



IAS PARLIAMENT

Information is a Blessing

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

MONTHLY PRESTORMING

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Shankar IAS Academy™

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01-11-2019

1) “Pegasus” sometimes seen in the news recently is a/an?

- Spyware
- Exo-planet
- Indian Satellite
- Volcanic Mountain

2) Consider the following statements

- The bird is also called as “Hargila”.
- They are listed as Endangered under the IUCN Red List.
- They build colonies on tall trees during their breeding season in winter.
- They are currently distributed only in Assam and Bihar in India and a few other locations in Cambodia.

Identify the species that correctly matches with the above description:

- Great Indian Bustard
- Jerdon’s Courser
- Greater adjutant storks
- Siberian Crane

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Health Profile (NHP)*

- It was prepared annually by the National Health Authority (NHA).
- According to the NHP, 2019, India has registered an improved sex ratio and a decline in birth and death rates.
- According to the NHP, 2019, Non-communicable diseases dominate over communicable diseases in the total disease burden of the country.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)*

- The network brings together cities that base development on creativity in five creative fields.
- No cities in India except Mumbai and Hyderabad were listed under the network.

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

- Article 3 of the Indian Constitution deals with the formation of or changes in the existing states of the Union of India.
- Jammu & Kashmir is the first State of the Indian Union to be reduced to a Union Territory (UT).

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

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

6) Arrange the following in descending order with respect to its weightage in the ‘Index of Eight Core Industries’

- Coal production
- Crude Oil production
- Petroleum Refinery production
- Electricity generation
- Steel production



Choose the correct answer

- 3-4-5-1-2
- 2-4-1-5-3
- 4-3-5-2-1
- 3-5-4-1-2

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Mekong river

- It originates in Myanmar and flows through Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- The Golden Triangle area, formed by the confluence of the Mekong River and the Ruak River, is a natural boundary between Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to The Right To Information (RTI Amendment) Act, 2019

- Under the Rules notified, the terms of service of the CIC, including her/his pay and perks, will be the same as that of the Cabinet Secretary.
- The CIC and the ICs have a fixed tenure of three years.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Gogona music

- It is a traditional instrument made of a single piece of seasoned bamboo or horn, played during Bihu performances in Assam.
- The Ramdhan Gogona is performed by women whereas Lahori Gogona is performed by men.

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

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

10) The place 'Gottiprolu' which was in news recently is located in?

- Karnataka
- Odisha
- Telangana
- Andhra Pradesh

Answers

1. a

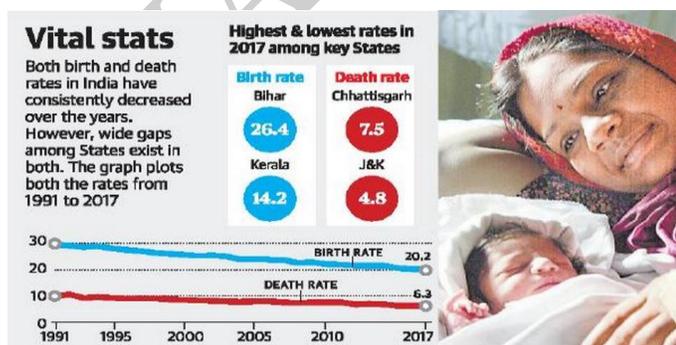
- It has been reported that the popular messaging platform WhatsApp was used to spy on journalists and human rights activists in India.
- The surveillance was carried out using a **spyware** tool called **Pegasus**, which has been developed by an Israeli firm, the NSO Group.
- Pegasus works by sending an exploit link, and if the target user clicks on the link, the malware or the code that allows the surveillance is installed on the user's phone.
- A presumably newer version of the malware does not even require a target user to click a link.
- Once Pegasus is installed, the attacker has complete access to the target user's phone.

2. c

- **All the other options** except Greater adjutant storks are listed under **Critically Endangered** category of IUCN Red List.
- **Greater adjutant storks** are called '**Hargila**', meaning bone swallower, in Assamese.
- They build colonies on tall trees during their breeding season in winter.
- Earlier, widely distributed throughout northern and eastern India and many countries of south and south-east Asia, the Greater Adjutant Stork is currently distributed only in Assam and Bihar in India and a few other locations in Cambodia.

3. c

- **National Health Profile (NHP)** is an annual publication of the **Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)**.
- As per the NHP, sex ratio (number of females per 1,000 males) in the country has improved from 933 in 2001 to 943 in 2011.
- In rural areas the sex ratio has increased from 946 to 949.
- The report also showed that the estimated birth rate, death rate and natural growth rate are declining.
- As per the report, the total fertility rate (average number of children that will be born to a woman during her lifetime) in 12 States has fallen below two children per woman and nine States have reached replacement levels of 2.1 and above.
- It was also observed that non-communicable diseases dominated over the communicable in the total disease burden of the country.



4. d

- **UNESCO** has recently announced that **Mumbai and Hyderabad** have been included in its network of '**Creative Cities**' on the occasion of World Cities Day 2019.
- The network covers **seven creative fields**: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.
- **Mumbai** has been designated as **Creative City of Films** and **Hyderabad** a **Creative City of Gastronomy**.
- Till now, **Varanasi (music), Chennai (music) and Jaipur (crafts & folk art)** were in the network.
- By joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), the cities pledge to share their best practices and develop partnerships involving public and private sectors as well as civil society to strengthen creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services.

5. c

- Article 2 relates to the admission or establishment of new states that are not part of the Union of India.
- Article 3, on the other hand, relates to the formation of or changes in the existing states of the Union of India.
- In other words, Article 3 deals with the internal re-adjustment inter se of the territories of the constituent states of the Union of India.
- **The Indian Union now has 28 States and nine UTs.**
- **Jammu & Kashmir became the first State of the Indian Union to be reduced to a Union Territory (UT), with former IAS officer Girish Murmu being sworn in as its first Lieutenant Governor (LG).**

6. a

- Core sector output falls to -5.2% in September, worst in 14 years.
- The **Index of Eight Core Industries** is a monthly production index released by **CSO** and is considered to be the lead

indicator of the monthly industrial performance in India.

- Its weightage in the index
- 1. Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04 %)
- 2. Electricity generation (weight: 19.85 %)
- 3. Steel production (weight: 17.92 %)
- 4. Coal production (weight: 10.33 %)
- 5. Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98 %)
- 6. The Natural Gas production (weight: 88 %)
- 7. Cement production (weight: 5.37 %)
- 8. Fertilizers production (weight: 2.63 %)

7. b

- **Mekong River** is the 7th longest in Asia, and the 12th longest in the world.
- It **originates from the Tibetan Plateau** and runs through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- In China, the river has another name as **Lancang River**. It originates from Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai Province.
- The **Golden Triangle** area, formed by the confluence of the Mekong River and the Ruak River, is a natural boundary between,
 1. Laos (to the east of the Mekong River),
 2. Myanmar (to the north of the Ruak River) and
 3. Thailand (to the west of the Mekong River).
- The Golden Triangle area is the largest tourist trap in northern Thailand.
- The **Mekong River Delta in southern Vietnam** offers the fertile lands on which the Vietnamese people grow half of their nation's agricultural product.

- The **Irrawaddy dolphin** exists in small isolated populations around Southeast Asia in **Mekong River**.
- Some populations are close to extinction such as the those in the Mekong River and Malampaya Sound in the Philippines.



8. c

- The RTI (Amendment) Bill received the assent of the President on the 1st August, 2019 and became an Act of Parliament.
- The **Right To Information (Amendment) Act, 2019** is an amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- Recently, government notified the **new RTI Rules** under the Act.
- The Act to allow the government to fix the terms and conditions of service of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) of the **both Centre and the states**.
- Under the recently notified Rules,
 1. the **terms of service of the CIC**, including her/his pay and perks, will be the **same as that of the Cabinet Secretary**, which is significantly lower than that of the CEC.
 2. And those of the **ICs are similar to that of a Secretary** to the Government of India.
- The CIC was earlier on a par with the CEC, who occupies position 9A in the table (along with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and Chairman, UPSC).

- After being downgraded to Cabinet Secretary rank, would mean a downgradation in the 'Table of Precedence'.
- The **CIC and the ICs** now have a **fixed tenure of just three years** (earlier a fixed term of five years).

9. a

- Gogona is a traditional musical instrument which is played during Bihu performances in Assam.
- It is made of a single piece of seasoned bamboo or horn that has a bifurcation on one end.



- Apart from being played during Bihu performances, Gogona is also used by the Mongoloid and Kirat tribes in their folk music.
- The characteristic feature of the Bihu dance is the use of traditional instruments such as Baanhi, Dhol, Gogona, Taal, Toka and Xutuli.
- These instruments lend a unique musical flavour when rendering the songs for the dance.
- According to the size, Gogona is known by different names such as Lahori Gogona, Ramdhan Gogona, and Xaliki Gogona.
- The Ramdhan and Lahori Gogona are used more commonly.
- The **Ramdhan Gogona** is performed by **men** whereas **Lahori Gogona** is performed by **women**.
- A female Bihu performer is referred to as **Bihuwati**.

10. d

- Recently, excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in **Gottiprolu** has unearthed a trade centre of early historic period.
- **Gottiprolu** is a village located in Naidupet Mandal of Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore district, **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The site of Gottiprolu lies on the right bank of a distributary of river Swarnamukhi.
- Excavation by ASI indicates **Gottiprolu** as a **trade centre of early historic period**.
- The ASI also found a **2000-year-old** brick structure and a Vishnu sculpture at the site.
- The proximity of the site to the seacoast suggests that the site could have served as a strategic settlement involved in maritime trade.
- The site also had a series of **broken terracotta pipes** fitted into one another, revealing about the civic amenities maintained by the occupants.
- Other major retrieved antiquities unearthed are **copper and lead coins, iron spear head, stone celts, terracotta beads, ear studs in semi precious stones** and hopscotches.

02-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Chavang Kut Festival*

1. It is the post-harvest festival of the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Tribes.
2. The festival celebrated this year also marks the centenary of Anglo-Kuki war fought against the British in 1917-1919.

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

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



2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)*

1. It is an online web-enabled system developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).
2. It primarily aims to enable submission of grievances by the aggrieved citizens from anywhere and anytime to Ministries/Departments/Organizations/State Governments.

Which of 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) Which of the following is/are referred as *White Goods*?

1. Radio
2. Television
3. Refrigerator
4. Washing Machine

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)*

1. The Act is in force in Jammu & Kashmir since 1990.
2. Ministry of Home Affairs is the designated authority for notifying the AFSPA in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh.

Which of 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) "*Prison Statistics India 2017*" was recently released by which of the following?

1. It was released by the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS).
2. According to the report, Kerala has the lowest occupancy rate in prisons compared to other large States 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

6) Consider the following related to Dwarf planets

1. It is in orbit around the Sun.
2. It has not cleared the neighborhood around its orbit.
3. It can be a satellite

Which of the following are the criteria to classify a celestial body as Dwarf planet?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Electoral Bonds

1. Registered political parties that secured not less than 10% of votes polled in former Lok Sabha or legislative

assembly elections are eligible to receive electoral bonds.

2. Electoral bonds will be valid for 15 days only from the date of purchase.

Which of 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 states flag in India

1. There is no explicit mention in the Constitution of India that states can have their own flags.
2. A flag is enumerated in the Seventh Schedule.

Which of 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) Saint Kitts & Nevis Island which was in news recently is located in?

- a. Gulf of Mexico
b. Caribbean Sea
c. Sargasso sea
d. Bering sea

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system

1. AIP allows the nuclear submarines to operate without access to atmospheric oxygen.
2. It allows diesel-electric submarines to recharge their batteries without running their engines.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- **Chavang Kut**, the post-harvest festival of the **Kuki-Chin-Mizo** communities is being celebrated across North-Eastern states with traditional gaiety and enthusiasm.
- The festival also marks the centenary of **Anglo-Kuki war** fought against the British in **1917-1919**.

- In Manipur, Mizoram and Assam and other parts of country, the festival is organized every year as thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest.

- It is one of the most important festivals of Kuki-Chin-Mizo communities.

2. c

- DAR&PG is the nodal agency of the Government of India in-charge of policy making, monitoring and coordinating departments for public grievances.

- **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG)** is an online web-enabled system over NICNET (NIC Network) developed by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.

- It was developed in association with Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG) and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG).

- CPGRAMS is the platform based on web technology which primarily aims to enable submission of grievances by the aggrieved citizens from anywhere and anytime (24x7) basis to Ministries/Departments/Organizations/State Governments who scrutinize and take action

for speedy and favourable redress of these grievances.

- Tracking grievances is also facilitated on this portal through the system generated unique registration number.

3. b

- White goods are **large home appliances** such as **refrigerators**, freezers, **washing machines**, dishwashers and air conditioners.
- They are traditionally available only in white colour.
- Even though you can purchase them today in a wide range of different colors, they continue being called *white goods*.
- The term contrasts with **brown goods**, which are relatively **light electronic consumer** durables such as computers, digital media players, **TVs and radios**.

4. c

- The Cabinet Secretariat has recently notified rules reasserting the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as the authority that would decide on the imposition of AFSPA in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh.
- Earlier**, before the State of J&K was bifurcated and downgraded it was the **MHA or the Governor** that was the designated authority for notifying the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990 (21 of 1990).
- AFSPA, which empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without a warrant, is in force in J&K since **July 5, 1990**.

5. d

- With an average occupancy rate of 115% of their capacity, Indian jails continue to remain congested and overcrowded, numbers in the **National Crime Records Bureau's "Prison Statistics India – 2017"** report have revealed.
- In 16 of the 28 States covered in the report, occupancy rate was higher than 100%.

- Tamil Nadu** has reported the lowest occupancy rate in prisons compared to other large States in the country.

6. a

- As of today, there are officially **five dwarf planets** in our Solar System.

1. **Pluto, Eris, Makemake, Haumea and Ceres.**

- Now, there is a claimant for a sixth dwarf planet, Called **Hygiea**.

- It has so far been taken to be an asteroid. It lies in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

- Using observations made through the European Space Organisation's SPHERE instrument at the Very Large Telescope (VLT), astronomers have now found Hygiea may possibly be a dwarf planet.

- If it qualifies, Hygiea will be the smallest dwarf planet in the Solar System.

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) sets **four criteria for a dwarf planet**,

- It orbits around the Sun,
- It is **not a moon**,
- It has not cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.
- It has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape.

- Hygiea** already satisfies three criteria.

7. b

- The Finance Bill, 2017 introduced, electoral bonds, an interest-free bearer bonds (like Promissory Notes) that can be purchased from **specified branches of the State Bank of India only**.

- Issued in multiples of Rs 1,000, 10,000, 1 lakh, 10 lakh, and 1 crore.

- Every political party registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 and has secured **not less than 1% votes** polled in the former Lok Sabha or legislative assembly elections are eligible to receive electoral bonds.

- Electoral bonds are **valid for 15 days** from date of issuance and no payment is made to any payee if bonds are deposited after 15 days.
- Buyers of the bonds have to submit full KYC details at the time of buying.
- But the beneficiary political party is not required to reveal the identity of the entity that has given it the bond(s).

