2. Global Peace and Terrorism Report is released annually by SIPRI.

Which of 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 *Payments Bank*

1. The Payments Bank are registered as a Public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. The foreign shareholding are not allowed in the Payments bank.

Which of 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 *Wind Energy in India*

1. As per the National offshore wind energy policy, Ministry of Power acts as the nodal Ministry for development of Offshore Wind Energy in India.
2. The Wind energy does not emit nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide.
3. The government has set an ambitious target of having 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

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



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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

**8) Consider the following statements with respect to Attorney General of India**

- The President shall appoint a person who is qualified to be appointed as a Chief justice of the Supreme Court to be Attorney-General for India.**
- The Attorney General of India is entitled to get all the immunities and privileges as a Member of Parliament.**

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

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

**9) GermiKlean which was in news recently is?**

- To sanitise currency notes, laptops, mobile phones
- A high-tech robot that kills the everyday germs and airborne viruses in home
- To sanitise uniforms of security forces
- None of the above

**10) Consider the following statements with respect to the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)**

- It is the first nationwide online delivery-based gas trading platform.**
- The bidding is done in an anonymous manner, where the buyer and seller do not know their counterpart.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

## Answers

1. d

- India has recently joined the league of leading economies including USA, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore to launch the GPAI.

## Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

- GPAI is an international and multi-stakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of AI, grounded in human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth.
- This is also a first initiative of its type for evolving better understanding of the challenges and opportunities around AI using the experience and diversity of participating countries.
- In order to achieve this goal, the initiative will look to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
- By joining **GPAI as a founding member, India** will actively participate in the global development of Artificial Intelligence, leveraging upon its experience around use of digital technologies for inclusive growth.
- GPAI will be supported by a Secretariat, to be hosted by **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris**, as well as by two Centers of Expertise- one each in Montreal and Paris.

2. a

## Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE)

- Japan is planning for a joint lunar mission with India, named Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE).
- LPE hopes to put a lander and rover on Moon's surface.
- The mission will be launched after 2023.

- Japanese would be building the overall landing module and the rover, while **ISRO would develop the lander system.**
- The mission will be **launched from Japan**, and the designated launch vehicle is the **H3 rocket, manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.**

### Objectives of the Mission

- The mission's aim is to obtain actual data regarding the quantity of water from in-situ observations of areas where water is anticipated to exist, based on the available past observational data.
  - It also seeks to understand the distribution, conditions, form and other parameters of the lunar water resources in the Polar Regions.
  - The mission also seek to improve the technology needed to explore the surface of low-gravity celestial bodies in order to support future lunar activities.
  - These advancements include technology for mobility, lunar night survival and mining excavation.
3. a
- The constitutional position of the council (as compared with the assembly) can be studied from two angles:
    1. Spheres where council is equal to assembly.
    2. Spheres where council is unequal to assembly.

### Equal with Assembly

In the following matters, the powers and status of the council are broadly equal to that of the assembly:

1. Introduction and passage of ordinary bills. However, in case of disagreement between the two Houses, the will of the assembly prevails over that of the council.
2. Approval of ordinances issued by the governor.
3. Selection of ministers including the chief minister. Under the Constitution the, ministers including the chief minister can be members of either House of the state legislature. However, irrespective of their membership, they are responsible only to the assembly.
4. Consideration of the reports of the constitutional bodies like State Finance

Commission, state public service commission and Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

5. Enlargement of the jurisdiction of the state public service commission.

### Unequal with Assembly

In the following matters, the powers and status of the council are unequal to that of the assembly:

1. **A Money Bill can be introduced only in the assembly and not in the council.**
2. The council cannot amend or reject a money bill. It should return the bill to the assembly within 14 days, either with recommendations or without recommendations.
3. The assembly can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendation of the council. In both the cases, the money bill is deemed to have been passed by the two Houses.
4. The final power to decide whether a particular bill is a money bill or not is vested in the Speaker of the assembly.
5. The final power of passing an ordinary bill also lies with the assembly. At the most, the council can detain or delay the bill for the period of four months–three months in the first instance and one month in the second instance. In other words, the council is not even a revising body like the Rajya Sabha; it is only a dilatory chamber or an advisory body.
6. The council can only discuss the budget but cannot vote on the demands for grants (which is the exclusive privilege of the assembly).
7. The council cannot remove the council of ministers by passing a no-confidence motion. This is because, the council of ministers is collectively responsible only to the assembly. But, the council can discuss and criticise the policies and activities of the Government.
8. When an ordinary bill, which has originated in the council and was sent to the assembly, is rejected by the assembly, the bill ends and becomes dead.
9. The council does not participate in the election of the president of India and representatives of the state in the Rajya Sabha.
10. The council has no effective say in the ratification of a constitutional amendment bill.

In this respect also, the will of the assembly prevails over that of the council.

11. Finally, the very existence of the council depends on the will of the assembly. The council can be abolished by the Parliament on the recommendation of the assembly.
  - From the above, it is clear that the position of the council *vis-à-vis* the assembly is much weaker than the position of the Rajya Sabha *vis-a-vis* the Lok Sabha.
  - The Rajya Sabha has equal powers with the Lok Sabha in all spheres except financial matters and with regard to the control over the Government.
  - On the other hand, the council is subordinate to the assembly in all respects.
  - Thus, the predominance of the assembly over the council is fully established.

4. c

- *Recently, a rare amphibian, Malabar Gliding Frog (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*) was spotted in Pullad, Kerala.*
- In the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List it is placed in the Least Concern category.
- The amphibian is endemic to the rainforest of Western Ghats.
- Endemic species are those plants and animals that exist only in one geographical region.
- It is a green frog with slender body, webbed feet, unusual body positions and very well camouflaged.
- Camouflage, also called cryptic coloration, is a defense mechanism or tactic that organisms use to disguise their appearance, usually to blend in with their surroundings.
- It has a body length of 10 cm, making it one of the largest mossy frogs.
- Mossy Frogs, have the skin which is green in colour and resembles moss growing on the rock.
- As their body is so soft, they can live only in moist forests with streams.



5. a

- All nations that have nuclear weapons continue to modernise their nuclear arsenals, while India and China increased their nuclear warheads in the last one year, according to a latest report: SIPRI Yearbook 2020 of Swedish think tank SIPRI.

***Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)***

- SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament based in Sweden.
- Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.
- ***Global Peace Index and Global Terrorism Index*** is released by ***Institute of Economics & Peace (IEP)***, Australia.

6. a

- Recently, **Airtel Bank** launches ‘**Suraksha Account**’ for **MSMEs**.
  - A **Payments bank** aims to further **financial inclusion**, especially through savings accounts and payments services.
  - Accordingly, a payments bank is **not allowed to give any form of loan or issue a credit card**, which is also a form of unsecured personal loan.
  - They **can issue of ATM / Debit Cards**.
  - Customers can open a savings account with **deposits of only up to Rs 1 lakh**, which is also the maximum balance allowed.
  - The payments bank are **registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013**, and **licensed under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
  - It will be **governed by the provisions of the**,
    1. Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999;
    1. Banking Regulation Act, 1949; Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934;
    2. Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007;
    3. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961;
    4. And other relevant Statutes and Directives, Prudential Regulations and other Guidelines/Instructions issued by RBI and other regulators from time to time.
  - The **foreign shareholding** in the payments bank **would be as per the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for private sector banks as amended from time to time**.
  - As per the current FDI policy, the aggregate foreign investment in a private sector bank from all sources will be allowed upto a maximum of 74% of the paid-up capital of the bank (automatic upto 49% and approval route beyond 49% to 74%).
7. b
- **World Wind Day 2020**, which is marked every year on **June 15**.
- Payments Salary**
- **World Wind Day** is a worldwide event that is **organised by WindEurope and Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)**.
  - **Wind energy** plays an important part as it **does not pollute the air like fossil fuels**, such as coal or natural gas.
  - It **does not emit nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide** that cause human health problems and economic damages.
  - The **Government has set an ambitious target of producing 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030**.
  - The country is already working on the target of having 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022, which includes 100 GW of solar, 45 GW of wind energy and 15 GW of other sources of green energy.
  - As per **National offshore wind energy policy**, **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** will act as the **nodal Ministry** for development of Offshore Wind Energy in India.
  - Ministry set a **target of 5.0 GW of offshore wind installations by 2022 and 30 GW by 2030**.
8. b
- **Attorney General K.K. Venugopal** is all set to get a one-year extension.
  - The **President shall appoint a person who is qualified to be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court** to be Attorney-General for India.
  - The Attorney-General shall **hold office during the pleasure of the President**, and shall **receive such remuneration as the President may determine**.
  - There is no procedure or ground mentioned in the constitution for the removal.
  - The **Attorney General of India has right to speak and take a part in the proceeding of any house of Parliament, without the right to vote**.
  - The Attorney General of India is **entitled to get all the immunities and privileges as a Member of Parliament**.

- In the performance of his duties, the Attorney general of India has right to audience in any Court in the territory of India.
9. c
- Recently, **DRDO** develops ‘**GermiKlean**’ to **sanitise uniforms of security forces**.
  - It has a **dry heat treatment chamber** named GermiKlean, in which dry heat kills micro organisms.
  - This chamber is designed to sanitise 25 pairs of uniforms within 15 minutes.

10. c

- **Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel** launched the **Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)**.
- It is the **first nationwide online delivery-based gas trading platform** for delivery of natural Gas.
- The **bidding is done in an anonymous manner**, where the buyer and seller do not know their counterpart.
- The **exchange is expected to facilitate transparent price discovery in natural gas**, and facilitate the growth of the share of natural gas in India’s energy basket.
- The **platform is fully automated with web-based interface** to provide seamless trading experience to the customers.

**17-06-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *United Nations Security Council (UNSC)*

1. It is the only organ of the United Nations that has the power to make decisions that member states are obligated to implement.
2. Each year the UN General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for UNSC, out of 10 in total, for a two-year term.

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

- a. 1 only

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

2) Which of the following countries are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)?

1. India
2. Ireland
3. Norway
4. Portugal

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

1. A solar eclipse occurs on a full moon day when the Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun and when all the three objects are aligned.
2. An annular solar eclipse occurs when the apparent size of the Moon is slightly less than that of the Sun, which leaves the outer rim of the latter uncovered, giving the appearance of a “ring of fire”.

Which of 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 *Pashupatinath Temple Complex*

1. It is the largest temple complex in Cambodia and a UNESCO’s World Heritage Site.

2. The temple complex is dedicated to Lord Shiva and stretches on both sides of the Bagmati River.

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

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

5) *India Mobile Payments Market Report, 2020* was released recently by?

- State Bank of India
- S&P Global Market Intelligence
- Moody's Banking India Association
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Wholesale Price Index (WPI)*

- It is released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- Primary articles component carries the highest weightage in WPI.

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

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

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

- The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has launched India's first agri index, NCDEX Agridex.
- The index represents the basket of ten commodities which are selected based on the liquidity on exchange platform.

3. NCDEX has partnered with NSE Indices, to maintain and disseminate real-time NCDEX AGRIDEX values.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Board for Wildlife*

- It is a statutory organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It is the apex body chaired by Prime Minister to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.

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

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

9) *Malathion* sometimes seen in news is?

- A pesticide that is used to kill insects on agricultural crops
- Used for the control of Desert Locust
- Both (a) and (b)
- None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Free Trade Agreements (FTA)*

- In FTA, all the trade barriers for all goods among the member countries are eliminated.
- It covers trade in goods and not in services.

Which of 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 193-member United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) votes for contenders to five non-permanent seats at the UN Security Council for 2021-22.
- **India is standing unopposed as the nominee for the Asia-Pacific seat**, and needs two-thirds of UNGA members, or 129 votes, to be confirmed.
- Mexico is also unopposed in its bid for the Latin American and Caribbean seat, while there is a straight contest between Kenya and late entrant Djibouti for the African seat.

### UN Security Council

- The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council.
- UN gives UNSC, the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.
- All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.
- While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, **only the Security Council** has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

### Non-Permanent Members

- Each year the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of 10 in total) for a two-year term.
- The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis as follows: five for African and Asian States; one for Eastern European States; two for the Latin American and Caribbean

States; and two for Western European and other States.

2. a

- **Ireland** has a **unique position** as a member of the European Union that is not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance.

3. b

- An annular solar eclipse will occur on 21 June, 2020.
- It is the deepest annular solar eclipse of this century, with the Sun appearing as a necklace of pearls.
- From India annular phase will be visible in the morning from some places within a narrow corridor of northern part of the country (parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttarakhand) and it will be seen as partial solar eclipse from the rest part of the country.

### Solar Eclipse

- A **solar eclipse** happens on a **new moon day**, whereas the lunar eclipse happens on a full moon day.
- A solar eclipse occurs on a new moon day when the Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun and when all the three objects are aligned.
- An annular solar eclipse occurs when the apparent size of the Moon is slightly less than that of the Sun, which leaves the outer rim of the latter uncovered, giving the appearance of a “ring of fire”.

