



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## MONTHLY PRESTORMING

### MARCH 2020

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**02-03-2020**

1) *RaIDER-X*, often seen in the news recently is a/an?

- Radio Collar Device
- Bio-electronic device
- Bio-degradable device
- Explosive Detection Device

2) *High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)* located in Pune, is a premier laboratory of which of the following organisations?

- Indian Space Research Organisation
- National Physical Laboratory of India
- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
- Defence Research and Development Organisation

3) *Mahakoshal region*, sometimes seen in the news recently for the availability of gold deposits includes parts of which of the following states?

- Odisha
- Jharkhand
- Maharashtra
- Uttar Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Merkel Cell Carcinoma*

- Merkel Cell Carcinoma is a rare and aggressive type of lung cancer.

2. *Merkel Cell Carcinoma* is associated with ageing, weak immune system and excessive exposure to ultraviolet light.

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

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

5) Which of the following is true regarding 2020 *AV2* sometimes seen in the news recently?

- It is the first Artificial Vegetative Propagation Conference held recently in New Delhi
- It is the first of its kind new generation Vertical Axis Wind Turbine
- It is the first asteroid found to orbit entirely within the orbit of Venus
- None of the above

6) Consider the following statements

- Article 19 is available only to citizens of India and not to foreigners.
- The Government of India does not have unfettered powers to serve 'Leave India' notices to foreigners without furnishing reasons.

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 *National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFD)*

- It is registered as a not for profit company and provides financial assistance to the Persons with Disabilities.

2. It is an apex corporation under the aegis of Ministry of Finance.

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

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

8) **LIFE (Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment) Mission** sometimes seen in the news recently is implemented in which of the following states?

- Kerala
- Odisha
- Maharashtra
- Tamil Nadu

9) With reference to the "Lac", Consider the following statements:

- Lac is mainly grown in the deciduous forests of the central India.
- India is the largest producer of "lac" in the world.
- It is used in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and paints.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10) The local time in Assam's tea gardens, known as "Tea Garden Time" or Bagan time, is?

- An hour ahead of the IST
- An hour behind the IST
- The time equal to IST
- The time equal to GMT

## Answers

1. d

- RaIDer-X**, a new **Explosive Detection Device**, was unveiled at the National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED-2020) in Pune recently.
- RaIDer-X has the capability to detect explosives from a stand-off distance.
- The data library can be built in the system to expand its capability to detect a number of explosives in pure form as well as with the contaminants.
- Bulk explosive in concealed condition can also be detected by the device.
- RaIDer-X has been co-developed by **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) Pune** and **Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore**.
- High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune, is a premier laboratory of DRDO.

2. d

3. c

### Background

- The Geographical Survey of India (GSI) has recently provided estimates for the amount of gold that can be extracted from a site in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The probable resource is 52,806.25 tonnes of ore, with an average grade of 3.03 grams per tonne, which means the total gold that can be extracted is 160 kg, it said.
- The statement came after news reports stated that the gold available is 3,350 tonnes; the GSI clarified that its estimates are 160 kg.

### Location of the site:

- It is near a village called **Mahuli**, around 70 km from Sonbhadra district's headquarters of Roberstganj, and just 10 km from Jharkhand.
- The land is mainly forest area and inhabited mostly by tribals and members of backward classes.
- Locals said stories of gold underground have been passed down generations, giving rise to

the name **Sonpahari**, the hill where the reserves have been estimated.

- The site is part of the **Mahakoshal region** that includes **parts of UP, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand**.
- It is known to be potentially mineral-rich.

4. b

- A team from National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, has developed a diagnostic system to detect the presence of Merkel cell polyomavirus in Merkel cell carcinoma tumours.
- Merkel cell carcinoma is a rare and aggressive type of **Skin Cancer**.
- The researchers have developed a test using the CRISPR-CAS12 technology that can identify the virus in the tumour and give off a fluorescence to indicate the presence of the virus.
- This is an important development, both, from the point of view of diagnostics and giving a prognosis for the condition.
- Merkel cell carcinoma is associated with **old age, excessive exposure to ultraviolet light** and a **weak immune system**.

5. c

- Astronomers have discovered an asteroid inside Venus' orbit that not only circles the sun, but is also the second closest object to the star in the solar system, surpassing Venus itself.
- Known as **2020 AV2**, this space rock has the smallest aphelion (distance from the sun) and takes just 151 days to orbit the star, according to a statement released by The Virtual Telescope Project.

6. c

- *Ever since the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests erupted across the country, the Ministry of Home Affairs has been quite active in filtering out foreigners among the protesters and serving them with 'Leave India' notices'.*

### **Precedent**

- In 2019, a Pakistani national was served a leave India notice without specifying the reason behind her facing the action.
- The Delhi High Court in that case had reversed the MHA order saying the **government does not have unfettered powers to impose such an order without furnishing reasons**.
- Despite fundamental rights being applicable only to the citizens of the country, with respect to Article 21, they can also be extended to foreigners, the court had ruled.

7. a

- **National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC)** has recently organised the week long Exhibition-cum-Fair "EKAM Fest".
- **EKAM Fest** is an effort for promoting entrepreneurship and knowledge among Divyangjan community, generating awareness among society about potentialities of PwDs & providing a major marketing opportunity to PwDs entrepreneurs.
- The word **EKAM (Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Awareness, Marketing)** also represents the inclusiveness, oneness and unity which appropriately describe the efforts being put in by NHFDC to develop the marketing platform and aggregation of the products through promotion of entrepreneurship, knowledge sharing, Awareness creation and marketing initiatives amongst the Divyangjan.

### **National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC)**

- It is an Apex corporation under the aegis of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** and is working since 1997.
- It is registered as a company not for profit and provides financial assistance to the Divyangjan/Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan/PwDs) for their economic rehabilitation and provides number of skill development programmes to empower them to grow & sustain their enterprises.

- To empower the Divyang and marginalized groups of the society more closely, NHFDC has taken a step forward and established NHFDC Foundation, this year.
- Recognizing the absence of a connect with the market which hinders fair prices and volumes in sale of the unorganized tiny Divyang entrepreneurs, NHFDC Foundation is making efforts for development of a brand and platform for marketing of products of these determined entrepreneurs.

8. a

- Within Kochi Corporation limits, 2,285 houses have been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and LIFE Mission (Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment) run by the State government.
- The PMAY and LIFE projects converged in June 2018 in urban local bodies, keeping in mind that the amount from either one scheme would not be sufficient for construction of houses.
- Of the Rs.4 lakh that the converged scheme provides for construction of houses to people who already own land, Rs.1.5 lakh is provided by the Centre, Rs.50,000 by the State and the Rs.2 lakh by the corporation.

9. d

- Lac is the scarlet resinous secretion of a number of species of lac insects.
- Jharkhand has the reputation of being India's biggest producer of lac.
- The state accounts 58 per cent of the country's lac produce followed by Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
- Much of the demand for lac comes from the defence industry, for making ammunitions. It is also used in airplanes, furniture polish and perfumes, and in making bangles, imitation fruits and flowers.

10. a

- Tea gardens in Assam do not follow the Indian Standard Time (IST), which is the time observed throughout India and Sri Lanka. The local time in Assam's tea gardens, known as "Tea Garden Time" or Bagantime, is an hour ahead of the IST.

- The system was introduced during British days keeping in mind the early sunrise in this part of the country.
- By and large, the system has subsequently been successful in increasing the productivity of tea garden workers as they save on daylight by finishing the work during daytime, and vice versa.
- Working time for tea labourers in the gardens is generally between 9 a.m. (IST 8 a.m.) to 5 p.m. (IST 4p.m.)
- In 2014, Chief Minister of Assam Tarun Gogoi started campaigning for another time zone for Assam and other north-eastern states of India.
- However, the proposal would need to be cleared by the Central Government of India.

**03-03-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Star Labeling Programme**

- 1. It has been formulated by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, as part of its mandate, under the Energy Conservation Act, 200**
- 2. Deep Freezers and Light Commercial Air Conditioners were recently added to this programme under the voluntary labelling category.**

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

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

**2) Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT) is a first ever initiative taken by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to facilitate a database on energy efficiency in cooperation with which of the following organisations?**

- World Resources Institute
- International Energy Agency
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited



d. The Energy and Resources Institute

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs)*

1. ZCCs aimed at preserving & promoting various forms of folk art and culture of the tribals throughout the country.
2. At present, there are seven Zonal Cultural Centres in India.
3. They work under the Ministry of Culture.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Chambal Sanctuary*

1. The Sanctuary is home to Gangetic Dolphins and critically endangered Gharials.
2. It is spread across Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

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

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

5) *Guru Ghasidas* was an advocate of which of the following sect?

- a. Satnami
- b. Nanakpanthi
- c. Sanatan Dharma
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Intracranial aneurysm*

1. It is a localized bulging of arteries in the liver caused by progressive weakening of the inner muscles of the wall of the blood vessels.
2. Spontaneous rupture of the aneurysm can result in subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) which can lead to paralysis, coma or death.

Which of 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 *Land Ports Authority of India (LPAD)*

1. It is a statutory body established under Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010.
2. It works under the aegis of Ministry of Shipping.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements

1. It is the highest mountain in Africa and is known as 'The Roof of Africa.'
2. At 5,895 metres, it is also the highest single free-standing mountain in the world.
3. The mountain is actually a dormant Strato volcano.

Identify the mountain that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Mount Kenya

- b. Mount Cameroon
- c. Mount Aconcagua
- d. None of the above

**9) Consider the following properties of soil:**

1. Soils with low lime content are called acidic soils.
2. Soils with fairly equal proportion of sand, silt and clay are called Loams.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**10) Consider the following statements:**

1. It is a constitutional body
2. It is a staff agency
3. It works under the direction of the Prime Minister.
4. It is a creation of the Cabinet.

Which of the given above statements is/are correctly relates to the Cabinet Secretariat?

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

**Answers**

1. c

- **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** has recently launched the star rating programme for **Deep Freezer and Light Commercial Air Conditioners (LCAC)**.

**Star Labeling Programme**

- It has been formulated by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, as part of its mandate, under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.

- Under this Programme, BEE has covered 24 appliances till date including **10 appliances for which it is mandatory**.
- Deep Freezers and Light Commercial Air Conditioners (LCAC) were added **under the voluntary regime**.
- With this, there are 26 appliances now covered under this programme.

2. a

- **Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT)** is a first ever initiative taken by **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** with **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, to facilitate a database on energy efficiency.

- UDIT is a user-friendly platform that explains the energy efficiency landscape of India across industry, appliances, building, transport, municipal and agriculture sectors.

- UDIT will also showcase the capacity building and new initiatives taken up by the Government across the sectors in the increase energy efficiency domain.

3. d

- To preserve & promote various forms of folk art and culture of the tribals throughout the country including West Bengal, the Government of India has set up **seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs)** with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur.

- These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes all over the country on regular basis.

- These ZCCs functions under **Ministry of Culture**.

4. a

- The Union Government has recently declared the **National Chambal Sanctuary** in Madhya Pradesh, home to **gangetic dolphins** and 75% population of critically endangered species **gharial**, as **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)**.

- Being declared as Eco Sensitive Zone, construction of resorts, hotels or other residential and industrial activities are prohibited.



- The Sanctuary begins in the Vindhyan Ranges, extends along the Chambal river and ends in Yamuna river.
- It is spread across **Rajasthan**, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

5. a

- Guru Ghasi Das was Guru of the **Satnami sect** in the early 19th century.
- It was Guru Ghasidas to start treating everyone as same in deep forested part of **Chhattisgarh**.

6. b

- *The research team of Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, an **Institute of National Importance under the Department of Science and Technology** has developed an innovative intracranial flow diverter stent for the treatment of **aneurysms** of the blood vessels of the brain.*
- It is ready for transfer and further testing in animals, followed by human trials.

#### Background:

- **Intracranial aneurysm** is a localized ballooning, bulging or dilation of arteries in the **brain** caused by progressive weakening of the inner muscles of the wall of the blood vessels.
- Spontaneous rupture of the aneurysm can result in bleeding into the space around the brain resulting condition called a **subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH)**.
- Subarachnoid hemorrhage can lead to paralysis, coma or death.
- Flow diverters stents when deployed in the artery in the brain bearing the aneurysms, divert blood flow away from the aneurysm, thus reducing the chances of its rupture from the pressure of blood flow.
- Flow diverters have the advantages of being flexible and adaptable to the shape and course of the vessel.

- Also flow diverters promote healing of the vessel wall by removing the constant stress of blood flow on it.



7. a

- **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)** is a **statutory body** established under **Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010**.
- It functions under the **Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs** with representation from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Revenue and other stakeholders.
- LPAI also associates with the concerned State Governments and respective Border Guarding Force like Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and Assam Rifles deployed at the concerned border of India in its work.
- LPAI is mandated to plan, develop, construct, manage and maintain Integrated Check Posts, regulate the functions of various agencies working at such check posts, coordinate with various concerned Ministries, Departments of the Government of India or other agencies for regulating the entry and exit of passengers and goods and establish necessary service facilities.
- The Act gives powers to LPAI to develop, sanitize and manage the facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India.

8. d

- **Mount Kilimanjaro** is the highest mountain in **Africa** and is known as '**The Roof of Africa.**'
- At 5,895 metres, it is also the highest single free-standing mountain in the world.
- The mountain is actually a dormant **Stratovolcano**, located in **Tanzania**.

- It has three volcanic cones, Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira. Kibo is the highest among the three.
9. c
- Each soil type has physical properties like its colour, texture and the structure.
  - Texture refers to the mixture of different soil particles grading from coarse into fine grades of gravel, sand, silt and the clay.
  - Loam soils contain about equal proportions of sand, silt and clay.
  - Loams are termed as sandy loam, silty loam and the clayey loam depending upon the preponderance of sand, silt or clay respectively.
  - Chemical properties: Soils with low lime content are called acidic and those with high lime content are called alkaline.
10. d

**04-03-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to the new security ink developed by the National Physical Laboratory**

1. It is a bi-luminescent security ink which glows in red and white colours when illuminated.
2. It can be used to eliminate fraudulent, multiple voting and malpractices in 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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Physical Laboratory***

1. It is the custodian of Indian Standard Time and Measurement Standards in India.
2. It functions under the Council of Scientific & 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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Lalit Kala Akademi***

1. It is also called as the National Academy of Art.
2. It is the Government's apex cultural body in the field of visual, performing and literary arts in India.
3. It is an autonomous body, which is fully funded by the Ministry of Culture.

**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

**4) Which of the following scheme is *not* related to women empowerment?**

1. Swadhar Greh
2. Matru Vandana Saptah
3. One Stop Centre Scheme

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to *UN Security Council***

1. It was established by the UN Charter.



2. The council has 15 members: the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for 3 year terms.
3. The council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Swamp Wallaby*

1. It is a marsupial related to the kangaroo endemic to Australia.
2. It is pregnant and lactating throughout its adult life.
3. It conceives a new embryo days before delivering the newborn from its previous pregnancy.

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

7) Which one of the following countries has recently conducted its 3rd General Election in a year?

- a. Cuba
- b. Israel
- c. Maldives
- d. Burkina faso

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Psyche Mission*

1. It is a space mission that involves a journey to a unique metal-rich asteroid called Psyche.
2. Asteroid Psyche is orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.

Which of 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 of Indian National movement during First World War (WWI)

1. Moderates and Extremists opposed British participation in WWI and demanded Dominion status.
2. Home rule League was the major freedom struggle initiated during WWI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements

1. Aesthenosphere is more solid than Lithosphere.
2. The Mid-oceanic ridges occur in Aesthenosphere and not in lithosphere.
3. Lithosphere lies below Aesthenosphere.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

## Answers

1. d
- CSIR-National Physical Laboratory has developed a **bi-luminescent security ink** which glows in **red and green colours** when illuminated by two different excitation sources at 254 nano meters (nm) and 365 nm, respectively.
  - The ink was prepared in a batch of 1kg and given to Bank Note Press (BNP), Dewas, a unit of Security Printing Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL), New Delhi.
  - The ink is found comparable to the standards that are in use.
  - The formulation can be used **to check the authenticity of passports, Government documents, tamper evident labels, identity cards**, etc.
2. c
- CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) is the **custodian of Indian Standard Time (IST)** and has the responsibility for realization, establishment, maintenance and dissemination of IST through an act of Parliament.
  - CSIR-NPL is the custodian of “**National Standards**” with a responsibility of realization, establishment, up gradation, maintenance and dissemination of standards at par to international level through R and D and latest technology.
  - CSIR-NPL’s **National Metrology** has not only championed in its primary mandate as the custodian of Measurement Standards for the nation but also served the Indian industry, academia and strategic sectors to excel in their endeavors.
3. a
- **Lalit Kala Akademi**, the **National Academy of Art**, was set up by the Government of India on 5 August, 1954, and was registered under the **Societies Registration Act 1860**, on 11 March, 1957.
  - In pursuance of the objectives set out in the Constitution, the organisation functions through its General Council, Executive Board and other Committees.
- Lalit Kala Akademi is the Government’s apex cultural body in the field of **visual arts** in India.
  - It is an autonomous body, which is **fully funded** by the **Ministry of Culture**.
  - It has substantial independence in making decisions related to national and international exhibitions, events and providing financial assistance to artists and art organisations.
4. d
5. c
- **China** has taken over as **President** of the **UN Security Council** for the **month of March 2020**, pledging to promote solidarity and cooperation in this capacity.
  - The Security Council was established by the **UN Charter**.
  - Its primary responsibility is to work to maintain international peace and security.
  - The council has 15 members: the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.
  - The council's presidency is a capacity that **rotates every month** alphabetically among its 15 members.
6. d
- Researchers have recently reported that the swamp wallaby, a marsupial related to the kangaroo, is pregnant throughout its adult life.
  - It typically conceives a new embryo **days before delivering the newborn** from its previous pregnancy.
  - The swamp wallaby is **likely the only mammal** pregnant and lactating all life long.
- Swamp Wallaby (Wallabia bicolor)**
- This species **is endemic to eastern Australia**, where it ranges from Cape York, Queensland in the north, to Victoria and south-eastern South Australia.
- How is it possible?**
- Female wallabies and kangaroos have **two uteri and two separate ovaries**.
  - At the end of a pregnancy in one uterus, a new embryo develops in the other uterus.

- Kangaroos and wallabies regularly have an embryo in the uterus, a young joey in the pouch, and a third semi-dependent young at foot, still drinking its mother's milk.

#### **Difference between Kangaroo and Swamp Wallaby:**

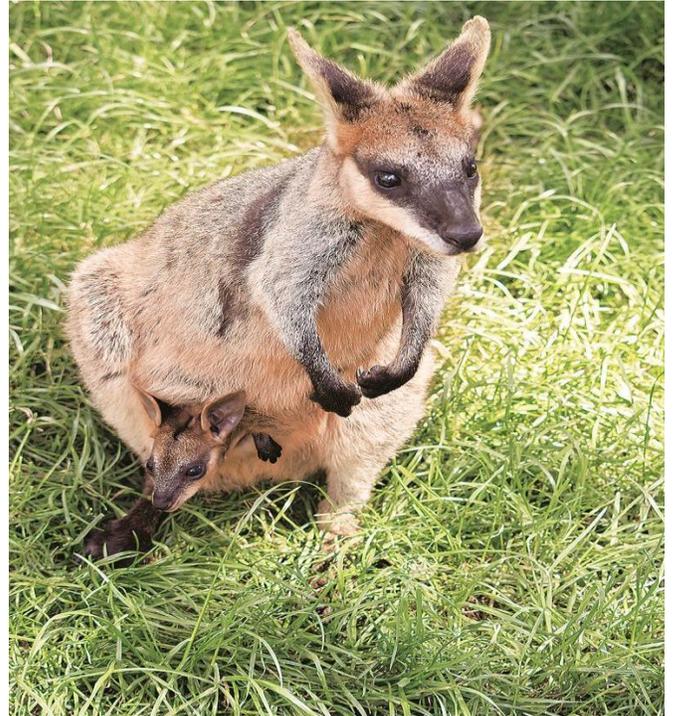
- In **kangaroos**, the new embryo is conceived a day or two **after the previous birth**.
- In the swamp wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*), the new conception happens one or two days before the previous joey is delivered.