8. a

- The deadline for a final Naga peace accord passed on recently.
- Among the issues that have been contentious are the demand for a separate Naga constitution and **use of the Naga flag**, for decades a symbol of Naga nationalism.
- The tallest leader of the Naga struggle, Dr A Z Phizo, met M K Gandhi in Delhi on July 19, 1947.
- According to Naga historians, Gandhi agreed that the Nagas would celebrate their independence a day ahead of India, on August 14, 1947.
- To this day, **Nagas** across Nagaland, Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh **celebrate August 14 as Independence Day**.
- On August 14, the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah), hoists the now contentious **Naga flag**.
- Under the Constitution, **a flag is not enumerated in the Seventh Schedule**.
- There is **no explicit provision in the Constitution for a state flag** and also there is no prohibition in the Constitution for the State to have its own flag.
- **Article 51A** ordains that every citizen shall abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag, and the national anthem.
- There is **no other provision** regulating hoisting of flags, either by the States or by the public.
- It is clear that there is **no prohibition under the Constitution** to hoist any flag other than the national flag.

- Even the **Flag Code of India, 2002 does not impose prohibitions on a State flag**.
- By implication, the Code provides space for a State flag as long as it does not offend the dignity and honour of the national flag.

9. b

- Recently, **Eritrea and Saint Kitts & Nevis** have become the newest members of the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**).
- The two nations signed the ISA Framework Agreement during the **ISA** assembly held in New Delhi on October 31, 2019.
- **Saint Kitts and Nevis** is a twin island country located in the eastern **Caribbean Sea**.
- With this, the total membership of the **ISA** has risen to 83.



10. b

- AIP systems allow **conventional submarines** to recharge their batteries without surfacing for air.
- It enables them to remain underwater for extend periods of time and not expose themselves to detection.
- **AIP** allows the **non-nuclear submarines** to operate without access to atmospheric oxygen.
- It allows **diesel-electric submarines** to **recharge their batteries** without running their engines.

- It is based on the combustion of stored oxygen and ethanol to augment battery-powered propulsion.
- It can generate electricity, powering a submarine to operate and also generate oxygen, lighting and amenities for crew.

04-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Project BHOG*

1. It is to encourage all Places of Worship (PoW) to adopt and maintain food safety and hygiene in the preparation of Prasad.
2. All the PoW that distribute Prasad are henceforth required to obtain FSSAI license/registration.
3. This is applicable to Hindu temples only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nanak Naam Lewa or a Nanakpanthi*

1. They are the people who believes in Guru Nanak and follows his teachings in life.
2. They are not limited to just one religion (Sikhism) and can be from any religion.
3. The core value of the philosophy is 'There is only one giver of life, one God'.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) The National Waterway – 2 passes through

1. Sadiya
2. Silghat
3. Pandu
4. Haldia
5. Dhubri

Choose the correct answer from the given option

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Dhanush'

1. It is an attack Helicopter in the fleet of IAF.
2. It is indigenously developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

Which of 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 *Lingdum Monastery*

1. It is a Buddhist pilgrimage site located in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It belongs to the Gelug school of Mahayana Buddhism.

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

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



6) With respect to *Indo-German Partnership for Green Urban Mobility*, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. Under the partnership, Germany will spend 1 billion euros over a three-year period.
2. The main aim of this partnership is to finance several environment friendly urban mobility projects.

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

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

7) *NEO Surveillance Mission* is a planned space-based telescope to search for near-Earth asteroids developed by which of the following space agencies?

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

8) *Dustlik-2019* is the first-ever joint military exercise between India and which of the following countries?

- a. Uzbekistan
- b. Kazakhstan
- c. Kyrgyzstan
- d. Tajikistan

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *SCOJtEx-2019*

1. It is a Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCOs) joint exercise on urban earthquake search and rescue.
2. Indian Army in cooperation with Indian Coast Guard is hosting the event.

3. All the member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) except Pakistan will participate in this exercise.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Alzheimer Disease*

1. 'Tau' a protein occurs in tangled formations in the brain of Alzheimer patients, disrupts the ability of neurons to communicate with one another in the brain.
2. 'Oligomannate (GV-971)' is a newly approved drug for Alzheimer Disease.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- Recently Tamil Nadu State Food Safety and Drug Administration has told temples to obtain the Blissful Hygiene Offering to God (BHOG) quality certificate for the temple prasadam.
- FSSAI initiated **Project BHOG** (Blissful Hygienic Offering to God) for Food Safety in Places of Worship.
- It is to encourage all Places of Worship (PoW) to adopt and maintain food safety and hygiene in the preparation of Prasad.
- All the PoW that distribute Prasad, including vendors that sell *Prasad* in the vicinity of the

PoW, are henceforth required to obtain FSSAI license/ registration.

- They also need to follow the sanitary and hygiene practices as per Food Safety and Standards regulations.
- **All places of worship, including temples, mosques and gurudwaras**, are covered by the project.

2. d

- The Kartarpur Corridor can't be limited to Sikhs, as Punjab Chief Minister urged Pakistan to waive the requirement of a passport "to all citizens of secular India" and not just to Sikhs.
- Any person who believes in Guru Nanak and follows his teachings in life, **irrespective of belonging to any religion** is a **Nanak Naam Lewa or a Nanakpanthi**.
- During his four **Udaasis** (travels), Guru Nanak had spread the message of oneness and people from different faiths had become his followers.
- Nanak simply cannot be limited to just one religion (Sikhism) because the core value of his philosophy is,

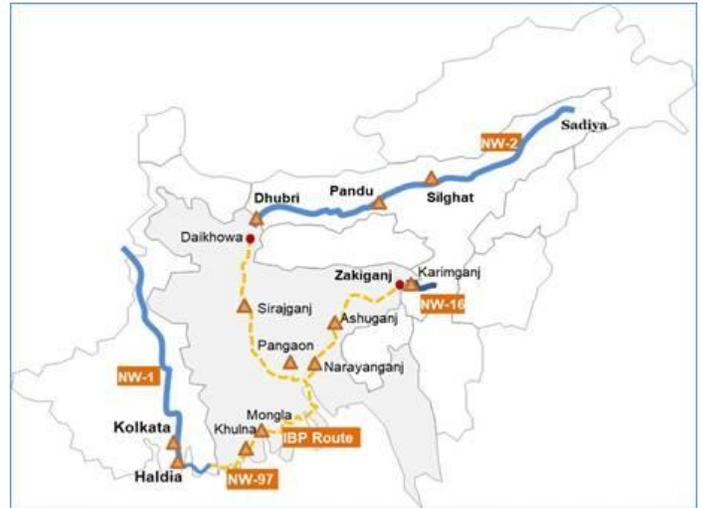
1. **"Sabhna jiya ka ik daata"** (There is only one giver of life, one God) and

2. **"Na koi Hindu, na Musalman"** (There is no Hindu, no Muslim).

- The syncretic faith of the '**Nanakpanthi**' communities continues to be practiced in the Indus belt.
- They do not have a defining line drawn between cultures and faiths.
- People might identify them as Hindus or Sikhs, but Guru Nanak is the essential fabric of their existence.

3. d

- **Sadiya-Dhubri stretch** of the river Brahmaputra (891 Km) is declared as National Waterway 2.
- Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (1620 Km) is declared as National Waterway 1.



4. b

- The Indian Army, which began inducting the indigenously upgraded **Dhanush artillery guns**, will have the first regiment in place by March 2020.
- It is an **indigenously developed artillery gun** and upgraded version of the Swedish Bofors gun procured by India.
- It is compatible with all North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) 155mm ammunition systems.
- It is also referred to as **Desi Bofors** developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and manufactured by Jabalpur-based Gun Carriage Factory (GCF).

5. d

- **Lingdum Monastery** is a Buddhist pilgrimage center following the **Zurmang Kagyu sect** of the ancient school of Tibetan Buddhism.
- It is under the spiritual direction of H. E. Zurmang Gharwang Rinpoche, who is the 12th successive successor of the Kagyu sect.
- *President Ram Nath Kovind recently visited Lingdum monastery in Ranka, Sikkim.*

6. a

- German Chancellor Angela Merkel has recently said her country will spend 1 billion euros (\$1.12 billion) on green urban mobility projects conceived under the new **German-Indian partnership**.

- This will be over a **five-year period**.
 - The funds will be used to finance several **environment friendly projects** such as the introduction of electric buses to replace the ones running on diesel for public transport in urban centres.
 - She also said, both the countries will earmark 200 million Euros to reform bus sector in **Tamil Nadu**.
7. b
- **NEO Surveillance Mission** is a planned space-based telescope to search for near-Earth asteroids under development by **NASA**.
 - The Jet Propulsion Laboratory will lead development of the mission under NASA's planetary defence program.
 - NEO Surveillance Mission is based on the NEOCam mission that was a finalist in the previous competition for Discovery-class planetary science missions.
 - Launch is planned no earlier than 2025.
8. a
- The first-ever **India-Uzbekistan** joint military exercise - **Dustlik-2019** will begin at Chirchiq Training Area near Tashkent.
 - The exercise will focused on counter-terrorism.
 - The exercise will enable sharing of best practices and experiences between the Armed Forces of the two countries and will lead to greater operational effectiveness.
9. a
- Union Home Minister will inaugurate the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue -SCOJtEx-2019 in New Delhi.
 - **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** is hosting the event.
 - The aim of the exercise is to rehearse the disaster response mechanism, share knowledge, experience and technology for mutual coordination.
 - This stimulation exercise will also provide an opportunity to enhance the coordination and co-operation involving multi-agency operations in an earthquake scenario.
- The main focus of Joint Exercise on Urban will be to test the region's preparedness and resilience towards effective activation of Inter-governmental interaction for immediate response.
 - **All the eight-member countries** of SCO namely China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will participate in this exercise.
10. c
- Recently China approves first new Alzheimer's Drug '**Oligomannate (GV-971)**' in 17 Years.
 - Oligomannate, which **uses extract from marine brown algae** as raw material, received a green light to treat mild-to-moderate level AD.
 - **Tau** is a protein found in the brain, but under certain conditions, it will clump together into tangles that injure nearby tissue and may lead to cognitive decline.
 - **Tau** occurs in tangled formations in the brain of Alzheimer patients, disrupts the ability of neurons to communicate with one another in the brain.
- 05-11-2019**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Brown Blotched Bengal Tree Frog**
1. It is commonly found in the deep jungles of the state of West Bengal.
 2. It belonged to the genus Polypedates and its body colour is yellowish-brown to greenish-brown.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?
- a. 1 only
 - b. 2 only
 - c. Both 1 and 2
 - d. Neither 1 nor 2
- 2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Drukpa Order**
1. Drukpa Lineage is a Buddhist tradition that began in the Himalayas.

2. The founder of the Drukpa order flouted centuries of Buddhist tradition that barred nuns from physical exercise.

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 *Gaofen-7* which was in news recently

- It is an optical satellite for mapping purposes, surveying, and Geoinformation.
- It was launched by The Roscosmos.

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

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

4) *ICEDASH* and *ATITHI* which was in news is related to?

- To nurture entrepreneurship and create business models for low cost products
- A desi version e-commerce marketing platform
- For improved monitoring and pace of Customs clearance of imported goods
- Online portal for income certificate

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Aadi Mahotsav*

- It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
- The theme of the festival is “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce”.

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

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

6) *Danakil Depression* which was in news recently is located in?

- Ethiopia
- Sudan
- Mali
- Eritrea

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)*

- It is an inter-governmental organization aims to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.
- Its member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The 14th meeting of the SACEP Governing Council was held in March 2018 in Colombo.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Dark Matter*

- The presence of dark matter is indicated by its gravitational effects on visible bodies.
- Ninety per cent of our Milky Way galaxy is made up of this visible dark matter.

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

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

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

- By itself, the virus is a lifeless particle.
- It reproduces very fast in the cell it has invaded.
- It consists of an outer coat of protein and an inner core of either DNA or RNA or both.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Predatory Pricing*

- It is specifically defined as sale of goods or services at a price below the cost of production, with a view to reduce or eliminate competition.
- India does not have any legislation on what constitutes predatory pricing.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- Bengal's cities yield new species of tree frog.

- These tree frogs were found **commonly** in **urban habitats** of West Bengal.
- Specimens were not discovered from deep jungles but from residential areas in two districts of West Bengal.
- It was established that the mid-sized tree frog as the 26th species under the genus Polypedates, found throughout south and southeast Asia.
- The new species has been named Brown Blotched Bengal Tree Frog (Polypedates bengalensis) from the series of six to nine dark brown blotches that extend laterally from behind the frog's eye to the vent.
- The frog's body colour is **yellowish-brown to greenish-brown**.

2. c

- Recently, Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture congratulates the **Kung Fu Nuns** for receiving Asia Society's 'Game Changer Award' for their heroic human rights activism
- The **Kung Fu Nuns** of the **Drukpa Order** are the fearless daughters of India who represent a **new generation of Buddhists** using spirituality to inspire real-life action & impact.
- They are a strong community of 700 nuns and growing, with a thousand year-old **Drukpa legacy**.
- They belong to the **Drukpa Lineage**, a thousand-year-old **Buddhist tradition** that **began in the Himalayas**.
- The **Gyalwang Drukpa**, the spiritual leader and founder of the Drukpa order, encouraged his nuns to train in Kung Fu to build confidence as leaders.
- In doing so, **he flouted centuries of Buddhist tradition** that barred nuns from physical exercise.
- They are the "only Buddhist nuns" in the world to practice KungFu.
- The nuns use their martial arts expertise to challenge gender roles in India's conservative culture.

3. a
- **Gaofen 7** is a a **new remote sensing satellite for mapping purposes** for National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China (NASMG).
 - It was launched by **China** National Space Administration (CNSA).
 - The new satellite was developed by the 'Chinese Academy of Aerospace Science and Technology Group'.
 - The development of the Gaofen-7 has achieved a breakthrough in sub-meter level **3D mapping camera technology**, meeting the highest mapping accuracy requirement among the Gaofen series Earth observation satellites.
4. c
- Finance Minister Launches two new IT Initiatives, **ICEDASH & ATITHI**.
 - It is for **improved monitoring and pace of Customs clearance of imported goods** and facilitating arriving international passengers
 - **ICEDASH**, Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs helping public see the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo
 - **ATITHI**, Easy to use mobile app for international travelers to file the Customs declaration in advance.
 - Passengers can use this app to file declaration of dutiable items and currency with the Indian Customs even before boarding the flight to India.
 - This dashboard has been developed by CBIC in collaboration with NIC.
5. d
- The Delhi Aadi Mahotsav will be organised at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi between 16th to 30th November, 2019.
 - It is a **joint initiative** of **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**).
 - The **theme** of the festival is "A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce", which represents the basic ethos of tribal life.
6. a
- The festival, will feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more.
6. a
- The Danakil Depression in northeastern **Ethiopia** is one of the world's hottest places, as well as one of its lowest, at 100 metres below sea level.
 - A new study published in 'Nature Ecology & Evolution', says that active and naturally occurring life cannot be sustained at Danakil.
 - It identifies two barriers for life,
 1. Magnesium-dominated brines that cause cells to break down
 2. An environment having simultaneously very low pH and high salt, a combination that makes adaptation highly difficult.
 - At the northern end of the Great Rift Valley, and separated by live volcanoes from the Red Sea, the plain was formed by the evaporation of an inland water body.
 - All the water entering Danakil evaporates, and no streams flow out from its extreme environment. It is covered with more than 10 lakh tonnes of salt.
7. d
- It is an inter-governmental organization which was established in 1982.
 - Its member countries **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**.
 - It aims to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.
 - The 14th meeting of the SACEP Governing Council was held in March last year in **Colombo**.
8. b
- It is now believed that there exists more matter in the Universe than is visible to us as stars, nebulae, galaxies etc.