4. b

- India has recently pledged to construct Rs 2.33 crore sanitation facility at the iconic **Pashupatinath Temple complex** to improve the infrastructure in the holy shrine for the pilgrims.
- The project would be constructed under the **Nepal-Bharat Maitri: Development Partnership** as a high impact community development scheme by India.

### Pashupatinath Temple Complex

- It is the largest temple complex in **Nepal** and stretches on both sides of the **Bagmati**

**River** and sees thousands of worshippers from Nepal and India every day.

- The temple complex is also listed under the UNESCO World Heritage site.
- The temple built in the 5th century and later renovated by Malla kings is **dedicated to Lord Shiva**.

5. b

- Mobile payments and card transactions exceeded cash withdrawals from automated teller machines (ATMs) for the first time in 2019, indicating that the country's push towards digital payments was bearing fruit, according to **S&P Global Market Intelligence's 2020 India Mobile Payments Market Report**.
- Mobile payments, initiated by payment apps comprising account-to-account transfers and payments made from stored-value accounts, rose 163% to \$287 billion in 2019.
- By comparison, point-of-sale transactions completed using debit and credit cards, including online and in apps, rose 24% to \$204 billion, S&P said.
- Also, according to the report, India ranked favourably among countries that built instant payment schemes, processing at least five times more transactions than the second-largest market based on an analysis of real-time payment volumes.

6. a

- May month **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** at -3.21%, has turned negative for the first time in four and a half years.
- The **government had suspended the release of WPI data last month** due to the nationwide lockdown.
- The biggest contributor to WPI deflation was crude, petroleum and natural gas, which showed a fall of 46.21%.
- The **Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry Of Commerce & Industry** is releasing index.
- **Manufactured Products** has the **highest weightage** (64.23%)

- Primary Articles (Weight 22.62%), Fuel & Power (Weight 13.15%), Wpi Food Index (Weight 24.38%).

7. d

- The **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)** has **launched futures trading on NCDEX Agridex**.
- **NCDEX AGRIDEX is India's first return based agricultural futures Index**.
- It **tracks the performance of the ten liquid commodities** traded on NCDEX platform.
- The NCDEX AGRIDEX serves as a benchmark and one can replicate the performance of the underlying commodities.
- **NCDEX has partnered with NSE Indices, an index service provider, to maintain and disseminate real-time NCDEX Agridex values**.

8. c

- The **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** has **raised concerns about extensive sand and boulder mining projects in Uttarakhand** and their impact on river ecology and wildlife.
- Recently, it has recommended a study of the cumulative impact of the mining for consideration of future projects.
- It **is a statutory organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- Its **roles is advisory in nature** and advises the Central Government.
- It **is chaired by Prime Minister and its vice chairman is Minister of Environment**.
- It is the **apex body to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects** in and around national parks and sanctuaries i.e. Protected Areas.

9. c

- **India supplies 25 tonnes of Malathion to Iran to curb desert locust menace**.



- India had recently approached Iran and Pakistan for coordinated response to counter desert locust menace in the region.
- **Malathion is an insecticide** in the chemical family known as organophosphates, used to **kill insects** on agricultural crops.
- **Malathion 96% ULV is used in Desert Locust control** in India.

10. d

- **India to step up Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks** with the US, the EU and Australia.
- In FTA, **all the trade barriers for most (if not all) goods and services** among the member countries **are eliminated**.
- It **cover trade in goods as well as trade in services**.
- It can be signed between two countries (bilateral) or many countries (multilateral).

**18-06-2020**

1) With respect to *Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE)*, consider the following statements:

1. They are being established to strengthen India's pursuit for excellence in Olympics.
2. They will be established under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport's Khelo India 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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Galwan River*

1. The Galwan River flows from Ladakh in to the Aksai Chin region.

2. It flows westwards to join the Shyok River, one of the main tributaries of Sutlej River.

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

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

3) In the Indian Constitution, the Political Reservation has been provided for which of the following Communities?

1. Scheduled Castes
2. Women Community
3. Anglo-Indian Community
4. Scheduled Tribes

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

4) Consider the following pairs

1. Neera – Health drink obtained from the Neem Tree
2. Palmgur – Jaggery obtained from the Palm Tree

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to the special features of *Coir Geotextiles*?

1. It has an impermeable, natural and strong fabric with high durability.
2. It is naturally resistant to rot, molds and moisture, and free from any microbial attack hence it needs no chemical treatment.

Which of 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 *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*

1. It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
2. The UNCCD COP 14 has adopted the Delhi Declaration.

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

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

7) Consider the following

1. Treaty of Sagauli
2. Treaty of Yandabo
3. Treaty of Deogaon

Which of the above treaty is/are linked to India and Nepal?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *State of Matter*

1. All Matter is made up of atoms, which are in turn made up of protons, neutrons and electrons.
2. Plasmas have a fixed shape and volume, and are less dense than solids or liquids.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)*

1. It is a multilateral development bank which aims to invest in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond.
2. Russia is the second largest shareholder in the AIIB.
3. AIIB undertakes both sovereign and non-sovereign financing for infrastructure projects.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)*

1. One of the core objective of the MGNREGS is to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions.
2. The Central Government have powers to make rules and amend the concerned State scheme.

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

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

## Answers

1. c

- The Sports Ministry is all set to establish Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE).

### Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE)

- They are established under the ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport's flagship, Khelo India Scheme.
- One KISCE will be identified in each state and union territory, with an effort to create a robust sporting ecosystem in the entire country.
- In the first leg, the Ministry has identified state-owned sports facilities in eight states of India, including, Karnataka, Odisha, Kerala, Telengana and the north east states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland which will be upgraded into Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE).
- The Khelo India State Centre of Excellence are being established to strengthen India's pursuit for excellence in Olympics.

2. d

- The Galwan River flows **from the disputed Aksai Chin region to Ladakh of India.**
- It originates in the area of Samzungling on the eastern side of the Karakoram range and flows west to join the Shyok River, one of the upstream tributaries of the **Indus River.**



3. b

- Article 243D (2) of the constitution states that: Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under 243D(1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.
- Article 243(D) (3) states that: Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.
- Article 330(1) states that seats shall be reserved in the House of the People for
  - the Scheduled Castes;
  - the Scheduled Tribes except the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam
  - the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam
- In January 2020, the Anglo-Indian reserved seats in the Parliament and State Legislatures of India were abolished by the 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019.

4. b

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently rolled out a unique project to produce **Neera and Palmgur (jaggery)** which has huge potential to create employment in the country.

- The project that aims at promoting Neera as a substitute to soft drinks while also creating self-employment to Adivasis and traditional trappers was launched recently at Dahanu in Palghar district of Maharashtra, a state with more than 50 lakh **palm trees**.
- The project has been rolled out on the initiative of Ministry of MSME.

#### Neera

- They are **extracted from the palm trees** before sunrise.
- It is a nutrient-rich health drink consumed in many Indian states.
- However, due to lack of institutionalized market technique, the commercial production and large scale marketing of Neera has not commenced yet.
- Neera is organic and rich in nutrients and thus a complete health drink.
- Neera has high export potential as it is also consumed in countries like Sri Lanka, Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Myanmar.
- India has an abundance of palm fields in states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar that can make India a leading producer of Neera globally.

#### 5. b

- Coir is a 100% natural fiber, obtained from a renewable source – the coconut husk.
- Coir Geo Textile is naturally resistant to rot, molds and moisture, and free from any microbial attack hence it needs no chemical treatment.
- It has a **permeable**, natural and strong fabric with high durability.
- It protects the land surface and promotes quick vegetation.
- It is totally biodegradable, and helps in soil stabilisation.
- It can dissipate the energy of flowing water and absorb the excess solar radiation.
- It has been accredited for construction of rural roads.

#### 6. c

- UNGA acknowledged June 17 as the **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**.
- The day was officially declared by the UNGA in the year December 1994 as, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
- The **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management**.
- The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the **drylands**, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.
- The **Convention's 197 parties** work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands.
- The **UNCCD COP 14 ended on 13 September 2019**, has **adopted the Delhi Declaration** in which parties expressed commitment for a range of issues, including gender and health, ecosystem restoration, taking action on climate change, private sector engagement, Peace Forest Initiative and recovery of 26 million hectares of degraded land in India.

#### 7. a

- **Treaty of Sagauli**, (March 4, 1816), agreement **between** the Gurkha chiefs of **Nepal** and the **British Indian government** that **ended the Anglo-Nepalese (Gurkha) War (1814–16)**.
- By the treaty, Nepal renounced all claim to the disputed Tarai, or lowland country, and ceded its conquests west of the Kali River and extending to the Sutlej River.
- **Nepal remained independent**, but it received a British resident with the status of an ambassador to an independent country rather than of the controlling agent of the supreme government in an Indian state.
- The **Treaty of Yandabo** (February 1826) **formally ended the First Anglo-Burmese War**.



- **Treaty of Deogaon**, (Dec. 17, **1803**), pact concluded between Raghujii Bhonsle II, the **Maratha raja of Berar** and the **British East India Company**.
8. a
- Recently, **Scientists Create Exotic ‘Fifth State of Matter’ on Space Station**.
  - The first ever **Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC)**, the **fifth state of matter**, was created outside of Earth’s gravity.
  - There are **4 natural states of matter** namely, **Solids, Liquids, Gases and Plasma** and the **5th state of matter** is **man-made, Bose-Einstein condensate**.
  - **Plasma is a state of matter** which has **no fixed shape or volume, and are less dense than solids or liquids**.
  - Plasmas may be formed by heating and ionizing a gas.
9. b
- Recently, **AIIB** clears \$750-mn loan to India for COVID-19.
  - The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** is a **multilateral development bank** with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia, Headquartered in **Beijing**.
  - **AIIB invests in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond**.
  - **AIIB Membership is open to all members of the World Bank** and is divided into **regional and non-regional** members.
  - **Regional members** are those **located within areas classified as Asia and Oceania** by the **United Nations**.
  - **India** is the **second largest shareholder** in the AIIB and its **largest borrower**.
  - AIIB undertakes both sovereign and non-sovereign financing for infrastructure projects.
10. a
- Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government said that it has engaged 57.13 lakh workers under the **MGNREGS**.
  - Thereby **emerging as the top state in the country to give employment under the rural employment guarantee scheme**.
  - The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** is the **foundation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** and provides guaranteed employment.
  - The **Central Government** has **powers to make rules and to amend MGNREGA**.
  - The **State Governments** have **powers to make rules and amend the concerned State scheme (MGNREGS)**.
  - **MGNREGA** has been **notified through the Gazette of India** Extraordinary notification and is National legislation.
  - **Different States** have **notified MGNREGS** on different dates but within a year of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA notification.
  - The **core objectives of the MGNREGS** are:
    - (a) Providing not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability;
    - (b) Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor;
    - (c) Proactively ensuring social inclusion and
    - (d) **Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions**.
  - It aims to deepen democracy at the grassroots by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- 19-06-2020**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan**
1. It is to boost livelihood opportunities in Rural India.
  2. Migrant workers will be provided grains and chana, per family, per month, for two months under this scheme.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Types Of ATMs*

- Brown Label ATMs are those ATMs which set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities.
- White Label ATM are those ATMs, where banks outsourced the ATM operations to a third party.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Competitiveness Index*

- It is compiled by World Economic Forum.
- Among the BRICS Nation, India has ranked second after China.

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

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

4) *Vadhavan Port* recently seen in news is proposed in?

- Gujarat
- Maharashtra
- Andhra Pradesh

d. West Bengal

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *SARS-CoV-2 Virus*

- The SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, does not have a DNA molecule.
- The RT-PCR test process converts the RNA into the DNA molecule before the gene can be captured in the test.
- TrueNat is a chip-based, battery-operated RT-PCR test kit.

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

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

### Answers

1. a

- Government of India has decided to launch a massive rural public works scheme 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan.
- It aims to empower and provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens.
- The campaign will be run on a mission mode for 125 days, involving intensified and focused implementation of 25 different types of works to provide jobs to the migrant workers.
- The campaign also aims to create infrastructure worth Rs 50,000 crore in the rural regions across 116 districts in 6 states.
- The villages across 116 districts in 6 states will join the campaign through common service centres and krishi vigyan kendras.

2. d

- Recently, RBI relaxes norms for the deployment of ATMs by white-label players.