#### **What happens after?**

- As soon as the mature foetus is born and settles in the pouch, the swamp wallaby arrests the development of the new embryo.
- This is called embryonic diapause, which happens in many animals to pause reproduction until the conditions are right – season, climate, food availability.
- For wallabies, this is also to ensure that the new one is born only when the pouch is free again.
- If this did not happen, the swamp wallaby would be birthing new young every 30 days – it has a short gestation period – and its pouch could not support that.

#### **European brown hare**

- There is only one other mammal, the **European brown hare** (*Lepus europaeus*), that conceives additional embryos before giving birth.
- There are, however, two key differences:
- In the hare, the new embryos are conceived in the same uterus that is already supporting fetuses in late stages – which, the researchers note, may be all the more remarkable.
- The other difference is that only the swamp wallaby is pregnant all its life.
- The hare is only pregnant with the possibility of conceiving new embryos during distinct breeding seasons over about 5-6 months of the year.
- The rest of the time it is not pregnant or lactating at all.



7. b

8. c

#### **Psyche Asteroid Mission**

- NASA and SpaceX are coming together for a space mission that involves a journey to a unique **metal-rich asteroid** called **Psyche**, which is orbiting the **Sun between Mars and Jupiter**.

#### **Psyche Asteroid**

- The Psyche asteroid is considered unique because it appears to largely be made of the exposed **nickel-iron** core of an early planet.
- Metallic cores are believed to be present deep within rocky, terrestrial planets like our Earth.
- However, since these lie unreachable far below the planet's rocky mantles and crusts, we are unable to reach there.
- So, while we cannot see or measure Earth's core directly, the mission to Psyche asteroid offers a unique window to scientists.
- It may even reveal the violent history of collisions and accretion that created terrestrial planets in the first place.

- NASA said that the launch of Psyche will include two secondary payloads– **Escape and Plasma Acceleration and Dynamics Explorers (EscaPADE)** and **Janus**.
- While EscaPADE will study the Martian atmosphere, the Janus will study binary asteroids.
- The mission is led by Arizona State University and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory will be responsible for the mission's overall management, system engineering, integration, testing and mission operations.

9. b

- Moderates supported the empire in the war as a matter of duty.
- The extremists including Tilak supported the war and belief that Britain would repay India's loyalty and gratitude in the form of self government.
- The revolutionaries decided to utilise the opportunity to wage a war on British rule and liberate the country.

10. d

- The asthenosphere is the highly viscous, mechanically weak and ductilely deforming region of the upper mantle of the Earth. It lies below the lithosphere, at depths between approximately 80 and 200 km (50 and 120 miles) below the surface.
- The Lithosphere is part of the earth's crust and lies above the Asthenosphere. It is more solid than the Asthenosphere and the mid-oceanic ridges are part of the lithosphere.

**05-03-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Raman Research Institute (RRI)**

1. It was founded in 1948 by the Indian physicist and Nobel Laureate, Sir C V Raman.
2. Currently, the main area of research of RRI includes Astronomy and Astrophysics, Liquid Crystals, Theoretical Physics and Optics.

3. It is now an autonomous institution under the Department of Science & Technology.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Which of the following countries shares borders with **Cote d'Ivoire**

1. Mali
2. Ghana
3. Liberia
4. Nigeria
5. Morocco

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

3) Consider the following statements

1. It is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is endemic to Kanha National Park and Tiger Reserve.
3. They are already extinct in Pakistan and Bangladesh.
4. It is now found only in south-western Nepal and central and north-eastern India.

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

- a. Barasingha
- b. Sambar Deer
- c. Small Indian Civet

d. Smooth-coated otter

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to Kanha National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR)**

1. It is located on the Maikal range of Ramgarh Hills.
2. KNPTR spread between Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

**Which of 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) "United for Biodiversity" coalition often seen in the news recently was launched by?**

- a. European Commission
- b. UN Environment Programme
- c. National Biodiversity Authority
- d. World Wildlife Fund for Nature

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

1. It is not a United Nations body.
2. India is a member in this platform.
3. The governing body of IPBES usually meets once per year.

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

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

**7) Mac-binding often seen in the news recently is associated with?**

- a. Internet Access
- b. Gravitational Waves
- c. Nuclear Power Plants
- d. Endophyticactino bacteria

**8) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ger' or 'Phag Yatra'**

1. It is a procession in different parts of Madhya Pradesh's Indore city during the five-day Holi festivities.
2. It was recently added to the UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage.

**Which of 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) With reference to Lucknow pact/session (1916) consider the following statements**

1. Congress recognized the separate electorates for Muslims.
2. This session was presided by Annie Besant.
3. Tilak and Annie Besant played a key role in Lucknow pact.

**Which of the given above statements is/are correct?**

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

**10) The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality. The report's Gender Gap Index ranks countries according to calculated gender gaps. It is being released by which of the following agency?**

- a. United Nations Development Programme
- b. World Bank
- c. UN Women
- d. World Economic Forum

## Answers

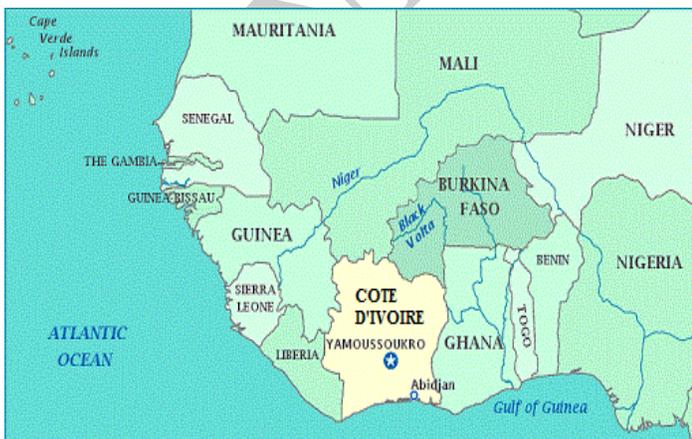
1. c

- Researchers from Raman Research Institute (RRI), an autonomous institution under the Department of Science & Technology, have devised a new test for fairness of quantum coin or 'qubit' (the basic unit of information in a quantum computer) using entanglement theory.

### Raman Research Institute (RRI)

- It was founded by Nobel laureate **Sir C.V.Raman** in 1948 with funds from private sources.
- The main activity of the institute was basic research in selected areas of physics which were of particular interest to Prof. Raman.
- The institute was reorganized in 1972 and started receiving funds from the **Department of Science and Technology** of the Government of India.
- The institute is administered by a Governing Council.
- Currently, the main areas of research are Astronomy and Astrophysics, Liquid Crystals, Theoretical Physics and Optics.

2. c



3. a

- **Hard ground swamp deer (Barasingha or Rucervus duvaucelii)**
- It is the **state animal of Madhya Pradesh**, is seeing a revival in the Kanha National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) after having been perilously close to extinction for a long time.
- The swamp deer is **endemic to KNPTR**.
- Swamp deer are already extinct in Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- It is now found only in south-western Nepal and central and northeastern India.
- There are three subspecies of swamp deer found in the Indian Subcontinent.
- The western swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) found in Nepal, southern swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii branderi*) found in central and north India and eastern swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii ranjitsinhi*) found in the Kaziranga and Dudhwa National Parks.
- The southern swamp deer has hard hooves and is adapted to hard ground. The other two subspecies are adapted to swampy areas.

4. d

- **Kanha National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR)** is on the **Maikal range** of the **Satpura hills**, and is spread over an area of 940 square kilometres between Mandla and Balaghat districts of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The swamp deer is **endemic to KNPTR**.

5. a

- The **European Commission (EC)** launched the **'United for Biodiversity' coalition** made up of zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, national parks, and natural history and science museums from around the world, on World Wildlife Day 2020 celebrated on March 3.
- The coalition offered the opportunity for all such institutions to "join forces and boost public awareness about the nature crisis, ahead of the crucial COP-15 of the Convention

on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China in October 2020.

- The coalition adopted a common pledge, citing the **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** Global Assessment finding that one million species were already at risk of extinction, and appeals to visitors to each of their institutions to “raise their voice for nature.”
- **IPBES** welcomed the formation of the coalition.

6. c

- The **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** is an independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.
- It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 Governments.
- It is **not a United Nations body**.
- However, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
- The governing body of IPBES – made up of the representatives of IPBES member States – usually meets **once per year**.
- **India is a member of IPBES since 2012.**

7. a

- After seven months, the use of social media was allowed in Jammu and Kashmir recently.
- An order said that, Internet connectivity will be made available “**with mac-binding**”.

#### What is mac-binding?

- Every device has a Media Access Control (MAC) address, a hardware identification number that is unique to it. While accessing the Internet, every device is assigned an IP address.

- Mac-binding essentially means **binding together the MAC and IP addresses**, so that all requests from that IP address are served only by the computer having that particular MAC address.
- In effect, it means that if the IP address or the MAC address changes, the device can no longer access the Internet.

8. a

- *The Indore district administration plans to nominate ‘Ger’, a traditional Holi procession, for UNESCO’s list of intangible cultural heritage.*

#### ‘Ger’ or ‘Phag Yatra’

- It is a procession that is taken out on Rang Panchami in different parts of Madhya Pradesh’s Indore city during the five-day Holi festivities.
- According to experts, the tradition of Ger in Indore was started under the **Holkar dynasty**, when royals would take to streets to celebrate Holi with the general public.
- The nomination will be sent to UNESCO through Sangeet Natak Akademi in New Delhi, which is the nodal centre for such work in the country.
- UNESCO will take over a year to decide on the matter once the nomination is submitted.

9. b

- This session was presided by Ambica Charan Mazumdar.

10. d

#### 06-03-2020

#### 1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Suspension of Members of the Parliament*

1. **The Speaker of Lok Sabha is empowered to force a Member to withdraw from the House or to place him/her under suspension.**
2. **The authority for revocation of suspension order is not vested in the Speaker of Lok Sabha.**

3. Unlike the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

- It is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate both in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- It is also mandated to frame regulations on adoption related matters from time to time as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme*

- The scheme is being implemented as a component under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.
- The main objectives of this initiative are prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination, ensuring survival, protection, education and participation of the girl child.
- The scheme is a tri-ministerial initiative of Ministry of Women & Child

Development, Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

4) *MARPOL Convention* is related to which of the following?

- Safe Ship Recycling
- Prevention of Pollution from Ships
- Management of Ships Ballast Water
- None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Waterways (NW)*

- Government of India has declared 111 waterways as National Waterways through National Waterways Act, 2016.
- Sunderbans Waterway and River Tapi Waterway were also operational in India.

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

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

6) *Ghodazari and Umred-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary* are located in which of the following states?

- Odisha
- Mizoram
- Maharashtra
- Madhya Pradesh

7) *River Human* often seen in the news recently is a tributary of?

- River Wainganga
- River Colorado
- River Orange
- River Paraguay

- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

8) *Women Transforming India Awards* was given every year by?

- NITI Aayog
- Women's India Trust
- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Both B and C

9) Consider the following statements:

- Frictional unemployment is the time period between jobs when a worker is searching for or transitioning from one job to another.
- Structural unemployment occurs when there is a mismatch between the skills of the unemployed workers and the skills needed for the available jobs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10) Consider the following Statements

- The proceedings of the Supreme Court are conducted in official languages of India such as English and Hindi.
- The Proceedings of the High Court are conducted in Hindi, English along with Regional Languages.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only

## Answers

1. d

- Seven Congress members were recently suspended for unruly behaviour in the Lok Sabha.
- The motion was passed by a voice vote.

## Procedure for Suspension of Members of the Parliament

- The general principle is that it is the role and duty of the Speaker of Lok Sabha to maintain order so that the House can function smoothly.
- In order to ensure that proceedings are conducted in the proper manner, the Speaker is empowered to force a Member to withdraw from the House (for the remaining part of the day), or to place him/her under suspension.
- Rule 373** – Speaker's power to direct a Member to withdraw immediately from the House.
- Rule 374** – To deal with more recalcitrant Members
  - Under this rule, Speaker may suspend a member through moving and adopting a motion for suspension.
- Rule 374A** – This clause was incorporated to skirt around the necessity of moving and adopting a motion for suspension.
- Under this rule, Member shall, on being named by the Speaker, stand automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session, whichever is less.

## Procedure for revocation of a Member's suspension

- While the Speaker is empowered to place a Member under suspension, the authority for revocation of this order is not vested in her.
- It is for the House, if it so desires, to resolve on a motion to revoke the suspension.

## In Rajya Sabha

- **Unlike the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.**
  - Suspension will only happen through moving and adoption of a motion.
2. c
- **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a Statutory Body of Ministry of Women and Child Development,**
  - Government of India which promotes and facilitates **In –country adoption** and regulates **Inter-country adoption** as **Central Authority** under the **Hague Convention** for Inter-country adoptions.
  - It is also mandated to frame regulations on adoption related matters from time to time as per Section 68 of the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.**
3. a
- The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme** was launched by the Prime Minister of India, on 22nd January, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana as a comprehensive programme **to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** and the related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum.
  - Expanded in a phased manner and currently being implemented in all the 640 districts of the country, BBBP is a step towards the nation's resolve to accomplish gender equality by promoting and prioritizing the needs and rights of the girl child.
  - The scheme is a tri-ministerial initiative of the central government ministries of **Women & Child Development, Human Resource Development and Health & Family Welfare.**
4. b
- 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.**
- Special Areas with strict controls on operational discharges are included in most Annexes.
  - **India is a party to MARPOL 73/78** and has ratified Annexes I to V.
5. c
- To promote inland water transport in the country as an economical, environment
  - friendly supplementary mode of transport to rail and road, **111 inland waterways** (including 5 National Waterways declared earlier) were declared as 'National Waterways' under the **National Waterways Act, 2016.**
  - Out of these 111 waterways, 25 NWs are inter-state NWs.
  - National Waterway (NW)-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia) in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal; NW-2 (River Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya) in Assam; NW-3 (West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals) in Kerala, have already been developed with fairway navigational aids, jetties and terminals with mechanized equipment handling facilities for loading and unloading of cargo.
  - These NWs are operational and vessels are plying on them.
  - In addition, NW-10 (river Amba), NW-68 (river Mandovi), NW-73 (**river Narmada**), NW-83 (Rajpuri Creek), NW-85 (Revadanda Creek - Kundalika River System), NW-91 (Shastri river–Jaigad creek system), NW- 97 (**Sunderbans Waterways**), NW-100 (**river Tapi**) and NW-111 (river Zuari) are also operational.
6. c
- A dam proposed on the **River Human** (pronounced Hooman) at **Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)** in Chandrapur district threatens to submerge more than 90 per cent of a 7-km forest area.

- The project not only falls in TATR buffer zone, but also the eco-sensitive zone of Ghodazari Wildlife Sanctuary closeby.
- It will break the only linking corridor for tiger movement between TATR, **Ghodazari** and **Umred-Karhandla** wildlife sanctuaries in the state of **Maharashtra**.

7. a

- A dam proposed on the **River Human** (pronounced Hooman) at **Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)** in Chandrapur district threatens to submerge more than 90 per cent of a 7-km forest area.
- The irrigation project is to be built across **Human River** in Wainganga/Godavari basin near Sirkada village in Sindewadi tehsil of Chandrapur district.
- The Human River is a tributary of **Andhari river**, which ultimately joins **Wainganga**.
- The Wainganga is a river in India originating in the Mahadeo Hills in Mundara, Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a key tributary of the Godavari.

8. a

- **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform** is organising the Fourth Edition of the **Women Transforming India Awards (WTI) 2019** on International Women's Day, Sunday, 8 March 2020.
- The WTI will recognize 30 finalists and 15 winners will be felicitated.
- On this occasion, the Women Entrepreneurship Platform also completes two years since its inception.
- The Women Transforming India Awards, instituted four years ago, is NITI Aayog's endeavour to recognise and celebrate stories of exceptional women change makers from across India.
- Since 2018, the Women Transforming India Awards have been hosted under the aegis of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform on the theme of '**Women and Entrepreneurship**'.

9. c

10. b

**07-03-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)***

1. It was created by the Port-Louis Declaration in 1982.
2. India is a member to this organisation.

**Which of 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) *Kishori Health Cards* is associated with which of the following schemes?**

- a. PM-KISAN
- b. Kishori Shakti Yojana
- c. Scheme for Adolescent girls
- d. National Health Mission

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Central Information Commission (CIC)***

1. The Information Commissioner is eligible for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner but cannot hold office for more than a total of five years including his term as Information Commissioner.
2. The President can remove the Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

**Which of 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) NAMASTE Portal is related to which of the following ministries?**

- Ministry of AYUSH
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of External Affairs
- Ministry of Finance

**5) Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) was released recently by?**

- UNESCO
- World Economic Forum
- UN Development Programme
- None of the above

**6) "Perseverance" sometimes seen in the news recently is?**

- NASA's rover for exploring Mars
- Motivational Programme by Indian Prime Minister for school students
- All weather aircrafts designed by Boeing
- None of the above

**7) K2-18b sometimes seen in the news recently is a?**

- Anaerobic animal species
- Microbial Resistant plant species
- Potentially habitable Exo-planet
- Earth sized Asteroid orbiting Neptune

**8) Which among the following is/are not a Micronutrient required for plant growth?**

- Zinc
- Boron
- Nickel
- Calcium
- Molybdenum

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- All except 4
- All except 3 and 4
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- None

**9) Consider the following World Heritage Sites**

Sites	-	Region
1. Rani Ka Vav	-	Gujarat
2. Humayun's Tomb	-	Delhi
3. Agra Fort	-	Delhi
4. Champaner-Pavagadh	-	Gujarat

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

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

**10) Which of the following constitutes Primary sector of an economy?**

- Fisheries
- Animal Husbandry
- Mining
- Forestry

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

**Answers**

1. a

- India has been approved as an **observer state** for a five-nation grouping in the Western Indian Ocean, **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**, which includes **Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and French Reunion**.
- With this, India will join China, which was made an observer in 2016, as well as the “International Organisation of the Francophonie” or the 54-nation French-speaking collective, the European Union (EU) and Malta, which were all admitted in 2017.
- The IOC is also significant for its geographical location, as the islands sit around a “key choke-point” in the Indian Ocean – the Mozambique Channel.
- This channel is being watched more closely as the U.S.-Iran tensions threaten the Strait of Hormuz.
- Given China’s growing presence in the region, India hopes to increase its naval presence and gain support for its maritime projects across the Indo-Pacific, beginning at East African shores.

2. c

### **Scheme for Adolescent girls**

- It primarily aims at breaking the inter-generational life-cycle of nutritional and gender disadvantage and providing a supportive environment for self-development.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development under Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

### **Objective**

- Enable the AGs for self-development and empowerment.
- Improve their nutrition and health status.iii) Promote awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition
- Support out of school AG to successfully transition back to formal schooling or bridge learning / skill training.
- Upgrade their home-based skills and life skills.

- Provide information/guidance about existing public services such as Primary Health Centers, Rural Hospitals/CHCs, Post Office, Bank, Police Station, etc.

### **Coverage**

- The target group for the scheme covers out of school adolescent girls (AGs) in the **age group of 11 to 14 years**.
- Scheme for Adolescent Girls was sanctioned in the year 2010 and was implemented in 205 districts across the country.
- Later, the expansion and universalisation of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls was done in additional 303 districts in 2017-18 and the remaining districts in 2018-19 with the **simultaneous phasing out of Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)**.
- Thus at present, **all districts in the country are covered under Scheme for Adolescent Girls**.