- The matter that astronomers believe exists but which they have not been able to detect is known as dark matter.
- The presence of dark matter is indicated by its **gravitational effects on visible bodies** so though it has mass, nobody yet knows what it is made up of.
- Ninety per cent of our own galaxy, the Milky Way is believed to be made up of this **invisible** matter.

9. d

- By itself, the virus is a **lifeless particle** consisting of an outer coat of protein and an inner core of either DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) or RNA (ribonucleic acid) or both.
- It lacks some of the substances needed by an organism to live and reproduce on its own.
- So in that sense it is not a living thing.
- However, when it enters a living cell it uses the genes of the cell it has invaded to reproduce.
- It comes alive, so to say when it has parasitized a living cell.
- It reproduces very fast in the cell it has invaded.
- In less than half an hour it produces about 200 copies of itself.
- These new viruses break out of the cell and each of them latch on to an adjoining cell and reproduce and in a short while there are thousands of the viruses of that particular kind in that part of the host's body.

10. a

- Predatory pricing is a strategy whereby a Goliath in an industry with deep pockets prices its goods or services at rock-bottom levels, so that no rivals can compete with it.
- Once everyone else runs up huge losses and is forced out of the business, the Goliath makes hay by withdrawing the freebies and fleecing consumers.
- In India, the Competition Act of 2002 lays down the ground-rules on what constitutes predatory pricing.

- 'Predatory pricing' figures in the section on abuse of dominant position by a market player.
- It expressly forbids any enterprise or group from 'abusing its dominant position' in the market, either by imposing unfair conditions or an unfair and discriminatory price — including predatory price — resulting in denial of market access.
- Predatory price is specifically defined as **sale or goods or services at a price below the cost of production, with a view to reduce or eliminate competition.**

06-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Wastelands Atlas - 2019*

- 1. It is the fifth edition of *Wastelands Atlas* which provides robust geospatial information on wasteland.**
- 2. It also provides State and district wise distribution of different categories of wastelands area in the country.**
- 3. It is published jointly by the Department of Land Resources and National Remote Sensing Centre.**

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

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

2) *National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)* is headed by?

- Prime Minister
- Cabinet Secretary
- Union Home Minister
- Union Defence Minister

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Deep Ocean Mission*

1. It will help India harness various living and non-living (water, mineral and energy) resources from the seabed and deep water.
2. Under the Mission, India will also study climate change in the deep oceans.
3. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is the nodal agency for the mission.

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

1. It is also called as tannumai.
2. It is considered to be the most melodious and auspicious percussion instrument among all the Avanaddha Vadyas.
3. Indian Vice President has recently released a Monograph about this instrument.

Identify the instrument that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Mridangam
- b. Shehnai
- c. Kamaicha
- d. Pullankuzhal

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *RCEP agreement*

1. It is a proposed free-trade agreement among 10 APEC countries and Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and Korea.
2. India has recently signed this agreement.

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

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

6) Consider the following statement with respect to *Trade deficit*

1. It represents an outflow of domestic currency to foreign markets.
2. Depreciation of a currency may improves the trade balance.

Which of 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 *First Battle Of Panipat (1526)*

1. The 'Tulughma' and the 'Araba' are the war tactics followed by Babur.
2. It introduced gunpowder firearms and field artillery to Indian battlefields.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Voyager 2*

1. It is the first human-made object to leave the heliosphere to enter into the Interstellar medium (ISM).
2. It is the only spacecraft to have visited all four gas giant planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

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

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

9) Consider the following

- Accounting and Finance
- Communications
- Legal
- Health & Wellness
- Environment

Which of these comes under Champion Sectors in Services?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Bru Tribes or Riang

- They are one of the a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
- They follow a traditional life patterns includes shifting cultivation, use of primitive tools, habitation in inaccessible areas.

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

- Agriculture Minister releases 5th edition of *Wastelands Atlas – 2019*.

- The Atlas, published jointly by **Department of Land Resources and National Remote Sensing Centre**, provides robust geospatial information on wasteland.
- It is helpful in rolling back the wastelands for productive use through various land development programmes and schemes.
- Wastelands Atlas-2019 also provides State and district wise distribution of different categories of wastelands area in the country and will be helpful in addressing land degradation.

2. b

3. d

- The design for the manned submersible's sphere has been successfully developed by ISRO recently.
- The submersible vehicle is expected to travel to a depth of approximately 6,000 metres under the sea for various studies, whereas submarines can reach only about 200 metres.
- This initiative is a part of the **Deep Ocean Mission**.
- As part of the ambitious Rs 10,000 crore Deep Ocean Mission, India will also study climate change in the deep oceans.
- Studying climate change, marine biodiversity and survey for compounds like hydrocarbons and minerals are part of the deep ocean mission.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** is the Nodal Agency for this mission.
- The mission proposes to explore the deep ocean similar to the space exploration started by ISRO.
- Underwater robotics and 'manned' submersibles are key components of the Mission which will help India harness various living and non-living (water, mineral and energy) resources from the seabed and deep water.

4. a

- Indian Vice President has recently released the Monograph on mridangam: "**Musical Excellence of Mridangam**"

5. d

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a trade deal that is currently under negotiation among 16 countries — the 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the six countries with which the ASEAN bloc has free trade agreements (FTA).
- India has **decided recently to not join** the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement over India's concerns not being addressed in the deal.

6. c

- A **trade deficit** of a country shows the difference between what it earns from its exports and what it pays for its imports.
- If this number is in negative, that is, the total value of goods imported is more than the total value of goods exported by the country, then it is referred to as a **“trade deficit”**.
- **Depreciation of a currency, a weaker currency** makes imports more expensive and exports cheaper and it **may** improve the trade balance.

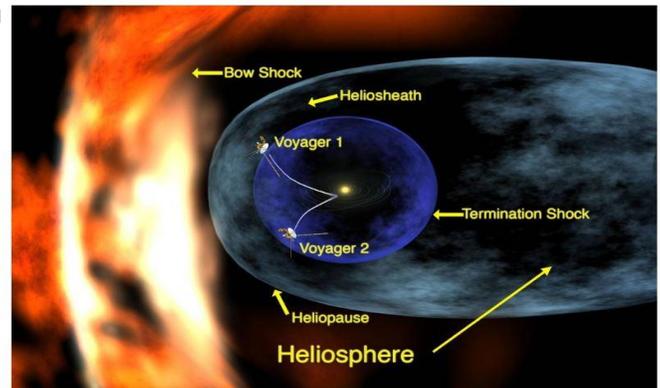
7. d

- The First Battle of Panipat was fought between the invading forces of Babur and the Lodi Empire, which took place on 21 April 1526.
 - It marked the beginning of the Mughal Empire.
 - Mughal forces of Babur, the Timurid ruler of Kabulistan, defeated the much larger ruling army of Ibrahim Lodi, Sultan of Delhi.
 - The **new war tactics introduced by Babur** were the **“Tulughma”** and the **“Araba”**.
 - Tulughma meant dividing the whole army into various units, viz. the Left, the Right and the Centre.
1. The Left and Right divisions were further subdivided into Forward and Rear divisions.
 - The Centre Forward division was then provided with carts (**Araba**) which were placed in rows facing the enemy and tied to each other with animal hide ropes.
 - Behind them were placed cannons protected and supported by mantelets which could be

used to easily manoeuvre the canons. These two tactics made Babur's artillery lethal.

8. b

- NASA's Voyager 2 spacecraft has crossed the elusive boundary that marks the edge of the Sun's realm and the start of Interstellar space (ISM).
- This makes **Voyager 2 the second human-made object** to journey out of the Sun's influence, following the US space agency's **Voyager 1's solar exit in 2012**.
- **Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft to have visited all four gas giant planets - Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.**
- It also discovered 16 moons, the phenomena like Neptune's mysteriously transient Great Dark Spot, the cracks in Europa's ice shell, and ring features at every planet.
- Voyager 1 visited and got gravity assists from Jupiter and Saturn before heading off toward the edge of the solar system.
- Voyager 2 swung past Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, and Uranus.



Caption: Artist's impression of the structure of the heliosphere. | Credit: NASA

9. d

- Recently, 5th Global Exhibition on Services (**GES**) was launched in New Delhi.
- The event is organised by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Services Export Promotion Council and the Confederation of Indian Industry.
- This initiative will enhance the competitiveness of India's service sectors

through the implementation of focused and monitored Action Plans.

- The **objective** is to give focused attention to the following **12 identified Champion Services Sectors** for promoting their development and realizing their potential:

1. IT & ITES
2. Tourism and Hospitality Services,
3. Accounting & Finance
4. Infra & Construction
5. Transport & Logistics
6. Communications
7. Education
8. Media & Entertainment
9. Health & Wellness
10. Legal
11. Banking, Financial & Insurance
12. Environment.

- Boosting these **12 champion sectors** will help in pushing overall economic growth and job creation.

10. c

- The Brus, also called Reangs, are scattered across Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.
- Recognised by the Constitution of India as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)
- PVTG status owing to their traditional life patterns (shifting cultivation, use of primitive tools, habitation in inaccessible areas)
- The Centre and the state governments of Tripura and Mizoram has signed an agreement for repatriation of Bru community from Tripura to Mizoram.

07-11-2019

1) Consider the following statement with respect to *Paris Agreement*

1. All the signatory parties formally ratified the agreement.

2. Article 28 of the agreement enables parties to withdraw from the agreement with immediate effect.

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

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

2) *Tapan Ray Committee* sometimes seen in the news is,

- a. To revamp the he FPI regime
- b. To spell out revival plans for Telecom sector
- c. To review the supervisory framework for Core Investment Companies
- d. To set guidelines for transfer of RBI's surplus funds to government

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mission Innovation (MI)*

1. It is a global initiative working to accelerate clean energy innovation.
2. India is a founding member and a steering committee member.

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

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

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

1. At 95% purity, ethanol is used for blending with petrol.
2. Ethanol Blended Petrol releases fewer emissions into the environment and is considered cleaner in nature.



3. The new Biofuel Policy 2018 has fixed a target of achieving 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2030.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2' (CHACE-2)

1. It is a Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer (QMA) capable of scanning the lunar neutral exosphere.
2. Its primary objective is to carry out an in-situ study of the composition and distribution of the lunar neutral exosphere.

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 *IndAIR*

1. It is India's first interactive online repository that aims to make air quality research available to everyone.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

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 *Harmonized System (HS) Code*

1. It is a six digit identification code used by customs officers to clear every commodity that enters or crosses any state borders within India.
2. It was developed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Shala Darpan portal*

1. It is an end to end e-Governance school automation and management system for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS).
2. It was launched by Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD).

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

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

9) *Fordow Nuclear Plant* sometimes seen in the news recently was located in which of the following countries?

- Iran
- Russia
- China
- Saudi Arabia

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Freedom on the Net' (FoTN) Report, 2019*

1. India was among the worst 10 countries in world for internet, digital media freedom according to the report.
2. It was published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

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

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

Answers

1. d

- At COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change.
- There are **197 signatories** to the Paris Agreement. But **10 nations remain yet to ratify**, including two major emitters.
- As of October 2019, the **countries yet to formally ratify** the agreement are Angola, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, South Sudan, Turkey, and Yemen.
- **Article 28** of the agreement enables parties to withdraw from the agreement,

1. At any time after three years from the date on which this Agreement has entered into force for a Party, that Party may withdraw from this Agreement by giving written notification to the Depositary.
2. Any such withdrawal shall **take effect upon expiry of one year from the date of receipt** by the Depositary of the notification of withdrawal, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification of withdrawal.
3. Any Party that withdraws from the Convention shall be considered as also having withdrawn from this Agreement.

2. c

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a working Committee **to review the regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework applicable for core investment companies (CIC)**.
- Recently the Committee suggested norms for CICs.
- The panel advices to limit CIC to two levels is another reform for better financing arrangement.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **All core investment companies (CICs)** must have a risk management committee
- **Constitution of audit/NRC committees** should be mandatory
- **CIC's contribution in step-down CIC**, over and above 10% of its owned funds, should be deducted from adjusted net worth
- **Annual submission** of statutory auditor certificates may be mandated
- **Onsite inspection of CICs** be conducted periodically

3. c

- Recently Indian government launched the **Mission Innovation (MI) Face to Face meeting of Innovation Challenges (IC)**.
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Ministry of Science & Technology is nodal agency coordinating and steering activities of Mission Innovation (**MI**) in India.
- **Mission Innovation is a global initiative** working to accelerate clean energy innovation.
- It was launched on 30 November 2015 by 20 countries during **COP-21**.

- **MI** currently comprises of **24-member countries** and the European Commission.
- The main **objective** of **MI** is to identify major gap areas in Clean Energy Innovation and how to address the issues beyond 2020 to make MI more impactful.
- India is one of the three countries responsible for crystalizing the idea of global initiative.
- Being a **founding member** and as **steering committee member**, **India** has played an active role in all Mission Innovation activities.

4.b

- Recently, Ministry of Environment and Forests announced that mills would not require separate environmental clearance to produce additional ethanol from B-heavy molasses.
- At **95% purity**, it is called **rectified spirit** and is used as the intoxicating ingredient in alcoholic beverages.
- At **99%-plus purity**, ethanol is used for **blending with petrol**.
- Using ethanol fuel to power automobiles results in significantly low levels of toxins in the environment.
- For environmental purposes, ethanol is less harmful than unblended gasoline. Carbon monoxide production from ethanol fuel is significantly lower.
- The current consumption of fuel sets 3300 million litres of ethanol requirement to achieve **10% of blending target by 2022**.
- The **National Policy on Biofuels-2018** sets ambitious **target of 20%** in blending by **2030**.

5. c

- Recently, **Chandrayaan-2** has detected '**Argon-40**' in the lunar exosphere with the help of **CHACE-2**.
- The Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2 (**CHACE-2**) payload aboard the **Chandrayaan-2** orbiter.
- It is a **neutral mass spectrometer-based payload** which can detect constituents in the

lunar neutral exosphere in the range of 1-300 amu (atomic mass unit).