- **ATMs set up, owned, and operated by non-bank entities** are called **White-label ATMs**.
  - Non-bank ATM operators are authorised under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, by the RBI.
  - TATA launched the **first white label ATM in India** under the brand name of **Indicash**.
  - When **banks outsourced the ATM operations to a third party**, it is called **Brown Label ATM**.
  - In **Brown label ATM**, the hardware and the lease of the ATM machine is owned by a service provider, but cash management and connectivity to banking networks is provided by a **sponsor bank whose brand is used on the ATM**.
  - **Green Label ATM** are provided for **Agricultural Transaction**.
  - **Orange Label ATMs** are provided for **Share Transactions**.
  - **Yellow Label ATM** are for **E-commerce**.
3. b
- **India** ranked **43rd** on recently released **IMD's World Competitiveness Index**.
  - **World Competitiveness Index** compiled by **Institute for Management Development (IMD)**.
  - It **measures global economies and their ability to generate prosperity**.
  - **Singapore** has retained its **number one position** for the second year in a row.
  - The **US has moved down to 10th place** (from 3rd last year), while **China** has also slipped from 14th to 20th place.
  - Among the **BRICS nations**, **India** is ranked second after **China**, followed by **Russia (50th)**, **Brazil (56th)**, and **South Africa (59th)**.
4. b
- Recently, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has said that there is **no bar on building a port in the ecologically fragile zone**.
- The Ministry said that the **ports as an industry are allowed in the ecologically sensitive Dahanu taluka area**, which includes **Vadhavan** in **Maharashtra's Palghar district**, where the **Centre plans to build** an ambitious new major **Vadhavan port** estimated to cost Rs 65,544.54 crore.
  - **Vadhavan will be set up as a corporate port** under the **Companies Act**.
  - It would be **developed as a landlord port**, with the port company building the basic port infrastructure, while berths, terminals and associated facilities will be constructed by private firms in the **public-private-partnership (PPP) mode**.
5. d
- Recently, the **ICMR approved the use of TrueNat machines, for carrying out confirmatory tests for Covid-19 disease**.
  - Before that, these machines, which were originally developed for detecting tuberculosis in patients.
  - They were also used in the current coronavirus pandemic only for screening patients.
  - The **SARS-CoV-2 virus**, which causes Covid-19, **does not have a DNA, but an RNA molecule**.
  - The **reverse transcription process** (the **RT in RT-PCR**) **converts the RNA into the DNA molecule** before the gene can be captured in the test.
  - **TrueNat** is a chip-based, battery-operated **RT-PCR kit**.
  - The **big difference is that the machine is portable**, and tests with it **cost much less** than the traditional RT-PCR tests.
  - That make it **extremely useful for deploying in interior districts and faraway places** from where collecting and sending swabs for testing in big cities is a difficult task.
- 20-06-2020**

1) With respect to *Sickle-Cell Disease*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an auto immune disorder that affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body.
2. It is characterized by a modification in the shape of the red blood cell from a smooth, donut-shape into a crescent or half-moon shape.

Which of 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) *SATYABHAMA Portal* was launched recently by which of the following Ministries?

- a. Ministry of Mines
- b. Ministry of Law and Justice
- c. Ministry of Science and Technology
- d. Ministry of Human Resources and Development

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Science and Technology Scheme of Ministry of Mines*

1. It is a scheme launched by the Indian Bureau of Mines in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and Department of Space for monitoring of Mining activity through satellite.
2. Under the Scheme, Ministry of Mines provides funds to Academic institutions, universities and national institutes recognized by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

4) Which of the following indices are compiled by the Central Statistics Office of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation?

1. CPI – Rural
2. CPI – Urban
3. CPI – Rural Labourers
4. CPI – Industrial workers
5. CPI – Agricultural Labourers

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. All except 1 and 2
- b. All except 1 and 3
- c. All except 3, 4 and 5
- d. None

5) With respect to *Asian Development Bank (ADB)*, consider the following statements:

1. Only regional countries are eligible for its membership.
2. India is one of the founding members of this regional development bank.
3. Asian Infrastructure Finance Report is an annual flagship report of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *United Nations Security Council Presidency*

1. The Presidency of the UN Security Council is held by each of the members in rotation for one year, following the

English alphabetical order of the member states' names.

2. The Presidency rotates among both the Permanent and Non-Permanent member 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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Madhubani Painting*

1. It is characterized by line drawings filled in by bright colours and contrasts or patterns.
2. The themes of these paintings are figures from nature and mythological events.
3. It has been accorded with the GI (Geographical Indication) status.

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

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

8) *VG Kannan Committee* sometimes seen in news was constituted for?

- a. To review the ATM charges and fee structure
- b. To reform the drug regulatory system
- c. To strengthen the border infrastructure
- d. None of the above

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Micius satellite*

1. It is the world's first quantum communications satellite.

2. It is a project of European Space Agency to establish the most secure communication link which could be the future of wireless communication.

Which of 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 *One-horned Rhino*

1. One-horned Rhino is the largest of the Asian rhinoceroses.
2. The Indian Rhino Vision 2020 is an ambitious effort to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos in Assam.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- **World Sickle Cell Day** was first organised by the United Nation General Assembly in the year 2008 to recognise sickle cell disease as a public health problem.
- After that, the UN designated **19 June** to be observed as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day globally.

## Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

- SCD is a group of **inherited** disorders that affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body. (**Not an auto-immune disorder**)

- Healthy red blood cells are round, and they move through small blood vessels to carry oxygen to all parts of the body.
- People with SCD have atypical hemoglobin molecules called hemoglobin S, which can distort red blood cells into a sickle, or crescent, shape.
- The sickle cells die early, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells.
- Also, when they travel through small blood vessels, they get stuck and clog the blood flow.
- This can cause pain and other serious problems such infection, acute chest syndrome and stroke.
- Signs and symptoms of sickle cell disease usually begin in early childhood.
- Characteristic features of this disorder include a low number of red blood cells (anemia), repeated infections, and periodic episodes of pain.

2. a

- **Ministry of Mines** has recently launched SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal for Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines.

#### **Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement Portal**

- The portal has been designed, developed and implemented by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Mines Informatics Division.
- In contrast to present system where research proposals are submitted physically by the Scientists / Researchers, SATYABHAMA Portal allows online submission of project proposals along with monitoring of the projects and utilization of funds / grants.
- The researchers can also submit progress reports and Final Technical Reports of the projects in the electronic format in the portal.
- A User Manual is also available on the Portal where the stepwise procedures for submission of project proposals have been highlighted.

- The Portal is integrated with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog.

3. d

#### **Science and Technology Scheme of Ministry of Mines**

- **Ministry of Mines** provides funds to Academic institutions, universities, national institutes and R&D institutions **recognized with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research**, Government of India for implementing R&D projects under Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines.
- The Scheme is being implemented with the vision to promote research in applied geosciences, mineral exploration, mining and allied areas, mineral processing, optimum utilization and conservation of the mineral resources of the country, for the benefit of the nation and its people.
- The SATYABHAMA Portal, which was launched recently, will increase efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the Scheme.

4. c

- The **CPI – Industrial Workers and CPI – Agricultural & Rural Labourers** are occupation specific and centre specific and are compiled by **Labour Bureau of Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- Since these indices pertain to specific segment of population and does not cover all segments of population, it is difficult to ascertain the true variations in the price level.
- To overcome this problem, **CPI – Urban and CPI – Rural** is being computed with a wider coverage by **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** under **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

5. a

#### **Asian Development Bank**

- ADB is a **regional development bank** established in 1966, headquartered in **Manila, Philippines**.
- It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.

- From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 68 members—of which **49 are from within Asia and the Pacific (Regional Members) and 19 outside (Non-Regional Members)**.
  - **India** is one of the **founding members** of ADB.
  - Japan holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB followed by the USA.
  - **Asian Development Outlook (ADO)** is an annual flagship report of Asian Development Bank.
  - ADO was released recently and some of the highlights of recent report are as follows:
    1. According to report the Indian economy is expected to contract by 4% during the current financial year (2020-21).
    2. Earlier, in April 2020, ADB had projected India's economy to grow at 4% in 2020-21.
    3. The report also highlighted India's GDP slowed to 1% in the last quarter (Jan-March) of the financial year 2019-20, it is the slowest since early 2003.
    4. Growth of Developing Asia is expected around 0.1%, this is down from the 2.2% forecast in April 2020 and would be the slowest growth for the region since 1961.
    5. Developing Asia refers to a group of over 40 countries, including India that are members of the ADB.
    6. However, China is expected to record a positive growth of 1.8% in 2020-21.
  - Asian Infrastructure Finance Report is a report of **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.
6. b
- India was elected to the UNSC's Non-Permanent membership recently and **India to serve as UNSC President for August 2021**.
  - The **Presidency of the UN Security Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the member states' names**.
7. d
- The **Presidency rotates among both the Permanent and Non-Permanent member states**.
  - **Madhubani Painting** to adorn government offices in Bihar.
  - **All government buildings** at Punauradhama in Bihar, the birthplace of Sita, will now have a different look with traditional **Madhubani Paintings adorning their walls**.
  - **Madhubani Painting**, also referred to as **Mithila Art** (as it flourishes in the Mithila region of Bihar), is **characterized by line drawings filled in by bright colours and contrasts or patterns**.
  - Cotton wrapped around a bamboo stick forms the brush.
  - The **themes** of these paintings are figures from nature and mythological events.
  - The **themes** widely painted are of Hindu deities such as Krishna, Rama, Siva, Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Sun and Moon, Tulasi plant, court scenes, wedding scenes, social happenings.
  - It has been accorded with the **GI (Geographical Indication) status**.
8. a
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a six-member committee** under the chairmanship of **VG Kannan, to review the entire gamut of Automated Teller Machines (ATM) charges and fees**.
  - The committee had recommended charging customers for every withdrawal above Rs 5,000, according to a report obtained through a Right to Information (RTI) query recently.
  - It was submitted to the central bank on 22 October, 2019, but never released.
9. a
- Recently, **China's quantum satellite Micius**, sends hack-proof password 1,120km away.

- **Satellite Micius** sends particles of light to Earth to establish the world's most secure communication link.
- This could be the future of wireless communication and set new standards in Internet security.
- It is also known as, **Quantum Experiments at Space Scaler (QUESS) satellite**.

10. c

- Recently, a **Rhino gives birth to calf at Patna Zoo**, now the zoo has 13 rhinos in all.
- The **greater one-horned rhino (or "Indian rhino")** is the largest of the Asian rhino species.
- This species is restricted to about 11 reserves in India and Nepal.
- It has been listed as **Vulnerable** in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
- **Indian Rhino Vision 2020** is an ambitious effort to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020.

**22-06-2020**

1) "**Kodumanal**", sometimes seen in the news recently, is an important archaeological site located in?

- Kerala
- Puducherry
- Tamil Nadu
- Andhra Pradesh

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Yojana**

1. Under this programme, clusters of traditional pottery workers are identified and provide them training and electric pottery wheels and other tools.
2. It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

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

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

3) Which of the following is the United Nations theme for the **International Day of Yoga, 2020**?

- Yoga for Heart
- Yoga for Peace
- Yoga for Health
- None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to **Golden Langur**

1. This species occurs only in Bhutan and north-eastern India.
2. Mount Harriet National Park is the only protected habitat for this species in India.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to **Reverse Zoonosis**

1. It is a disease caused when the pathogen is transmitted from animals to humans.
2. Scientists have claimed that the concept is possible only in theory and there is no such evidence for this type of transmission.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to Sec 309 in IPC (Attempt to commit suicide)**

1. Anyone who survives an attempted suicide can be booked under Section 309 in IPC.
2. It is a cognizable and bailable offence.

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

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

**7) Consider the following**

1. Limpiyadhura
2. Banbasa
3. Kalapani

**Which of the above disputed Indian territories are added to the new political map of Nepal?**

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

**8) Consider the following statements with respect to Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region**

1. It is India's first-ever national forecast on the impact of global warming on the subcontinent in the coming century.
2. The report has been published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

- a. 1 only

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

**9) Mt Merapi which was in news recently is located in?**

- a. The United States of America  
b. Philippines  
c. Solomon Islands  
d. Indonesia

**10) A R Dave committee sometimes seen in news was constituted for which of the following purposes?**

- a. To reviews the measures for strengthening the enforcement mechanism of SEBI  
b. To assess key challenges and suggest reforms in logistics development and associated commerce  
c. To create isolation wards and to prevent the spread of COVID-19  
d. None of the above

## Answers

1. c

- Recently, the State Department of Archaeology, Chennai has identified 250 cairn-circles from the Kodumanal excavation site in Tamil Nadu.
- A megalith is a large prehistoric stone that has been used to construct a structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones.
- Cairn-circles are the prehistoric stone row which is a linear arrangement of parallel megalithic standing stones.

## Kodumanal

- Kodumanal is a village located in the Erode district of Tamil Nadu.
- The place is an important archaeological site located on the northern banks of Noyyal River, a tributary of the Cauvery.

- The earlier excavations of Kodumanal revealed that multi-ethnic groups lived in the village.
- It also revealed that the site served as a trade-cum-industrial centre from 5th century BCE to 1st century BCE.