### **Kishori Health Cards**

- These health cards are one of the programme interventions of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (AGs).
- These health cards for all AGs shall be maintained at the AWC.
- Information about the **weight, height, Body Mass Index (BMI)**, IFA supplementation, deworming, referral services and immunization etc will be recorded on the card.
- The card shall be filled up by Sakhi and countersigned by the AWW.
- The card also carries important milestones of AGs life including mainstreamed back to school and the same shall be marked as and when achieved.

3. c

- The President can also remove the Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner on the ground of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.
- However, in these cases, the President has to **refer the matter to the Supreme Court** for an enquiry.

- If the Supreme Court, after the enquiry, upholds the cause of removal and advises so, then the President can remove him.
- *Smt. Amita Pandove took oath as Information Commissioner recently.*

4. a

- The Ministry of AYUSH has developed National Ayurveda Morbidity Codes (NAMC), a comprehensive classification of diseases described in Ayurveda as well as Standardized Ayurveda Terminologies.
- These have been made available on National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminologies Electronic Portal (NAMASTE Portal) developed by the Ministry.

#### **NAMASTE PORTAL**

- **NAMASTE** is an acronym for “**National Ayush Morbidity and Standardized Terminologies Electronic Portal**”.
- It was developed by **Ministry of AYUSH**, provides information about standardised terminologies and Morbidity Codes along with dedicated entry module for updating morbidity statistics in consolidated form as well as on real time basis.
- The launch of this portal is a landmark event in the history of AYUSH with a promise to bring in equity with the mainstream health care system.

5. c

- Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) was released recently by United Nations Development Programme
- It measures how social beliefs affect gender equality.
- According to the report, nearly 90 per cent of men and women hold some form of bias against women.
- And it was found that people’s gendered beliefs do impact women’s rights and equality.

6. a

- NASA has renamed its newest Mars rover **Perseverance**.
- The rover weighs just under 1,043 kilograms.

- The Perseverance rover will be managed by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Labs (JPL) and will hunt for signs of past microbial life on Mars.
- Perseverance will also characterise the planet’s climate and geology, and collect samples of Martian rocks and dust.
- NASA has plans for a future mission which could bring these samples back to Earth.
- The rover is currently is undergoing final assembly and checkout at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- The rover is targeted to land on Mars’ Jezero Crater a little February 18, 2021.
- The Mars 2020 is part of a larger program that includes missions to the Moon as a way to prepare for human exploration of the planet.
- NASA plans to put the next man and first woman on the moon by 2024 and wants a sustained human presence on the Moon by 2028 with its Artemis program.

7. c

- Astronomers have recently found a potentially habitable **Exo-planet**, which is more than twice the size of Earth.
- The planet, named **K2-18b**, is located 124 light-years away from Earth and measures 2.6 times the radius and 8.6 times the mass of our planet.
- It orbits its star within the habitable zone where temperatures could allow liquid water to exist.
- Because of its size, the K2-18b looks more like a smaller version of Neptune than a larger version of Earth.
- This study opens the search for habitable conditions to exoplanets that are significantly larger than Earth, beyond Earth-like exoplanets.

8. a

The elements absolutely essential for plant growth and metabolism are divided into two broad categories based on their quantitative requirements.

1. Macronutrients
2. Micronutrients

### Macronutrients

- They are generally present in plant tissues in large amounts (in excess of 10 mmole Kg<sup>-1</sup> of dry matter).
- The macronutrients include **carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, sulphur, potassium, calcium and magnesium.**
- Of these, carbon, hydrogen and oxygen are mainly obtained from CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O, while the others are absorbed from the soil as mineral nutrition.

### Micronutrients or trace elements

- They are needed in very small amounts (less than 10 mmole Kg<sup>-1</sup> of dry matter). These include **iron, manganese, copper, molybdenum, zinc, boron, chlorine and nickel.**

9. b

- Agra Fort in Uttar Pradesh

10. d

- Primary sector in economy involves the extraction and collection of natural resources, such as copper and timber, as well as by activities such as farming and fishing. A company in a primary industry can also be involved in turning natural resources into products.

### 09-03-2020

1) Recently, two rare species of wildlife - a rusty spotted cat and a coral red kurki snake - were spotted in which Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh?

- Rajaji
- Pilibhit
- Dudhwa
- Amangarh

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rusty Spotted Cat*

1. It is listed in schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

2. It is a carnivore, survives on insects, birds and rodents and is nocturnal in nature.

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 *Coral Red Kukri Snake*

1. It is listed in schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.
2. Its innate characteristic was to remain underground most of the time and is nocturnal in nature.
3. It normally preyed on earthworms and larvae.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nari Shakti Puraskar*

1. Nari Shakti Puraskar is the highest civilian honour among awards given exclusively for women in India.
2. It will be awarded every year and was formerly called as Stree Shakti Puraskar.

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

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

5) *Freedom in the World 2020 Report* has been released recently by?

- German Watch
- Freedom House
- Human Rights Watch
- Amnesty International

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *SAWEN (South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network)*

- It is an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement support body of South Asian countries.
- SAWEN operates its activities from the Secretariat based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- India and Pakistan are members of this organisation.

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

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

7) Union Law Ministry has recently notified a panel headed by former Supreme Court judge *Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai*. It was notified for which of the following purposes?

- Elimination of Death Penalty
- Delimitation of Constituencies
- Reforms in Criminal Justice System
- Creation of All India Judicial Service

8) "*Sahyadri Megha*" often seen in the news recently is a/an?

- New variety of Paddy
- Shivalik class stealth frigate
- Irrigation project in Tamil Nadu
- Programme for tribal women empowerment

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *WISTEMM Program*

- It aims to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions around the world.
- The program was implemented jointly by the Department of Science and Technology and UN Science & Technology Forum.

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 *Red Panda*

- It is a reddish-brown marsupial found in four Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal.
- It is listed as "critically endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
- Almost 50% of the red panda's habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas.

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

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

### Answers

1. b

- Two rare wildlife species - a **rusty spotted cat** and a **coral red kukri snake** - were spotted recently in **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh**.

- The rusty-spotted cat, known to be the smallest member of the cat family, was spotted in Mala range while the coral red kukri snake was sighted in the Haripur range.

2. c

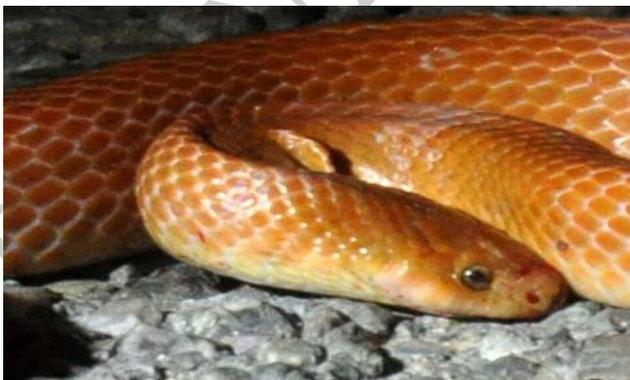
### **Rusty Spotted Cat**

- The rusty-spotted cat is classified as 'threatened species' in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- It is listed in schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- This little carnivore survives on insects, birds and rodents.
- This cat is nocturnal by nature.
- It is merely 35-45 cm in length and weighs about 1.5 kg.
- Its survival is being threatened due to the loss of its habitat.

3. c

### **Coral Red Kukri Snake**

- Like rusty-spotted cat, the snake was also nocturnal in nature.
- It is rarely seen on the ground during the daytime.
- It normally preyed on earthworms and larvae.
- Its innate characteristic was to remain underground most of the time.
- Coral red kukri is listed in schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act.



4. c

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2019 at a special ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on the occasion of International Women's Day.

### **Nari Shakti Puraskar**

- It is formerly known as **Stree Shakti Puraskar**, literally meaning "**Woman Power Award**".
- It is India's highest civilian award for recognizing the achievements and contributions of women.
- The awards are given away by the President of India every year on 8 March, International Women's Day at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- The Nari Shakti Puraskar is conferred on individual women, public and private institutions and public departments for their activism and/ or their contributions to the cause of women's empowerment.
- The award, instituted in the year 1999 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, is given in six institutional categories and two individual categories.
- The award carries a cash prize of rupees one lakh (INR 100,000) and a citation.

5. b

### **Freedom in the World 2020 Report**

- It was released recently by the America based **Freedom House**.
- It ranks India at the 83rd position, along with Timor-Leste and Senegal.
- This is near the bottom of the pile among the countries categorised as "Free", with only Tunisia receiving a lower score.
- India's score fell by four points to 71, the worst decline among the world's 25 largest democracies this year.
- **Top 5 Countries:** Finland, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are the top five countries in the free category.
- **Bottom 5 Countries:** Botswana, Peru, India, Timor-Leste and Tunisia.

6. d
- **South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)** is an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement support body of South Asian countries namely - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, **India**, Maldives, Nepal, **Pakistan** and Sri Lanka.
  - SAWEN was officially **launched** in January, 2011 in **Paro Bhutan**.
  - It promotes regional cooperation to combat wildlife crime in South Asia.
  - It focuses on policy harmonization; institutional capacity strengthening through knowledge and intelligence sharing; and collaboration with regional and international partners to enhance wildlife law enforcement in the member countries.
  - SAWEN operates its activities from the Secretariat based in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
7. b
- The Law Ministry has recently notified the **delimitation commission** for **Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland**.
  - The three-member commission will be headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice **Ranjana Prakash Desai**.
8. a
- '**Sahyadri Megha**' is a **new red variety of paddy** that is resistant to **blast disease** and **rich in nutrients**.
  - As part of its initiative to prevent decline in the area under paddy cultivation, the University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (UAHS), **Shivamogga, Karnataka** has developed '**Sahyadri Megha**'.
  - Sahyadri Megha has been approved by the Karnataka State-level Seed Sub-Committee and will be available for farmers from the coming kharif season.
- Background**
- The '**Jyothi**' variety, which was widely cultivated in the command areas of the Bhadra and the Tunga reservoirs and in semi-arid areas in Sorab, Shikaripur, Hanagal and Sirsi
- taluks of Karnataka, had become vulnerable to blast disease and other infestations.
- There was a demand for a new paddy variety that is resistant to
  - the infestations.
  - Another objective of developing the new variety was to cater to the strong demand for red rice, rich in fibre and protein, by health-savvy consumers in urban areas.
  - 'Sahyadri Megha' is developed under the hybridization breeding method by crossing the best among the 'Jyothi' variety with that of 'Akkalu', a native disease-resistant and protein-rich paddy variety.
9. d
- WISTEMM program**
- The **Indo-U.S.** Fellowship for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (**WISTEMM**) program of **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** in association with **Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF)** have provided international exposure to several women scientists.
  - WISTEMM aims to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions **in U.S.A.**, to enhance their research capacities and capabilities.
  - Around 20 women scientists have visited 20 leading institutions across the United States of America for furthering their research work and to get trained in the state of the art technologies related to their research.
  - The programme is run for two categories of women scientists--- Women Overseas Student Internship (Module I) for women students pursuing PhD, and Women Overseas Fellowship (Module II) for women with PhD degree and holding regular position at any recognized institution/laboratory in India.
10. a

- The iconic and endangered Red Panda (*ailurus fulgens*) has fewer hunters because the younger generations of people across its Himalayan habitat are losing interest in animal products, a new study by wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC has found.

### Red Panda (*ailurus fulgens*)

- It is a reddish-brown **arboreal (predominantly stay in trees) (not a marsupial)** mammal.
- It is slightly larger than a domestic cat with a bear-like body and thick russet fur.
- The belly and limbs are black, and there are white markings on the side of the head and above its small eyes.
- Red pandas are very skillful and acrobatic animals that predominantly stay in trees.
- The belly and limbs are black, and there are white markings on the side of the head and above its small eyes.
- Red pandas are very skillful and acrobatic animals that predominantly stay in trees.
- They use their long, bushy tails for balance and to cover themselves in winter, presumably for warmth.
- Primarily an herbivore, the name panda is said to come from the Nepali word 'ponya,' which means bamboo or plant eating animal.
- About 5,000-6,000 red pandas are estimated to be present in four Indian states – **Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal.**
- This is the second-largest population after China (6,000-7,000).
- The only living member of the genus Ailurus, the Red Panda is listed as '**endangered**' on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
- **Almost 50% of the red panda's habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas.**
- Red pandas are **often killed when they get caught in traps meant for other animals** such as wild pigs and deer.
- They are also poached for their distinctive pelts in China and Myanmar. Red panda fur

caps or hats have been found for sale in Bhutan.



**10-03-2020**

**1) Match the following with respect to the three components of Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) of Department of Science & Technology**

**Scheme – Focus**

- 1. WOS-A – a. R&D projects in Basic & Applied Sciences**
- 2. WOS-B – b. S&T solutions for challenges in society**
- 3. WOS-C – c. Training in the area of Intellectual Property Rights**

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to National Archives of India (NAI)**

- 1. It is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Public Records Act, 1993 and Public Record Rules, 1997.**
- 2. It is an attached office under the Ministry of Culture.**

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

- 1 only



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

- a. Egypt
- b. Sudan
- c. Nigeria
- d. Greece

**3) Consider the following statements**

1. She was the first woman in independent India who joined the Cabinet as the Health Minister.
2. She also laid the foundation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Lady Irwin College in Delhi.
3. She also served as Mahatma Gandhi's secretary for 10 years.

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Sushila Nayar
- b. Indira Gandhi
- c. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
- d. Sarala Devi Chaudhurani

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Monkey Fever***

1. It is caused by a virus of flavivirus group called Kyasanur forest disease Virus (KFDV).
2. Human to human transmission of monkey fever is not known.
3. World Health Organisation has recently declared that Monkey fever was fully eliminated 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

**5) *Pyramid of Djoser*, the first pyramid ever built, was reopened recently after a 14-year restoration is located in?**

**6) *World Climate and Security Report 2020* was released recently by?**

- a. World Health Organisation
- b. World Resources Institute
- c. International Panel on Climate Change
- d. International Military Council on Climate and Security

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

1. It is a carnivorous plant that is classified 'endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
2. It is found mostly in oceans and the major threat to the species is from the ghost nets.

Which of 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**

1. Humpback dolphin is a coastal dolphin found in Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Irrawaddy dolphins reside in estuaries of Chilika Lake is an example of euryhaline species.

Which of 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 regarding the different types of executive system**

1. In Presidential executive system, the President is the head of the state as well as the head of the government.
2. In Parliamentary executive system, the President is always the head of the state, indirectly elected by the people.
3. The President in the Presidential form of government is not accountable to the legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**10) Which of the following is the relief features of ocean floor?**

1. Seamount
2. Guyots
3. Atoll

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answers**

1. b

**Women Scientists Scheme (WOS)**

- A large number of well-qualified women get left out of the S&T activities due to various circumstances but most often the "break in career" arises out of motherhood and family responsibilities.

- To address such issues, Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched "**Women Scientists Scheme (WOS)**" during 2002-03.
- This initiative primarily aimed at providing opportunities to women scientists and technologists between the age group of **27-57 years** who had a break in their career but desired to return to mainstream.
- Through this endeavour of the Department, concerted efforts have been made to give women a strong foothold into the scientific profession, help them re-enter into the mainstream and provide a launch pad for further forays into the field of science and technology.

**Components of WOS:**

1. WOS-A
2. WOS-B
3. WOS-C

**Differences between the three components of WOS:**

- **WOS-A** programme supports pure **R&D projects in Basic & Applied Sciences**.
- On the other hand, focus of **WOS-B** programme is to provide **S&T solutions of challenges existing in society at grass roots level**.
- **WOS-C** programme is sort of **training in the area of Intellectual Property Rights** to enhance self employment and entrepreneurship among women.

2. c

- **130th Foundation Day of National Archives of India (NAI)** will be celebrated on 11th March 2020.

**National Archives of India (NAI)**

- It is the custodian of the records of enduring value of the Government of India.
- Established on 11 March, 1891 at Calcutta (Kolkata) as the **Imperial Record Department**, it is the biggest archival repository in South Asia.
- It has a vast corpus of records viz., public records, private papers, oriental records,

cartographic records and microfilms, which constitute an invaluable source of information for scholars-administrators and users of archives.

- The Director General of Archives, heading the Department has been given the mandate for the implementation of the **Public Records Act, 1993** and the rules made there under, the **Public Records Rules, 1997**.
- Located at the heart of New Delhi, the Department functions as an **Attached Office of the Ministry of Culture** and have one Regional Office at Bhopal and three Records Centres at Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Puducherry.
- The Department celebrated its **125th year** of the foundation during **2015-16**.

3. c

### **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur**

#### **Early life**

- Born into the Kapurthala royal family, she was educated in Oxford and returned to India in 1918, and began to be drawn towards the work and teachings of MK Gandhi.
- In the following years, as Kaur started interacting with other freedom fighters such as Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Mahatma Gandhi, she gave up her princely comforts and began to discipline herself by responding to the Gandhian call.
- Apart from joining the nationalist freedom struggle, Kaur also began work on a number of other social and political issues such as the purdah system, child marriage and the Devadasi system.
- When the civil disobedience movement took off in the 1930s, Kaur dedicated her life to it.
- Kaur was jailed after the Quit India movement and carried to the jail a spinning wheel, the Bhagwat Gita and the Bible.

#### **Achievements**

- She was the first woman in independent India who joined the Cabinet as the Health Minister and remained in that position for 10 years.

- Before taking up the position of a Health Minister, Kaur was Mahatma Gandhi's secretary.
- During these 10 years, she founded the **Indian Council for Child Welfare**.
- She also laid the foundation of the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** and **Lady Irwin College** in Delhi in the following years.

#### **Death**

- She passed away in 1964, at the age of 75.
- While she was a practicing Roman Catholic, she was cremated as per Sikh rituals in the Yamuna.

4. a

- A 48-year-old woman died of Kyasanur Forest Disease (monkey fever) at Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital recently.

5. a

- **Egypt reopened the Pyramid of Djoser, the first pyramid ever built, after a 14-year restoration costing nearly \$6.6 million recently.**

#### **Pyramid of Djoser**

- The 4,700-year-old pyramid is 60 metres tall, and consists of six stacked steps over a burial shaft tomb 28 metres deep and seven metres wide.
- It is located at the Saqqara archaeological site, 24 km southwest of Cairo, outside the royal capital of Memphis.
- A complex of halls and courts is located around the pyramid.
- According to the Egyptian state news outlet Al-Ahram, the Djoser pyramid is the world's oldest monumental stone building.
- The pyramid was constructed during the era of Pharaoh Djoser, the second king of Ancient Egypt's Third Dynasty (2650 BC– 2575 BC).
- The Pharaoh's 19-year reign saw significant technical innovations in stone architecture.
- The pyramid's architect, Imhotep, was also a physician and astrologer, and served as

Djoser's minister. In later periods, he was deified.

- It was now a **UNESCO world heritage site**.
- The pyramid had sustained serious damage during an earthquake in 1992, and was on the verge of collapse when renovations started in 2006.

6. d

- The impact of climate change on water will increase the risk to global security in the next decade, according to a group of international security and military professionals.
- The **International Military Council on Climate and Security (IMCCS)** administered a survey in December 2019 to assess the perceptions of climate security risks among 56 security and military experts and practitioners from across the globe.
- The perception analysis was published in a **World Climate and Security report**, which claimed to be first of its kind.
- According to the report, 93 per cent military experts perceived climate change effects on water security would present significant or higher risks to global security by 2030.
- About 91 per cent perceived those risks would turn severe or catastrophic by 2040.