- Its **primary objective** is to carry out an in-situ study of the composition and distribution of the lunar neutral exosphere and its variability.
- Argon-40 also known as **40Ar** is an isotope of the noble gas Argon. Argon is third most abundant gas in the Earth's Atmosphere.
- ISRO states that **40Ar** is a major constituent of the lunar exosphere.
- **40Ar** is a condensable gas and reacts differently at various temperatures and pressures.
- It condenses during lunar night and after lunar dawn, the gas then again starts getting released to the lunar exosphere.

6. a

- The **National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)** along with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** has launched India's first web repository documenting air quality studies done in the last 60 years.
- The **Indian Air quality Interactive Repository (IndAIR)** has archived approximately 700 scanned materials from pre-Internet era (1950-1999), 1,215 research articles, 170 reports and case studies and 100 cases, to provide the history of air pollution research and legislation.
- Such a repository on air pollution is one of the first in the world.

7. d

- HS Stands for **Harmonized System** and it is a **six digit identification code**.
- It was developed by the **WCO (World Customs Organization)** and custom officers use HS Code to clear every commodity that enters or crosses **any international border**.
- *In a move to give impetus to the export of Khadi, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently allocated a separate Harmonized System (HS) code for this fabric.*

- Allocation of HS code to the khadi will help the government to plan the export strategies effectively.
 - Earlier, Khadi did not have exclusive HS code and all the export data regarding this fabric used to come under the normal fabric head.
8. c
- **ShaalaDarpan** is an end to end e-Governance school automation and management system for **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)**.
 - This single integrated platform has been developed for information sharing and knowledge dissemination for the 22000 employees and over 2 lakh students across schools and offices of NavodayaVidyalayaSamiti.
 - It has been implemented at Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti as the first major initiative to enable automation of all activities of the country's largest residential schooling system through a single umbrella - 636 schools, 8 Regional Offices, 8 NLI and Head Quarter.
 - The best part is this portal has been designed from **OPEN SOURCE TECHNOLOGY** and hence the cost incurred was very low and updation cost in future will remain low.
 - The Navodaya Vidyalayas are co-educational residential schools established by the **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti** which is an **autonomous organization under MHRD** to provide quality modern education.
9. a
- **Iran** has recently stepped up activity at its underground **Fordow nuclear plant**.
 - With the presence of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran started injecting uranium gas into centrifuges in Fordow, state television reported.
 - French President Emmanuel Macron called Iran's latest move 'grave', saying it explicitly signalled Iran's intent for the first time to leave the deal - formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.
- Iran insists that the latest move is not a violation of the nuclear deal, but is based on the Articles 26 and 36 of the agreement.
10. d
- **Pakistan** is among the worst 10 countries in the world for internet and digital media freedom, according to a report '**Freedom on the Net**' (FoTN) for the year 2019 released by the **Freedom House**, an international internet rights group.
 - The report titled 'The Crisis of Social Media', recording an overall decline in global internet freedom between June 2018 and May 2019.
 - The watchdog in its report placed Pakistan at 26, out of 100, one place down from last year's ranking.
 - **India scores 55 out of 100** and listed under the category of "**Partly Free Countries**".

08-11-2019

1) The Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS) sometimes seen in the news recently is a planned defence logistics pact between India and?

- a. USA
- b. Israel
- c. Japan
- d. Russia

2) Consider the following statements with respect to India Justice Report 2019

- 1. It is the first ever ranking of Indian States based on justice delivery released by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
- 2. The report has been prepared based on the four pillars of justice delivery — police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.**
- 3. Maharashtra has topped the list of 18 large-medium States in the overall ranking.**

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

3) “India Internet 2019 Report” sometimes seen in the news recently was released by?

- a. Google
- b. Facebook
- c. Internet and Mobile Association of India
- d. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)*

1. It is a serious ailment that prevents normal breathing function.
2. According to the National Health Profile, 2019 released recently, ARI accounted for more than half of mortality in the communicable disease category.

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

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

5) With respect to *Documentation Identification Number (DIN) system* sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to bring transparency and accountability in the indirect tax administration through widespread use of information technology.
2. It was launched by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC).
3. The Government has already executed the DIN system in the direct tax administration.

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 statement with respect to ‘Financial Stability and Development Council’ (FSDC)

1. It is an apex-level statutory body to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability.
2. The FSDC sub-committee is chaired by the Governor of RBI.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the Feni river

1. It is a trans-boundary river originates in the Meghalaya, flows through Tripura and then enters Bangladesh.
2. India and Bangladesh signed an MoU for a drinking water supply scheme for Sabroom town in Tripura.

Which of 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) Samudra Shakti is a joint Naval Exercise between

- India - Indonesia
- India –France
- India – Saudi Arabia
- India – Malaysia

9) Zero Carbon Bill which was in news recently was passed by which country?

- Latvia
- Bhutan
- Denmark
- New Zealand

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Fall Armyworm (FAW)

- It is an insect that is native to Indian subcontinent.
- It affects Maize crop only.

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

- India and Russia** are expected to conclude a mutual logistics agreement **The Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)**.
- ARLS** is an arrangement that will allow access to **India and Russia**, to each other's military facilities for supplies and fuel, expanding the logistics support and operational turnaround of the Indian military.
- This will be especially beneficial for the Indian Navy, which has a large number of Russian origin ships, which will get access to Russian ports for supplies and refueling.

- It would be crucial for joint exercises.
- The air force too will benefit by finding it easier to deploy aircraft for the same purpose.
- This access will also be for ports in the Russian part of the Arctic, allowing access to energy resources there.
- Russia, on the other hand, will be able to access Indian ports and air bases.
- Russia has also assured India access to energy resources in the vast Arctic region.
- India has a **similar arrangement with the US** called the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (LEMOA)**, signed between the two countries in August 2016.

2. c

- According to the **India Justice Report 2019** released recently by the **Tata Trusts** in collaboration with **Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative**, among others, **Maharashtra** has topped the list of 18 large-medium States in the overall first-ever ranking of Indian States on justice delivery, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana.
- In this category, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at the bottom, while among the list of seven smaller States, Goa leads the group.
- The report has been prepared based on publicly available data of different government entities on the four pillars of justice delivery — **police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid**.

3. c

- According to the report, titled '**India Internet 2019**,' released by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), Kerala's Internet penetration rate is the second highest in the country (54%), next only to Delhi NCR with 69% penetration.
- The Internet penetration rate (defined as **number of individuals aged above 12 per 100 population who accessed the Internet in the last month**; survey period January-March 2019) was the lowest in Odisha (25), Jharkhand (26) and Bihar (28).

4. a
- **Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)** is a serious ailment that prevents normal breathing function and kills an estimated 2.6 million children annually every year worldwide.
 - Indians face the double burden of heavy air pollution in addition to the high rate of ARI which hits children the hardest.
 - National Health Profile – 2019 says that Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) accounted for 69.47% of **morbidity** (poor health) in the communicable disease category leading to 27.21% **mortality** (Loss of Life).
 - ARI is highest in the Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
 - Implications – Polluted air penetrate and inflame the linings of bronchial tubes and lungs.
 - This leads to respiratory illness such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, heart disease, asthma, wheezing, coughing and difficulty in breathing.
 - It poses a high risk to pregnant women and the baby.
 - The foetus receiving polluted air from mother can increase health risk of unborn babies.
 - In pregnant women, it can cause a medical condition called intrauterine inflammation.
- 5.d
- The **Documentation Identification Number (DIN)** system of **Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC)** has come into existence recently.
 - Now, any CBIC communication will have to have a Documentation Identification Number.
 - It is aimed at bringing transparency and accountability in the indirect tax administration through widespread use of information technology.
 - The Government has **already executed** the DIN system in the **direct tax administration**.
6. b
- Recently, the **Finance Minister chairs** 21st Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (**FSDC**).
 - The Council reviewed the current global and domestic macro-economic situation and financial stability and vulnerabilities issues, including inter-alia, those concerning NBFCs and Credit Rating Agencies.
 - It is an apex level **autonomous** body to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability.
 - It is **not a statutory body** and **no separate funds** have been allocated for the council to undertake its activities.
 - Its members include -
 1. The heads of financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, and IRDA)
 2. Finance Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
 3. Secretary, Department of Financial Services
 4. Chief Economic Adviser
 5. Chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board
 - It focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.
 - The **FSDC sub-committee is chaired by the Governor of RBI**.
7. b
- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved an MoU between India and Bangladesh on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs of water from the Feni river by India for a drinking water supply scheme for Sabroom town in Tripura.
 - The Feni river, which forms part of the India-Bangladesh border, **originates in the South Tripura district**, passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh.
 - In Tripura, a 150-metre long, 4-lane bridge across the Feni is being built between India and Bangladesh, where the river forms the border between the two countries.

- Once ready, it would connect Tripura with Chittagong port in Bangladesh, which is only 70 km away from the Indo-Bangla border.
- It would play an important role in the proposed economic corridor through India, Bangladesh, China and Myanmar.

8. a

- The **Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy** Bilateral Maritime Exercise ‘Samudra Shakti’ Progresses in the Bay of Bengal.
- **INS Kamorta**, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette is jointly exercising with Indonesian Warship KRI Usman Harun, a multi-role Corvette.

9. d

- **New Zealand** passed historic climate legislation to reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2050 and meet its commitments under the Paris climate accords.
- **Zero Carbon Bill** will preserve a new 2050 greenhouse gas reduction target into law and require that future governments have plans to meet the target.
- Environment groups around the world are applauding the island country of nearly five million people.

10. d

- Recently, proper precaution and timely management by the state agriculture department have succeeded in thwarting an attack by the **Fall Armyworm (FAW)** on maize crop in Odisha.
- The **Fall Armyworm (FAW)**, or *Spodoptera frugiperda*, is an insect that is **native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas**.
- In the absence of natural control or good management, it can cause significant damage to crops.
- It **prefers maize, but can feed on more than 80 additional species** of crops, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton.
- FAW was **first detected in Central and Western Africa** in early 2016.

- It has quickly spread across virtually all of Sub-Saharan Africa. In **July 2018 it was confirmed in India and Yemen**.
- In India it was reported for the first-time in Karnataka.

09-11-2019

1) Consider the following statement with respect to ‘Special Protection Group’ (SPG)

1. **Cabinet secretariat of India is the governing body of SPG.**
2. **Every member of the Group shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Maternal mortality ratio (MMR)

1. **It is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy.**
2. **SDG sets the global MMR target of less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.**
3. **Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu only have already met the SDG target.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



3) Consider the following statements with respect to Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)

1. Section 7A of the OCI card rules states that an applicant is not eligible for the OCI card if he, his parents or grandparents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or Sri Lanka.
2. OCI does not confer political rights.
3. They are exempted from registering with Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) no matter how long their stay.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Cloud seeding technology

1. It is a kind of a weather modification technology to create new clouds.
2. It induce moisture in the clouds so as to cause a rainfall.

Which of 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 Ozone

1. It is found only in the stratosphere.
2. The Cartagena Protocol is the landmark multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the production and consumption of chemicals referred to as ozone depleting substances (ODS).
3. Ozone depletion is not limited to the area over the South Pole.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ber Sahib Gurudwara*

1. It is located in Sultanpur Lodhi in the state of Punjab.
2. It is the place where Guru Nanak Dev spent more than 14 years of his life and attained enlightenment under a peepal tree.

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

- a. Regional Music
- b. Hindustani Music
- c. Carnatic Classical Music
- d. Musical Instrument

8) With respect to *Temporary Protected Status (TPS)* sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a temporary status given to eligible nationals of designated countries who are present in the United Kingdom (U.K).
2. It was initially meant to aid people from countries facing wars or natural disasters.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)*

1. It is an inter-governmental organisation of 22 coastal countries bordering the Indian Ocean, as well as 9 dialogue partners.
2. China and India is the largest contributor to the IORA Special Fund.
3. IORA Council of Ministers is the apex body which consists of the foreign ministers of member states.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Steel Scrap Recycling Policy*

1. It was issued by the Ministry of Steel.
2. It aims to promote circular economy in the steel sector.
3. The target of the policy is to minimise the dependency on imports.

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

1. c

- The Centre has decided to withdraw Special Protection Group (SPG) security cover to the Gandhi family.
- The **Special Protection Group (SPG)** was raised in 1985 with the intention to provide proximate security cover to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members.
- The Special Protection Group Act, 1988 was constituted to provide regulation of an armed force and so **SPG** is a **statutory body**.
- The general superintendence, direction and control of the SPG is exercised by the Central Government and **Cabinet secretariat** acts as the **governing body of SPG**.
- No member of the Group shall be at liberty,
 1. to resign his appointment during the terms of his engagement; or
 2. to withdraw himself from all or any of the duties of his appointment,
 3. except with the previous permission in writing of the prescribed authority.
- Every member of the Group shall **hold office** during the **pleasure of the President**.

2. d

- Recently released 'Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2015-2017' of the Sample Registration System states that India registers 26.9% decline in Maternal Mortality Rate since 2013.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births due to causes related to pregnancy or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, regardless of the site or duration of pregnancy.
- **SDG 3-** Health target states that **by 2030**, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to **less than 70** per 100 000 live births.
- Assam recorded the highest MMR 229 maternal deaths.
- Uttar Pradesh (216), Madhya Pradesh (188), Rajasthan (186), Odisha (168), Bihar (165) and Chhattisgarh (141) follows the list.

Answers



- **Kerala** has the lowest MMR, at 42. It is followed by **Maharashtra** (55), **Tamil Nadu** (63). They have **already met the SDG target of 70** per 100,000 MMR,
 - Andhra Pradesh (74), Jharkhand (76) and Telangana (76) are within striking distance.
3. b
- Recently government has revoked author Aatish Taseer's Overseas Citizen of India card.
 - According to **Section 7A of the OCI** card rules, an applicant is **not eligible** for the OCI card if he, his parents or grandparents have ever been a citizen of **Pakistan or Bangladesh**.
 - OCI is not to be misconstrued as 'dual citizenship'. **OCI does not confer political rights**.
 - OCI cardholders **can enter India multiple times**, get a multipurpose **lifelong visa** to visit India.
 - They are **exempt from registering** with Foreigners Regional Registration Office (**FRRO**) no matter how long their stay.
 - If an individual is registered as an OCI for a period of five years, he/she are eligible to apply for Indian citizenship.
4. b
- Recently, Haryana Deputy CM has written to PM requesting him to undertake cloud seeding plan to combat the air pollution engulfing Delhi and NCR.
 - Cloud seeding is a kind of a weather modification technology to **create artificial 'rainfall'**.
 - It **works only when there is enough pre-existing clouds** in the atmosphere.
 - It is an **artificial way to induce moisture in the clouds** so as to cause a rainfall. **It does not create new clouds**.
 - In this process, either **silver iodide or dry ice** is dumped onto the clouds by using an aircraft or an artillery gun which leads to a rain shower.
5. c
- It has been reported that the annual ozone hole over the Antarctic has been found to be at its smallest since the 1980s.
 - Ozone (chemically, a molecule of three oxygen atoms) is found mainly in the upper atmosphere, an area called stratosphere, between 10 and 50 km from the earth's surface.
 - About **90%** of total **ozone** in the atmosphere is in the **stratosphere**, and 10% is in the **troposphere**.
 - The **Montreal Protocol** on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is the landmark multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made chemicals referred to as **ozone depleting substances (ODS)**.
 - The **ozone depletion is not limited to** the area over the **South Pole (Antarctica)**.
 - Research has shown that ozone depletion occurs over the latitudes that include North America, Europe, Asia, and much of Africa, Australia, and South America.
6. a
- PM Modi recently visited *Ber Sahib Gurudwara* where he visited the **Ber tree** under which Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji is said to have meditated for over 14 years.
7. b
- Dhrupad is a musical form in **Hindustani Music**.
 - It emphasis more on strict adherence to raga and systematized arrangement of musical parts.
 - It usually covers themes such as religion, philosophy, devotion and praise of deities, patrons and celebration of seasons.
8. a
- **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** was initially meant to aid people from countries facing **wars or natural disasters**.
 - Citizens of Honduras were originally granted TPS in 1999 in the wake of overwhelming damage from Hurricane Mitch, while migrants

from El Salvador and Haiti gained protection in 2001 and 2010 respectively following earthquakes.