2. c

- Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Yojana is an initiative of the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** for empowerment of potters community in the remotest of locations in the country.
- Under this programme KVIC identify the areas where clusters of traditional pottery workers are available and provide them training and electric pottery wheels and other tools like blunger, Pug Mill, etc.
- The program reaches out to the potters in: U.P., M.P., Maharashtra, J&K, Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Telangana and Bihar.

3. d

- The **sixth International Day of Yoga** was celebrated recently with great enthusiasm across the country through electronic and digital media.
- **Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family** has been made the theme of this year's IDY.
- The United Nations theme for this year is "**Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home**", which takes into account the social distancing measures announced by most countries.

4. a

- It has been listed as Endangered under the IUCN Red List.
- This species occurs **only in Bhutan and north-eastern India (Assam)**.
- It is confined to a forest belt in western Assam between the Manas River in the east, Sankosh in the west and Brahmaputra in the south along the Indo-Bhutan border.
- This species is found in moist evergreen, dipterocarp, riverine, and moist deciduous forests, and occasionally in degraded habitats with secondary growth.

- This species is a **Schedule I species** in the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) and also listed on CITES Appendix I.
- The Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary is the only protected habitat for this species in India.
- Mount Harriet National Park is located in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



5. d

#### Reverse Zoonosis

- **Zoonosis** is an infectious disease caused by a pathogen that has jumped from an **animal to a human**.
- When the pathogen is transmitted from **human to animals**, it is known as **reverse zoonosis**.
- The animal infected through the process may in turn re-transmit the infection to humans under some circumstances.
- Recently novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has begun infecting minks farms in the Netherlands.
- It could largely have been transmitted through indirect routes such as through feed or bedding material, infectious droplets or by contaminated dust from the bedding.
- Literature has shown that the phenomenon of reverse zoonosis can also happen in case of other pathogens such as resistant bacteria.

- This can add to the greater spread of bacterial infections in animals.
- It can also involve an increased use of antibiotics to treat or prevent such infections, eventually contributing to another slow pandemic of antimicrobial resistance.

### Minks

- Minks are small semi-aquatic mammals raised for their fur.
- Mink oil is used in some medical products and cosmetics, as well as to treat, preserve and waterproof leather.
- There are two extant species referred to as "mink" - the American mink and the European mink.

6. c

- After the suicide of an actor, the conversation moved around the how the mental health should be handled.
- One of the most archaic laws that punishes attempts to commit suicide, **Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), contrary to popular perception that it has been repealed, continues to exist in the statute book** and, as per reports, is often misused.
- The **section 309** reads, "Whoever attempts to commit suicide and does any act towards the commission of such offence, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year (or with fine, or with both)".
- It is a **cognizable and bailable offence**.
- After the **Mental Healthcare Act (MCHA), 2017**, Section 309 of the IPC has become **"redundant" but it still remains in law books**.
- The **Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017**, has **significantly reduced the scope for the use of Section 309 IPC and made the attempt to commit suicide punishable only as an exception**.
- **Section 115(1) of The MHCA** says that, "Notwithstanding anything contained in section 309 of the Indian Penal Code any person who attempts to commit suicide shall

be presumed, unless proved otherwise, to have severe stress and shall not be tried and punished under the said Code."

- **Section 115(2)** says that "The appropriate Government shall have a duty to provide care, treatment and rehabilitation to a person, having severe stress and who attempted to commit suicide, to reduce the risk of recurrence of attempt to commit suicide."

7. b

- Recently, Nepal's Parliament passed the amendment to include the new political map featuring areas of **Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura** in the Constitution of Nepal.
- The **Lipulekh pass** is a far western point near Kalapani, a disputed border area between Nepal and India.
- Both India and Nepal claim **Kalapani** as an integral part of their territory, India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and Nepal as part of Dharchula district.
- **India, which controls the region**, a slice of land including Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani areas in the northwest **has rejected the map**.

8. a

- Recently, the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** published the **Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region**.
- It is **India's first-ever national forecast** on the impact of global warming on the subcontinent in the coming century.
- The study, spearheaded by climate experts at India Meteorological Department (**IMD**) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (**IITM**), has considered atmospheric and ocean data for the period between 1951 and 2015.
- It has chapters on temperature, rainfall and climate modelling.
- The report highlights are,
  1. The report indicates a rise in worldwide average surface air temperatures by 5°C by the end of the century if human activities keep emitting GHGs at the current rate.

2. The global average temperature in the last century has gone up by 1.1°C, according to the latest estimates by the IPCC.
3. Another significant highlight of the assessment is the projected variability in the rainfall, especially during the monsoon season which brings 70% of the rainfall received by India and is one of the primary drivers of its rural agrarian economy.
4. Monsoon rainfall could change by an average of 14% by 2100 that could go as high as 22.5%.
5. It is not mentioned if this change will be an increase or a decrease but still represents variability.
6. Overall rainfall during the monsoon season has decreased by 6% between 1950 and 2015.

9. d

- Recently, **Indonesia's Mount Merapi**, one of the world's most active volcanoes, **erupted twice** in a day.
- It is located on the border between Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces, Indonesia.
- Indonesia has more than 17,000 islands and islets and nearly 130 active volcanoes.
- Indonesia **sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire**, a vast zone of geological instability where the collision of tectonic plates causes frequent quakes and major volcanic activity.

10. a

- Recently, a **high-level committee led by A R Dave**, submitted the report aimed to **reviews the enforcement function of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- The committee identified **four areas** for enhancing the enforcement function.
- It included the intermediary regulations, recovery of dues, quantification of ill-gotten gains, and synergies between the securities and insolvency laws.

**23-06-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC)**

- 1. It is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament in 1973.**
- 2. It was mandated to advise the Government of India in the matter of preserving, developing and maintaining the aesthetic quality of urban and environmental design within Delhi.**
- 3. Its recommendations are final and binding on the Central and Delhi Government.**

**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 International Transport Forum (ITF)**

- 1. It is an intergovernmental organization at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).**
- 2. India has been a member of ITF since 2008.**
- 3. It acts as a think tank for transport policy and organizes the Annual Summit of transport ministers.**

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

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

**3) "Waterfall Mechanism", often seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?**

- a. The Code on Wages
- b. Goods and Services Tax
- c. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
- d. Real Estate Regulation and Development Act



4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO, 2020*

1. It is India's first ever Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO.
2. The Expo has been organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

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

5) *Ambubachi Mela* is an annual festival celebrated in which of the following states?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Ahom Kingdom*

1. Chaolung Sukapha, founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries.
2. Ahom kingdom had their own language and followed their own religion.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *The Eurasian group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG)*

1. It is a FATF-style body which is an associate member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
2. India, Pakistan and China are the members of EAG.

Which of 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 *Initial Public Offering (IPO)*

1. IPOs provide companies with an opportunity to obtain capital by offering shares through the secondary market.
2. Through IPOs, the company gets its name listed on the stock exchange.

Which of 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) *River Ambarnaya* which was in news is located in?

- a. Russia
- b. Norway
- c. Brazil
- d. New Zealand

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

1. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an Important Bird Area.
2. Kaziranga is crisscrossed by River Diphlu.
3. The park boasts one of the highest density of tigers in India.

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

## Answers

1. b

- The Centre's proposal to construct a new Parliament building in time for Independence Day 2022 was not approved by the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) in a meeting held recently.

### Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC)

- It is a statutory body established by the **Delhi Urban Art Commission Act, 1973**.
- It is an **advisory body**.
- The DUAC is meant to **advise** the Centre on matters of preservation, development and maintenance of the aesthetic quality of the Capital's urban and environmental design.

2. d

- The International Transport Forum at the OECD is an intergovernmental organisation with 60 member countries.
- **India has been a member of ITF since 2008.**
- It acts as a think tank for transport policy and organises the Annual Summit of transport ministers.
- ITF is the only global body that covers all transport modes.
- The **ITF is administratively integrated with the OECD**, yet politically autonomous.

3. c

### Waterfall Mechanism

- Section 53 of **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** deals with the waterfall mechanism, which gives priority to secured financial creditors over unsecured financial creditors.

- The mechanism says that if a company is being liquidated, these secured financial creditors must be first paid the full extent of their admitted claim, before any sale proceedings are distributed to any other unsecured creditor.
- The top most priority, however, is given to costs related to the liquidation process and dues of workmen of the corporate debtor.
- The dues of the workmen include all their salaries, provident, pension, retirement and gratuity fund, as well as any other funds maintained for the welfare of the workmen.

### Types of creditors

- **Secured creditor** is generally a bank or other asset-based lender that holds a fixed or floating charge over a business asset or assets.
- When a business becomes insolvent, sale of the specific asset over which security is held provides repayment for this category of creditor.
- **Unsecured creditor** is an individual or institution that lends money without obtaining specified assets as collateral.
- This poses a higher risk to the creditor because it will have nothing to fall back if the borrower default on the loan.

### Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 was enacted for reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximization of the value of assets.
- The Ecosystem of IBC is based on:
  1. **Adjudicating authority (AA)** - would be the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for corporate insolvency.
- It will entertain or dispose of any insolvency application, approve/ reject resolution plans, decide in respect of claims or matters of law/ facts thereof.
  1. **Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)** has jurisdiction over individuals and partnership firms other than Limited Liability Partnerships.

2. The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** - apex body for promoting transparency & governance in the administration of the IBC.
- It will be involved in setting up the infrastructure and accrediting IPs (Insolvency Professionals (IPs) & IUs (Information Utilities)).
4. a
- The **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers** has recently inaugurated India's one the largest 1st Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020.
  - The Expo has been **organised by FICCI**.
  - This is the first ever largest virtual exhibition in India making a new beginning.
  - This is the new norm, wherein business will happen virtually as Digital India is now making a way forward.
5. a
- Ambubachi, the festival marking the annual 'menstruation' of the presiding Goddess, began recently at the **Kamakhya temple in Assam** without mendicants, hermits and devotees for the first time in almost 500 years.
- Kamakhya Temple**
- It is one of 51 Shaktipeeths or holy sites for the followers of the Shakti cult, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva's companion.
  - The temple's sanctum sanctorum houses the yoni.
  - The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam is celebrated with a ritual called 'Tuloni Biya', meaning small wedding.
  - Ambubachi Mela was also an occasion to promote menstrual hygiene through the use of sanitary pads.
  - A similar custom is followed at the Devi temple at Chengannur town in Alappuzha district of Kerala.
  - The temple is shut for the days the Goddess there is believed to undergo her period.
6. d
- Recently, Assam Chief Minister ordered the arrest of a Kolkata-based political commentator, who had described Chaolung Sukapha as a Chinese invader.
  - Chaolung Sukapha, was a 13th century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries.
  - Sukapha was a leader of the Ahoms.
  - He reached Brahmaputra valley in Assam from upper Burma with around 9,000 followers.
  - Ahoms also subjugated many other tribes. Due to this, the Ahoms had built a kind of a large state and during the 1530's.
  - The founders of the Ahom kingdom had their own language and followed their own religion.
  - Over the centuries, the Ahoms accepted the Hindu religion and the Assamese language.
  - Sukapha's significance, especially in today's Assam lies in his successful efforts towards assimilation of different communities and tribes.
  - He is widely referred to as the architect of "Bor Asom" or "greater Assam".
7. d
- Recently, Indian officials attend virtual EAG plenary meet.
  - The virtual 32nd special Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) plenary meeting, was held under the aegis of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
  - The EAG is an FATF-style regional body.
  - It was established in 2004 and is currently an associate member of the FATF.
  - The EAG has 9 member countries, India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.
  - 15 states and 23 international and regional organizations have observer status within the Eurasian group.
8. b

- The **Government** has started the process to **launch the Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**.
- An **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** refers to the process of offering shares of a private corporation to the public in a new stock issuance.
- Initial public offering is the process by which a private company can go public by sale of its stocks to general public.
- It could be a new, young company or an old company which decides to be listed on an exchange and hence goes public.
- **IPOs** provide companies with an opportunity to **obtain capital by offering shares** through the **Primary market**.
- Through the IPO, the company gets its name listed on the stock exchange.

9. a

- Recently, Russian President declared state of emergency due to **Oil spill in Arctic Circle**.
- Approximately **20,000 tonnes of diesel spilled into the Amarnaya river in Siberia**, above the Arctic Circle.
- The spill of the oil has turned the surface of the river into crimson red colour.
- The river is part of a network that flows into the environmentally sensitive Arctic Ocean.

10. d

- The Kaziranga National Park is bracing to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and animal deaths due to annual monsoon flooding.
- Kaziranga National Park is located in Nagaon and Golaghat districts in the state of Assam.
- It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses, as well as many mammals, including tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, and thousands of birds.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, an Important Bird Area and a Tiger Reserve
- Kaziranga is crisscrossed by four main rivers, Brahmaputra, Diphlu, Mora Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri.

- The park boasts one of the highest density of tigers in India with 21 tigers per 100 sq km.