7. a

#### **Waterwheel**

- Spread across Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa, the Waterwheel is a **carnivorous plant** that is classified '**endangered**' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- **Found mostly in freshwater**, the major threat to the species is from **residential and commercial development**, aquaculture and agriculture, natural systems modifications, and pollution.
- Habitat degradation is also common throughout the species' range.
- Although its effects on the natural population are unknown, it is believed that illegal trade of the species also happens.

- If adequate conservation efforts are not taken, the species could soon become critically endangered.

8. c

- Humpback dolphin is a coastal dolphin found in **Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- It is found along the coasts of Indian Ocean and coasts of West Africa.
- It is listed under appendix I and II of the convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals.
- Reduction in the humpback dolphin count in Gahirmatha could be due to their migration from Gahirmatha to Chilika Lake and towards the deep sea.
- Climate change and bad weather could have also pushed them towards deep sea.
- Sometimes, dolphins are trapped in fish nets or hit by propellers of fishing trawlers.
- Irrawaddy dolphins reside in estuaries of Chilika Lake, Humpback dolphins live in sea water near the coast at Gahirmatha.
- Irrawaddy dolphin is an example of euryhaline species, this means that it is able to tolerate a wide range of salinities.

9. a

- In a presidential system, the President is the Head of the Government as well as head of government. The office of the resident is very powerful. The President is directly elected by the people. He is not accountable to legislature.
- In a parliamentary form of executive, the President is the ceremonial head of the state. The head of the government is usually known as Prime Minister. President is accountable to the legislature. The head of the state may be either Monarch or the President in the case of Parliamentary executive.
- Parliamentary form of executive is based on the principles of collective leadership while presidential form of executive is based on individual leadership.



10. c

- Ocean bottoms are not plain as believed earlier; they reveal many complex and varied features which rival the relief features on land.
- Four major divisions can easily be identified on the ocean floor—
  1. The continental shelf,
  2. The continental slope,
  3. The continental rise,
  4. The abyssal plain.
- Besides these, there are many associated features—ridges, hills, seamounts, guyots, trenches, canyons, sleeps, fracture zones, island arcs, submerged volcanoes and sea-scarps. Atolls will be formed on top of the sea mount or any other landforms under sea.

**11-03-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)*

1. It is an autonomous organization, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It was established by merging National Institute of Health Administration and Education (NIHAE) and the National Institute of Family Planning (NIFP).
3. It acts as an 'apex technical institute' as well as a 'think tank' for the promotion of health and family welfare programmes in the country.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *AWSAR Initiative*

1. It aims to disseminate Indian research stories among the masses in an easy to

understand and interesting format to a common man.

2. It is an initiative conceptualized and supported by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

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 *ICONSAT 2020*

1. It is a nano satellite built by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. It will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

Which of 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 *Kisan Rail Scheme*

1. Under the scheme, the centre envisages setting up of a national cold supply chain to transport highly perishable goods including milk, fish and meat.
2. The scheme has been proposed to be set up by the Indian Railways through a public-private-partnership (PPP) arrangement.

Which of 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) SAREX-2020 is an exercise conducted by?

- SAARC
- ASEAN
- BIMSTEC
- None of the above

6) "Subnivium" refers to which one of the following?

- It is a boundary between snow-free and snow-clad areas
- It is a line joining points of equal elevation above mean sea level
- It is any ground that remains completely frozen for at least two years straight
- It is an area between the bottom of the snow layer and the top of the frozen ground

7) Consider the following statements

- It borders Nepal's Chitwan National Park to its north.
- It forms the eastern most limit of the Himalayan Terai forests in India.
- River Gandak forms the western boundary of a wildlife Sanctaury – which is a part of this tiger reserve.
- 'Tharu', a scheduled tribe, is the dominant community in the landscape.

Identify the Tiger Reserve that correctly matches with the above description:

- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve
- Palamau Tiger Reserve
- Philibit Tiger Reserve
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Gaur

- They are native to south and south-east Asia.
- It is listed as "vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

3. In India, it is found only in southern states especially in Tamil Nadu.

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

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

9) Directive Principles of the Indian constitution aims at establishing

- Political democracy
- Social democracy
- Economic democracy

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10) What is Twin Balance Sheet Syndrome?

- Current account and Capital Account Deficits in Balance of Payment
- Fiscal Deficit and Current Account Deficit
- Financial Stress faced by Public Sector Banks and Large Corporate houses
- Financial Stress faced by Public Sector Undertakings and Fiscal Deficit

## Answers

1. d

- 43rd Annual Day of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) was celebrated in New Delhi recently.
- The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), was established on 9th March, 1977 by the merger of two national level institutions, viz. the **National Institute of Health Administration and**

**Education (NIHAE) and the National Institute of Family Planning (NIFP).**

- The NIHFW, an autonomous organization, under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India, acts as an 'apex technical institute' as well as a '**think tank**' for the promotion of health and family welfare programmes in the country.

2. b

- **Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR)** is an initiative that aims to **disseminate Indian research stories among the masses in an easy to understand and interesting format to a common man**.
- Under this initiative, PhD Scholars and Post-Doctoral Fellows (PDFs) in Science and Technology (S&T) streams would be encouraged to write at least one popular science article during the tenancy of their fellowship, and to participate in a national competition.
- **Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR)** is a new initiative conceptualized & supported by **National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC)** Division, Department of Science and Technology (DST) which is actively engaged in developing various outreach programs for scientific fraternity.
- AWSAR envisages to bridge the existing gap in communicating research to common man by utilizing the latent potential of PhD Scholars and Post-Doctoral Fellows (PDFs).
- This program is being coordinated by Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous institute of DST.

3. d

- The **International Conference on Nano Science and Nano Technology (ICONSAT)** under the aegis of **Nano Mission, Department of Science and Technology (DST)** is being held recently at Kolkata focusing on the recent advances in this frontier research field.

4. c

- The Union Government has recently formed a committee for the implementation of **Kisal Rail**.
- The committee comprising representatives from the Railway and Agriculture Ministries will work out the modalities of the scheme.

**Kisan Rail Scheme**

- The Union Budget 2020-21 proposes setting up of **Kisan Rail** to build a national cold supply chain for perishables including meat, milk and fish.
- The Kisan rail will be set up by the Indian Railways through the PPP arrangement.
- The **Kisan Rail** will comprise refrigerated coaches in Express and Freight trains.

5. d

- Final exercise of the National level **Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2020)** was conducted recently by the **Indian Coast Guard** in the sea at Vasco, South Goa district.
- It was observed by observers from 19 countries.

6. d

- The area between the **bottom of the snow layer and the top of the frozen ground** — known as '**Subnivium**'.
- The survival of several species — dependent on layers of snow for sustenance — might become tougher in the near future, according to a study based on data from the space agencies of the US and Japan.
- Subnivium is at risk from global warming.
- **Snow line** is the boundary between snow-free and snow-clad areas.
- **Permafrost** is any ground that remains completely frozen—32°F (0°C) or colder—for at least two years straight.
- In cartography, a **contour line** (often just called a "**contour**") joins points of equal elevation (height) above a given level, such as mean sea level.

7. d
- **Valmiki Tiger Reserve** forms the eastern most limit of the Himalayan Terai forests in India, and is the **only tiger reserve of Bihar**.
  - The pristine forest and wilderness of VTR is an excellent example of Himalayan Terai landscape.
  - VTR comprises of the **Valmiki National Park and Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary**.
  - In **north**, the protected areas are **bordered by Nepal** while the Indian state **Uttar Pradesh** bounds the Wildlife Sanctuary from **western side**.
  - '**Tharu**', a scheduled tribe, is the dominant community in the Valmiki landscape.
  - The scheduled tribes other than Tharu in the Valmiki landscape are collectively called **Dhangar** - which means retained labourer in Oraon dialect.
  - Dhangar comprises of four tribes: **Oraon, Munda, Lohra and Bhuiya**.
8. b
- Gaur (Bos Gaurus) is the largest extant bovine in the world.
  - They are grassland specialists and their main food is grass.
  - They are native to south and south-east Asia, had shifted to Chitwan a few years back due to grassland destruction in Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR).
  - They have returned to Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) now.
  - Gaurs have been attracted to VTR due to the increase in grassland cover.
  - The species is listed as 'vulnerable' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species since 1986.
  - They are heavily built, with body weight varying between 400 and 1,200 kilogram.
9. c
- Part IV of the Constitution (Articles 36-51) contains the Directive Principles of State Policy.
  - It shall be the duty of the State to follow these principles both in the matter of administration as well as in the making of the laws.
  - They embody the object of the State as 'Welfare State'.
  - It aims at establishing the economic and social democracy.
  - Whereas Part III or Fundamental Rights aims at establishing political democracy.
10. c
- One of the most critical short-term challenges confronting the Indian economy is the twin balance sheet (TBS) problem—the impaired financial positions of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and some large corporate houses—that we have hitherto characterized as the 'Balance Sheet Syndrome with Indian characteristics'.

**12-03-2020**

**1) Which one of the following best describes the term "Pandemic"?**

- A sudden rise in cases of a disease in a particular place
- A large outbreak, one that spreads among a population or region
- An epidemic that has spread on a more global scale, affecting large numbers of people
- None of the above

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to AT-1 Bonds**

- They are also called as Plain-Vanilla bonds.**
- These are a type of unsecured, perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms.**

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

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

3) "A New Era for Girls" Report was released recently by?

- a. UNDP
- b. UNICEF
- c. UNESCO
- d. None of the above

4) Which of the following commissions works under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment?

- 1. National Commission for Scheduled Castes
- 2. National Commission for Backward Classes
- 3. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis
- 4. National Commission for Denotified Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Mission Zero Accident is associated with which of the following?

- a. Ministry of Railways
- b. National Disaster Response Force
- c. Nuclear Power Corporation of India
- d. Ministry of Road Transport and Shipping

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Lokpal

- 1. Lokpal is an independent statutory body established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- 2. Lokpal is required to present annually to the President a report on the work done by it, which is caused to be laid in both the Houses of the Parliament.
- 3. Lokpal cannot suo motu proceed against any public servant.

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

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

7) Global Innovation Index (GII) is an annual ranking of countries by?

- a. World Bank
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
- d. None of the above

8) Consider the following pairs

- 1. Kakrapar – Gujarat
- 2. Kaiga – Karnataka
- 3. Rawatbhata – Rajasthan
- 4. Kalpakkam – Tamil Nadu

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

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

**9) A new Cabinet Committee headed by the Prime Minister can be created by**

- The resolution of Parliament
- The Order of the President
- The Order of the Prime Minister
- The resolution of Council of Ministers

**10) Which of the following processes is/are associated with the Subduction of the Earth crust?**

- Orogeny
- Earthquakes
- Volcanism
- Tsunami
- Cyclones

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

**Answers**

1. c

- Outbreak:** A sudden rise in cases of a disease in a particular place.
- Epidemic:** A large outbreak, one that spreads among a population or region. The current outbreak of a flu-like illness caused by a new virus in China is considered an epidemic.
- Pandemic:** Generally refers to an epidemic that has spread on a more global scale, affecting large numbers of people.
- While there are cases of illness outside China, the World Health Organization said it is not a pandemic.
- Exactly when enough places have enough infections to declare one isn't a black-and-white decision.

- But generally, the WHO is looking for sustained outbreaks on different continents.

2. b

**Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) Bonds**

- AT-1, short for Additional Tier-1 bonds, are a type of **unsecured, perpetual bonds** that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms.
- After a string of banks turned turtle in the global financial crisis, central banks got together and decided to formulate new rules (called the Basel-III norms) that would make them maintain stronger balance sheets.
- In India, one of the key new rules brought in was that banks must maintain capital at a minimum ratio of 11.5 per cent of their risk-weighted loans.
- Of this, 9.5 per cent needs to be in Tier-1 capital and 2 per cent in Tier-2.
- Tier-1 capital refers to equity and other forms of permanent capital that stays with the bank, as deposits and loans flow in and out.

**Features**

- AT-1 bonds have several unusual features lurking in their fine print, which make them **very different from plain-vanilla bonds**.
- These bonds are perpetual and carry no maturity date. Instead, they carry call options that allow banks to redeem them after five or 10 years. But banks are not obliged to use this call option and can opt to pay only interest on these bonds for eternity.
  - Banks issuing AT-1 bonds can skip interest payouts for a particular year or even reduce the bonds' face value without getting into hot water with their investors, provided their capital ratios fall below certain threshold levels. These thresholds are specified in their offer terms.
  - If the RBI feels that a bank is tottering on the brink and needs a rescue, it can simply ask the bank to cancel its outstanding AT-1 bonds without consulting its investors. (This is what has happened to YES Bank's AT-1 bondholders who are said to have invested Rs. 10,800 crore. A furious debate is now on, on

whether AT1 bond holders should be asked to take this haircut when even the YES Bank shareholders are better off)

3. b

- **A New era for girls: Taking stock on 25 years of progress**, a report brought out by **Unicef, Plan International** and **United Nations Women**, shows that the promises made by governments to eliminate harmful practices against women at the time of historic Beijing conference have only been realised in part.
- The gains made by women and girls in the 25 years since the historic Beijing conference on women's rights are impressive. But equally worrying are the huge impediments they still face across the world.

4. d

- There are two Statutory National Commissions, two non-statutory Commissions, two Foundations and three Finance and Development Corporations under the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. They are:

#### Commissions

1. National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
2. National Commission for Backward Classes
3. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis
4. National Commission for Denotified Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes

#### Foundations

1. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation
2. Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation

5. a

- In the Railway Budget 2016-17, Mission Zero Accident was one of the Missions announced, comprising of the two sub-missions:
  1. Elimination of unmanned level crossings (UMLC) over broad gauge in the next 3-4 years.
  2. Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS): To prevent collisions and signal passing at danger by the Loco Pilot through developing an indigenous technology and also to increase

throughput by increasing average sectional speed on Indian Railways (IR).

6. c

- Lokpal is an **independent statutory body** established under Section 3 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)** seek to establish the institution of the Lokpal at the Centre and the Lokayukta at the level of the State and thus seeks to provide a uniform vigilance and anti-corruption road map for the nation both at the Centre and at the States.
- The jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament and Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of the Central Government.
- The Lokpal should consist of a Chairperson with a maximum of 8 members of which 50% shall be judicial members.
- 50% of the members of the Lokpal shall come from amongst the SCs, the STs, the OBCs, minorities and women.

7. d

- The **Global Innovation Index (GI)** is the result of collaboration between **Cornell University, INSEAD**, and the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** as co-publishers, and their Knowledge Partners.

8. d

9. c

- Cabinet Committees are extra-constitutional and are provided in the Rules of Business.
- The Cabinet Committees are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation.
- Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition vary from time to time depending on the directions of the Prime Minister.

10. b

- Subduction is responsible for high rates of volcanism, earthquakes, and mountain building.
- When the large pieces of material on the subducting plate are pressed into the

overriding plate, it results in the Orogeny or Mountain formation. These areas are subject to many earthquakes.

- In the ocean bed, earthquake can lead to a tsunami because of displacement of a large quantity of water in a very short period of time.

**13-03-2020**

1) Which of the following countries borders *Guyana*?

1. Brazil
2. Venezuela
3. Suriname
4. French Guiana

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) With respect to the declaration of a disease as Pandemic, consider the following statements

1. A disease will be declared as pandemic when it spreads to more than 64 countries.
2. World Health Organisation has the final say in declaring a disease as pandemic.
3. Ebola Virus Disease which spreads rapidly in 2015 was not declared a pandemic at that time.

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

3) With respect to *Corona Virus*, consider the following statements:

1. They are a large family of viruses that cause illness such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).
2. Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people.
3. Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes that protrude from their surfaces, resembling the sun's corona.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *COVID-19*

1. It is a respiratory disease most often spread through the air by coughing or sneezing.
2. The disease will be caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2).

Which of 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 *Udyam Sakhi Portal*

1. It aims to encourage women entrepreneurs by helping them to start, build and grow businesses.
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

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 *Wings India 2020*

- It is an International Exhibition and Conference on Civil Aviation sector held biennially.
- Wings India 2020 is being held in Hyderabad, India.
- It is being organized by FICCI along with Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Authority of India.

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

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

7) “*Migrant Protection Protocol*” often seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following programme?

- Remain in Mexico Policy
- Comeback Rohingyas Program
- Refugee Convention, 1951
- Migration for Employment Convention

8) With reference to usage of titles, consider the following statements

- Military or academic distinctions awarded by the State can be used as titles.
- Use of Padma awards as prefix or suffix violates Right to Equality.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9) Which of the following is/are not the recommendations of the Nehru report?

- Dominion status
- No reservation of seats for Muslims in Bengal and Punjab.
- Freedom to practice one’s religion
- Adult universal franchise
- Reservation of seats on the basis of population and for a fixed period of 10 years.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 only
- 1 and 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- None of the above

10) Which of the following transactions are made in capital account of a country?

- Issuing of external bonds
- Exports and Imports
- External lending or borrowings

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Answers

- a

- Several prime ministers of Caribbean countries travelled to **Guyana** to resolve the election crisis in the South American country.
- The national polls, held on March 2, 2020 were marred by accusations of fraud, and the country's High Court upheld an injunction blocking the election commission from proclaiming a winner.

### Significance of Guyana:

- In 2015, ExxonMobil discovered massive offshore deposits of oil, estimated to be among the World's largest at more than 8 million barrels, in Guyana.
- According to Reuters, the expected revenue generation is an estimated \$ 168 billion over the life of the project, representing 120 times Guyana's annual budget.
- The 2020 elections are the first to be held since the oil discovery, and thus have high stakes involved.



2. c

### What is a Pandemic?

- According to the World Health Organization, a pandemic is declared when a **new disease** for which people **do not have immunity spreads around the world** beyond expectations.
- Declaring a pandemic has nothing to do with changes to the characteristics of a disease, but is instead associated with concerns over its geographic spread.

### When is a pandemic declared?

- Ultimately, the **WHO gets the final say**.

- There is **no threshold**, such as a **certain number of deaths or infections, or number of countries affected**, that needs to be met.
- For example, the Sars coronavirus, identified in 2003, was not declared a pandemic by the WHO despite affecting 26 countries.
- The **Ebola virus**, which killed thousands in West Africa, is an **epidemic** as it is yet to mark its presence on other continents.
- Other outbreaks caused by coronaviruses such as MERS (2012), which spread to 27 and 26 countries respectively, were not labelled pandemics because they were eventually contained.

3. c

### Coronaviruses (CoV)

- They are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)** and **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV)**.
- A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.
- Coronaviruses are **zoonotic**, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people.
- Detailed investigations found that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans.
- Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.
- Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes that protrude from their surfaces, **resembling the sun's corona**.
- Coronaviruses are among a large number of viruses that are common in people and many animals.
- The new virus, first detected in China, is believed to have originated in bats.
- While antibiotics don't work against viruses, researchers are testing drugs that could disrupt viral proteins and stop the infection.

4. c

### COVID-19

- Official names have been announced for the virus responsible for COVID-19 (previously known as “2019 novel coronavirus”) and the disease it causes.

The official names are:

- **Disease** :Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
- **Virus** : Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2)

### Naming of Viruses and Diseases:

- Viruses, and the diseases they cause, often have different names. For example, HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.
- People often know the name of a disease, such as measles, but not the name of the virus that causes it (rubeola).

### Viruses:

- Viruses are named based on their genetic structure to facilitate the development of diagnostic tests, vaccines and medicines.
- Virologists and the wider scientific community do this work, so viruses are named by the **International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV)**.

### Diseases:

- Diseases are named to enable discussion on disease prevention, spread, transmissibility, severity and treatment.
- Human disease preparedness and response is **WHO’s role**, so diseases are officially named by WHO in the **International Classification of Diseases (ICD)**.