- About 400,000 citizens of El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti have been able to stay in the US through Temporary Protected Status (TPS), a protection allowing them to legally live and work in the **United States (US)** typically offered to citizens of countries suffering from natural disasters or armed conflict.

9. b

- IORA is the apex regional organisation of 22 Member States and nine (9) Dialogue Partners, stretching from South Africa in the west, running up the eastern coast of Africa, along the Gulf to South and Southeast Asia, ending with Australia in the east.
- IORA stands committed to work for a peaceful and prosperous Indian Ocean rim.
- The current 22 Member States are: Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- **China** is only a dialogue partner and not a member state.
- **India** is the largest contributor to the IORA Special Fund.
- IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) that meets annually.
- *19th IORA Council of Ministers meeting has recently begun.*
- *The theme is "Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean."*

10. d

- Steel Scrap Recycling Policy was issued recently by the **Ministry of Steel**.
- The policy also aims to promote **circular economy** in the steel sector.
- Promotion of a formal and scientific collection, dismantling and processing activities for end of life products that are sources of recyclable scraps also feature in the policy.

- The policy said that Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the Department of Heavy Industries are working towards 'Extended Producer Responsibility' by requiring the vehicle manufacturers to incentivise scrapping of unfit vehicles in exchange for price discounts for purchase of new vehicles.
- The Policy has aimed setting up an Environmentally Sound Management system for ferrous scrap which can encourage processing & recycling of ferrous scraps through organized and scientific metal scrapping centers across India to **minimize dependency on import of scrap** and make India self-sufficient in scrap availability.
- **The target is to make India a producer of high quality ferrous scrap for quality steel production thus minimising the dependency on imports.**

11-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to MILAN Exercise

- 1. It is a series of multilateral naval exercise commenced in 1995.**
- 2. It will be conducted every year at Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- 3. For the first time, MILAN 2020 will be held on the mainland at Visakhapatnam.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) With respect to English Channel, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world and is a part of the Atlantic Ocean.**

2. It separates the island of Britain from the northern France and joins the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.

d. 1, 2 and 3

Which of 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

- Heliopause is formed by the Sun's magnetic field and solar winds that can reach speeds of three million kilometres per hour.
- Heliosphere is the relatively thin contact boundary where solar wind of charged particles and interstellar wind collide.

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

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

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

- Like humans, orangutans have opposable thumbs.
- Earlier, orangutans were found throughout eastern Asia including Java, China and Laos but now restricted only to islands of Sumatra and Bornea.
- Both the Sumatran and Bornean orangutans are listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red List.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to

Places in News – Country

- Ghumar – Israel
- Al-Baqoura – Jordan

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

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

6) Kalapani a place which was in news recently is located in

- a. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
 b. Nepal
 c. Uttarakhand
 d. Tibet

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Taku glacier

- It is one of the thickest known alpine glaciers in the world.
- It is located in Oceania.

Which of 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 Anemia

- Iron deficiency is thought to be the most common cause of anaemia globally.

2. Anemia Mukht Bharat has the target of reduction in anemia prevalence by one-third of NFHS 4 levels by 202

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Black Hole

- It is a surface in space where gravity pulls so much that even light can not get out.
- It can be seen directly with special Space telescopes.

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 Bioremediation

- It is a process that uses only Bacteria to remove contaminants, pollutants, and toxins from soil and water.
- It is traditionally used to clean oil spills.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- MILAN series of **biennial** a multilateral naval exercise which commenced in **1995**, was conducted at **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) until last year**, is being conducted for the first time on the **mainland at Eastern Naval Command (ENC) Visakhapatnam** with increased scope and complexity of the Exercise.
- MILAN 2020 will be held in **March 2020**.
- MILAN 2020 is aimed to enhance professional interaction between friendly foreign navies and learn from each other's strengths and best practices in the maritime domain.
- The event would also provide an excellent opportunity for Operational Commanders of friendly foreign navies to interact with each other in areas of mutual interest.

2. c



3. c

- Heliosphere** is formed by the Sun's magnetic field and solar winds that can reach speeds of three million kilometres per hour.

- **Heliopause** is the relatively thin contact boundary where solar wind of charged particles and interstellar wind collide.

4. d

- Orangutans are the largest arboreal mammals in the world. They are apes, who are closely related to humans, having 97% of DNA in common.
- Like humans, orangutans have opposable thumbs.
- They prefer to live in swamp forests.
- Unlike other apes and monkeys, orangutans prefer to lead a solitary life.
- Thousands of years ago, orangutans could be found throughout eastern Asia including Java, China and Laos.
- But today, their population is **restricted islands of Sumatra and Bornea**.
- The Sumatran orangutans have a narrow face and longer beard than their Bornean counterparts.
- Both the species were endangered and feature on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List under the **critically endangered category**.
- They are threatened by the loss of habitat, deforestation, climate change and wildfires.

5. b

- Jordan has pulled out of a 25-year-old landmark agreement that allowed Israeli farmers to cultivate in two pieces of agricultural land that was leased by Israel.
- Under the deal, part of the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty, two territories straddling the border were recognised as under **Jordanian sovereignty** but with special provisions allowing Israeli farmers to work the land and visitors to tour the Isle of Peace park in the area.
- But in 2018, Jordan said it did not want to continue the arrangement, in what was widely seen as a sign of increasingly strained diplomatic relations.
- King Abdullah II has formally declared recently the end of the 25-year special regime

and announces **Ghumar** and **Al-Baqoura's** return to 'full sovereignty'.

6. c

- The new political map of India, recently released by the government to account for the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, has triggered fresh protests over an old issue in Kathmandu.
- **Mapped within Uttarakhand** is a 372-sq km area called **Kalapani**, bordering far-west Nepal and Tibet.
- While the Nepal government and political parties have protested, India has said the new map does not revise the existing boundary with Nepal.



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

- Nepal's western boundary with India was marked out in the **Treaty of Sugauli** between the East India Company and Nepal in 1816.
- Nepali authorities claim that people living in the low-density area were included in the Census of Nepal until 58 years ago.

7. a

- A new analysis found that **one of the world's thickest glaciers, Taku Glacier** has begun retreating.

- The visible retreat is shown on new satellite photos released by **NASA** taken in 2014 and 2019.
- It is located near Juneau, in the **U.S.** state of **Alaska**.
- The massive glacier, which measures 4,860 feet from surface to floor, was gaining mass for almost 50 years, but now appears to be shrinking.

8. c

- A recent study published in The Lancet Global Health, which looked at anaemia among men in India, found that nearly a quarter of them (23.2% in a sample of 1 lakh men) in the age group 15-54 had some form of anaemia.

ANAEMIA AMONG MEN IN THE STATES

HIGHEST 5

Bihar	32.86
West Bengal	30.46
Jharkhand	30.3
Meghalaya	29.13
Odisha	28.45

LOWEST 5

Manipur	9.19
Mizoram	9.78
Nagaland	10.23
Goa	10.68
Kerala	11.77

- Anaemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet physiologic

needs, which vary by age, sex, altitude, smoking, and pregnancy status.

- **Iron deficiency** is thought to be the **most common cause** of anaemia globally, although other conditions, such as folate, vitamin B12 and vitamin A deficiencies, chronic inflammation, parasitic infections, and inherited disorders can all cause anaemia.
- The **Anemia Mukht Bharat** focusses on six target beneficiary groups, through six interventions and six institutional mechanisms to achieve the envisaged target under the POSHAN Abhiyan.
- It focuses on the **target of reduction in anemia prevalence by one-third of NFHS 4 levels by 2022**.

9. d

- Recently, in a first researchers have created simulations explaining how the largest of black hole mergers may have happened, showing one may have devoured another "in a 'Pac-Man-like' behaviour.
- A **black hole is a place/ region of space** where gravity pulls so much that even light can not get out.
- It **does not have a surface**, like a planet or star.
- Because no light can get out, people can't see black holes. **They are invisible and cannot be seen directly**.
- Although black holes cannot be seen, **we know they exist from the way they affect nearby dust, stars and galaxies**.
- Many of them are surrounded by discs of material.
- As the discs swirl around them like a whirlpool, they become extremely hot and give off X-rays.
- Space telescopes with special tools can help find black holes.
- The special tools can see how stars that are very close to black holes act differently than other stars.

10. b

- The United Nations has rolled out a project to use bioremediation process with the help of naturally occurring soil bacteria to decontaminate land poisoned by oil spills in war-torn Iraq.
- The **UNEP** has partnered the Iraqi government for the project.
- Bioremediation is defined as a process that **uses microbes, bacteria, and other living organisms** or their enzymes to treat polluted sites for regaining their original condition.
- It is **traditionally used to clean oil spills or contaminated groundwater**.
- It may be done "in situ," at the site of the contamination, or "ex situ," away from the site.

12-11-2019

1) With respect to *Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan Campaign* sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to maintain the rural amenities including libraries clean and easily accessible.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development.

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

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

2) With respect to *Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative* sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It primarily aims to foster innovation and technology development in Defence, Aerospace and Irrigation technologies by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators.

2. It would be funded and managed by the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) works under the aegis of Ministry of Defence.

Which of 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 *International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)*

1. It is also known as Seed Treaty.
2. The objectives of this treaty include fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of world's plant genetic resources.
3. It also recognizes farmers' rights, subject to national laws.

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *BRICS summit*

1. It will be held annually.
2. 11th edition of the BRICS summit will be held in Brasilia, Brazil.
3. The theme for the 11th summit is Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

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

5) World's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) port terminal to be built in which of the following states?

- a. Gujarat
b. Telangana
c. Tamil Nadu
d. Maharashtra

6) JARVIS sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with?

- a. Monolith like robots used in space activities
b. Sub Neptune exo-planet discovered by NASA
c. AI enabled video analytics platform used in Prisons
d. Cyber safety manual for girls released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development

7) Mihir Shah Committee sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. National Water Policy
b. New National Energy Policy
c. Steel Scrap Recycling Policy
d. New Exploration Licensing Policy

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Suranga Bawadi

- It is an integral part of the ancient Karez system of supplying water through subterranean tunnels.
- It was built in the 16th century by Ali Adil Shah – I of Bijapur Sultanate.
- It was recently included in the UNESCO's World Heritage List.

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Cheraman Juma Masjid

- It was built during the reign of Delhi Sultanate.
- It is the first structure in India to have arches and domes.

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

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

10) Which of the following is true regarding India's Electricity Demand?

- India's electricity demand fell in the recent times.
- Industrial states like Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu witness steady growth in demand.

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

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

Answers

1. d

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) are undertaking a mass cleanliness-cum-awareness drive in 50 identified beaches under the "Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan".
- The identified beaches are in 10 coastal States/Union Territories (UTs) namely Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Maharashtra, Goa,

Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha.

- The beaches have been identified after the consultation with the States/UTs.
- Environment Education Division of the Ministry and Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) under the aegis of Environment Ministry will be responsible for the overall coordination for the drive in 50 beaches.

2. d

- **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** launched by the Government in April 2018, primarily aims at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in **Defence and Aerospace** by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes & academia, and provide them grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.
- iDEX will be funded and managed by a '**Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)**' which has been formed as a '**not for profit**' company as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 for this purpose, by the two founder members i.e. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) - **HAL & BEL**.
- iDEX will function as the executive arm of DIO, carrying out all the required activities while DIO will provide high level policy guidance to iDEX.

3. c

- **International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)** is also known as **Seed Treaty**.
- It is a comprehensive international agreement for ensuring food security.
- The objectives of this Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the **fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use**, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.

- It also recognizes farmers' rights, subject to national laws.

4. b

- The theme of the 11th BRICS summit is "**Economic Growth for an Innovative Future.**"

5. a

- **Gujarat** Government has recently given its nod to the **world's first CNG port terminal at Bhavnagar**.
- It will be developed jointly by U.K.-headquartered Foresight Group and Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group.

6. c

- **Uttar Pradesh** is using an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**-powered video analytics solution, **JARVIS**, to keep an eye on prison activities, including unauthorised access and violence.
- The AI-powered video analytics tool is now live with 700 cameras from 70 prisons for multi-purpose analytics, including frisking, unauthorised access, crowd analysis, violence, camera working and intrusion detection amongst others.

7. a

- The Union Water Resources Ministry has finalised a committee to draft a new **National Water Policy (NWP)**.
- It will be chaired by **Mihir Shah**, who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert.
- The committee has 10 principal members.
- The NWP currently in force was drafted in 2012 and is the third such policy since 1987.
- The committee is expected to produce a report within six months.

8. b

- **Suranga Bawadi**, an integral part of the ancient Karez system of supplying water through subterranean tunnels built during Adil Shahi era in Vijayapura, is now set to get funding for restoration.

- A New York-based non-governmental organisation has included it in the **World Monument Watch list for 2020** along with 24 other monuments from across the world.
- The monument has been selected under the 'Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau' by **World Monuments Fund** [the NGO], which monitors restoration of ancient monuments across the globe.
- Though the Karez system was built in the 16th century by Ali Adil Shah-I, his successor, Ibrahim Adil Shah-II, brought in several changes by adding more structures to strengthen it.
- According to historians, the Adil Shahis built the magnificent underground system to supply water to the city, which had a population of nearly 12 lakh then.

9. d

- The Cheraman Juma Masjid at Kodungalloor, Kerala is the India's **first-ever mosque** built in 629 A.D.
- Delhi sultanate starts from 1206 A.D.

10. a

- India's electricity demand fell 13.2% in October from the same month last year, registering the steepest fall in 154 months.
- Except Himachal and J&K the other states registered a fall in electricity demand in October 2019 from the same month a year before.

13-11-2019

1) With respect to **Exercise TIGER TRIUMPH**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a maiden naval exercise held between India and Bangladesh.
2. Its main aim is to focus on maritime terrorism and drug trafficking through seas.

Which of 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

1. It is India's largest inland saltwater lake.
2. It is recognized as wetland of international importance.
3. It is a key wintering area for tens of thousands birds.

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

- a. Dal Lake
b. Tso Moriri
c. Wular Lake
d. Sambhar Lake

3) "Arrokoth" sometimes seen in the news recently is a/an?