**24-06-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Comparison Program (ICP)***

- 1. It is the largest worldwide data-collection initiative, under the guidance of UN Security Council.**
- 2. India has participated in almost all ICP rounds since its inception in 1970.**
- 3. NITI Aayog is the National Implementing Agency (NIA) for India.**

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)***

- 1. It is a popular metric that compares different countries' currencies through a "basket of goods" approach.**
- 2. India is the third largest economy in terms of PPPs behind United States and China in 2017.**

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to *SATAT Scheme***

- 1. It is an initiative aimed at setting up of Compressed Bio-Gas production plants and make it available in the market for use in automotive fuels.**

2. The scheme envisages targeting production of 15 MMT of CBG from 5000 plants by 2023.

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

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

4) **YUKTI 2.0 Platform**, which was launched recently, is an initiative of which of the following Ministries?

- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Human Resources and Development
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

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

- It is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, working under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs.
- It is tasked with detecting and curbing smuggling of contraband, including drug trafficking and illicit international trade in wildlife as well as combating commercial frauds related to international trade and evasion of Customs duty.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)*

- The Arms Trade Treaty is a legally-binding instrument to establish a common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons.
- It places restrictions on the types or quantities of arms that may be bought, sold, or possessed by states.
- It does not impact a state's domestic gun control laws or other firearm ownership policies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Maglev Technology*

- It uses the superconducting magnets to levitate a train off the ground, eliminating friction.
- It works on basic principle of electromagnetic propulsion and the same technology is used in Hyperloop.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Anti-Defection Law*

- A legislator who abstain from voting, against the wish of party whip on any issue can also lose the membership of the House.
- The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.
- The legislators may change their party without the risk of disqualification.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Heat Waves*

- According to WMO, Heat Wave is abnormally high temperature for five or more consecutive days during which the daily maximum temperature surpasses the average maximum temperature by 5 °C or more.
- Heatwaves occurs only in the atmosphere.

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

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

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

- It is generated by the breakdown of organic matter by an aerobic bacteria.
- It is primarily composed of methane gas, carbon dioxide, and trace amounts of nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon monoxide.

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

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

**Answers**

1. a

- The World Bank has recently released the new Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) for reference year 2017, under International Comparison Program (ICP), that adjust for differences in the cost of living across economies of the World.
- Globally 176 economies participated in 2017 cycle of ICP.

**International Comparison Program (ICP)**

- The International Comparison Program (ICP) is the largest worldwide data-collection initiative, under the guidance of **UN Statistical Commission**, with the goal of producing Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) which are vital for converting measures of economic activities to be comparable across economies.
- Along with the PPPs, the ICP also produces Price Level Indices (PLI) and other regionally comparable aggregates of GDP expenditure.
- India has participated in almost all ICP rounds since its inception in 1970.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** is National Implementing Agency (NIA) for India, which has the responsibility of planning, coordinating and implementing national ICP activities.
- India is also proud to have been a **Co-Chair** of the **ICP Governing Board** along with Statistics Austria for the ICP 2017 cycle.

2. c

- The World Bank has recently released the new Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) for reference year 2017, under International Comparison Program (ICP).
- The next ICP comparison will be conducted for reference year 2021.

**Highlights**

- The Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) of Indian Rupee per US\$ at Gross Domestic Product (GDP) level is now 20.65 in 2017 from 15.55 in 2011.

- The Exchange Rate of US Dollar to Indian Rupee is now 65.12 from 46.67 during same period.
- The Price Level Index (PLI)—the ratio of a PPP to its corresponding market exchange rate—is used to compare the price levels of economies, of India is 47.55 in 2017 from 42.99 in 2011.
- In 2017, India retained and consolidated its global position, as the **third largest economy**, accounted for **6.7 percent** (\$8,051 billion out of World total of \$119,547 billion) of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of PPPs as against **China (16.4%)** and **United States (16.3%)**, respectively.
- India is also third largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in global Actual Individual Consumption and Global Gross Capital Formation.
- In 2017, India retained its **regional position**, as the **second largest** economy, accounted for 20.83 % (HK\$ 48,395 billion out of Asia-Pacific total of HK\$ 232,344 billion) of Regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of PPPs where China was at 50.76% (first) and Indonesia at 7.49% (third).
- India is also second largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in regional Actual Individual Consumption and regional Gross Capital Formation.

#### **Purchasing power parity (PPP)**

- It is a popular metric used by macroeconomic analysts that compares different countries' currencies through a "basket of goods" approach.
- Purchasing power parity (PPP) allows for economists to compare economic productivity and standards of living between countries.
- Some countries adjust their gross domestic product (GDP) figures to reflect PPP.

3. c

- *CBG Plant at Namakkal in Tamil Nadu and CBG Fuel Stations at various places in the state was inaugurated recently through online by the Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Minister.*

- In the event, he said that the Government is in the process of including Compressed Bio-Gas under Priority Sector Lending and it will provide ease in the financing of CBG Plants.

#### **SATAT Initiative**

- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) is an initiative aimed at setting up of Compressed Bio-Gas production plants and make it available in the market for use in automotive fuels by inviting Expression of Interest from potential entrepreneurs.
- The initiative was launched in October 2018 by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in association with Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- The Scheme envisages targeting production of 15 MMT of CBG from 5000 plants by 2023.

4. c

- **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has recently launched an initiative '**YUKTI 2.0**' to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in our higher education institutions.

#### **YUKTI**

- Earlier, the Minister had launched the YUKTI (Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) web portal on 11 April, 2020.
- Ministry of HRD prepared the portal in view of Coronavirus.
- The portal intends to cover the different dimensions of COVID-19 challenges in a very holistic and comprehensive way.
- Through this portal, the Ministry of Human Resource Development will endeavor to ensure that students, teachers and researchers in higher educational institutions are getting appropriate support to meet the requirements needed to advance their technologies and innovations.

### YUKTI 2.0

- It is logical extension of earlier version of 'YUKTI', an initiative of MHRD, to identify ideas relevant in COVID pandemic.
- YUKTI 2.0 will also help in fostering the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in our academic institutions.

### 5. c

- **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** has recently busted a wildlife smuggling syndicate that smuggled different varieties of macaws.
- Those exotic and highly endangered birds had been smuggled via the Indo-Bangladesh border without any licit documents.
- The joint operation was carried out in coordination with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and the Customs Department at the Kolkata airport.

### Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)

- It is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, working under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It is tasked with detecting and curbing smuggling of contraband, including drug trafficking and illicit international trade in wildlife and environmentally sensitive items, as well as combating commercial frauds related to international trade and evasion of Customs duty.

### Macaws

- Macaws are long-tailed, often colorful, New World parrots.
- They are popular in aviculture or as companion parrots, although there are conservation concerns about several species in the wild.
- They are native to Central America and North America (only Mexico), South America, and formerly the Caribbean.
- Most species are associated with forests, especially rainforests, but others prefer woodland or savannah-like habitats.

- A macaw's facial feather pattern is as unique as a fingerprint.
- The largest macaws are the hyacinth, Buffon's (great green) and green-winged macaws.
- Many of the Macaw species lies between Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered under IUCN.



### 6. b

- Recently, China's top legislative body has voted in favour of the country's bid to join the UN-sponsored Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).
- The Arms Trade Treaty is the first legally-binding instrument ever negotiated in the United Nations to establish common standards for the international transfer of conventional weapons.
- It regulates the international trade in conventional arms, from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships.
- It does not place restrictions on the types or quantities of arms that may be bought, sold, or possessed by states.
- It also does not impact a state's domestic gun control laws or other firearm ownership policies.

### 7. c

- Recently, China's high-speed Maglev prototype completes successful trial run.
- It is designed with a top speed of 600 km per hour, nearly as fast as a commercial airliner.

- Maglev, also called Magnetic Levitation Train or Maglev Train, a floating vehicle that is supported by either electromagnetic attraction or repulsion.
- It uses the superconducting magnets to levitate a train off the ground eliminating friction.
- The trains are driven by the powered guideway using magnets.
- It works on basic principle of electromagnetic propulsion and the same technology is used in Hyperloop.

8. d

- Recently, Manipur Speaker decision to disqualify Congress MLAs and the TMC MLA ahead of the Rajya Sabha election last week has raised questions once again on the Speaker's powers to disqualify under the Constitution.
- According to the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, an elected member of the house shall be disqualified from being a member if they win the election as a candidate of one party and then join another.
- The power for this disqualification is vested in the Speaker, who is usually a nominee of the ruling party.
- A legislator defying (abstaining or voting against) the party whip on any issue can lose his membership of the House.
- The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.
- The legislators may change their party without the risk of disqualification in certain circumstances.
- The law allows a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger.
- In such a scenario, neither the members who decide to merge, nor the ones who stay with the original party will face disqualification.

9. a

- Recently, the Arctic heatwave is warming up Siberia.

- The Arctic Circle has recorded temperatures reaching over 38 °C in the Siberian town, likely an all-time high.
- No formal, standardized definition of a heat wave exists.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) defines it as five or more consecutive days during which the daily maximum temperature surpasses the average maximum temperature by 5 °C (9 °F) or more.
- According to IMD, Heat Wave need not be considered till maximum temperature of a station reaches atleast 40°C for Plains and atleast 30°C for Hilly regions.
- The heatwaves can also occur in the Ocean and these are known as Marine Heatwaves (MHW).
- These marine heatwaves, when ocean temperatures are extremely warm for an extended period of time can have significant impacts on marine ecosystems and industries.
- Marine heatwaves can occur in summer or winter, they are defined based on differences with expected temperatures for the location and time of year.

10. b

- Recently, a Compressed Bio Gas Plant (CBG) and CBG Fuel Stations were inaugurated in Tamil Nadu.
- Biogas, naturally occurring gas that is generated by the breakdown of organic matter by anaerobic bacteria.
- It is used in energy production.
- Biogas is primarily composed of methane gas, carbon dioxide, and trace amounts of nitrogen, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide.
- It occurs naturally in compost heaps, as swamp gas, and as a result of enteric fermentation in cattle and other ruminants.
- Biogas can also be produced in anaerobic digesters from plant or animal waste or collected from landfills.
- It is burned to generate heat or used in combustion engines to produce electricity.

**25-06-2020**

**1) Article 340 of the Indian Constitution deals with which of the following?**

- Appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes
- Reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the House of the People
- Appointment of a Commission to recommend the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the States
- Appointment of a Commission to recommend the President for the progressive use of the Hindi language for the official purposes of the Union

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD)**

- Under the Scheme, the guarantee cover worth Rs. 20,000 crores will be provided to the promoters who can take debt from the banks to further invest in their stressed MSMEs as equity.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- The scheme will be operationalised through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for MSEs (CGTMSE).

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Annual TB Report 2020**

- According to the report, an increase of 14% in TB notification is recorded in 2019 compared to the year 2018.
- It was released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- In the categories of larger states with more than 50 lakh population, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh were awarded as best performing States.

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

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

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to Decarbonising Transport in India Project**

- It aims to develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system for India.
- The project is a part of World Health Organisation's Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety.

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

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

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies (DTEE) Project**

- It is a collaboration between the International Transport Forum (ITF) and NITI Aayog.
- India, Argentina, Azerbaijan, and Morocco are the current participants of this project.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Co-operative Banks*

1. They are governed by the Banking Regulations Act, 1949, and the Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.
2. They are not required to maintain stipulated level of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) And Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).

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

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

7) Consider the following statements,

1. Disinfecting refers to lowering the number of germs to a safe level.
2. Sanitizing refers to eliminating many or all pathogenic microorganisms on surfaces or objects.

Which of 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 *Government e-Marketplace (GeM)*

1. It is an online market portal under the administration of ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology.
2. It provides a platform for businesses to send its products to retail customers directly without any middlemen influences.

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

9) Consider the following,

*Satellite Navigation System - Country*

1. Galileo - The United States
2. BeiDou - Japan
3. Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) - China

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tuberculosis (TB)*

1. TB is caused by bacteria and it is curable and preventable.
2. It spread from person to person through the air.
3. Isoniazid and Rifampicin are the first-line anti-TB drugs.

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

### Answers

1. a

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the extension of the term of the Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes, by 6 months i.e. upto 31.1.2021.

### Background

- The Commission was constituted under **Article 340** of the Constitution with the approval of President on 2nd October, 2017.
- The Commission, headed by Justice (Retd.) Smt. G. Rohini has interacted with all the States/UTs which have subcategorized OBCs, and the State Backward Classes Commissions.

### **Article 340: Appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes**

1. The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India and the difficulties under which they labour.
2. d
  - **Ministry of MSME has recently launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Sub-ordinate Debt (CGSSD) which is also called “Distressed Assets Fund–Sub-ordinate Debt for MSMEs”.**

### Background

- It was being felt that the biggest challenge for stressed MSMEs was in getting capital either in the form of debt or equity.
- Therefore, as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat package, Finance Minister had announced this scheme of sub-ordinate Debt to the promoters of operational but stressed MSMEs.
- As per the Scheme, the guarantee cover worth Rs. 20,000 crores will be provided to the promoters who can take debt from the banks to further invest in their stressed MSMEs as equity.