### COVID-19

- ICTV announced “**Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2)**” as the name of the new virus on 11 February 2020.
- This name was chosen because the virus is genetically related to the coronavirus responsible for the SARS outbreak of 2003.
- While related, the two viruses are different.
- WHO announced “**COVID-19**” as the name of this new disease on 11 February 2020, following guidelines previously developed with

the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

5. c

- **Udyam Sakhi** is an initiative of **Ministry of MSME to encourage women entrepreneurs** and to aid, counsel, assist and protect their interests.
- It helps Indian women to start, build and grow businesses.
- Udyam Sakhi is the project which is designed to give ambitious women to feel comfortable by getting the right information to go for self-employment on one single portal.
- This portal is hosted & managed by *Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai*, an autonomous body under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

6. c

7. a

- *US Supreme Court has recently allows the “Remain in Mexico Policy” to remain in place that allows asylum seekers to be sent back to Mexico.*

### Remain in Mexico policy

- It was unveiled in December 2018 by the Trump administration calls for **non-Mexican asylum seekers to remain in Mexico** while their cases are being decided.
- The program — officially known as the “**Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)**” — is among the tools the Trump administration has used to curb mass migration from Central America and elsewhere across the southern U.S. border.

8. c

- The Supreme Court has held that non-military awards by way of recognition of merit of extraordinary work are not titles of nobility and hence do not violate Article 14 or article 18 provided, they are not used as titles for prefixes suffixes to the time to the name of the awardee.

- State is not debarred from awarding military or academic distinctions even though they may be used as titles.
- The state is not prevented from conferring any distinction or award for social service which cannot be used as a title, that is as an appendage to one's name.
- Thus the award of Bharat Ratna for Padma vibhushan cannot be used by the recipient as a title and does not fall within the constitutional prohibition.

9. d

- Main Recommendations: Dominion status on lines of self-governing dominions as the form of government desired by Indians; Rejection of separate electorates which had been the basis of constitutional reforms so far; Linguistic provinces; 19 Fundamental Rights; Responsible government at the centre and in provinces; Full protection to cultural and religious interests of Muslims; Complete dissociation of state from religion

10. b

- Capital account transactions include, issuing of external bonds, external lending or borrowings, private remittance's inflow or outflow etc.

**14-03-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Creche Scheme***

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. It aims to provide day care facilities to children of age group 6 months to 6 years of working mothers.
3. Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts the third party evaluation of the implementation of the scheme.

**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) *Mandwa Port* is one of the important passenger ports on the coast of?**

- a. Goa
- b. Karnataka
- c. Maharashtra
- d. West Bengal

**3) *Bhoomi Rashi Potral* comes under which of the following ministries?**

- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
- b. Ministry of Rural Development
- c. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- d. None of the above

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC)***

1. It aims to share information between various police forces on heinous crimes.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Essential Commodities Act***

1. The purpose of designating any commodity as "essential" is to prevent profiteering at a time of extraordinary demand.
2. Under the Act, the government can also fix the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an essential commodity.

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

- a. 1 only

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

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

6) “Circuit Breaker System” often seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Reserve Bank of India
- b. Bureau of Indian Standards
- c. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- d. Securities and Exchange Board of India

7) Which one of the following is *not* a member of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

1. Iran
2. Kuwait
3. Venezuela
4. Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. All except 1
- b. All except 2
- c. All except 3
- d. None of the above

8) A member of Lok sabha does *not* become qualified to continue as a member of the House. If the member

1. Abstains from voting contrary to the direction by his/her political party.
2. Is expelled by the political party from which he/she had been elected to the house.
3. Voluntarily gives up his/her membership of the political party from which he/she was elected.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1 and 2 only

9) Consider the following statements regarding the August Offer:

1. It was announced by Lord Willington.
2. It promised Dominion Status to India as soon as possible after World War –II.
3. It was not accepted by both Congress and Muslim League.

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

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

10) Consider the following features:

1. Annual precipitation over 200 cm
2. Mean annual temperature above 22 degrees
3. Natural vegetation includes Mahogany, ebony, rosewood

Which among the following types of forest has the above characteristics?

- a. Tropical Evergreen Forests
- b. Tropical Deciduous Forests
- c. Montane Forests
- d. Tropical Thorn Forests

## Answers

1. b

- National Creche Scheme (earlier named as Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme) is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through States/UTs.

The salient features of the National Creche Scheme are as follows:

1. Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.
2. Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children.
3. Supplementary Nutrition ( to be locally sourced)
4. Growth Monitoring
5. Health Check-up and Immunization

### **Regulation and Monitoring**

- Monitoring of implementation of the scheme is being undertaken through meetings and video conferences with the officials of State Governments/ UT.
- Ministry officials undertake field visits to ascertain the status of implementation of the scheme.
- **NITI Aayog conducts the third party evaluation.**

2. c

3. d

- The **Bhoomi Rashi Portal** was launched as a major e-Governance initiative of the **Ministry of the Road Transport & Highways**.
- It has expedited significantly the process of land acquisition for National Highways, making it error-free & more transparent with notifications at every stage being processed on real time basis.
- The portal has been integrated with the **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** for depositing the compensation in the account of affected/ interested persons on real-time basis.
- The Bhoomi Rashi portal model is replicable and can be used by state governments as well as by Ministries which directly acquire land under their relevant legal provisions.

4. d

- **Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC)** aims to share information on heinous crime and other issues related to inter-state coordination.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the 35th Inception Day of **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**.

5. c

- The Essential Commodities Act provides, “in the interest of the general public, for the control of the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce, in certain commodities”.
- Under the Act, the government **can also fix** the maximum retail price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an “essential commodity”.
- The purpose of designating any commodity as “essential” is to **prevent profiteering** at a time of extraordinary demand.
- Violators are, therefore, termed as illegal hoarders or black-marketeers who can be prosecuted. Besides penalties, the violation may lead to imprisonment for a maximum period of seven years.

6. d

### **Circuit Breakers**

- In June 2001, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) implemented **index-based market-wide circuit breakers**.
- Circuit breakers are triggered **to prevent markets from crashing**, which happens when market participants start to panic induced by fears that their stocks are overvalued and decide to sell their stocks.
- This index-based market-wide circuit breaker system applies at three stages of the index movement, at **10, 15 and 20 per cent**.
- When triggered, these circuit breakers bring about a coordinated trading halt in all equity and equity derivative markets nationwide.
- For instance, if the S&P BSE Sensex were to fall more than 10 per cent before 1 pm on a given day, circuit breakers would be triggered for a period of 45 minutes; in case it fell more than 15 per cent on or after 2 pm, circuit breakers would be triggered for the remainder of the day and in case it fell more than 20 per cent at any time of the day, the trading would be halted for the remainder of the day.

7. d

- After 2014 “glut” diplomacy which brought down prices below \$30 a barrel, Saudi Arabia

and Russia came together to cut output and steady prices.

- Known as the “*OPEC Plus*” arrangement (*Russia is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC*), this alliance kept production lower and pumped up the prices.
- The OPEC-Plus cooperation collapsed last week after Russia rejected a Saudi request to effect more cuts in output given the fall in demand owing to the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak.

8. b

9. a

10. a

**16-03-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to India Renewable Idea Exchange (IRIX) Portal**

1. IRIX is a platform that promotes the exchange of ideas among energy conscious Indians and the Global community.
2. The portal was initiated and moderated by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

**Which of 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) ROPAX Service was inaugurated recently at Bhaucha Dhakka in the state of Maharashtra. Which of the following is *not correct* regarding the ROPAX service?**

- a. Reduce travel time
- b. Reduce traffic on the road
- c. Increases revenue for roadways
- d. None of the above

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

1. It is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by the body’s immune system overreacting in response to an infection.
2. Sepsis can be triggered by a variety of pathogens including Viruses, bacteria, fungi or parasites.
3. Viruses that are highly infectious such as coronaviruses can also cause sepsis.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**

1. It is the primary fund available with state governments for responses to notified disasters.
2. It is constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
3. The Central government contributes 50 per cent towards the SDRF allocation for general category states and UTs, and over 75 per cent for special category states/UTs.

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

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

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to Artemis Mission**

1. It is a lunar exploration program of European Space Agency (ESA).



2. It aims to send first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024.

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

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

6) Statement of the State of the Global Climate in 2019 Report was published recently by?

- UNFCCC
- UN Environment Programme
- International Panel on Climate Change
- World Meteorological Organization

7) Akshay Urja Portal is associated with which of the following ministries?

- Ministry of Power
- Ministry of Jal Sakthi
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- None of the above

8) An enzyme that goes by the name *SIRT1* is known to be associated with?

- Natural Stent
- Destruction of Cancer Cells
- Regulation of metabolic activities
- Both A and B

9) Which of the following type of amendments require the ratification of atleast half of the assemblies of the States?

- If there is a change in the distribution of the administrative powers between the centre and the states.
- If it affects the manner of appointment of the governor.

3. If it affects the representation of States in Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10) Consider the following statements regarding Partition of Bengal (1905)

- Moderate leaders wanted this movement to be confined to Bengal region only.
- Swadeshi and Boycott method was used in this movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

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

### Answers

1. c

- New website of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy was launched recently.
- It has additional portals such as 'Akshay Urja Portal' and 'India Renewable Idea Exchange'.
- Initiated and moderated by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, IRIX is a platform that promotes the exchange of ideas among energy conscious Indians and the Global community.
- It helps individuals to be a part of a select group of energy conscious individuals who exchange ideas that lead to actionable insights and facilitate the development and deployment of new and renewable energy in India.

2. c

- Minister of State for Shipping has recently visited the ROPAX service at Bhaucha Dhakka in Maharashtra.
- ROPAX service will help in reducing road traffic from Mumbai to Alibag/Goa to a certain extent, as travellers will certainly prefer a peaceful, novel and time saving journey.

**ROPAX service**

- It is a '**Water Transport Service Project**', under **Eastern Waterfront Development**.
- The benefits of this service include reduction in the travel time, **fuel consumption**, traffic on the road and vehicular emission, a step towards reducing Carbon Footprint.

3. d

**Sepsis**

- Sepsis is a life-threatening **organ dysfunction** caused by the **body's immune system** overreacting in response to an infection.
- This overactive, toxic response can lead to **tissue damage, multiple organ failure** and death.
- Despite the high incidence of sepsis, knowledge about sepsis prevention and early detection in Germany is significantly lower than in comparable industrialized countries.
- **Viruses, bacteria**, fungi or parasites – sepsis can be triggered by a variety of pathogens.
- The causes of sepsis are usually pneumonia, wound infections, urinary tract infections or infections in the abdominal cavity.
- In addition to the known seasonal influenza viruses, other viruses that are highly infectious, such as coronaviruses, Ebola and yellow fever viruses, dengue, swine flu or bird flu viruses can also cause sepsis.
- In addition to the typical signs of infection, there are several stand out symptoms that usually indicate possible sepsis – for example, a drop in blood pressure with a simultaneous rise in heart rate, fever, rapid, heavy breathing, an unusually strong feeling of illness and sudden confusion.

- Septic shock is the most severe stage and is diagnosed when blood pressure drops to dangerous levels.
- In the event of such alarm signals, emergency care should be sought immediately.

4. b

- Ministry of Home Affairs recently decided to treat COVID-19 as a **notified disaster** for the purpose of providing assistance under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

**State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**

- The Fund is constituted under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- It is the primary fund available with state governments for responses to **notified disasters**.
- The Central government contributes **75 per cent** towards the SDRF allocation for **general category** states and UTs, and over **90 per cent** for **special category** states/UTs, which includes northeastern states, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand).
- For SDRF, the Centre releases funds in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

5. a

- *NASA had recently completed the final round of testing for its Orion spacecraft– meant to fly the Artemis mission.*

**Artemis mission**

- It is NASA's next chapter in the space exploration program.
- It aims to send **first American woman and next American man** on the Moon by **2024** and establish sustainable exploration by 2028.
- The mission will then act as the footstep for future missions like sending astronauts to Mars.

6. d

- Record-high temperatures, cyclones in the Indian Ocean, erratic rainfall patterns leading floods in several parts of India – these are among the concerns highlighted by

the **United Nation's World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** report released recently.

- According to the report titled **Statement of the State of the Global Climate in 2019**, record-high temperatures were reported in India, Australia, Japan and Europe in 2019, adversely affecting public health.
- India was among the most severely affected by heat waves, the report noted.
- Between May and June 2019, very high temperatures were observed.

7. c

- New website of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy was launched recently.
- It has additional portals such as 'Akshay Urja Portal' and 'India Renewable Idea Exchange'.

8. c

- An enzyme that goes by the name **SIRT1** is known to be associated with **regulation of metabolic activities** and also **ageing** and hence has become a target of therapeutics recently.
- A study by researchers from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai (TIFR) shows that glucose controls the function of SIRT1 directly.
- A shortage or absence of this control can lead to a diabetic-like state, while excess feeding and sustained low levels of SIRT1 can lead to obesity and enhanced ageing.

9. a

- Those provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. If one or some or all the remaining states take no action on the bill, it does not matter; the moment half of the states give their consent, the formality is completed.
- There is no time limit within which the states should give their consent to the bill.

The following provisions can be amended in this way:

1. Election of the President and its manner.

2. Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
3. Supreme Court and high courts.
4. Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
5. Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.
6. Representation of states in Parliament.
7. Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself).

10. c

- Extremists wanted to extend the movement to rest of India and beyond the programme of just Swadeshi and Boycott to full fledged mass struggle with aim of Swaraj but Moderates were not ready for it.
- The social boycott was an outcome of economic swadeshi movement.
- It was preached to go against the repressive measures of the Government.
- The social boycott was a very powerful weapon.
- The boycott of foreign goods led to the increase in demand of indigenous goods especially clothes which felt short of supply.

**18-03-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Culture Portal***

1. It is a part of the National Virtual Library of India project, funded by the Ministry of Culture.
2. The portal has been created and developed by the Department of Electronics, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

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



2) Consider the following:

1. Western Ghats
2. The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur
3. Khangchendzonga National Park
4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gay

Which of the sites given above is/are not a World Heritage Site(s) in India?

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

3) *Chaitra Jatra* is an annual festival celebrated in which of the following states?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Sanskrit

1. Sanskrit is an Indo-European language of the ancient Indian subcontinent.
2. It is one of the 22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Helmeted hornbill*

1. It is listed as least concern under the IUCN Red List.

2. The casque – the spongy part on its beak is made of solid keratin (protein).

3. It is found widely in the north-eastern part of India.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)*

1. The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of substance (drug) abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.

2. It was formulated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2018-2025.

Which of 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 *Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST)*

1. It has been established under the umbrella of Nano Mission to boost research and development in the field of Nano science and Nanotechnology in India.

2. It is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & 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

**8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Test***

1. It uses a technique that creates copies of a segment of RNA.
2. PCR tests are commonly used in Influenza A, Influenza B and H1N1 virus detection.

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

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

**9) The provisions for Co-operative Societies can be found in which of the following areas of the Indian Constitution?**

1. Fundamental Rights
2. Fundamental Duties
3. Directive Principles

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

**10) In India, Open Ballot method is being practiced in which of the Election process?**

- a. The President
- b. The Vice President
- c. Members of the State Legislative Council
- d. Members to the Rajya Sabha

## Answers

1. a

- An online portal, namely Indian Culture Portal was launched on 10th December, 2019 to showcase information about the rich cultural heritage of India across the globe.
- The **Indian Culture Portal** is a part of the **National Virtual Library of India** project, funded by the **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
- The portal has been created and developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
- Data has been provided by organisations of the Ministry of Culture and curated by Indira Gandhi National Open University.
- The Indian Culture Portal is available in two languages i.e. Hindi and English.
- The portal will create awareness about both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India, through the content available on the portal, which comprises mainly of rare books, e-books, manuscripts, artefacts from museums, virtual galleries, archives, photo archives, gazetteers, Indian National Bibliography, videos, detailed accounts of Indian UNESCO World Heritage site, Musical Instruments of India, write-ups and beautiful pictures on cuisines, festivals, paintings, folk art and classical art from different States of India etc.

2. d

### **CULTURAL SITES:**

Under Protection of Archaeological Survey of India (22)

#### **Name of Site State**

1. Agra Fort (1983) - Uttar Pradesh
2. Ajanta Caves (1983) - Maharashtra
3. Ellora Caves (1983) - Maharashtra
4. Taj Mahal (1983) - Uttar Pradesh
5. Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984) - Tamil Nadu
6. Sun Temple, Konarak (1984) - Odisha
7. Churches and Convents of Goa (1986) - Goa
8. Fatehpur Sikri (1986) - Uttar Pradesh

9. Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986) - Karnataka
10. Khajuraho, Group of Temples (1986) - Madhya Pradesh
11. Elephanta Caves (1987) - Maharashtra
12. Great Living Chola Temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 & 2004) - Tamil Nadu
13. Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987) - Karnataka
14. Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989) - Madhya Pradesh
15. Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993) - Delhi
16. Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (1993) - Delhi
17. Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003) - Madhya Pradesh
18. Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004) - Gujarat
19. Red Fort Complex, Delhi (2007) - Delhi
20. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (Chittaurgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Jaisalmer and Ranthambhore, Amber and Gagron Forts) (2013) (Amber and Gagron Forts are under protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums) - Rajasthan
21. Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen's Stepwell) at Patan (2014) - Gujarat
22. Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) at Nalanda (2016) - Bihar

**Under Protection of Ministry of Railways (2)**

1. Mountain Railways of India (Darjeeling, 1999), Nilgiri (2005), Kalka-Shimla (2008) - West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh
2. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004) - Maharashtra

**Under Protection of Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (1)**

1. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, (2002) - Bihar

**Under Protection of Rajasthan State Archaeology and Museums (1)**

1. The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010) - Rajasthan

**Under Protection of Chandigarh Administration (1)**

1. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (2016) - Chandigarh

**Under Protection of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (1)**

1. Historic City of Ahmedabad (2017) - Gujarat

**Under Protection of Bombay Municipal Corporation (1)**

1. Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai (2018) - Govt of Maharashtra

**Under Protection of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (1)**

1. Jaipur City, Rajasthan (2019) - Govt of Rajasthan

**NATURAL SITES: (7)**

**Under Protection of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Changes**

1. Kaziranga National Park (1985) - Assam
2. Keoladeo National Park (1985) - Rajasthan
3. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985) - Assam
4. Sunderbans National Park (1987) - West Bengal
5. Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005) - Uttarakhand
6. Western Ghats (2012) - Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu
7. Great Himalayan National Park (2014) - Himachal Pradesh

**MIXED SITE: (1)**

**Under Protection of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Changes**

1. Khangchendzonga National Park (2016) - Sikkim

3. a

- The famous annual **Chaitra Jatra festival** scheduled to be held on March 17 at **Odisha's Tara Tarini hill shrine** was cancelled as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 infection.

### Background

- This festival is celebrated at Tara Tarini hill shrine on Tuesdays of the Hindu month of Chaitra.
- The largest gatherings occur on second and third Tuesdays. March 17 happens to be second Tuesday.
- Tara Tarini hill shrine, located at Kumari hill on banks of the Rushikulya river, is a major centre of Shakti worship in Odisha.
- Indian Navy's sailboat INSV Tarini was named after Tara Tarini hill shrine. The first Indian all-woman crew had circumnavigated the globe in INSV Tarini.

4. b

- The Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2020 has been passed by the Parliament after it was passed by Rajya Sabha recently.

### Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2020

- This bill will convert the following universities into central Sanskrit universities
  1. Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi,
  2. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi,
  3. Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati.
- These 3 universities will have more opportunities to spread the knowledge of Sanskrit language not only in India but also across the world in a better way.

### Sanskrit

- It is an Indo-Aryan language of the ancient Indian subcontinent.
- It is one of the 22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

5. d

- The colourful **helmeted hornbill** is being hunted non-stop for its "**casque**" (the **hard part on its beak**) and the sudden explosion in demand for the hornbill casque is driving the bird to extinction very fast.
- The casque is usually spongy, but in the helmeted hornbill it is solid keratin (protein).
- It is like soft ivory.