- a. Most distant object ever explored
b. Cheap electricity scheme launched by Madhya Pradesh
c. AI mechanism to detect lightning
d. None of the above

4) How is **National Emergency** different from the **President's rule**?

1. During National Emergency, the state executive is dismissed and the state legislature is either suspended or dissolved whereas during the President's rule, the state executive and legislature continue to function.
2. National Emergency affects fundamental rights of the citizens whereas President's rule has no effect on Fundamental Rights of the citizens.
3. While there is a maximum period prescribed for National Emergency, there is no maximum period prescribed for President's rule.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements

- It is also called as Vietnamese mouse-deer.
- The rabbit sized animal looks partially as mouse and partially as deer.
- It was recently rediscovered in Vietnam after 30 years.

Identify the species that correctly matches with the above description:

- Tiliger
- Elephant shrew
- Sunda Pangolin
- Silver-backed Chevrotain

6) K-Fon project which was in news is launched by?

- Kerala
- Andhra Pradesh
- Gujarat
- Maharashtra

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Pneumonia

- It can be caused by viruses, bacteria, or fungi.
- All such types of Pneumonia can be treated with antibiotics.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Indra-2019

- It is a tri-service exercise.
- It is between India and Russia.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to "X-57 Maxwell"

- It is the first all-electric experimental aircraft
- It is a joint project of NASA and ISRO

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 National Sustainable Spice Program (NSSP)

- It targets to convert a quarter of all the spices grown in the country sustainable by 2025.
- It is an initiative by Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare.

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

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

Answers

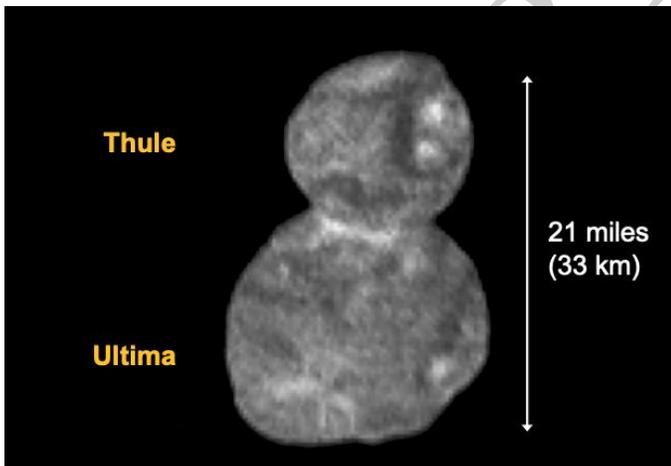
1. d

- The **first tri-Service** exercise between **India and the US**, named '**Tiger Triumph**' which will largely focus on amphibious HADR (**humanitarian relief and disaster relief**) operations, will kick off along the eastern coast in the Bay of Bengal.
- It was announced by US President Donald Trump during the "Howdy Modi Event" at Houston.

2. d

- Thousands of migratory birds of about ten species were found dead around **Sambhar Lake** near Jaipur.
- Sambhar Lake is India's largest inland salt lake.
- It is a recognised wetland of international importance, and hosts thousands of migratory birds during winters.
- The dead birds included plovers, common coots, black winged stilts, northern shovelers, ruddy shelducks and pied avocets.

3. a



- **Ultima Thule**, the farthest cosmic body ever visited by a spacecraft, has been renamed **Arrokoth**, or 'sky' in the Native American Powhatan language.
- The icy rock, which orbits in the dark and frigid Kuiper Belt about a billion miles beyond

Pluto, was surveyed by the NASA spaceship New Horizons in January, with images showing it consisted of two spheres stuck together in the shape of a snowman.

- Its technical designation is 2014 MU69.

4. a

National Emergency (Article 352)

- It can be proclaimed only when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by war, external aggression or armed rebellion.
- During its operation, the **state executive and legislature continue to function and exercise the powers assigned to them** under the Constitution. Its effect is that the Centre gets concurrent powers of administration and legislation in the state.
- There is **no maximum period prescribed** for its operation. It can be continued indefinitely with the approval of Parliament for every six months.

President's Rule (Article 356)

- It can be proclaimed when the government of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution due to reasons which may not have any connection with war, external aggression or armed rebellion.
- During its operation, the **state executive is dismissed and the state legislature is either suspended or dissolved**. The president administers the state through the governor and the Parliament makes laws for the state. In brief, the executive and legislative powers of the state are assumed by the Centre.
- There is a **maximum period prescribed** for its operation, that is, three years. Thereafter, it must come to an end and the normal constitutional machinery must be restored in the state.
- *President's rule has been recently imposed in Maharashtra.*
- *The state legislative assembly has been kept under suspended animation.*

5. d

- A small deer-like creature that conservationists feared was extinct has been photographed

recently, in **Vietnam**, for the first time in almost three decades.

- Scientists had last spotted the **Silver-Backed Chevrotain**, also called the Vietnamese mouse-deer, in 1990 in central Vietnam.
- The **rabbit-size** chevrotain lives in a tropical forest-covered part of the Asian nation, is often targeted by poachers.
- Mouse-deer aren't actually deer (or mice, as it happens) but **ungulates**, a group that includes deer along with other herbivorous, hoofed animals.



6. a

- Recently **Kerala** government launched **K-Fon (Kerala-Fiber Optic Network)** project.
- It will provide free high speed internet connection to over 20 Lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
- The program is aimed at giving a push to the digitization of government services.
- Kerala was the first in India to announce **right to access the Internet** as a basic human right.

7. a

- Since 2009, November 12 has been observed as 'World Pneumonia Day' to raise awareness about the infection.
- It is a form of acute respiratory infection that affects the lungs.
- WHO identifies pneumonia is the single largest cause of death in children worldwide.
- Every year, it kills an estimated 1.4 million children under the age of five years.

- According to the WHO's factsheet on pneumonia, **infectious agents may include bacteria, viruses and fungi.**

- **Pneumonia caused by bacteria can be treated with antibiotics**, but only one third of children with pneumonia receive the antibiotics they need.

8. c

- It is the **India-Russia** Military Exercise.
- This year's iteration of the bilateral exercise will include air, ground, and naval components making it the tri-service exercise.

9. a

- It is a small, experimental airplane powered by electricity.
- All-electric technology will make flying cleaner, quieter, and more sustainable.
- It is a project of **NASA**.
- Located in NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, the experimental aircraft is in the first of three configurations, called Modification II or Mod II.
- This version replaces a traditional combustion engine with electric cruise motors that are potentially quieter and more efficient, as well as being better for the environment.

10. a

- The National Sustainable Spice Programme (NSSP) is an joint initiative of,
 1. The World Spice Organisation (an arm of the All-India Spices Exporters Forum),
 2. Spices Board of India,
 3. IDH (the Sustainable Trade Initiative) and
 4. GIZ Global Project of Germany
- The NSSP targets to convert a quarter of all the spices grown in the country sustainable by 2025.
- The multi-stakeholder programme will help farmers reduce the use of pesticides and contaminants.
- It will address issues such as high dependency on chemical fertilisers and exploitation of



natural resources, which contribute to climate change and outbreak of new diseases

14-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA)*

1. It is a regional association that represents 81 member institutions from 21 countries including India.
2. It is the world's premier research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science.

Which of 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 *Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005*

1. RTI is applicable to the whole of India including Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
2. While the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is under the RTI's ambit, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is exempt.

Which of 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 *Negative interest rates*

1. These are rates that are charged on the principal and on previously earned interest retrospectively.
2. It leads to a condition where a saver is paying for parting with cash and a borrower is being perversely incentivised to borrow more.

Which of 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

1. A person disqualified under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution is eligible to contest in re-election to that constituency.
2. As per the existing constitutional mandate, the Speaker is not empowered to disqualify any member for the entire term of the House.

Which of 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

1. Houses under the 'Banglar Abas' scheme was allocated by clearing acres of mangrove forest in this Island.
2. The very severe cyclone Bulbul made landfall recently at this Island.

Identify the Island that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Havelock Island
- b. Diu Island

- c. Sagar Island
- d. Majuli Island

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

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

1. Gravity is present everywhere, even in space.
2. There is no air in space and it is almost a perfect vacuum.

Which of 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 *Emperor penguin*

1. These are endemic to Antarctica.
2. These are the tallest and heaviest of all living penguin 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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance*

1. The 6th edition of the meeting was held recently in Nairobi, Kenya.
2. It is being jointly hosted by Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

9) Consider the following statements regarding the composition of the council of ministers:

1. Deputy Ministers are not members of the Cabinet.
2. Parliament secretaries often hold the rank of the Minister of State.

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) Which of the following are Temperate Grasslands?

1. Steppes
2. Pampas
3. Savannas
4. Downs

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answers

1. a

- *Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA)*, representing 81 member institutions from 21 countries, is a regional association that promotes cooperation and facilitates mutual exchange of information and expertise in the field of rural finance.
- Over the years it has developed a repository of knowledge in managing and serving rural financial institutions, financial inclusion and

to help avert financial risks and improve efficiency.

- 6th World Congress on Rural and Agriculture Finance was jointly organised by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Asia - Pacific Rural Agricultural and Credit Association (APRACA) recently.
- The **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)** is the world's premier research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science; improving the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers; and protecting the rice-growing environment for future generations.

2. c

- Supreme Court has recently ruled that the **office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI)** is a **public authority** under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act**.
- While the office of the CJI is now under the RTI's ambit, the **CBI is exempt**.
- As Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act became operational on October 31, 2019 the **central RTI Act** became applicable in J&K and Ladakh.

3. b

- A negative interest means the instead of the bank paying you money to keep in the savings account, you pay the bank to do so.
- It also means that anyone can borrow money from the bank and pay back less than what he borrowed.
- Negative interest rates are expected to make consumers save less and spend more; they are also expected to make banks lend more.
- In essence, negative interest rates are expected **to boost economic activity** when all other efforts fail.

4. c

- The Supreme Court has recently upheld the disqualification of 17 dissident Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) legislators by then Karnataka Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar under the Tenth Schedule (anti-

defection law) but held that **their ouster was no bar to contesting re-polls**.

- Neither under the Indian Constitution nor under the statutory scheme it is contemplated that disqualification under the Tenth Schedule would operate as a bar for contesting re-elections.
- In the light of the existing constitutional mandate, the Speaker is not empowered to disqualify any member till the end of the term.

5. c

6. c

- When you drop a pen on Earth, it falls to the ground. This is because of the gravitational pull of the planet.
- This gravity is everywhere, even in space.
- It is gravity that holds moon in orbit around Earth and Earth around the sun.
- It also keeps the sun in the Milky way.
- Gravity causes every object to pull every other object towards it. However, the effect of gravity decreases as distance increases.
- At extreme distances, the gravitational pull of an object exerted on another could be almost zero, but never totally absent. This is called microgravity.

Then, why do objects float in orbit?

- Because they are in free fall. There is no air in space. It is almost a perfect vacuum.
- In a vacuum, gravity causes all objects to fall at the same rate, irrespective of their mass.
- Earth's gravity is still pulling down on astronauts or spacecraft or space station in orbit.
- A spacecraft counters Earth's downward pull by maintaining enough horizontal speed to continually slide sideways as it simultaneously falls towards the planet.
- The continuous free fall around the planet gives astronauts the impression of being weightless and floating.

7. c

8. d



- The **6th World Congress** is being jointly hosted by **Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA)**, **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- This 6th version of the congress was attended by 300 delegates across the globe who engaged in interactive discussions to unleash the potential role of rural and agricultural finance.

9. c

10. c

- Savannas are Tropical Grasslands.

15-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- It is a flagship initiative set up by the Ministry of skill development.
- Atal Tinkering Labs and Mentor India Campaign are the only two initiatives under AIM.

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

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

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

- It measures and tracks the changes in the price of goods and services in the stages before the retail level.
- India uses WPI changes as a central measure of inflation.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 & 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Paris Peace Forum

- It is an international event on global governance and multilateralism, held annually in Paris, France.
- It is under the ambit of UNFCCC
- The only theme of the forum is the environment.

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

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

4) 'ShishuSuraksha app' which was in news recently was launched in

- Arunachal Pradesh
- Sikkim
- Punjab
- Assam

5) Consider the following statements with respect to HAYABUSA 2

- It is a tiny unmanned spacecraft that has been sampling the surface of the near-earth asteroid Ryugu.
- It is the mission of Japan Space Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- It is the second Japanese spacecraft to land on an asteroid.

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

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

Answers

1. d
- Recently, a group of selected student innovators of the **Atal Tinkering Lab Marathon 2018**, called on the President of India.
 - The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** is a flagship initiative set up by the **NITI Aayog** to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country.
 - There are **six major initiatives under AIM**:
 - Atal Tinkering Labs** - Creating problem-solving mindset across schools in India.
 - Atal Incubation Centers** - Fostering world class start-ups and adding a new dimension to the incubator model.
 - Atal New India Challenges** - Fostering product innovations and aligning them to the needs of various sectors/ministries.
 - Mentor India Campaign** - A national Mentor network in collaboration with public sector, corporates and institutions, to support all the initiatives of the mission.
 - Atal Community Innovation Center** - To stimulate community centric innovation and ideas in the unserved /underserved regions of the country including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
 - ARISE (Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises)** - To stimulate innovation and research in the MSME industry.
2. c
- India's October wholesale price inflation **WPI** eases to 0.16%.
 - A wholesale price index (WPI) is an index that measures and tracks the **changes in the price of goods**(not services) in the stages before the retail level – that is, goods that are sold in bulk and traded between entities or businesses instead of consumers.
 - WPI is unlike the **Consumer Price Index (CPI), which tracks the prices of goods and services** purchased by consumers.
 - Some countries use WPI changes as a central measure of inflation, but **India has adopted new CPI to measure inflation.**
 - WPI is published by the Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, where CPI is released by CSO.
 - India uses the base year 2011-12 for calculating WPI.
3. a
- Recently, the second edition of annual Paris Peace Forum was held at Paris, France from 11 to 13th November 2019.
 - The **Paris Peace Forum** is part of the momentum **launched by French President, Emmanuel Macron**, to reaffirm the importance of multilateralism and collective action in facing current challenges.
 - It is not under the ambit of UNFCCC.
 - It is an international event on global governance and multilateralism, held annually in Paris, France.
 - It has a specific focus on governance solutions in **six major themes**:
 - Peace & Security
 - Development
 - Environment
 - New technologies
 - Inclusive economy
 - Culture & Education
 - Its objective - encouraging international cooperation and collective action for a peaceful world;
 - Its approach are presentations, discussions and progress on innovative, real-world solutions.
4. d
- On Children's Day, **Assam** got a **mobile application** that will enable people to **lodge a complaint about the violation of child rights.**
 - "**ShishuSuraksha**", the mobile application, is the brainchild of Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPDR).

- The purpose of the e-box is to empower citizens to take moral responsibility of protecting our future generations.
- The app can be used by anyone in Assam, coming across any incident of children's rights violation, to lodge a complaint which will be directly registered at ASCPCR.