### Highlights of the Scheme

- This Scheme seeks to extend support to the promoter(s) of the operational MSMEs which are stressed and have become NPA as on 30th April, 2020;
- Promoter(s) of the MSMEs will be given credit equal to 15% of their stake (equity plus debt) or Rs. 75 lakh whichever is lower;

- Promoter(s) in turn will infuse this amount in the MSME unit as equity and thereby enhance the liquidity and maintain debt-equity ratio;
- 90% guarantee coverage for this sub-debt will be given under the Scheme and 10% would come from the concerned promoters;
- There will be a moratorium of 7 years on payment of principal whereas maximum tenor for repayment will be 10 years.
- The scheme will be operationalised through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for MSEs (CGTMSE).

3. b

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently released the Annual TB Report 2020.**
- They also released a Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) report, a manual on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to TB patients under NIKSHAY system, a Training Module, and the quarterly newsletter NIKSHAY Patrika.

The key achievements listed in the Report include:

- Around 24.04 Lakh TB patients have been notified in 2019. This amounts to a 14% increase in TB notification as compared to the year 2018.
- Achieving near-complete on-line notification of TB patients through the NIKSHAY system.
- Reduction in the number of missing cases to 2.9 lakh cases as against more than 10 lakhs in 2017.
- Private sector notifications increased by 35% with 6.78 lakh TB patients notified.
- Due to easy availability of molecular diagnostics, the proportion of children diagnosed with TB increased to 8% in 2019 compared to 6% in 2018.
- Provision of HIV testing for all notified TB patients increased from 67% in 2018 to 81% in 2019.
- Expansion of treatment services has resulted in a 12% improvement in the treatment success rate of notified patients. For 2019 it is 81% compared to 69% in 2018.

- More than 4.5 lakh DOT Centers provide treatment covering almost every village across the country.
  - NIKSHAY also expanded the provision of four Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) schemes of the programme –
    1. Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) to TB patients
    2. The incentive to Treatment Supporters
    3. Incentive to Private Providers and
    4. Transport incentive to TB patients in the notified tribal areas
  - In the categories of larger states with more than 50 lakh population, **Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh** were awarded as best performing States.
  - In the category of smaller states with less than 50 lakh population, **Tripura and Nagaland** were awarded.
  - In the category of Union Territory, Dadara and Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu were chosen as the best performers.
4. b
- **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with **International Transport Forum (ITF)** has recently launched the “**Decarbonising Transport in India**” project.
  - The project intends **to develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system for India.**
  - The “Decarbonising Transport in India” project will design a tailor-made transport emissions assessment framework for India.
  - It will provide the government with a detailed understanding of current and future transport activity and the related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as a basis for their decision-making.
  - The Decarbonising Transport initiative is part of the “**Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies**” (**DTEE**) family of projects, which supports transport decarbonisation across different world regions.
5. b
- Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies (DTEE)**
- **Decarbonising Transport in India initiative** is a part of the **Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies (DTEE)** family of projects, which supports transport decarbonisation across different world regions.
  - India, Argentina, Azerbaijan, and Morocco are current participants.
  - The DTEE is a collaboration between the **ITF and the Wuppertal Institute**, supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.
6. a
- The Union Cabinet decided to bring all Co-Operative Banks under the Reserve Bank of India supervision through an ordinance.
  - In India, Co-Operative Banks are registered under the States Cooperative Societies Act.
  - They also come under the regulatory ambit of the RBI under two laws, namely, the Banking Regulations Act, 1949, and the Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.
  - Not all sections of banking regulation act are applicable to cooperative banks.
  - All scheduled commercial banks, Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks and State and Central Co-operative Banks are required to maintain stipulated level of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).
7. d
- Following a BMTC bus driver and conductor testing Covid-19 positive, a number of buses were Fumigated in Bengaluru.
  - Fumigation is one of the most effective techniques of pest control.
  - In fumigation, an affected area is completely filled with fumigants (gaseous pesticides) to asphyxiate the pests.
  - Sanitizing refers to lowering the number of germs to a safe level.
  - Disinfecting refers to eliminating many or all pathogenic microorganisms on surfaces or objects, according to the US - CDC.

- Sterilization involves handling and killing all microbial and forms of bacteria, fungi, and viruses present on an object's surface.

8. c

- GeM portal is the Commerce Ministry's online marketplace for procurement of goods and services by various Ministries and government bodies.
- The Mission of GeM are,
  1. Institute a unified procurement policy to encourage behavioral change and drive reform.
  2. Establish a lean, dynamic organization capable of continuous innovation and market driven decision making.
  3. Build an easy to use, fully automated platform to ensure transparency and efficiency in procurement.
  4. Demonstrate commitment to delivering value by ensuring right quality at right price.
  5. Create a sustainable ecosystem covering all stakeholders and driving inclusive development in India.
- Recently, it has made mandatory for the producers to declare country of origin for its products to promote local businesses.

9. d

- Recently, China successfully launched the final member in its Beidou satellite constellation completing a new global navigation system.
- Galileo is the EUs, GPS is the U.S and GLONASS is Russia's navigation system.
- Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) is the Japan's navigation system.

10. d

- A new study has estimated that COVID-19 may lead to 95,000 additional TB deaths in India.
- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs.
- It spread from person to person through the air.
- It is curable and preventable.

- Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) is a vaccine for TB disease.
- Isoniazid and Rifampicin, the two most powerful first-line anti-TB drugs.
- Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a form of TB that do not respond to Isoniazid And Rifampicin.
- MDR-TB is treatable and curable by using second-line drugs.
- However, second-line treatment options are limited and require extensive chemotherapy.

**26-06-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)**

- 1. It is an entity, under the Department of Space, that will ensure a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure.**
- 2. It will function autonomously and parallel to ISRO.**
- 3. It regulates and promotes building of routine satellites, rockets and commercial launch services through Indian industry and startups.**

**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) e-Blood Services' Mobile App, launched recently by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare was developed by?**

- a. Digital India Corporation (DIC)
- b. National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- c. National e-Governance Division (NeGD)
- d. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)*

1. IRCS is a voluntary humanitarian organization providing relief during emergencies and promotes health care of the vulnerable people.
2. President of India is the President and the Union Health Minister is the Chairman of the Society.
3. It is a part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and shares its fundamental principles.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bharat Skills Platform*

1. It is a e-learning portal of the Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. It is a Central Repository for skills which provides NSQF curriculum, course material, videos for ITI/NSTI Students and Teachers.

Which of 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) Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has recently unveiled a free digital learning platform "*Skills Build Reignite*" and a ten-week duration "*Skills Build Innovation Camp*" in partnership with which of the following?

- a. IBM

- b. FICCI
- c. Google
- d. Microsoft

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)*

1. It is a statutory organisation setup to assist and advise the Central and State Governments on policies and programmes for qualitative improvement in school education.
2. It act as a nodal agency for achieving goals of universalisation of elementary education.
3. It is an implementation agency for bilateral cultural exchange programmes with other countries in the field of school education.

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Wheat cultivation*

1. Wheat is a cereal crop which can grow in the tropical, sub-tropical, temperate zone and can tolerate severe cold and snow.
2. India is the second largest wheat producer in the whole world.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Dekho Apna Desh* webinar series

1. It is launched to provide an in-depth knowledge on several destinations along with the information about the culture and the heritage of India.
2. It is organized by the Ministry of Culture.

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

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

9) *Ashadhi Bij* recently seen in news is celebrated as the New year by?

- a. Meiteis
- b. Bihu
- c. Sindhi community
- d. Kutchi community

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *India-Nepal Relations*

1. Under the India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950, the Nepalese citizens have enjoyed unparalleled advantages in India, availing facilities at par with Indian citizens.
2. Both the countries have been deeply engaged in the regional and sub-regional frameworks of SAARC, BIMSTEC and BBIN.
3. Nepal shares its border with the Indian States of Sikkim, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

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

## Answers

1. d

- Minister of State for Space has recently unveiled a new entity Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) in Delhi which was approved by the Union Cabinet recently.

### *Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)*

- The new entity of the Department of Space, will have its own chairperson and board, and regulate and promote building of routine satellites, rockets and commercial launch services through Indian industry and startups.
- These activities were largely the domain of the 50-year-old Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) until now but the change will not upset the core research activity of ISRO.
- IN-SPACe is touted as the body that will ensure a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure in a fast-growing global space sector.
- It will also hand-hold, promote and guide the private industries in space activities through encouraging policies and a friendly regulatory environment.
- It will function **autonomously and parallel to ISRO** "without taking away anything from it".
- IN-SPACe will have its own directorates for technical, legal, safety and security, monitoring and activities promotion.

2. d

- A mobile application that would enable people to access "safe blood" easily, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, was launched recently by Union Health Minister.

### *e-Blood Services' Mobile App*

- The application will bring transparency and facilitate single-window access to blood services of the **Indian Red Cross Society**.
- It was developed by the E-Raktkosh team of **Centre for Development of Advanced**

**Computing (CDAC)** under the Digital India scheme.

- Users with this app can know the live status of blood availability at the national headquarters of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) blood bank in Delhi.
- Once a request is placed through the app, the requisite units become visible to national headquarters blood bank in its e-Raktkosh dashboard and this allows assured delivery within the specified time.
- The stock status of other Red Cross Blood Banks in the country is also visible in the app.
- It would also facilitate voluntary blood donation through its camp search feature that allows users to know the venue and time of scheduled camps nearby.

3. d

- *After the launch of 'eBloodServices' mobile App, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister also presided over the managing body meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society.*

#### **The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)**

- It is a voluntary humanitarian organization having a network of over 1100 branches throughout the country, providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies and promotes health & care of the vulnerable people and communities.
- It is a leading member of the largest independent humanitarian organization in the world, the **International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement**.
- The movement has three main components, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), 192 National Societies and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

#### **About IRCS**

- Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) was established in 1920 under the Indian Red Cross Society Act and incorporated under Parliament Act XV of 1920.
- The act was last amended in 1992 and of rules were formed in 1994.

- Honourable President of India is the President and Hon'ble Union Health Minister is the Chairman of the Society.
- The Vice Chairman is elected by the members of the Managing Body.
- The National Managing Body consists of 19 members.
- The Chairman and 6 members are nominated by the President.
- The remaining 12 are elected by the state and union territory branches through an electoral college.
- The Managing Body is responsible for governance and supervision of the functions of the society through a number of committees.
- The Secretary General is the Chief Executive of the Society.

4. c

- **Bharat Skills** is a e-learning portal of the Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- It is a Central Repository for skills which provides NSQF curriculum, course material, videos, question banks and mock test etc. for ITI/NSTI Students and Teachers. It is free to use.
- Currently courses related to Craftsmen Training Scheme and Crafts Instructor Training Scheme is made available in the platform.

#### **Directorate General of Training (DGT)**

- Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is responsible for implementing long term institutional training to the nation's youth through its network of training institutes and infrastructure.
- It plays a key role in the execution of vocational training schemes and in making 'Digital India' dream become a reality.

5. a

- To address the current skills gap in the country, **Directorate General of Training (DGT) – IBM** and its partners has recently

introduced the “**SkillsBuild Reignite**” and the “**Skills Build Innovation Camp**”.

### **Skills Build Reignite Platform**

- It tends to provide job seekers and entrepreneurs, with access to free online coursework and mentoring support designed to help them reinvent their careers and businesses.
- Job seekers, individual business owners, entrepreneurs and any individual with learning aspirations can now tap into host of industry relevant content on topics including Artificial intelligence, Cloud, Data analytics and security to reskill and upskill themselves, at no cost.

### **Skills Build Innovation Camp**

- It is a 10 week program which supports 100 hours of structured learning to learners who are interested in gaining hands-on project experience to enhance learning and are intent on building their network and enhance their employability.
- With the guidance of expert facilitators, IBM volunteers and coaches, the students will be guided through the design thinking process and learn strategic methods to craft their problem statement, ideate creatively, solve complex problems more quickly, design an innovative user experience and tell compelling stories.

6. c

- Recently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has launched the roadmap for National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for the year 2020-21.
- A new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for School Education has also been initiated.
- NCERT is expected to make changes in the textbooks in accordance with the new NCF.
- It is an autonomous organisation setup in 1961 by the Government of India.
- It was setup to assist and advise the Central and State Governments on policies and programmes for qualitative improvement in school education.

- One of its objective is to act as a nodal agency for achieving goals of universalisation of elementary education.
- It is an implementation agency for bilateral cultural exchange programmes with other countries in the field of school education.