- Its colour is golden yellow, but the bird rubs its casque (horn on top of the beak) on its preen gland, whose oily secretion gives the surface of the casque a bright red colour.
- It is being listed as "**Critically Endangered**" under the IUCN Red List.
- This species is confined to the Sundaic lowlands, where it is known from south Tenasserim, **Myanmar**, peninsular **Thailand**, Sabah, Sarawak and peninsular **Malaysia**, **Singapore**, Kalimantan and Sumatra, **Indonesia**, and **Brunei** (BirdLife International 2001).
- It is generally scarce, occurring at low densities even in optimal habitat, and is the least commonly encountered of the forest hornbills in peninsular Malaysia.



6. c

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has formulated a **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025**.
- The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of substance (drug) abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.
- The activities under the NAPDDR, inter-alia, include awareness generation programmes in schools/colleges/Universities, community based peer led intervention programmes for vulnerable adolescent and youth in the community, provisioning of treatment facilities and capacity building of service providers.

7. c
- **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST)**, Mohali (Punjab), an autonomous institution of **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India.
  - It has been established under the umbrella of **NANO MISSION**, initiated by DST to boost research and development in the field of Nano science and Nanotechnology in India.
8. b
- *The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has said designated labs will use the conventional **real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test**, which is conducted on swab collected from the back of the throat, a liquid sample from the lower respiratory tract, or a simple saliva sample.*
  - Such tests are commonly used in **Influenza A, Influenza B and H1N1 virus detection**.
9. c
- Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution under Part III (Fundamental Rights), states that all Citizens have the right to form associations or unions or cooperative societies.
  - Article 43B of the Constitution under Part IV(Directive Principles), states that 'The state shall endeavour to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of the cooperative societies'.
10. d
- An open ballot election is one in which the voter reveals the ballot paper to the official agent of the party and then casts the vote.

**19-03-2020**

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

1. **It aims to ensure inclusive growth by generation of employment, especially for women and youth and sustainable development through solar charkha cluster in rural areas.**
2. **It was launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).**

**Which of 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 one of the following best describes the term "*Supplementary Grant*" in Indian Budget?**

- a. It is granted for a special purpose and forms no part of the current service of any financial year
- b. It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget for that year

**What is the PCR test?**

- It uses a technique that creates copies of a segment of **DNA**.
- 'Polymerase' refers to the enzymes that make the copies of DNA.
- The 'chain reaction' is how the DNA fragments are copied, exponentially — one is copied into two, the two are copied into four, and so on.
- Kary Mullis, the American biochemist who invented the PCR technique, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1993.
- However, SARS-COV-2 is a virus made of **RNA**, which needs to be converted into DNA.
- For this, the technique includes a process called reverse transcription. A 'reverse transcriptase' enzyme converts the RNA into DNA.
- Copies of the DNA are then made and amplified.
- A fluorescent DNA binding dye called the "probe" shows the presence of the virus.
- The test also distinguishes SARS-COV-2 from other viruses.

c. It is granted when the amount authorised by the Parliament through the appropriation act for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year

d. It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year

**3) Assertion (A): Herd Immunity refers to immunising a certain percentage of the population.**

**Reason (R): The presence of a large number of immune persons in the community will interrupt the transmission.**

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- A is true but R is false
- A is false but R is true

**4) The Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal often seen in the news recently intends to connect the Danube, Oder and Elbe rivers. It provides another navigable link from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_?**

- Black Sea to Adriatic Sea
- Adriatic Sea to Baltic Sea
- Black Sea to North and Baltic Seas
- Mediterranean Sea to Black and Caspian Sea

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to Infrared Thermometers**

- These thermometers check the human temperature by sensing the infrared energy radiated by the body.
- Infrared thermometers provide an accurate estimation and 100% accurate way of detecting COVID-19 cases.

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 GEMINI device**

- It aims for seamless and effective dissemination of emergency information and communication on disaster warnings, Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) and Ocean States Forecasts (OSF) to fishermen.
- It is developed by INCOIS under Ministry of Science and Technology and Airport Authority of India.

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

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

**7) Lopinavir-Ritonavir often seen in the news recently is used widely for controlling?**

- Tuberculosis
- Alzheimer's disease
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus

**8) Consider the following statements with respect to National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation**

- Its objective is to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of Backward Classes and to assist the poorer section of these classes in skill development and self-employment ventures.
- It was incorporated under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 in 1992 as a Company not for profit.

3. It is a Government of India Undertaking under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

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

9) Consider the following Services

- Indian Police Services
- Indian Forest Services
- Indian Revenue Services
- Indian Administrative Services

Which of the given above services is/are classified as All India Services as per Article 312 of the Indian Constitution?

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

10) Which one of the following is the core of political democracy?

- Right to education
- Freedom of speech
- Right to equality
- Universal adult franchise

## Answers

1. c

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has launched the **Mission Solar Charkha** in 2018-19 for implementation of 50 Solar Charkha Clusters across the country.

The aims and objectives of Mission Solar Charkha are:-

- To ensure inclusive growth by generation of employment, especially for women and youth and sustainable development through solar charkha cluster in rural areas.
- To boost rural economy and help in arresting migration from rural to urban areas.
- To leverage low-cost, innovative technologies and processes for substance.

2. c

- The Lok Sabha is discussing supplementary demands for grants for 2019-20.
- This includes 78 grants and four appropriations. The proposal involves net cash outgo aggregate to around 54 thousand crore rupees.

### Background

- In addition to the budget that contains the ordinary estimates of income and expenditure for one financial year, various other grants are made by the Parliament under extraordinary or special circumstances:

### Supplementary Grant

- It is granted when the amount authorised by the Parliament through the appropriation act for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year.

### Additional Grant

- It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.

### Excess Grant

- It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget for that year.
- It is voted by the Lok Sabha after the financial year. Before the demands for excess grants are submitted to the Lok Sabha for voting, they must be approved by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

### Vote of Credit

- It is granted for meeting an unexpected demand upon the resources of India, when on

account of the magnitude or the indefinite character of the service, the demand cannot be stated with the details ordinarily given in a

- budget. Hence, it is like a blank cheque given to the Executive by the Lok Sabha.

### **Exceptional Grant**

- It is granted for a special purpose and forms no part of the current service of any financial year.

### **Token Grant**

- It is granted when funds to meet the proposed expenditure on a new service can be made available by reappropriation.
- A demand for the grant of a token sum (of Re 1) is submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha and if assented, funds are made available.
- Reappropriation involves transfer of funds from one head to another.
- It does not involve any additional expenditure.
- Supplementary, additional, excess and exceptional grants and vote of credit are regulated by the same procedure which is applicable in the case of a regular budget.

3. a

### **Herd Immunity**

- It refers to preventing an infectious disease from spreading by immunising a certain percentage of the population.
- While the concept is most commonly used in the context of vaccination, herd immunity can also be achieved after enough people have become immune after being infected.
- The premise is that if a certain percentage of the population is immune, members of that group can no longer infect another person.
- This breaks the chain of infection through the community (“herd”), and prevents it from reaching those who are the most vulnerable.

### **How does herd immunity work?**

- The scientific principle is that the presence of a large number of immune persons in the community, who **will interrupt the transmission, provides indirect protection** to those who are not immune.

4. c

- *Environmental organisations from across central and eastern Europe have criticised a major project intending to link three rivers and provide seamless navigation between three of Europe’s peripheral seas.*

### **About the project:**

- The **Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal** intends to connect the Danube, Oder and Elbe rivers and thus provide another navigable link from the **Black Sea to the North and Baltic Seas**.
- Environmental organisations from Germany, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Austria, wrote a joint letter to the European Union’s Commissioners for Environment.
- This major project, costing at least 23 billion euros, fundamentally violates EU environmental and nature conservation directives and must not be allowed to become a reality,” the letter noted.
- They called on the European Commission to ensure that the project be excluded from EU funding, and not be included as part of the Trans-European Transport Network.

5. a

- The sudden surge in numbers of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases has caused the nations across the globe to take steps to stop the spread.
- Ever since the outbreak of the deadly disease, there has been a need to routinely check temperatures.
- The temperature in such cases is not checked using a mercury thermometer.
- To do this, offices, airports, malls and hotels are using forehead thermometers, also known as an **Infrared Thermometer**.
- These thermometers check the human temperature by sensing the infrared energy radiated by the body.
- The infrared thermometers are used to detect the body temperature in case of fever, one of the symptoms of coronavirus.
- However, this is **not a 100% accurate way of detecting COVID-19 cases**.

- While the advantage of using an infrared thermometer is its 'no contact' process, the temperature can get affected by various factors such as wind and water.
- It can take from 2 to 10 days for a person to show the symptoms of coronavirus.
- If a person is affected by the virus and has not started to show symptoms yet, the infrared thermometer would not be able to detect.
- So, ***infrared thermometers might not provide an accurate estimation of the infected people.***

6. b

- GEMINI (GAGAN Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information) is a marine information dissemination system.
- It is to provide disaster warnings to fishermen by utilizing GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite systems of the AAI and ISRO.
- It is a portable device which receives data from the GAGAN satellites and sends it to the user's cellphone App, which decode the alerts.
- It is developed by INCOIS under Ministry of Earth Sciences and Airport Authority of India.
- INCOIS regularly provides information, advisories, ocean data, weather forecasts, potential fishing zones data to beneficiaries like fishermen, Indian Navy, marine industries, shipping etc.
- But due to the limited range of mobile networks, the disaster warning couldn't reach beyond 10-12km of the coastline which was acutely felt during 2017 Ockhi cyclone.
- The data coverage of GEMINI covers the entire India Ocean full-time, which will help in information transmission to the fishermen far away from coastal areas.

7. d

- The ***Ministry of Health and Family Welfare*** has issued revised guidelines on the 'Clinical Management of COVID-19'.
- The Ministry has recommended use of drug combinations ***Lopinavir and Ritonavir*** (sold under the brand name ***Kaletra***) depending upon the severity

of the condition of a person having coronavirus infection.

- The use of this drug combination is suggested by an expert committee comprising doctors from the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), experts from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and World Health Organization (WHO).
- Lopinavir-Ritonavir is recommended for high-risk groups of patients aged above 60 who are suffering from diabetes mellitus, renal failure, chronic lung disease and are immunocompromised.
- Lopinavir-Ritonavir is used widely for controlling ***Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)*** infection.
- However, the use of Lopinavir-Ritonavir is also associated with significant adverse events which many times have led to discontinuation of therapy.
- There is no current evidence from randomized controlled trials to recommend any specific treatment for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- No specific antivirals are recommended for treatment of those suffering from respiratory ailment due to lack of adequate evidence from medical literature.

8. c

### ***National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)***

- It is a Government of India Undertaking under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It was incorporated under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 in 1992 as a Company not for profit.
- Its objective is to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of Backward Classes and to assist the poorer section of these classes in skill development and self-employment ventures.

9. b

- Like in any other federation, the Centre and the states also have their separate public services called as the Central Services and the State Services respectively.

- In addition, there are all-India services namely Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Forest Service.
- These services are controlled jointly by the Centre and the states.
- The ultimate control lies with the Central government while the immediate control vests with the state governments.

10. d

- Article 326 of the Constitution states that ‘The elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage; that is to say, every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of non- residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election’.
- The concept of universal adult franchise empowers all the citizens to exercise their political right irrespective of their differences in race, caste, sex, religion etc... without any restrictions.

**20-03-2020**

**1) N. K. Singh Committee often seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?**

- Computerization of Banking Industry and Public Sector Disinvestment
- Review of fiscal consolidation roadmap of the general government
- Report on the working of capital market infrastructure institutions
- Relationship and power balance between the Centre and States

**2) SPRK1 often seen in the news recently is related to which of the following?**

- It is an enzyme that reorganises paternal genome during fertilisation

- It is the new variant of Corona virus identified in West African Countries
- It is a point in the Earth’s Mantle from where the Earth generates its magnetic field
- None of the above

**3) Global Forest Watch is an initiative of which of the following?**

- World Resources Institute
- UN Environment Programme
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- International Agency on Forest and Climate Change

**4) With respect to nomination of members to Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements**

- Article 80 of the Constitution paves way for the nomination of persons having special knowledge to the Rajya Sabha.
- They are allowed to vote in the election of the President but not in the election of the Vice President.
- So far, no nominated member has been inducted into the Council of Ministers.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**5) U.K. Sinha committee on MSMEs was appointed by which of the following?**

- Ministry of MSME
- Reserve Bank of India
- Securities and Exchange Board of India
- Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

**6) Zonal Councils were setup in India by**

- the resolution of the Cabinet
- the law of the Parliament
- the Provision of Constitution
- the Order of the President

**7) Consider the following statements regarding the Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution**

- All the Fundamental Rights are absolute in nature.
- All the Fundamental Rights have the feature of self enactment.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**8) The World Economic Outlook (WEO), published biannually and partly updated two times a year, is a survey conducted and published by**

- The World Bank
- The International Monetary Fund
- The World Economic Forum
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

**9) "The Vikramsila Mahavihara", a great centre of education, was founded by**

- Baladitya
- Gopala
- Dharmapala
- Harsha

**10) Consider the following statements**

- It is the oldest national park in India

**2. The park was the first to come under the Project Tiger initiative**

**3. The park has the sub-Himalayan belt geographical and ecological characteristics**

Which of the following Tiger Reserve is described rightly by the given above statements?

- Manas National Park
- Jim Corbett National Park
- Dudhwa National Park
- Namdhapa National Park

**Answers**

1. b

- The Chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted a Committee to review the fiscal consolidation roadmap of the general government.
- The Committee will be chaired by Chairman **N. K. Singh**.

2. a

- Scientists have recently unlocked the enzyme that **reorganises paternal genome** during fertilisation.
- Enzyme SPRK1 makes way for the first step — folding and packaging the sperm so that it fits in the egg.
- A person's genome is inherited from the parents — during fertilisation, half of the father's genome is mixed with half of the mother's.
- A sperm carries half as much genetic material as a regular cell and needs to be folded and packaged in a way that it fits in the egg. While the information was well-known, what led the first step in the process wasn't.
- It is the enzyme SPRK1 that makes way for this first step — by reorganising paternal genome during the first moments of fertilisation. The study, published in journal Cell, was carried out by researchers at University of California San Diego School of Medicine discovered.

- The enzyme does it in a matter of few hours, according to scientists.
3. a
- Global Forest Watch (GFW) is an online platform that provides data and tools for monitoring forests.
  - By harnessing cutting-edge technology, GFW allows anyone to access near real-time information about where and how forests are changing around the world.
  - **World Resources Institute** established **Global Forest Watch** in 1997 as part of the **Forest Frontiers Initiative**.
4. b
- **Article 80** of the Constitution states, “(1) The council of States shall consist of (a) twelve members to be nominated by the President in accordance with the provisions of clause (3)...”
  - Clause (3) states, “The members to be nominated by the President under sub clause (a) of clause (1) shall consist of persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as the following, namely: **Literature, science, art and social service**”.
  - Nominated members enjoy all powers and privileges which elected MPs are entitled to.
  - They take part in proceedings of the House but are **not allowed to vote in the election of the President**.
  - They **have a voting right in the election of the Vice President**.
  - So far **no nominated member has been inducted into the Council of Ministers**.
  - A nominated member can join a party within six months of taking his seat in the House.
5. b
- Union Minister for MSMEs informed the Rajya Sabha that the government would come out with a new definition of MSMEs, which are currently defined on the basis of investment in plant and machinery, by the end of the ongoing session.
  - Government has accepted 39 suggestions by the **U.K. Sinha committee** on MSMEs appointed by the **Reserve Bank of India**, including the setting up a “fund of funds” for the sector.
6. b
- The Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies.
  - They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
  - The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.
7. d
- Not all fundamental rights are absolute. Many are subjected to reasonable restrictions. The fundamental rights under Article 19 is restricted on the grounds of sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, public order, friendly relations with foreign states, decency and morality, contempt of court, decency or morality and incitement to offence.
  - The Fundamental rights under right against exploitation (Art 23 and 24), the right against untouchability (Art17) and the right to free and compulsory education (Art 21A) are not self-enacting.
8. b
- The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is a survey conducted and published by the International Monetary Fund.
  - It is published biannually and partly updated two times a year.
  - It portrays the world economy in the near and medium context, with projections for up to four years into the future.
  - WEO forecasts include key macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP, inflation, current account and fiscal balance of more than 180 countries around the globe. It also deals with major economic policy issues.
  - OECD publishes Economic Outlook.

9. c

- Vikramshila, now in ruins, was a great centre of higher studies in ancient India. Vikramshila Mahavihara was built by the Pala ruler, Dharmapala in 8th Century AD.
- This site was excavated by B.P. Sinha of the Patna University in the year 1960-69 and identified it with Vikramshila.
- The excavation revealed three phases of structural activities; roughly covering the between the early 9th century and the early 13th AD.

10. b

**21-03-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tech for Tribals program*

1. It aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana*

1. It aims for providing social security benefits like life, accidental & disability insurance coverage to manual scavengers across the country.
2. The scheme was implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Which of 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 *Huntington disease (HD)*

1. It is a progressive genetic disorder affecting the Heart of human body that causes impaired coordination of balance and movement.
2. It is caused by a mutation in a gene called HTT which involved in the production of a protein called huntingtin.

Which of 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 *Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) Program*

1. The objective of the programme is mainly to train academic heads, who are likely to assume leadership roles in the future.
2. Its focus group is second level academic functionaries in both public and privately funded higher education institutions.
3. The implementation will be through top ranked universities and top 100 global ranked foreign universities.

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

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



5) *World Population Prospects Report 2019* was released by?

- UN Population Fund
- Population Reference Bureau
- UN Development Programme
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

6) With respect to *Peatlands*, consider the following statements:

- Peatlands are formed due to the accumulation of partially decomposed plant remains over thousands of years under conditions of water-logging.
- Besides climate mitigation, peatlands are important for archaeology, as they maintain pollen, seeds and human remains for a long time in their acidic and water-logged conditions.

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

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

7) *Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)* does not include which of the following mountain ranges?