5. d

- Recently, **HAYABUSA 2** spacecraft starts yearlong journey to Earth with samples from a nearby asteroid.
- It is a **tiny unmanned spacecraft** that has been sampling the surface of the near-Earth asteroid 162173 **Ryugu**, capturing images, blasting a little crater in it, and firing a "bullet" into its exterior to dislodge particles.
- It is the mission of **Japan Space Exploration Agency (JAXA)**.
- **Hayabusa2** is the second Japanese spacecraft to land on an asteroid, after Hayabusa.
- **Hayabusa** touched down on a small near-Earth asteroid called **25143 Itokawa** and safely brought back minute rocky particles for analysis.

16-11-2019

1) With respect to **Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention/Investigation Unit**, consider the following statements:

1. The unit does not have any power to probe offences covered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Information Technology (IT) Act.
2. It was setup by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Sisseri River Bridge**

1. It is a part of Trans Arunachal Highway and is located at Lower Dibang Valley in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It was constructed by Project Indira of Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

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) Which of the following are projects of **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** to maintain and develop the difficult geographical terrain and strategically important area in **Arunachal Pradesh**?

1. Yeti
2. Indira
3. Udayak
4. Arunank
5. Brahmanak
6. Abhimanyu

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) **Health, Safety and Dignity of Sanitation Workers Report** was authored by?

- a. World Bank
- b. WaterAid
- c. International Labour Organization
- d. All of the above

5) Bali Yatra which was in news recently is celebrated in?

- West Bengal
- Chhattisgarh
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Odisha

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh

- It will be a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones in India for better nutritional outcomes.
- It is under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD).

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 Household Consumer Expenditure Survey

- It collects information regarding expenditure on consumption of goods and services (food and non-food) consumed by households.
- It is carried out by NITI Aayog.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to IndiaSkills 2020

- It is an initiative to train Indian graduates in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

2. It is under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

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

9) Climate Protection Act which was in news recently is passed in?

- New Zealand
- Bhutan
- Germany
- Norway

10) Consider the following pairs

- Anpara Power Plant – Madhya Pradesh
- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant – Telangana

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

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

Answers

1. d

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has set up an Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention/Investigation Unit.
- It will **also probe** such offences covered under various provisions of the IPC, the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act** and the **Information Technology Act**, apart from other relevant laws.
- The unit will function under the agency's Special Crime Zone in Delhi.

- It will **collect and disseminate information** on online child sexual abuse and exploitation.
2. b
- Union Defence Minister has recently inaugurated the important **Sisseri River Bridge** at Lower Dibang Valley in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - It is a 200-metre long bridge between Jonai-Pasighat-Ranaghat-Roing road and will provide connectivity between Dibang Valley and Siang.
 - The Sisseri River Bridge provides connectivity to Tinsukia via Dhola-Sadia bridge.
 - It was constructed by **Project Brahmanak of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.
 - This bridge is also strategically important from a military viewpoint and will be a part of **Trans Arunachal Highway**.
3. b
- To maintain and develop the difficult geographical terrain and strategically important area, BRO has four projects in Arunachal Pradesh namely **Vartak, Arunank, Brahmanak and Udayak**.
 - It immensely contributes to the socio-economic development of the region.
4. d
- Despite laws and regulations being in place in India, the practice of manual scavenging has not been curtailed but has been **forced underground**, a report jointly authored by the **International Labour Organization, Water-Aid, World Bank, and WHO**.
 - The most undesirable and high-risk jobs are typically subcontracted to temporary, informal workers despite a substantial formal and permanent sanitation workforce now being present in India, with basic working conditions protected by law, the report highlighted.
5. d
- Recently, **Bali Yatra** was inaugurated in Cuttack on November 12.
 - **Bali Yatra** is a unique festival in **Odisha** which celebrates India's ancient links to Indonesia!
 - It is organised at the banks of the **river Mahanadi**, every year from the day of Kartika Purnima according to the Odia Calendar.
 - The festival marks the start of the journey of hundreds of traders from the state who would set sail to the distant land of Bali, Sumatra, Java (Jawa) in Indonesia, Borneo and Sri Lanka, for the expansion of trade and culture.
 - It is one of the oldest cultures and ancient business trade fair practices of the state.
6. c
- **Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh**, a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones in India, will be launched for **better nutritional outcomes and to fight malnutrition**.
 - It is under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
 - In consultation with Ministry of WCD and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the project team will select around 12 high focus states which are representative of the geographical, social, economic, cultural and structural diversities of India.
 - In each of the states or group of states the team will identify a local partner organization which has relevant work experience in Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) and nutrition for developing the food atlas.
7. a
- Recently, government scraps the **Household Consumer Expenditure Survey 2017-18** over "data quality".
 - The Household Consumer Expenditure Survey generates estimates of household **Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE)** and the distribution of households and persons over the MPCE classes.
 - It is designed to collect information regarding expenditure on consumption of goods and services (food and non-food) consumed by households.

- The results, after release, are also used for rebasing of the GDP and other macro-economic indicators.
- The **National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** carried out this all-India survey.
- It is usually conducted at quinquennial intervals.

8. b

- **IndiaSkills 2020** provides a **platform for skilled and talented Indian youngsters** to showcase their abilities at regional and national level competitions in over 50 skills.
- It is conducted by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- The age limit for the competition is for youth born on or after 1 January 1999 with an exemption.
- It is a **biennial competition** to scout talent from the country, offering them a **platform to showcase their skills at national and international competitions**.
- The last IndiaSkills competition was organized in 2018, wherein 22 states and more than 100 corporates participated, that gave 355 competitors a chance to display their skills across various skill competitions.

9. c

- Recently, the **German parliament** passed the **Climate Protection Act** in an attempt to reach its climate target by 2050.
- This will be **Germany's first climate action law**.
- With this, a price on carbon emissions in the transport and heating sectors will be imposed along with some other measures to combat climate change.
- Furthermore, German lawmakers also supported to hike the prices of domestic and European flight tickets.
- From 2021, companies that market diesel and petrol, heating oil and natural gas in the country will need to obtain pollution rights for the amount of greenhouse gases they emit.

- Last week, **New Zealand passed the Zero-Carbon Law** in a bid to comply with its Paris climate accord commitments and become a carbon-neutral nation by the year 2050.

10. d

1. Anpara Power Plant – Uttar Pradesh
2. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant – Tamil Nadu

18-11-2019

1) Signal Fish which was in news recently was discovered in?

- a. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- b. Gulf of Khambhat
- c. Kerala coast
- d. Gulf of Mannar

2) Which of the following are the goals of the Curiosity Rover?

1. Determine whether life ever arose on Mars.
2. Characterize the climate of Mars.
3. Characterize the geology of Mars.
4. Prepare for human exploration.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Places of Worship Act, 1991

1. The aim of the Act was to freeze the status of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.
2. The Act does not apply to the place of worship commonly referred to as Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.

3. This law will have overriding effect over any other law in force.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh*

- It is a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones for better nutritional outcomes.
- It aims at reducing malnutrition through a multi-sectoral results-based framework, including agriculture, among women and children across the country.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development has collaborated with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for this project.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Health Systems for a New India: Building Blocks Report* which was released recently:

- It was released recently by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The report has rightly suggested that Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) should be extended to whole of India.

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

- 1 only

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

6) *CASE Instrument* sometimes seen in the news recently was contributed by _____ for _____ Mission?

- NASA – ESA
- ESA – NASA
- NASA – ROSCOSMOS
- JAXA – ROSCOSMOS

7) Consider the following statements

- He is also called as Punjab Kesari.
- His important works include 'The Arya Samaj', 'Young India', and 'England's Debt to India'.
- He died at Lahore in 1928 after he was attacked by police during a protest rally against the Simon Commission.

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description:

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Bipin Chandra Pal
- Lala Lajpat Rai
- Abul Kalam Azad

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Diesel

- Below the Cloud point, Diesel is prone to waxing.
- A special winter-grade diesel with a low pour-point of -33 deg C, does not lose its fluidity even in extreme winter conditions.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Epilepsy

1. It is a chronic communicable disease of the brain that affects people of all ages.
2. It is seen as a major health problem and it is considered to be a Mental health disorder.

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

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

10) 'Nadu-Nedu' scheme which was in news recently was launched in

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

Answers

1. c

- India's first **Signal Fish** was found in Kerala deep waters.



- The discovered species is the world's largest Signal Fish.
- The species named ***Pteropsaron indicum*** was collected by trawlers at a depth

of 70 metres during a marine biodiversity survey.

- The signal fishes are spotted in the **coral reefs**. So it indicates the presence of patchy corals off the Kerala coast.

2. d

- According to the new study, Oxygen behaves in a mysterious way on Mars.
- **NASA's Curiosity rover's** has added a new mystery for scientists studying Mars, with samples from the rover showing a seasonal change around Oxygen levels near the surface of the Gale Crater on the red planet.
- NASA found that Oxygen levels throughout spring and summer rose by as much as 30%.
- According to NASA, **Curiosity has 4 main science goals** in support of the agency's Mars exploration program:

1. Determine whether life ever arose on Mars.
2. Characterize the climate of Mars.
3. Characterize the geology of Mars.
4. Prepare for human exploration.

3. c

- The Act declares that the religious character of a place of worship shall continue to be the same as it was on August 15, 1947.
- It says no person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination into one of a different denomination or section.
- It was intended to pre-empt new claims by any group about the past status of any place of worship and attempts to reclaim the structures or the land on which they stood.
- It declares that all suits, appeals or any other proceedings regarding converting the character of a place of worship, which are pending before any court or authority on August 15, 1947, will abate as soon as the law comes into force.
- No further legal proceedings can be instituted.
- However, there is an exception to the bar on instituting fresh proceedings with regard to suits that related to conversion of status that happened after August 15, 1947.

- This saves legal proceedings, suits and appeals regarding chance of status that took place after the cut-off date.
 - These provisions will not apply to
 1. ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains that are covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958
 2. a suit that has been finally settled or disposed of and
 3. any dispute that has been settled by the parties or conversion of any place that took place by acquiescence before the Act commenced.
 - The Act does not apply to the place of worship commonly referred to as Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.
 - This law will have overriding effect over any other law in force, it said.
4. d
- Union Government has recently announced **Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh** which is a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones for better nutritional outcomes.
 - The Kosh aims at reducing malnutrition through a multi-sectoral results-based framework, including agriculture, among women and children across the country.
 - Ministry of Women and Child Development has collaborated with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for this project.
 - The Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh seeks to promote healthy dietary practices and tackle under-nutrition in a sustainable manner.
 - The initiative will be built on an essential understanding of social, behavioural and cultural practices that promote and reinforce healthy dietary behaviours both at the individual and community level.
5. d
- Government think tank **Niti Aayog** recently released a report '**Health Systems for a New India: Building Blocks—Potential Pathways to Reforms**'.
- The report identified five focus areas of future health system - to deliver on unfinished public health agenda, change health financing away from out of pocket so spend into large insurers, integrate service delivery vertically and horizontally, empower citizens to become better buyers of health, harness the power of digital health.
 - Even as the report has **not out rightly suggested** that Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), government's cashless health insurance scheme covering 10 crore poor families for Rs five lakh annually, should be extended to whole of India, it discretely mentioned that PM-JAY should be considered with an eye on its potential to influence the overall healthcare transformation in India, beyond its current explicit mandate.
6. a
- NASA has announced that it will contribute an instrument to a European space mission that will explore the atmospheres of planets or exoplanets orbiting stars beyond our Sun for the first time.
 - The instrument will aid the European Space Agency's (ESA's) **ARIEL** or **Atmospheric Remote-sensing Infrared Exoplanet Large-survey mission**.
 - NASA's instrument has been called the **CASE** or **Contribution to ARIEL Spectroscopy of Exoplanets** and it will be managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.
 - The ARIEL spacecraft with CASE on board is expected to launch in 2028.
7. c
- Lala Lajpat Rai, the firebrand Indian nationalist leader was affectionately called as '**Punjab Kesari**'.
 - Rai is remembered for his role during the Swadeshi movement and for his advocacy of education.
 - The patriot died at Lahore in 1928 after he was attacked by police during a protest rally against the Simon Commission.
 - His important works include: 'The Arya Samaj', 'Young India', 'England's Debt to India', 'Evolution of Japan', 'India's Will to

Freedom', 'Message of the Bhagwad Gita', 'Political Future of India', 'Problem of National Education in India', 'The Depressed Glasses', and the travelogue 'United States of America'.

8. c

- Recently, 1st **Winter-Grade Diesel outlet** was inaugurated in Ladakh.
- The move will boost tourism in extreme weather conditions and help in the economic development of the region.
- Under normal conditions the **paraffin wax** added to diesel improves viscosity and lubrication.
- However, when temperatures begin to fall, this paraffin wax thickens and turns into a cloudy mixture. This point is known as a fuel's '**Cloud point**'.
- Indian Oil has come up with an innovative solution to this problem by introducing a **special Winter-grade diesel** with a low pour-point of **-33 deg Celsius**, which does not lose its fluidity function even in extreme winter conditions.
- This winter grade diesel also meets BIS specification of **BS-VI grade diesel**.

9. d

- In India, November 17th is observed every year as **National Epilepsy Day** to create awareness about epilepsy.
- It is a **chronic noncommunicable disease** of the brain that affects people of all ages.
- It is seen as a major health problem that was earlier considered to be a 'Mental health disorder', however, with advancement in diagnosis and epidemiological studies, epilepsy is **now considered a 'Neurological disorder'**.
- Around 50 million people worldwide have epilepsy, making it one of the most common neurological diseases globally.
- Nearly 80% of people with epilepsy live in low- and middle-income countries.
- It is estimated that up to 70% of people living with epilepsy could live seizure- free if properly diagnosed and treated.

- In many parts of the world, people with epilepsy and their families suffer from stigma and discrimination.

10. a

- **Andhra Pradesh** government has launched the '**Nadu-Nedu**' programme.
- The programme aims to introduce **English medium** from classes **1 to 6** in state-run schools.
- The scheme will be implemented in 15,715 schools in the first phase.
- It will cover all schools in three years' time with a **budget of Rs 12,000 crores**.
- This will transform all government schools with the required infrastructure and upgradation of skills besides setting up of English labs in addition to providing basic amenities like clean environs, furniture, toilets, running water, compound wall, blackboard, renovation and involve parent committee.

19-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)

1. **ADMM-Plus is a platform comprising ASEAN and its eight dialogue partners including India and United States.**
2. **The grouping focuses its work on maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and cyber Security.**
3. **India is not participating in the 6th edition of ADMM-Plus in response to the failure in reaching consensus for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement.**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)*

1. Kimberley Process is a joint initiative involving Government, International Diamond Industry and Civil Society to stem the flow of Rough Diamonds.
2. The Chair of Kimberley Process is selected annually based on election among the member countries.
3. India is one of the founder members of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and is the Chair of Kimberley Process for the year 2019.