7. c

- Madhya Pradesh, this year surpassed Punjab to become the number one contributor of wheat in India.
- Punjab, however, is still a way ahead from MP as far as per hectare productivity of wheat is concerned.
- Wheat is a cereal crop which can grow in the tropical, sub-tropical, temperate zone and the cold tracts of the far north, beyond even the 60 degree north latitude .
- It can tolerate severe cold and snow and resume growth with the setting in of warm weather in spring.
- It can be cultivated from sea level to as high as 3300 meters.
- India is today the second largest wheat producer in the whole world.

8. a

- The Ministry of Tourism recently launched its “Dekho Apna Desh” webinar to offer tourism virtually.
- It is intended to provide an in-depth knowledge on several destinations along with the information about the culture and the heritage of India.
- It will allow virtual exploration of several Indian destinations.

9. d

- Recently, PM greets people on Ashadhi Bij, the Kutchi New Year.
- Ashadhi Beej or Ashadhi Duj is also considered as an auspicious day for farming communities in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and some other places in the North.
- As for the people of Kutch, this day is associated with beginning of rains in Kutch, which is largely a desert area.

- Ganesha, Goddess Lakshmi and other regional deities are worshipped on this day.
- On this day, monsoon is being predicated and people check the moisture in the atmosphere to help predict which crop would do best in coming monsoon.

10. a

- Recently, India reiterated cultural links with Nepal in response to the upcoming amendments to the Citizenship Act of Nepal.
- The amendment is likely to affect a large number of families that have cross-border kinship with India.
- Nepal decided to amend the citizenship rules, that will require foreign-born women marrying Nepalese men to spend at least seven years before getting citizenship.
- The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.
- Under the provisions of this Treaty, the Nepalese citizens have enjoyed unparalleled advantages in India, availing facilities and opportunities at par with Indian citizens.
- Both the countries have been deeply engaged in the regional and sub-regional frameworks of SAARC, BIMSTEC and BBIN for enhancing cooperation for greater economic integration.
- Nepal shares its border with 5 Indian States of Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

**27-06-2020**

**1) “Nasha Mukh Bharat” is an Annual Action Plan for the year 2020-21 released recently by which of the following Ministries?**

- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

**2) With respect to “Navigating the New Normal Campaign”, consider the following statements**

- The Campaign aims to revamp the core sectors which are responsible for the growth of Indian economy such as Infrastructure, Health and Education in the aftermath of COVID-19 crisis.**
- It was developed under the guidance of Empowered Group 6, constituted by the Government of India.**
- It was launched by the NITI Aayog and its partners.**

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

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

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

- They are single-celled algae living in the lower layers of the world's oceans.**
- They produce heavy amount of carbon dioxide and thus harmful for the Ocean Ecosystems.**

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

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

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund***

- It is a fund worth Rs. 1 Lakh Crore for the infrastructure related development in animal husbandry, dairy and livestock related enterprises in India.**
- Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are the only beneficiary of this fund.**

3. The fund had been proposed as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Programme.

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

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

5) Consider the following Pairs

- World Development Report – WEF
- Global Gender Gap Index – UNESCO
- World Economic Outlook – World Bank

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to ASEAN

- One of the organization's aim is to promote technical and research cooperation among its members.
- ASEAN Plus forum includes China, Sri Lanka and Japan.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Seabed 2030 Project

- It is to reduce the global impact of marine litter and to make Waste Free Oceans by 2030.

- It aims to reduce, reuse and recycle marine litter, mitigating the impact on both the environment and natural resources.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Education Monitoring Report

- The Report is motivated by the Incheon Declaration, to ensure an inclusive and equitable quality education.
- It is an editorially independent report, hosted and published by UNICEF.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to chip Dhruva

- It is a homegrown radio frequency receiver chip that can be used in smartphones and navigation devices to find locations and routes across the world.
- It can receive signals from India's NAVIC group of navigation satellites and the US Global Positioning System-based satellites.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

**10) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)**

1. It is to provide loans to the non-corporate, farm and non-farm small/micro enterprises.
2. The loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, MFIs and NBFCs.

**Which of 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

- **Nasha Mukh Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21) for 272 Most Affected Districts** was e-launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** on the occasion of “International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking”.

### **Nasha Mukh Bharat**

- The plan would focus on 272 most affected districts and launch a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Dept.
- The Action Plan has the following components: Awareness generation programmes; Focus on Higher Educational institutions, University Campuses and Schools; Community outreach and identification of dependent population; Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital settings; and Capacity Building Programmes for Service Provider.

### **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment observes 26th June every year as

“International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking”.

- It is the nodal Ministry for drug demand reduction which coordinates and monitors all aspects of drug abuse prevention which include assessment of the extent of the problem, preventive action, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, dissemination of information and public awareness.

2. c

- **NITI Aayog**, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC), Ashoka University, and the Ministries of Health and WCD, has recently launched a behaviour change campaign called “**Navigating the New Normal**”.

### **Navigating the New Normal**

- It was developed under the guidance of **Empowered Group 6**, constituted by the Government of India and **chaired by CEO, NITI Aayog**.

The campaign has two parts.

1. A **web portal**, containing resources informed by behavioural science and the use of nudge and social norms theory, related to Covid-safe behavioural norms during the ongoing Unlock phase.
2. A **media campaign** focused on the wearing of masks.

### **The Web Portal**

- Developed in consultation with MoHFW and other stakeholders, the website aims to increase public participation and engage CSOs and NGOs.
- It will become a repository of strategies and collaterals to practise Covid-safe behaviours in different sectors.
- It aims to provide open-source access to anyone, including CSOs, NGOs, the public, institutions, anganwadi workers and district administration.
- With the availability of this information, institutions and civil society organisations can plan to resume their normal activities while practising Covid-safe behaviours.

- The website will have sector-specific collaterals and guidelines for health, nutrition, and public transport (in metro cities).

### A Focused Mask-Wearing Campaign

- Media will be utilised in establishing the correct way to wear masks.
- Undoubtedly, this simple measure has made a big difference in the fight against Covid-19.
- Countries such as Japan and South Korea have made 'mask-wearing' a socially accepted norm.
- The mask-wearing campaign is designed by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in partnership with McCann World Group.

3. d

- A study of a microscopic ancient marine algae (**Coccolithophores**) led by the *National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research* (NCPOR) has found that there is a decrease in the concentration of oceanic calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) in the Southern Indian ocean.
- This decrease in  $\text{CaCO}_3$  is attributed to the increase in the concentration of another single-celled algae known as diatoms.
- This, in turn, will affect the growth and skeleton structure of coccolithophores, with potential significance for the world ocean ecosystem.

### Coccolithophores

- They are single-celled algae living in the **upper layers of the world's oceans**.
- They have been playing a key role in marine ecosystems and the global carbon cycle for millions of years.
- Coccolithophores calcify marine phytoplankton that produces up to 40% of open ocean calcium carbonate and responsible for 20% of the global net marine primary productivity.
- Coccolithophores build exoskeletons from individual  $\text{CaCO}_3$  plates consisting of chalk and seashells building the tiny plates on their exterior.
- Though **carbon dioxide** is **produced** during the formation of these

plates, coccolithophores help in removing it from the atmosphere and ocean by **consuming it during photosynthesis**.

- At equilibrium, **coccolithophores absorb more carbon dioxide than they produce**, which is **beneficial for the ocean ecosystem**.
- The abundance and diversity enrichment of coccolithophores in the southern Indian Ocean is highly **dependent on time** and influenced by various environmental factors such as **silicate concentrations, calcium carbonate concentration, diatom abundance, light intensity and availability of macro and possibly micronutrient concentrations**.



4. a

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to set up a **Rs. 15,000 crore** Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund.

### Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund

- The Development Fund will incentivise infrastructure investments in dairy, meat processing and animal feed plants.
- The fund had been proposed as part of the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Programme**..

- Under the scheme, up to 90 per cent of loan for starting such enterprises will be given by banks.
  - Minimum 10% margin money contribution by the eligible beneficiaries.
  - Eligible beneficiaries under the Scheme would be **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), MSMEs, Section 8 Companies, Private Companies and individual entrepreneurs.**
  - Government has also extended an Interest subvention of 3 per cent on all such loans under the scheme, with a 2-year moratorium period for the principal loan amount and six-year repayment period after that.
5. d
1. Global Gender Gap Index – World Economic Forum
  2. Gender Inequality Index – UN Development Programme
  3. Gender Parity Index – UNESCO
  4. World Development Report – World Bank
  5. World Economic Outlook – International Monetary Fund
6. a
- ASEAN leaders held their annual summit by video to show unity and discuss a regional emergency fund to respond to the pandemic.
  - Vietnam, the current ASEAN chair and the Philippines raise concern over growing insecurity in the South China Sea.
  - The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an intergovernmental organization aimed primarily at promoting economic growth and regional stability among its members.
  - There are currently 10 member states: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.
  - ASEAN Plus forum created in 1997, includes China, South Korea and Japan.
  - One of the organization's aim is to promote technical and research cooperation among its members.
7. d
- Nearly a fifth of world's ocean floor now mapped in Seabed 2030 Project.
  - Seabed 2030 project was launched at the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference and it is aligned with the UN's SDG 14.
  - It is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO).
  - It aims to bring together all available bathymetric data (depth and shape of the ocean floor) to create a map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all.
  - The bathymetric data is fundamental for understanding ocean circulation, tides, tsunami forecasting, fishing resources, underwater geo-hazards, cable and pipeline routing, mineral extraction, oil and gas exploration.
8. a
- At least 40% countries failed to support learners at risk during COVID-19 crisis, according to the UNESCO's 2020 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report.
  - The report also pointed out that less than 10% of countries across the world have laws that help ensure full inclusion in education.
  - The report assesses progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on education and its ten targets.
  - The Report is motivated by the the 2015 Incheon Declaration, and the call to ensure an inclusive and equitable quality education.
  - The Incheon Declaration was adopted on 2015 at the World Education Forum held in Incheon, Republic of Korea.
  - It constitutes the commitment of the education community to Education 2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the important role of education as a main driver of development.
9. b
- Recently, IIT-Bombay has developed a homegrown radio frequency receiver chip, Dhruva.

- It can be used in smartphones and navigation devices to find locations and routes within the country.
- It can receive signals from India's NAVIC group of navigation satellites as well as the US Global Positioning System-based satellites to determine these accurately under all weather conditions.
- It can be converted into digital bits and processed by any standard Digital Signal Processor (DSP) to determine one's location precisely.

10. b

- The government decided to provide 2% interest subvention to borrowers under the 'Shishu' category of the flagship Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY).
- Under the Shishu category, collateral free loans of up to RS 50,000 are given to beneficiaries.
- PMMY was launched for providing loans up to Rs 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.
- These loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY.
- These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, MFIs and NBFCs.
- MUDRA has created three products namely 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun'.

**29-06-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Colour Vision Deficiency*

1. Red-Green color vision defects are the most common form of color blindness.
2. Citizens with mild and medium Colour blindness are eligible to get Driving License in India.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

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

1. It is an autonomous body under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT).
2. NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Inter-Governmental Body of which the Government of India is a founding member.
3. Prime Minister is the President and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry is the Chairman of the National Productivity Council.

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) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Day of the Tropics*

1. The Tropics are defined as the region other than the area between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
2. Every year 29 June is celebrated as International Day of Tropics to commemorate the inaugural launch of State of the Tropics Report in 2014.

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

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

4) Which of the following institutions is/are not established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS)

1. The International Seabed Authority

2. The International Whaling Commission
3. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
4. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)*

1. It is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982 in Montego Bay (Jamaica).
2. It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.
3. India and United Kingdom are parties to the Convention.

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 *Enforcement Directorate*

1. It is responsible for enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
2. It is under the administrative control of Department of Economic Affairs for operational purposes.

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

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

1. It is an advanced anti-torpedo decoy system, designed and developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
2. It is capable of detecting, locating and neutralizing incoming torpedos and capable of being fired from all frontline ships.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)*

1. It is a quasi-judicial, appellate tribunal established under the Companies Act 2013.
2. It can decide cases by following the principles of natural justice.

Which of 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) *World Drug Report 2020* recently seen in news is released by?

- a. Food and Drug Administration

- b. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

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

1. It is a chronic disease that occurs when either pancreas does not produce enough insulin or the cells in the body do not respond properly to the insulin.
2. Type 1 diabetes is characterized by deficient insulin production and requires daily administration of insulin.
3. The majority of people with diabetes have Type 1 diabetes.

**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

**Answers**

1. c

- The Government has recently said those with **mild to medium colour blindness can now obtain driving licence**.
- The Road Transport and Highways Ministry has issued a notification in this regard for necessary amendments in required forms of motor vehicle norms.

**Colour Vision Deficiency**

- Colour blindness occurs when you are unable to see colors in a normal way.
- It is also known as Colour Vision Deficiency.
- Color blindness often happens when someone cannot distinguish between certain colors.
- This usually happens between greens and reds, and occasionally blues.