- Pamir
- Tien Shan
- Kun Lun
- Hindu Kush
- Karakoram

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- All except 1
- All except 2 and 3
- All except 4
- None of the above

8) Consider the following statements regarding BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)

- There is no Headquarters for this organization
- Only the Littoral states of Bay of Bengal are members to this institution
- Maritime security is one of the important objective of this organization

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

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

9) Consider the following statements

- The Eastern coast of India has greater frequency of cyclones than the Western coast.
- The Western coast of India has greater intensity of cyclones than the Eastern coast.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10) Crowding out effect refers to

- Expansionary fiscal policy is adopted by the government thereby increasing interest rates and thus reducing private sector spending
- Increased private sector competition to invest in government securities
- Reduced spending by the government in turn aiding the private sector investment
- Decreased interest rate of private sector to invest in government securities

## Answers

1. d
- **Tech for Tribals**, an initiative of **TRIFED** supported by **Ministry of MSME**, aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the **Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY)**.
  - The trainees will undergo a 30 days program over six weeks comprising 120 sessions.
  - This unique project aimed to transform 5 crore Tribal Entrepreneurs.
  - It was launched by TRIFED and IIT-Kanpur along with IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar and SRIJAN, Jaipur in the first phase of organizing tribal entrepreneurship and skill development program.
  - TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs is establishing 1,200 "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK)", across 28 States engaging 3.6 Lakhs Tribal Forest Produce gatherers.
  - One typical VDVK comprises of 15 Self Help Groups, each consisting of 20 Tribal gatherers.
2. d
- The **Ministry of Textiles** is implementing converged **Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY)** for providing social security benefits like life, accidental & disability insurance coverage to **handloom weavers/workers** in the age group of 51-59 years across the country, who have already enrolled under the scheme on 31.5.2017.
  - To provide the benefits to all handloom weavers/workers in an effective manner, the Government of India has organized **Hashtkala Sahyog Shivirs** in handloom clusters across the country in association with State Governments and LIC for creating awareness among the weavers for enrollment under the Scheme.
  - The claim benefits are provided by LIC directly into the bank account of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
3. b
- **Huntington disease (HD)** is a progressive genetic disorder affecting the **brain** that causes uncontrolled movements, impaired coordination of balance and movement, a decline in cognitive abilities, difficulty in concentrating and memory lapses, mood swings and personality changes.
  - It is caused by a mutation in a gene called **HTT**.
  - The **HTT** genes are involved in the production of a protein called **huntingtin**.
  - They provide the instruction for making the protein.
  - When the genes mutate, they provide faulty instructions leading to production of abnormal huntingtin proteins and these form into clumps.
  - The clumps disrupt the normal functioning of the brain cells, which eventually leads to death of neurons in the brain, resulting in Huntington disease.
4. d
- **Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT)** is a unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using **SWAYAM** platform.
  - National Resource Centres (NRC) will be identified to prepare online training material.
  - NRC will be in a mixed range of institutions such as, Central Universities, IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs, IGNOU, State Universities, UGC's Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs) and National Institutes for Technical Teachers Training.
  - It will focus on latest developments in the discipline, new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.
  - **SWAYAM - Study Webs of Active learning for Young Aspiring Minds** is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform launched to offer various online courses for school education and higher education.

5. d

6. c

- *Peatlands, which play a crucial role in regulating global climate by acting as carbon sinks, are facing degradation and need to be urgently monitored, according to a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations report released recently.*
- *The report comprised information as well as recommendations to countries on restoring and managing these valuable ecosystems.*

### Background

- **Peatlands** are formed due to the accumulation of partially decomposed plant remains over thousands of years under conditions of water-logging.
- Peatlands cover only three per cent of Earth's surface.
- However, their degradation due to drainage, fire, agricultural use and forestry can trigger release of the stored carbon in a few decades.
- Peatlands contain 30 per cent of the world's soil carbon. When drained, these emit greenhouse gases, contributing up to one gigaton of emissions per year through oxidation, according to the report.
- Besides climate mitigation, peatlands are important for archaeology, as they maintain pollen, seeds and human remains for a long time in their acidic and water-logged conditions.
- In many countries, pristine peatlands are important for recreation activities. These areas also support livelihood in the form of pastoralism.
- The vegetation growing on pristine peatlands provide different kinds of fibres for construction activities and handicrafts.

7. d

- The **Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)** region includes mountain ranges of the **Tien Shan, Kun Lun, Pamir, Hindu Kush, Karakoram, Himalayas, and Hengduan** and the high-altitude Tibetan

Plateau which produce one of the world's largest renewable supplies of freshwater.

8. d

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organization involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia. These are: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
- BIMSTEC Headquarters is situated in Dhaka, Bangladesh and opened by Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (13 September 2014).
- The main objective of BIMSTEC is technological and economic co-operation among south Asian and South East Asian countries along the coast of the bay of Bengal. Commerce, investment, technology, tourism, human resource development, agriculture, fisheries, transport and communication, textiles, leather etc. have been included in it.

9. a

- The whole coastline of India is vulnerable to cyclones, particularly the east coast. The west coast of India is less vulnerable to cyclonic storms both in terms of intensity and frequency of the cyclones.

10. a

- Sometimes, government adopts an expansionary fiscal policy stance and increases its spending to boost the economic activity.
- This leads to an increase in interest rates because it causes inflation. Increased interest rates affect private investment decisions as loans become dearer.
- A high magnitude of the crowding out effect may even lead to lesser income in the economy.

**23-03-2020**

**1) Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has recently completed a 360 feet long bailey suspension bridge in northern Sikkim over which of the following rivers?**

- R. Teesta
- R. Rangeet

- c. R. Kameng  
d. R. Rangpo Chu

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Technology Development Board (TDB)*

1. It aims to promote development and commercialization of indigenous technology and to eliminate the usage of imported technology.
2. It is a statutory body under the Department of Science & 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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)*

1. The NSM envisaged setting up a network of 70 high-performance computing facilities across academia and research institutes, by 2022.
2. The mission is jointly led by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Which of 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 *Flusense*

1. It is a portable device powered by artificial intelligence (AI).

2. It was mainly used to sense the temperature of fluids like liquids and gases.

Which of 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 *No Confidence Motion*

1. A motion of no-confidence against a prime minister must be accompanied by a proposal of alternative leader to be voted simultaneously.
2. The Rajya Sabha cannot remove the council of ministers by passing a no-confidence motion.
3. A term no-confidence motion was never mentioned in the Indian constitution.

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

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

### Answers

1. a

- In a relief to the residents of Lachen in *North Sikkim*, the *Border Roads Organisation (BRO)* has recently opened for traffic 360 feet long *bailey suspension bridge* over *Teesta River* in Munshithang near Chungthang town.
- The 86 Road Construction Company (RCC) of 758 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF), under *Project Swastik*, commenced the construction of the bridge in October 2019 and completed it in January 2020.
- The approach roads to the bridge have also been constructed.

- The bridge will give impetus to tourism and facilitate the movement of logistics for the Armed Forces deployed in forward areas.

### Background

- In June 2019, a steel bridge of 180 feet span at the same location was completely damaged due to a massive cloud burst resulting in severing the lines of communication in North District of Sikkim.
- The connectivity was kept open by routing the traffic through restricted Army land.

2. b

- *The Technology Development Board (TDB) invites proposal applications from Indian companies and enterprises to address protection and home-based respiratory intervention for COVID-19 patients.*
- *The proposal may include technologically innovative solutions like low-cost masks, cost-effective scanning devices, technologies for sanitization of large areas as well as for contactless entry, rapid diagnostic kits and oxygenators, and ventilators.*

### Technology Development Board (TDB)

- The Government of India constituted the **Technology Development Board (TDB)** in September 1996, under the **Technology Development Board Act, 1995**, as a **statutory body**.
- It aims to promote development and commercialization of indigenous technology and **adaptation of imported technology** for wider application.
- The board consists of 11 Board members.
- The TDB is the first organization of its kind within the government framework with the sole objective of commercializing the fruit of indigenous research.
- The Board plays a pro-active role by encouraging enterprises to take up technology oriented products.

3. c

- NSM is jointly led by DST and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- Commissioned in May 2015, the nodal agencies spearheading the mission are Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, and Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru.

- The NSM envisaged setting up a network of 70 high-performance computing facilities across academia and research institutes, by 2022.

- *Five years since launch, India is all set to experience the highest ever boost in its supercomputing capacities, with 14 new supercomputers set to be deployed this year.*

- *These systems would be installed at various national-level research laboratories and academic institutions by end of 2020, stated Department of Science and Technology (DST) in an official statement.*

- Of these, three systems would be installed within a month.

- Once deployed, the total number of supercomputers under Rs 4,500 crore-National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) would grow to 17.

4. a

- Scientists have developed a **portable device** powered by **artificial intelligence (AI)** which can **detect coughing and crowd size in real time**, then analyse the data to directly monitor trends in flu-like illnesses such as COVID-19.

- The researchers from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, in the US said the device called **FluSense** is envisioned for use in hospitals, healthcare waiting rooms and larger public spaces.

- FluSense is an autonomous, privacy-respecting system that counts the people and coughs in public spaces to keep health authorities informed.

5. c

- *Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon has recently directed Speaker N.P. Prajapati to convene the session so that legislators could act on the no-confidence motion pending against him.*

### No-Confidence Motion

- Article 75 of the Constitution says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- It means that the ministry stays in office so long as it enjoys confidence of the majority of the members of the Lok Sabha.
- In other words, the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a noconfidence motion.
- The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

**24-03-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Carissa kopilii*, often seen in the news recently

1. It is a moon loving plant which flowers only during the night time.
2. It is distributed sparsely, rooted in rocky crevices along the Kopili riverbed of Karnataka.
3. Coal mining and Hydro-electric projects are the major threats to this species.

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) Consider the following statements

1. India has so far carried out coordinated patrols only with maritime neighbours and had rejected a similar offer by the U.S.
2. It is for the first time, India and France have conducted joint patrols from the Reunion Island.

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 *Olive Ridley Turtles*

1. They are currently the most abundant of all sea turtles.
2. They nest only in darkness and not in daytime.
3. They are listed as endangered under the IUCN Red List.

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

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

4) "World Water Development Report" is a flagship report of which of the following?

- a. UN – Water
- b. Global Water Intelligence
- c. UN Environment Programme
- d. None of the above

5) Which of the following is the UN theme for the *World Water Day 2020*?

- a. Leaving No One Behind
- b. Better Water, Better Jobs
- c. Water and Climate Change
- d. Water and Sustainable Development

**Answers**

1. a

- The *Carissa kopilii* is threatened by the very river it is named after – *Kopili in central Assam*.

- **Reasons:** a **hydroelectric project** on the river and water turned acidic because of **coal mining in Meghalaya** upstream.
- It is a **thorny plant** whose berries are greenish and sour when raw and blackish and sweet when ripe.
- The “**sun-loving**” plant was distributed sparsely, rooted in rocky crevices along the Kopili riverbed at altitudes ranging from 85-600 metres above sea level.

2. d

- **India and France** have conducted joint patrols from the **Reunion Island** for the first time, signalling New Delhi’s intent to engage with friendly foreign partners in expanding its footprint on the Indian Ocean, focusing on the stretch between the East African coastline and the Malacca straits.
- India has so far carried out coordinated patrols only with maritime neighbours and had **rejected a similar offer by the U.S.**
- The Indian Navy conducted a joint patrol with with the French Navy from the Reunion Island in February. The patrol was conducted by a P-8I aircraft with French Navy personnel onboard.

#### **France – A Major strategic partner**

- France has steadily emerged as a major strategic partner for India with big-ticket defence deals and increased military-to-military engagement.
- The Indian Navy is currently inducting French Scorpene conventional submarines, being built in India under technology transfer, and the Indian Air Force will soon get the first batch of its 36 Rafale fighter jets.

3. a

- *In a rare sight after a gap of seven years, mass nesting of olive ridley turtles was **witnessed during the daytime** along the Rushikulya rookery coast in Odisha’s Ganjam district.*
- *Usually, olive ridleys prefer to nest in darkness. Sometimes due to pressure of delivery time, they may be opting to nest at daytime.*

#### **Olive Ridley Turtles**

- The name for this sea turtle is tied to the color of its shell—an olive green hue.
- They are currently **the most abundant of all sea turtles.**
- Their **vulnerable** status comes from the fact that they nest in a very small number of places, and therefore any disturbance to even one nest beach could have huge repercussions on the entire population.
- Sea turtles are a fundamental link in marine ecosystems and help maintain the health of coral reefs and sea grass beds.
- Each nest dug up by the turtles, on an average, contains around 100 eggs.
- The incubation period is around 45 days.

4. a

- *Climate change will not only strain water-stressed countries, but also create similar problems in regions that have not been severely affected so far, according to a United Nations World Water Development report released recently.*

#### **UN World Water Development Report**

- The United Nations **World Water Development Report** is **UN-Water’s** flagship report on water and sanitation issues, focusing on a different theme each year.
- The report is published by UNESCO, on behalf of UN-Water and its production is coordinated by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme.
- Launched in conjunction with World Water Day, the report provides decision-makers with knowledge and tools to formulate and implement sustainable water policies.

5. c

- The UN theme for Water Day 2020 was ‘**Water and Climate Change**’.

**25-03-2020**

**1) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently recommended “Hydroxychloroquine” as a post-exposure prophylactic (preventive medicine) against the novel coronavirus**

disease. *Hydroxychloroquine* is an oral drug used in the treatment of?

- Pneumonia
- Type 1 diabetes
- Multiple sclerosis
- Rheumatoid Arthritis

2) *Dr. V K Paul Committee* often seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- Prevention and Control of COVID-19
- To spell out revival plans for Telecom sector
- Public Private Partnership in the Health Sector
- To frame rules for direct listing of Indian firms abroad

3) Consider the following statements

- It is a remote Indian Ocean Island and an overseas region of France.
- The Island is home to one of the world's most active volcanoes, the Piton de la Fournaise which is also a World Heritage site.
- Recently, India and France have conducted joint patrols, for the first time, in this Island.

Identify the Island that correctly matches with the above description:

- Chagos Island
- Reunion Island
- Seychelles Island
- Madagascar Island

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Tuberculosis Day*

- It is being observed every year on 24th March to commemorate the discovery of the TB bacteria by Dr. Robert Koch's in 1882.
- Government of India has committed to eliminate prevalence of TB by 2030.

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 *Adjournment sine die*

- When the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called *adjournment sine die*.
- The power of adjournment as well as *adjournment sine die* lies with the presiding officer of the House.
- The presiding officer of the house can also call a sitting of the House at any time after the House has been adjourned *sine die*.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

- Hydroxychloroquine*, a drug that has existed for several decades, could see a resurgence of demand, after the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** recommended its use as a post-exposure prophylactic (preventive medicine) against the novel coronavirus disease.

### *Hydroxychloroquine*

- Hydroxychloroquine (not to be confused with anti-malaria drug **chloroquine**) is an oral drug used in the treatment of autoimmune diseases such as **Rheumatoid Arthritis**.
- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says both hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine have in

vitro activity against SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2, and other coronaviruses, with hydroxychloroquine having higher potency against SARS-CoV-2.

2. a

- The government has constituted a high level technical committee of Public Health Experts for COVID-19 to guide the prevention and control activities in the country.
- The 21 member committee will be headed by **NITI Aayog member Dr V K Paul**.
- Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan and Director General Indian Council of Medical Research are the Co-Chair.

3. b

### Reunion Island

- Reunion Island is a remote Indian Ocean island located between Madagascar and Mauritius.
- It is an overseas region of France.
- The island's capital is Saint-Denis which is home to one-fifth of the population.
- The Island is home to one of the world's most active volcanoes, the Piton de la Fournaise which is also a World Heritage site.
- India and France have conducted joint patrols from the Reunion Island for the first time. (This is different from annual Indo-French Military Joint Exercise Shakti).



4. a

- **World Tuberculosis Day** is observed every year on March 24 to commemorate the anniversary of **Dr. Robert Koch's** discovery of the Tuberculosis (TB) bacteria in 1882.

- Government of India has committed to eliminate prevalence of TB by **2025**, with commensurate resources to rapidly reduce TB incidence prevalence and mortality in India.
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is implementing the **National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis Elimination (2017-2025)**.

5. d

- *Parliament recently adjourned sine die before its scheduled time in view of the Novel Corona virus outbreak.*
- *The sittings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were curtailed by nine days.*
- *Earlier, the two houses were scheduled to work till 3rd of next month during the second part of the Budget Session of Parliament.*

### Adjournment sine die

- It means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period.
- In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment *sine die*.
- The power of adjournment as well as adjournment *sine die* lies with the presiding officer of the House.
- He can also call a sitting of the House before the date or time to which it has been adjourned or at any time after the House has been adjourned *sine die*.

**26-03-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Hanta Virus**

1. They are a family of viruses spread mainly by the infected horses.
2. The natural host of the virus is fruit bats.

Which of 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) “*Kurzarbeit Scheme*” often seen in the news is a well-known scheme of which of the following countries?

- U.S.A
- China
- Cuba
- Germany

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme*

- The scheme provides for development of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities through Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs).
- The Scheme would support setting up of both Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and Common Facility Centers (CFCs).

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 *Invest India*

- It is India’s national investment promotion & facilitation agency, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Business Immunity Platform (BIP)*

- It is designed as a comprehensive resource to help businesses and investors get real-time updates on India’s active response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).
- It was jointly launched by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

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

- It has been reported that a person from Yunnan Province of China, who has been tested positive for the **hantavirus**, died recently.
- The Hantavirus is not novel and its first case dates back to 1993, according to the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC).
- It is contracted by **humans from infected rodents**.

### What is Hantavirus?

- Hantaviruses are a family of viruses spread mainly by **rodents**.
- A person can get infected if he/she comes in contact with a rodent that carries the virus.
- Cases of the hantavirus in humans occur mostly in rural areas where forests, fields and farms offer suitable habitat for infected rodents.

### Symptoms

- A person infected with the virus may show symptoms within the first to eighth week after they have been exposed to fresh urine, faeces or the saliva of infected rodents.

### **Hendra virus (HeV)**

- Hendra virus (HeV) infection is a rare emerging zoonosis (disease that can be transmitted to humans from animals) that causes severe and often fatal disease in both infected horses and humans.
- The natural host of the virus has been identified as being fruit bats of the *Pteropodidae* Family, *Pteropus* genus.

2. d

- *The German cabinet is planning to extend the benefit of short-time work allowance (Kurzarbeit Scheme) by the first half of April through legislation.*

### **Kurzarbeit Scheme**

- Kurzarbeit is a **Germany's** existing scheme that provides for partial compensation for a worker's earnings in such situations, and now modified to account for the current crisis.

### **How the scheme works?**

- Kurzarbeit is German for "short-work".
- The policy provides for a short-time work allowance, called kurzarbeitsgeld, which partially compensates for lost earnings during uncertain economic situations.
- The policy was rolled out during the 2008 economic crisis while its origins date back as far as the early 20th century, before and after World War I.
- When companies face a loss of earnings due to unforeseen economic situations, they often need to cut back on their working hours or send some of their employees home.
- The Kurzarbeit scheme aims to address workers who are impacted by loss of income due to shortened work hours during such times.
- They can apply for short-term work benefits under the scheme, with the government stepping in to pay employees a part of their lost income.

- This helps the companies retain their employees instead of laying them off, and allows the latter to sustain themselves for a period of up to 12 months.
- The German cabinet is planning to extend the benefit of short-time work allowance by the first half of April through legislation.
- As of now, if a company sees a decline in orders as a result of the current economic situation, it can announce short-time work, provided that a minimum of 30 per cent of its workforce will be affected by lack of work. With the new legislation, the ceiling will be revised to 10 per cent of the workforce.

3. c

- *The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has recently approved financial assistance to the **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC2.0) Scheme** for development of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities through Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs).*
- *It is expected that these EMCs would aid the growth of the ESDM sector, help development of entrepreneurial ecosystem, drive innovation and catalyze the economic growth of the region by attracting investments in the sector, increasing employment opportunities and tax revenues.*

### **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme**

- It would support setting up of both Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and Common Facility Centers (CFCs).
- For the purpose of this Scheme, an Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) would set up in geographical areas of certain minimum extent, preferably contiguous, where the focus is on development of basic infrastructure, amenities and other common facilities for the ESDM units.
- For Common Facility Centre (CFC), there should be a significant number of existing ESDM units located in the area and the focus is on upgrading common technical infrastructure and providing common facilities for the ESDM units in such EMCs, Industrial Areas/Parks/industrial corridors.

### Background

- To build and create requisite infrastructure ecosystem for electronics manufacturing; Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme which was open for receipt of applications up to October, 2017.
- A period of 5 years (i.e. up to October, 2022) is available for disbursement of funds for the approved projects.
- Under EMC scheme, 20 Greenfield EMCs and 3 Common Facility Centres (CFCs) have been approved in 15 states across the country.
- There is a need for continuation of such scheme in modified form for further strengthening the infrastructure base for electronics industry in the country and deepening the electronics value chain.

4. c

### Invest India

- Invest India, set up in 2009, is a **non-profit venture** under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- As the **national investment promotion and facilitation agency**, Invest India focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India.
- In addition to a core team that focuses on sustainable investments, Invest India also partners with substantial investment promotion agencies and multilateral organizations.
- Invest India also actively works with several Indian states to build capacity as well as bring in global best practices in investment targeting, promotion and facilitation areas.

5. a

- **Invest India**, India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched **The Invest India Business Immunity Platform**.
- The platform, hosted on the Invest India website, is designed as a comprehensive

resource to help businesses and investors get real-time **updates on India's active response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**.

- This dynamic and constantly updating platform keeps a regular track on developments with respect to the virus, provides latest information on various central and state government initiatives, gives access to special provisions, and answers and resolves queries through emails and on WhatsApp.
- The **Business Immunity Platform (BIP)** is the active platform for business issue redressal, operating 24/7, with a team of dedicated sector experts and responding to queries at the earliest.
- Invest India has also announced a partnership with SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) for responding and resolving queries for MSMEs.

**27-03-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to G-20**

- 1. It is the premier forum for international economic cooperation which brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent.**
- 2. The President is chosen by a rotation system amongst the member countries.**
- 3. Saudi Arabia hold the current President ship of G-20.**

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

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

**2) MACS 4028 often seen in the news recently is a/an?**

- High protein wheat variety
- World's fastest Super Computer
- Neptune sized habitable Exo-planet

d. None of the above

**3) Consider the following statements**

1. **Glacial moraines are formed by deposition of materials such as rocks, sand and silt carried by glaciers.**
2. **Glaciers in Arunachal Pradesh are melting at a higher magnitude as compared to other Himalayan regions.**

**Which of 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) 2020 CD3 sometimes seen in the news recently refers to which of the following?**

- a. Temporary Mini Moon orbiting the planet Earth
- b. A potential medicine developed for the deadly disease COVID-19
- c. 3rd session of the Conference on Disarmament held in Tokyo, Japan
- d. None of the above

**5) Consider the following statements**

1. **The place from where the river originates, Daringbadi is called the 'Kashmir of Odisha'.**
2. **The river meets the Bay of Bengal at Puruna Bandha in Ganjam.**
3. **Its tributaries are the Baghua, the Dhanei and the Badanadi and it has no delta as such at its mouth.**

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

- a. R. Brahmani
- b. R. Mahanadi
- c. R. North Koel
- d. R. Rushikulya

**Answers**

1. d

- *Prime Minister of India will participate in the G-20 virtual summit led by King Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia which is the current president of the economic grouping.*

**G-20**

- The Group of Twenty, or the G20, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation.
- The G20 brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent.
- Members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US, Russia, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, India, South Africa, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, China and Indonesia and EU.
- The members are divided into 5 groups, consisting of a maximum of four states for choosing the President.
- In addition to the member countries, Spain is a permanent guest and always participates in the G20 summits.
- Every year, the host country also chooses other guests.
- The group does not have permanent offices or employees.
- The President is chosen by a rotation system amongst the member countries.

2. a

- *Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, have developed a biofortified durum wheat variety MACS 4028, which shows high protein content.*

**MACS 4028**

- It is a semi-dwarf variety, which matures in 102 days and has shown the superior and stable yielding ability of 19.3 quintals per hectare.

- It is resistant to stem rust, leaf rust, foliar aphids, root aphids, and brown wheat mite.
- The wheat variety has shown high protein content of about 14.7%, better nutritional quality having zinc 40.3 ppm, and iron content of 40.3ppm and 46.1ppm respectively, good milling quality and overall acceptability.
- The MACS 4028 variety is also included by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) programme for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to alleviate malnutrition in a sustainable way and can boost the Vision 2022 “Kuposhan Mukh Bharat”, the National Nutrition Strategy.

3. a

- *Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun an autonomous research institute for the study of Geology of the Himalaya under the Department of Science and Technology, have found that **glaciers in Sikkim are melting at a higher magnitude as compared to other Himalayan regions.***
- According to the study, compared to other Himalayan regions, the magnitude of dimensional changes and debris growth are higher in the Sikkim.
- A major shift in glacier behavior has occurred around 2000.
- Contrary to the western and central Himalaya, where glaciers are reported to have slowed down in recent decades, the Sikkim glaciers have shown negligible deceleration after 2000.
- Summer temperature rise has been prime driver of glacier changes.

#### **Glacial Moraines**

- The materials carried by the glaciers such as rocks big and small, sand and silt gets deposited. These deposits form **Glacial Moraines.**

4. a

#### **2020 CD3**

- Recently, astronomers discovered a **mini-moon** named **2020 CD3** orbiting the Earth, making it official for our planet to have two moons.

- However, it turned out to be a brief affair of events as the mini-moon **left the planet's orbit.**
- 2020 CD3 was first discovered using the NASA-funded Catalina Sky Survey observatory in Arizona.
- According to the astronomers, the object may have entered Earth's orbit three years ago.
- It is not confirmed whether 2020 CD3 was a small asteroid or a little chunk from our own moon, broken off in an impact with another space rock.
- 2020 CD3's departure did not come as a surprise to the astronomers as it was following an unstable orbit around Earth, meaning it was travelling farther and farther away from the planet until it was able to break free from our planet's pull.
- Currently, it is on its way to follow its original trajectory around the Sun.
- Earlier in 2006, astronomers discovered a near-Earth asteroid — named 2006 RH120 about 9 meters-wide flying around our planet.
- The Rushikulya River is one of the major rivers in the state of Odisha and covers entire catchment area in the districts of Kandhamal and Ganjam of Odisha.
- The Rushikulya originates at an elevation of about 1000 metres from Daringbadi hills of the Eastern Ghats range.
- The place from where the river originates, Daringbadi is called the ' Kashmir of Odisha '.
- The river meets the Bay of Bengal at Puruna Bandha in Ganjam.
- Its tributaries are the Baghua, the Dhanei, the Badanadi etc.
- It has no delta as such at its mouth.
- Gahirmatha marine sanctuary and Rushikulya rookery coast in Ganjam district are main Olive Ridley Nesting sites in Odisha.

5. d

**28-03-2020**

1) Which of the following statements is *not true* regarding the *Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)*?

- To provide credit and other facilities to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs in rural areas
- As per RBI guidelines, the RRBs have to provide 90% of their total credit under PSL (Priority Sector Lending)
- Recapitalisation of RRBs was based on the recommendation of the K C Chakrabarty Committee
- None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Telemedicine guidelines* released recently by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- They were prepared in collaboration with NITI Ayog.
- Under the scheme, only registered medical practitioners (RMP) enrolled in the State Register or the National Register under the Indian Medical Council Act 1956, can practise telemedicine, but after completing an online course.
- India did not have any set of guidelines on the telemedicine practice till now.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Capital-to-risk weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)*

- It is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities.

- As per RBI norms, Indian scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CRAR of 9%.

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

- During any period when the vice president of India acts as president of India or discharges the functions of the president, he continues to perform the duties of the office of the chairman of the council of states.
- No ground has been mentioned in the constitution for removal of vice president.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5) "*World Happiness Report 2020*" has been released recently by?

- International Peace Bureau
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- None of the above

**Answers**

1. b

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently given its approval for continuation of the process of recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) by providing

*minimum regulatory capital to RRBs for another year beyond 2019-20, that is, up to 2020-21 for those RRBs which are unable to maintain minimum Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9%, as per the regulatory norms prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India.*

### **Objectives of RRBs**

1. To provide credit and other facilities to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs in rural areas.
2. To check the outflow of rural deposits to urban areas and reduce regional imbalances and increase rural employment generation.
3. The RRBs are required to provide 75% of their total credit as priority sector lending.

### **Recapitalisation**

- The recapitalisation process of RRBs was approved by the cabinet in 2011 based on the recommendations of a committee set up under the Chairmanship of **K C Chakrabarty**.

2. c

- After the Supreme Court ordered guidelines on telemedicine practice in the wake of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare came with the same recently.
- The guidelines were prepared in collaboration with NITI Ayog.
- Telemedicine comprises remote diagnosis and treatment of patients by means of telecommunications such video, phone, chatting apps, etc.
- India did not have any set of guidelines on the practice till now.
- There is no legal framework to encourage medical practitioners to provide remote medical consultations during a pandemic.
- According to the guidelines, only registered medical practitioners (RMP) enrolled in the State Register or the National Register under the Indian Medical Council Act 1956, can practise telemedicine, but after completing an online course.

- The online program will be developed and made available by the Board of Governors in supersession of Medical Council of India.
- All RMPs will need to complete the course within three years of notification of the guidelines to provide consultation via telemedicine.
- According to the guidelines, telemedicine consultation should not be anonymous.
- The RMP should ensure that there is a mechanism for a patient to verify the credentials and contact details.
- For issuing a prescription, the RMP needs to explicitly ask the age of the patient.

3. c

### **Capital-to-risk Weighted Assets Ratio**

- CRAR or Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities.
- It is decided by central banks and bank regulators to prevent commercial banks from taking excess leverage and becoming insolvent in the process.
- The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%.
- However, as per RBI norms, Indian scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CRAR of 9%.

4. b

- When the Vice President functions as a President he does not discharge the duties as the Chairman of the Council of States.
- The responsibility is taken over by the Deputy Chairman.
- A formal impeachment is not required for the removal of the Vice President.
- He can be removed by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha passed by an absolute majority (ie, a majority of the total members of the House) and agreed to by the Lok Sabha.
- But, no such resolution can be moved unless at least 14 days' advance notice has been given.
- Notably, no ground has been mentioned in the Constitution for his removal.

5. b
- *The World Happiness Report 2020 has been released recently by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).*
  - *Finland was once again crowned as the world's happiest country, extending its lead over Denmark and Switzerland.*
  - *India ranks 144 in the ranking.*
- c. This method has been proposed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the effective disposal of legacy wastes
- d. None of the above

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Legacy wastes**

1. Legacy wastes are the wastes that have been collected and kept for years at some barren land or a place dedicated for Landfill.
2. They contribute to generation of greenhouse gases and pose risk of uncontrollable 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

**World Happiness Report**

- The World Happiness Report is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness that ranks 156 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.
- The World Happiness Report 2020 for the first time ranks cities around the world by their subjective well-being and digs more deeply into how the social, urban and natural environments combine to affect our happiness.

**30-03-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Earth Hour**

1. It is a global grassroots movement uniting people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet.
2. It is an annual event organized by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF).

**Which of 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 one of the following is not correct with regards to Bio-mining?**

- a. It is used to clean up sites that have been polluted with metals
- b. It is the process of using microorganisms (microbes) to extract metals of economic interest from rock ores or mine waste

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to PM CARES Fund**

1. It is a public charitable trust with a primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation.
2. This fund will also enable micro-donations.
3. Union Home Minister is the Chairman of this trust and its Members include Defence Minister and Finance Minister.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *MPLAD Scheme*

1. Under the scheme, the annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 3 crore.
2. Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works within their state of election, whereas the members of Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.

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

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

## Answers

1. c

- The Earth Hour for the year 2020 is celebrated virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Earth Hour

- **Earth Hour**, organized by **WWF**, is a global grassroots movement uniting people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet.
- Engaging a massive mainstream community, Earth Hour was famously started as a lights out event in Sydney, Australia in 2007.
- The event encourages people to switch off the lights from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm as per their local time.

2. d

### Biomining

- Biomining is the process of using microorganisms (microbes) to extract metals of economic interest from rock ores or mine waste.
- Biomining techniques may also be used to clean up sites that have been polluted with metals.

- It is usually used for old dumped waste that remains in a partly or fully decomposed state with no segregation in existence between wet and dry waste.

### How it works?

- In the cost effective method of bioremediation, treatment is done by dividing the garbage heap at the site into suitable blocks to let the air percolate in the heap.
- As a result, the leachate which is the water in the heap with suspended solid particles is drained off and microbes are sprayed in the heap to initiate biological decompositions.
- The waste is turned over several times in order to devoid the waste to leachate as much as possible.
- This biological decomposition of the waste decreases the volume of the waste by 40%.

3. c

### Legacy Waste

- Legacy wastes are the wastes that have been collected and kept for years at some barren land or a place dedicated for Landfill (an area to dump solid waste).
- Legacy wastes not only occupy large space, but also become a breeding ground for pathogens, flies, malodours and generation of leachate, which may lead to water contamination.
- They also contribute to generation of greenhouse gases and pose risk of uncontrollable fire.

This waste can be roughly grouped into four categories:

1. Contained and/or stored waste (contained or stored waste are wastes in tanks, canisters, and stainless steel bins).
  2. Buried waste.
  3. Contaminated soil and groundwater
  4. Contaminated building materials and structures.
- Bio-mining method has been proposed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the effective disposal of legacy wastes.
  - Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed a committee to assess the amount

of damage caused to the environment due to the dump sites (legacy waste) in Delhi.

- The committee comprises representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and IIT Delhi.

4. b

- Keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated national fund with the primary objective of **dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation**, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected, a **public charitable trust** under the name of '**Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund**' (**PM CARES Fund**)' has been set up.
- **Prime Minister is the Chairman** of this trust and its Members include Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister.
- Donations to this fund will be exempted from income tax under section 80(G).
- This fund will enable **micro-donations** as a result of which a large number of people will be able to contribute with smallest of denominations.

5. d

- *The Vice President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairman, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has appealed to all Members of Parliament to contribute at least Rs. 1 crore initially from their MPLADS funds to supplement the Government's efforts in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.*

#### **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)**

- The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme which was launched in 1993-94.
- The Scheme enables the Members of Parliament to recommend works for creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs to be taken up in their constituencies in the area of national priorities namely drinking water, education, public health, sanitation, roads etc.

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme.

#### **Features**

- The MPLADS is a Plan Scheme **fully funded by Government of India**.
- The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is **Rs. 5 crore**.
- MPs are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 per cent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by S.T. population.
- In order to encourage trusts and societies for the betterment of tribal people, a ceiling of Rs. 75 lakh is stipulated for building assets by trusts and societies subject to conditions prescribed in the scheme guidelines.
- **Lok Sabha** Members can recommend works **within their Constituencies**.
- Elected Members of **Rajya Sabha** can recommend works **within the State of Election** (with select exceptions).
- **Nominated Members** of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works **anywhere in the country**.

**31-03-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Teleconsultation Centre (CoNTeC)**

1. It is a Telemedicine Hub wherein expert doctors from various clinical domains will be available 24x7 to answer the multifaceted questions from specialists from all over the country.
2. It has been conceptualized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and has been implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
3. The modes of communication will include simple mobile telephony as well as two way video communications,

using WhatsApp, Skype and Google Duo.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)*

- It is a Central Sector Grant-in-aid Scheme, focused to address the issues related to conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Hindu Kush Himalayan region (HKH).
- It is one among the eight national missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- The jurisdiction of NMHS includes 12 Himalayan states fully and two states partially.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Biological Weapons Convention*

- It is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.
- It is a legally binding treaty that effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, retention, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons.
- India is a party to this convention.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)*

- It is a non-profit organization established under the EXIM policy of Government of India in the year 1986-87.
- It works under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

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 *Himalayan Ibex*

- It is widely distributed in the trans-Himalayan ranges and also found sparsely in the region of Western Ghats.
- Himalayan Ibex are a distinct species from the Siberian Ibex, which is distributed in diverse habitats, ranging from cold deserts to low mountains and foothills.

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 Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare launched the National Tele-consultation Centre (CoNTeC) recently.

### CoNTeC

- The project **CoNTeC**, an acronym for **COVID-19 National Tele-consultation Centre**, has been **conceptualized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** and has been **implemented by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi**.
- The CoNTeC is a Telemedicine Hub established by AIIMS, New Delhi, wherein expert doctors from various clinical domains will be available 24x7 to answer the multifaceted questions from specialists from all over the country.
- It is a multi-modal telecommunications hub through which 2 way audio-video and text communications can be undertaken from any part of the country as well as the world at large.
- The modes of communication will include simple mobile telephony as well as two way video communications, using **WhatsApp, Skype and Google Duo**.
- The CoNTeC is also fully integrated with the National Medical College Network (NMCN) to conduct a full-fledged Video Conference (VC) between the 50 Medical Colleges connected through the NMCN with its National Resource Centre located at SGPGI, Lucknow.
- The patient management advice offered will be standardized as per the national guidelines supplemented protocols developed by the team at AIIMS, nominated by the Director, AIIMS.

2. d

### National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)

- It is a Central Sector Grant-in-aid Scheme.
- It targets to provide much needed focus, through holistic understanding of system's components and their linkages, in addressing

the key issues relating to conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in **Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)**.

- The ultimate goal is to improve quality of life and maintain ecosystem health of the region to ensure long- term ecological security to the country.
- As the Mission specifically targets the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), the jurisdiction of NMHS includes **10 Himalayan states fully** (i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand) and **two states partially** (i.e., hill districts of Assam and West Bengal).
- The Mission strategy is to focus on enhancing livelihoods of local communities, in line with the National Environment Policy, 2006 of the Government, with a basic premise that the most secured and effective basis for conservation is to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from the act of conservation than from the degradation of the resources.

### Implementation

- The Scheme will be implemented by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**, and it will have its nodal and serving hub with G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED) with a fully dedicated Project Management Unit for the NMHS.
- To guide the overall implementation, a Steering Committee, Chaired by the Secretary MoEF&CC, is in place.

### Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region

- It spreads over 3,500 square kilometers across **eight countries** including **India, Nepal and China**.

### 8 National Missions under NAPCC

1. National Solar Mission
2. National Water Mission
3. National Mission for a Green India
4. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat

5. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
6. National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency
7. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change
8. **National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system**

3. c

- *March 26, 2020 marked the 45th anniversary of the entry into force of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).*

#### **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)**

- Convention on the Bacteriological/Biological and Toxin Weapons, commonly known as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) or Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) was opened for signature on 10 April 1972 and entered into force on 26 March 1975.
- It is a **legally binding treaty**.
- It is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.
- It effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, retention, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons.

#### **Parties**

- **India is a party to this Convention.**
- It currently has 183 states-parties, including Palestine, and four signatories (Egypt, Haiti, Somalia, Syria, and Tanzania).
- Ten states have neither signed nor ratified the BWC (Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Israel, Kiribati, Micronesia, Namibia, South Sudan and Tuvalu).

4. a

- *The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has cancelled the 49th edition of IHGF – Delhi Fair Spring-2020 in view of present status of COVID-19 in India and abroad.*

#### **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)**

- It is a **non-profit organization**, established under the EXIM policy of Government of India in the year 1986-87.
- It works under the aegis of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), **Ministry of Textiles**, Government of India.
- It has created necessary infrastructure as well as marketing and information facilities, which are availed both by the member exporters and importers.
- The Council is engaged in promotion of handicrafts from India and project India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality handicrafts.
- The Council is run and managed by team of professionals headed by Executive Director.
- The Committee of Administration consists of eminent exporters, professionals.
- The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has a rarest distinction of being considered as MODEL COUNCIL that is self-sustaining and where all the promotional activities are self-financed.

5. b

- *A recent study by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has proved that **Himalayan Ibex is a distinct species from the Siberian Ibex.***
- The genetic analysis conducted with the inclusion of the sequences available from all across the distribution ranges in Central Asia, Tajikistan, Altai Mountains, Mongolia and Russia provided first evidence to claim that Himalayan Ibex is genetically different from all other ranges of Siberian Ibex.

#### **Himalayan Ibex**

- It is distributed in the trans-Himalayan ranges of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.

#### **Siberian Ibex (Capra sibirica)**

- Siberian Ibex is a species of wild goat and is distributed in diverse habitats, ranging from **cold deserts**, rocky outcrops, steep terrain, high-land flats and mountain ridges to **low mountains and foothills**.

- From Mongolia, its distribution extends towards Altai, Hangai, Gobi-Altai, the HuruKh mountain ranges as well as Sayan Mountains near Russia and scattered populations in the small mountains of Trans-Altai Gobi.

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