2. a

- The 49th Governing Council Meeting of National Productivity Council (NPC) was held recently through video conferencing.
- It was chaired by the Minister for Commerce & Industry, the President of NPC Governing Council.

**National Productivity Council (NPC)**

- Established in the year 1958, is an autonomous organization under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- Besides undertaking research in the area of productivity, NPC has been providing consultancy and training services in areas of Industrial Engineering, Agri-Business, Economic Services, Quality Management, Human Resources Management, Information Technology, Technology Management, Energy Management, Environmental Management etc., to the Government and Public & Private sector organizations.
- NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Inter-Governmental Body of which the Government of India is a founding member.
- **Minister of commerce & industry is the President** and the **Secretary of DPIIT is the Chairman** of National Productivity Council (NPC).

3. a

**International Day of the Tropics**

- The inaugural **State of the Tropics Report** was launched on 29 June 2014, as the culmination of a collaboration between twelve leading tropical research institutions.
- The report offers a unique perspective on this increasingly important region.
- Marking the anniversary of the report's launch the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2016, which declared that **29 June of each year** is to be observed as the International Day of the Tropics.
- The International Day of the Tropics celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face.

**About the Tropics**



- The Tropics are a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the **area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn**.
  - Although topography and other factors contribute to climatic variation, tropical locations are typically warm and experience little seasonal change in day-to-day temperature.
  - An important feature of the Tropics is the prevalence of rain in the moist inner regions near the equator, and that the seasonality of rainfall increases with the distance from the equator.
  - The Tropics host nearly 95% of the world's mangrove forests by area and 99% of mangrove species.
  - The Tropics have just over half of the world's renewable water resources (54%), yet almost half their population is considered vulnerable to water stress.
  - Biodiversity is greater in the Tropics – however, loss of biodiversity is also greater in the Tropics than in the rest of the world.
4. a
- *ASEAN leaders held their annual summit by video recently, with the COVID-19 pandemic and the long-raging territorial disputes high on the agenda.*
  - Southeast Asian leaders said a **1982 UN oceans treaty** should be the basis of sovereign rights and entitlements in the South China Sea, in one of their strongest remarks opposing China's claim to virtually the entire disputed waters on historical grounds.
  - The leaders were referring to the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**, a 1982 international agreement that defines the rights of nations to the world's oceans.
  - They reaffirmed that the 1982 UNCLOS is the basis for determining maritime entitlements, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and legitimate interests over maritime zones, in a statement.
5. d
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**
- It is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982 in Montego Bay (Jamaica), at the end of almost ten years of negotiations (1973-1982).
  - It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.
  - It replaced the four Geneva Conventions of April, 1958, which respectively concerned the territorial sea and the contiguous zone, the continental shelf, the high seas, fishing and conservation of living resources on the high seas.
  - India and United Kingdom are party to the Convention.
  - Although the **United States** helped shape the Convention and its subsequent revisions, and though it signed the 1994 Agreement on Implementation, it has **not signed the Convention** as it objected to Part XI of the Convention.
6. a
- Recently, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioned Congress MP in connection with a money-laundering case.
  - The Directorate of Enforcement was established in the year 1956 with its Headquarters at New Delhi.
  - It is responsible for enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
  - The Directorate is under the administrative control of Department of Revenue for operational purposes.
  - The policy aspects of the FEMA, its legislation and its amendments are within the purview of the Department of Economic Affairs.
7. d
- Recently, Indian Navy inducts indigenously developed Anti-Torpedo Decoy System, Maareech.
  - Maareech has been designed and developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

- It is capable of detecting, locating and neutralizing incoming torpedo and capable of being fired from all frontline ships.
- Bharat Electronics Limited, a defence PSU, to undertake the production of this decoy system.

8. b

- The Principal Bench of National Company Law Tribunal has ruled that the Delhi Gymkhana Club was acting in a manner prejudicial to public interest and therefore must be probed.
- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) or 'Tribunal', is a quasi-judicial body that adjudicates issues relating to companies in India.
- It was established under the Companies Act 2013 and was constituted on 1 June 2016.
- The Tribunal is not bound by the strict judicial rules of evidence and procedure.
- It can decide cases by following the principles of natural justice.
- NCLAT or 'Appellate Tribunal' is an authority provided for dealing with appeals arising out of the decisions of the NCLT.
- The NCLT has primary jurisdiction whereas NCLAT has appellate jurisdiction.
- NCLAT also hears appeals against any direction made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- The decisions of Appellate Tribunal can further be challenged in the Supreme Court.

9. b

- More than 35 million people around the world now suffer from drug addiction, according to the latest annual report, from the UN.
- World Drug Report 2020 is released by UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- The report analyzes the far-reaching impact of the coronavirus pandemic on global drug markets.
- Rising unemployment and plummeting opportunities are expected to disproportionately affect the poorest, making them more vulnerable to drug use, trafficking and cultivation, to earn money so they can survive the global recession.

- The COVID-19 crisis and economic downturn threaten to compound drug dangers further, according to the report.

10. a

- Researchers found that Covid-19 could trigger Type-1 Diabetes.
- The virus seems to be causing diabetes spontaneously in people.
- Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when either pancreas does not produce enough insulin or the cells in the body do not respond properly to the insulin.
- Type 1 diabetes is thought to be caused by an autoimmune reaction (the body attacks itself by mistake) that destroys the cells in the pancreas that make insulin, called beta cells.
- Neither the cause of Type 1 diabetes nor the means to prevent it are known.
- The condition is usually diagnosed in children and young people, so it used to be called juvenile diabetes.
- Type 2 diabetes results from the body's ineffective use of insulin.
- The majority of people with diabetes have Type 2 Diabetes.
- Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas, that regulates blood sugar.

**30-06-2020**

**1) Kholongchu Project is the first hydropower joint venture project signed between?**

- a. Bhutan and Nepal
- b. India and Bhutan
- c. Bhutan and China
- d. Pakistan and Bhutan

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT)**

- 1. It is an international agreement adopted by UN General Assembly in 1984.**

2. The Convention defines terrorism and forbids states to transport people to any country where there is reason to believe they will be tortured.
3. India signed the convention, but has not ratified it so far.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Statistics Day, 2020*

1. It is celebrated every year on the birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.
2. The Theme for the Statistics Day, 2020 is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Which of 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) “*Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Report*” was released recently by?

- a. CITES
- b. Financial Action Task Force
- c. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
- d. UN Office on Drugs and Crime

5) *Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)* is an initiative of?

- a. NITI Aayog

- b. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- c. Ministry of Science and Technology
- d. Ministry of Human Resource Development

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)*

1. It is a free trade agreement aims at promoting intra-regional trade.
2. It recognizes the special needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the participating States may grant special concessions to LDC members.

Which of 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 *Blood Plasma*

1. Plasma carries water, salts and enzymes and it makes up more than half of its overall content in blood.
2. It helps to remove the cells waste from the body.
3. The proteins and antibodies in plasma are used in therapies for rare chronic conditions.

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)*



1. It is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing/discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs.
2. Only MSMEs can participate as sellers in TReDS.
3. It facilitates the discounting of both invoices as well as bills of exchange.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to recent *Mobile Apps Ban by Indian Government*

1. The Government invoked its power under section 69A of the Information Technology in view of the emergent nature of threats, has decided to block the apps.
2. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has recommended for blocking these malicious apps.

Which of 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 *Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)*

1. It is generally fixed above the repo rate.
2. An increase in the MSF, increases the money supply in the economy.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

## Answers

1. b

- **India and Bhutan** has recently signed the Concession agreement for the construction of the 600 MW **Kholongchhu Hydropower Project**.
- It is the first hydropower joint venture project between India and Bhutan in Bhutan's less developed eastern region of Trashiyangtse.
- The India-Bhutan hydropower project will be constructed as a 50:50 joint venture project and not as a government-to-government agreement.
- According to the agreement finalised, the construction for the Kholongchhu Hydro Electric Power (HEP) project will begin soon, and be completed in the second half of 2025.

2. c

- *The alleged torture and killing of a father and son, both traders, in custody in Tamil Nadu recently points to a broken criminal justice system, and highlights the need for police reforms and the ratification of the **United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT)**, the Executive Committee (India) of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) said in a statement issued recently.*
- **India signed the convention in 1997, but has not ratified it so far.**

## United Nations Convention against Torture

- The United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution on 10 December **1984**.
- The **treaty defines Torture (Not terrorism)**, which means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person



has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

- Ratifying the convention would also help India in extradition of Criminals from foreign countries.
- Because, according to the treaty, **No State Party shall expel, return ("refouler") or extradite** a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.

3. c

- The Government has been celebrating the Statistics Day, to popularize the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitize public on how Statistics helps shaping and framing policies for the welfare of people.
- It is celebrated **every year** on the birth anniversary of **Prof. P C Mahalanobis**, on 29th June, in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.
- This year, due to the global pandemic, the Statistics Day, 2020 was celebrated through video conferencing.
- The theme of Statistics Day, 2020 was **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)- 3** (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) & **SDG-5** (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

4. b

- **Recently, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has released the first global report on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) namely, "Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Report".**
- The report comes amid increasing international concern that the crime could lead to more zoonotic diseases in the future.
- The report has also described IWT as a "global threat", which also has links with other

organised crimes like modern slavery, drug trafficking and arms trade.

- It also highlighted that criminals are frequently misusing the legitimate wildlife trade, as well as other import-export type businesses, as a front to move and hide illegal proceeds from wildlife crimes.

5. d

- *Researchers from the IIT- Madras are collaborating with their counterparts in Germany, to develop alternative technologies to produce green hydrogen.*
- It is to help the transition to hydrogen-based economy.
- Conventional methods of generating hydrogen result in a large quantity of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that imposed serious environmental concerns.
- Electrochemical splitting of water, called 'Water Electrolysis' (WE), is clean, facile, and highly efficient technology for large-scale production of high-purity H<sub>2</sub>.
- The project is taken up under the **Scheme for Promotion of academic and Research Collaboration or SPARC.**

#### **SPARC Initiative**

- Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) is an initiative of the **Ministry of Human Resource Development.**
- IIT, Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.
- It aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian institutions and the best institutions in the world.

6. b

- With its clash with India, China has stepped up trade diplomacy with Dhaka, by wooing them through greater trade concessions.
- Bangladesh received tariff-exemption under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) from China.

- The *APTA*, previously the Bangkok Agreement, is a *Preferential Tariff Arrangement*.
- It aims at promoting intra-regional trade through the exchange of mutually agreed concessions by member countries.
- Its current Members are Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR and Sri Lanka.
- Mongolia is set to become the seventh member.
- *APTA recognizes the special needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)* and the participating States may grant special concessions to LDC members.
- Preferential trade arrangements (PTAs) in the WTO are unilateral trade preferences.
- PTA is much less broader compared to FTA.

7. d

- The Delhi government to set up a *Plasma Bank* and appealed to recovered COVID 19 patients to donate their plasma.
- The Plasma Bank will be the first-of-its-kind initiative in the entire country to treat coronavirus patients.
- Plasma is the largest part of the blood and it makes up more than half (about 55%) of its overall content.
- When separated from the rest of the blood, plasma is a light yellow liquid. It carries water, salts and enzymes.
- The main role of plasma is to take nutrients, hormones, and proteins to the parts of the body that need it.
- Cells also put their waste products into the plasma. The plasma then helps remove this waste from the body.
- The proteins and antibodies in plasma are also used in therapies for rare chronic conditions.
- These include autoimmune disorders and hemophilia.

8. d

- Recently, SIDBI sets up Swavalamban Crisis Responsive Fund to support free onboarding of MSMEs on (TReDS).

- TReDS platforms help MSMEs gain access to working capital through invoice discounting via multiple financiers.
- It is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing/ discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs.
- Sellers, buyers and financiers are the participants on a TReDS platform.
- Only *MSMEs* can participate as *sellers* in TReDS.
- Corporates, Government Departments, PSUs and any other entity can participate as *buyers* in TReDS.
- Banks, NBFCs as permitted by the RBI, can participate as *financiers* in TReDS.
- It facilitates the discounting of both invoices as well as bills of exchange.

9. a

- The Government banned 59 Chinese mobile apps, to counter the threat posed by the apps to the country's sovereignty and security.
- *Ministry of Electronics & IT*, invoking its power under section 69A of the *Information Technology Act* has decided to block the apps.
- The *Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre*, *Ministry of Home Affairs* has also sent an exhaustive recommendation for blocking these malicious apps.

10. a

- Recently, RBI extends enhanced borrowing limit under MSF till 30 September.
- It is a special window for the commercial banks to borrow overnight funds from RBI against the approved government securities.
- It refers to the penal rate at which banks can borrow money over and above what is available to them through the LAF window.
- MSF, being a penal rate, is generally fixed above the repo rate.
- MSF is at present aligned with the Bank rate.
- An increase in the MSF rate leads to higher borrowing cost for the banks and thus, reduces money supply in the economy.