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

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

3) *Injeti Srinivas Committee* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- a. Corporate Governance
- b. New Direct Tax Legislation
- c. Decriminalisation of Company Law
- d. Water management in North East

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)*

1. The Mission will compile data of artists, art forms & geo location with inputs from Central Ministries, State Governments & art/culture bodies.
2. It has been set up by the Ministry of Culture in 2017.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr*

1. It is a multilateral maritime exercise held between members of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
2. For the first time, India and China is participating in this exercise as special observers.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Starlink satellites which was in news recently

1. It aimed at providing low-cost and reliable space-based Internet services to the world.
2. It was launched by the European Space Agency (ESA)

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

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

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

1. It is to support lactating mothers and pregnant women by compensating them for loss of wages during their pregnancy.
2. It is targeted only at women delivering their first child.

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

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

8) Which of the following countries have a coastline on the Barents Sea?

- Norway
- Finland
- Russia
- Sweden

Choose the correct option from the option given below

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Agni II

- It is a surface-to-surface medium range nuclear-capable missile.
- It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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 World Gold Council

- It is an association under International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM).
- Its members includes most of the world's largest gold mining companies.

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

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

Answers

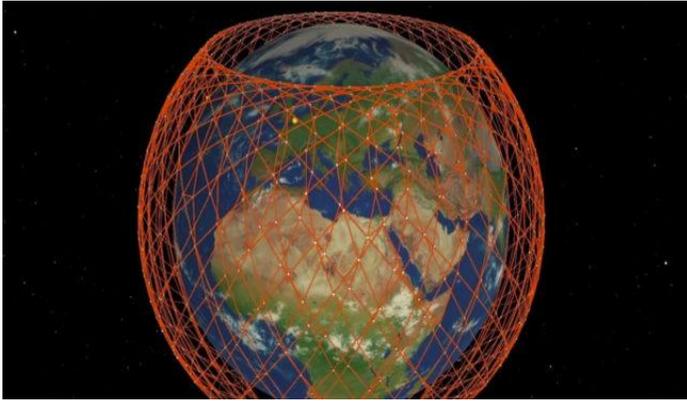
1. b

- Consistent with the ADMM guiding principles of open and outward looking, the **2nd ADMM in Singapore in 2007** adopted the Concept Paper to establish the **ADMM-Plus**.
- The ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its **eight Dialogue Partners** to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
- The ADMM-Plus countries include ten ASEAN Member States, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, and eight Plus countries, namely Australia, China, **India**, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, Russian Federation and the **United States**.
- The Inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 12 October 2010.
- The Defence Ministers then agreed on five areas of practical cooperation to pursue under this new mechanism, namely **maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations** and **military medicine**.
- To facilitate cooperation on these areas, Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) are established.
- In 2013 and 2016, new priority areas like **humanitarian mine action and cyber security** were agreed respectively.
- Union Minister for Home Affairs recently attended the 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting – Plus.**

2. a
- The Kimberley Process is a joint initiative involving Government, International Diamond Industry and Civil Society to stem the flow of **Conflict Diamonds**.
 - “Conflict Diamonds” means **rough diamonds used by rebel movements** or their allies to finance conflict aimed at undermining legitimate governments.
 - It is also described in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.
 - At present, KPCS has 55 members representing 82 countries including EU with 28 members.
 - The Kimberley Process is **chaired, on a rotating basis**, by participating countries.
 - **KP Vice-Chair is generally elected by KP Plenary** each year who becomes the Chair in the next year.
 - India is the current Chair of KPCS with Russian Federation as Vice Chair for the year 2019.
 - Since 2003, India has been actively participating in the KPCS process and is a member of all Working Groups of KP (except for WGAAP).
 - **Department of Commerce is the nodal Department and Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is designated as the KPCS Importing and Exporting Authority** in India.
 - GJEPC is responsible for issuing KP Certificates and is also the custodian of KP Certificates received in the country.
3. c
- The government had set up the **Company Law Committee** under the chairmanship of Corporate Affairs Secretary **Injeti Srinivas** to further **decriminalise the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013**, based on the gravity of the offences and to take other measures to “provide further ease of living for corporates in the country”.
 - The government-appointed high-level panel has recently recommended amendments to 46 provisions under the company law to reduce or
- remove criminality and de-clog the criminal justice system.
- The government had earlier, through the Companies (Amendment) Act 2019, decriminalised 16 minor procedural or technical lapses and had categorised them as ‘civil wrongs’.
4. c
- **National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)** has been set up by the **Ministry of Culture** in 2017.
 - Mission will compile data of artists, art forms & geo location with inputs from Central Ministries, State Governments & art/culture bodies.
 - Specially designed data capture form with technical collaboration of National E-Governance Division (NEGD)/Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has been formulated for data collection.
5. d
- Navies of **India and Qatar** have started a five-day **bilateral maritime exercise Za’ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea)** at **Doha** that includes surface action, air defence, maritime surveillance as well as social and sports events.
 - The inaugural edition of the bilateral maritime exercise would further strengthen the robust defence co-operation between the two countries, especially in the fight against terrorism, maritime piracy and security.
6. a
- A spray of 60 **Starlink satellites** fired into orbit, the first operational batch of what is intended to eventually evolve into a **constellation of nearly 12,000 satellites**.
 - It aimed at providing **low-cost and reliable space-based Internet** services to the world.
 - It was **launched by SpaceX**, the world’s leading private company in space technology.
 - But astronomers worry the SpaceX satellites are too bright and could form a

"megaconstellation" that blots out the star and interferes with the work of telescopes.

- Astronomers and scientists have also complained about increased "light-pollution".



7. c

- A recent survey found that around Maternity scheme reaches only one-third of beneficiaries.
- The exercise, titled **Jaccha Baccha-Survey (JABS)**, is critical of the Pradhan Mantri Mantru Vandana Yojana (**PMMVY**), launched in 2017 as part of obligations under the National Food Security Act.
- Researchers assert that extrapolation of RTI data show only 31% of eligible mothers got benefits.
- Almost 63% of pregnant women in rural India work right until the day of delivery.
- And, 49% say they felt exhausted during pregnancy, due to lack of food and rest, found in the survey.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (**PMMVY**) is a vital programme to **support lactating mothers and pregnant women** by compensating them for loss of wages during their pregnancy.
- The **PMMVY is targeted only at women delivering their first child.**
- A cash amount of Rs. 6,000 is transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary in 3 instalments upon meeting certain conditions including early registration of pregnancy, having at least one ante-natal check-up and registration of child birth.

8. b

- Recently, it was found that **King Crabs**, which are not native to **Barents sea**, have slowly conquered the region ever since their introduction.
- Climate change is also making it easier to fish the crabs, with much of the Barents ice-free for longer months.
- The **Barents Sea** is classified as a '**Marginal sea of the Arctic Ocean**'.
- Climatic changes have led to the Barents Sea having characteristics similar to the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Barents Sea is off the northern coasts of **Russia and Norway**.



- The Russian and Norwegian governments were involved in a border dispute over the position of their respective border in the sea.

9. c

- India on Saturday successfully conducted the first, night trial of Agni-II from the Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- It is a surface-to-surface medium range **nuclear-capable** missile.
- Agni-II, an intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM), has already been inducted into the armed forces.

- Agni-II was developed by Advanced Systems Laboratory along with other DRDO laboratories and integrated by the Bharat Dynamics Limited.

10. b

- Gold remains the third-most popular investment choice, with 46% of all global retail investors choosing gold products, next only to saving accounts (78%) and life insurance (54%), reveals a new **World Gold Council (WGC) survey** of retail consumers.
- The **World Gold Council is the market development organisation** for the gold industry.
- It is a nonprofit association of the world's leading gold producers and it does not come under ICMM.
- Its purpose is to stimulate and sustain demand for gold, provide industry leadership, and be the global authority on the gold market.
- Its members includes most of the world's largest gold mining companies.
- It is based in the UK, with operations in India, China, Singapore and the US , and it is the lead for the gold industry worldwide.

20-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Arundhati scheme*

1. Under the Scheme, government of West Bengal provides 1 Tola Gold to Brides parents.
2. The scheme is limited only to the weaker section of the society whose annual income is below Rs 5 lakh irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

Which of 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 *End-to-end encryption Technology*

1. It scrambles messages in such a way that they can be deciphered only by the sender and the intended recipient.
2. It steers governments away from mass surveillance and toward a more targeted, constitutional form of intelligence gathering.
3. Law enforcement agencies can get access to messages encrypted through this technology by presenting technology companies with a warrant.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mission Parivar Vikas*

1. It focus only on districts having the highest total fertility rates in the country.
2. The main objective is to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.

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

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

4) 'SAANS Campaign' which was in news recently is related to

- a. To reduce child mortality due to pneumonia
- b. An anti-tobacco awareness campaign
- c. To create awareness among consumers



d. Cancer Awareness Campaign

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

1. CDSCO under the Ministry of chemicals and fertilizers regulates the safety, efficacy and quality of notified medical devices.
2. Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) an organ of CDSCO is responsible for approving and licensing of drugs and medical devices.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Tuberculosis (TB)

1. The National Strategic Plan aims to end TB by 2030 in India inline with the global target.
2. NI-KSHAY functions as the National TB Surveillance System and enables reporting of various surveillance data both in the public and private sector to the Government of India.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Greenhouse gas emissions

1. Freshwater bodies do not emit Greenhouse gasses.

2. Increasing levels of organic molecules can enhance microbial activity and produce more greenhouse 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

8) In Modern World History, *Velvet Revolution* refers to which of the following?

- a. Fall of Berlin Wall
- b. Modernization efforts in Iran
- c. Abolition of slavery in Haiti
- d. Fall of communist control over Czechoslovakia

9) Apart from Farm fires which of the following is/are the main reasons for Delhi's poor air quality?

1. Wind Speed
2. Wind direction
3. Geographic location

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

1. Both Pneumonic and Bubonic plague were caused by the *Rattus Virus*.
2. Septicaemic plague is a rarer variant of plague which infects the lungs.

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

- a. 1 only

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

Answers

1. b

- In a unique initiative to check child marriage, **Assam Govt** approves **Arundhati scheme** to provide 1 Tola Gold (11.66 grams) to Brides parents belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society.
- With the aim to reduce child marriage under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act that a girl in India can't get married before the age of 18, and a boy can't get married before 21 years of age, this scheme can be availed by formal registration of the marriage under the Special Marriage (Assam) Rules, 1954 at the time of marriage.
- This is only **limited to the weaker section** of the society whose annual income is below **Rs 5 lakh** irrespective of caste, creed, religion etc.

2. b

End-to-end encryption Technology

How it Works?

- It scrambles messages in such a way that they can be **deciphered only by the sender** and the intended **recipient**.
- As the label implies, end-to-end encryption takes place on either end of a communication.
- A message is encrypted on a sender's device, sent to the recipient's device in an unreadable format, then decoded for the recipient.
- There are several ways to do this, but the most popular works like this: A program on your device mathematically generates two cryptographic keys — a public key and a private key.
- The public key can be shared with anyone who wants to encrypt a message to you.
- The private key, or secret key, decrypts messages sent to you and never leaves your device.

- Think of it as a locked mailbox. Anyone with a public key can put something in your box and lock it, but only you have the private key to unlock it.

How is it different from other forms of encryption?

- A more common form of encryption, known as **transport layer encryption, relies on a third party, like a tech company**, to encrypt messages as they move across the web.
- With this type of encryption, law enforcement and intelligence agencies can get access to encrypted messages by presenting technology companies with a warrant or national security letter. The sender and recipient would not have to know about it.
- **End-to-end encryption ensures that no one can eavesdrop on the contents of a message while it is in transit.**
- It forces spies or snoops to go directly to the sender or recipient to read the content of the encrypted message.
- Or they must hack directly into the sender's or recipient's device, something that can be harder to do "at scale" and makes mass surveillance much more difficult.
- Privacy activists, libertarians, security experts and human rights activists argue that end-to-end encryption **steers governments away from mass surveillance** and toward a more targeted, constitutional form of intelligence gathering.
- But intelligence and law enforcement agencies argue that end-to-end encryption makes it much harder to track terrorists, pedophiles and human traffickers.

3. d

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched "**Mission Parivar Vikas**" in **145 high focus districts having the highest total fertility rates** in the country.
- These 145 districts are in the seven high focus, high TFR states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam that constitute 44% of the country's population.

- The **main objective** of ‘Mission Parivas Vikas’ will be to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.
 - These 145 districts have been identified based on total fertility rate and service delivery (PPIUCD and Sterilization performance) for immediate, special and accelerated efforts to reach the replacement level fertility goals of 2.1 by 2025.
4. a
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has launched **SAANS Campaign** which stands for ‘**Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully**’.
 - The **aim of the campaign is to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia**, which contributes to around 15% deaths annually of children under the age of five.
 - The campaign was launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat at the 6th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations.
5. b
- **CDSCO** is the national regulatory body under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** for pharmaceuticals and medical devices in India.
 - It functions under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
 - CDSCO has six zonal offices, four sub-zonal offices, 13 port offices and seven laboratories under its control.
 - Major functions of CDSCO:
 1. Regulatory control over the import of drugs
 2. Approval of new drugs and clinical trials
 3. Meetings of Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC)
 4. Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB),
 5. Approval of certain licenses as Central License Approving Authority is exercised by the CDSCO headquarters.
 - **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** is an organ of the CDSCO which is responsible for approving and licensing of drugs and medical devices.
6. b
- The **DCGI** is advised by the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) and the Drug Consultative Committee (DCC).
 - The **National Strategic Plan 2017-25** for ending TB by 2025 was developed in 2017.
 - **India’s target** for complete elimination of Tuberculosis (TB) by **2025**, is **five years ahead of the global target of 2030**.
 - **NI-KSHAY**-(Ni=End, Kshay=TB) is the web enabled patient management system for TB control under the Revised National Tuberculosis Programme (RNTCP).
 - It is developed and maintained by the Central TB Division (CTD), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), and the World Health Organization Country office for India.
 - It also **functions as the National TB Surveillance System** and enables reporting of various surveillance data to the Government of India.
 - It is used by health functionaries at various levels across the country **both in the public and private sector**, to register cases under their care, record treatment details, monitor treatment adherence and to transfer cases between care providers.
7. b
- Researchers from the University of Cambridge in the UK noted that every drop of fresh water contains thousands of different organic molecules that have previously gone unnoticed.
 - The study found that **Climate change may cause the levels of greenhouse gases emitted by freshwater lakes to increase by between 1.5 and 2.7 times**.
 - Freshwater ecosystems constitute a small fraction of our planet but play a disproportionately large and critical role in the global carbon cycle.
 - The amount of carbon that inland waters emit is comparable to the net amount of carbon

absorbed by living organisms on Earth's land surface and in its oceans.

- Organic molecules are a food source for microbes in the lake sediments, which break them down and release carbon dioxide and methane as by-products.
- **Increasing levels of organic molecules can therefore enhance microbial activity and produce more greenhouse gases.**
- Since the same microbes can make greenhouse gases from many different organic molecules, the diversity of organic molecules was shown to be more closely linked with levels of greenhouse gas concentrations than the diversity of the microbes.
- An elevated diversity of organic molecules may elevate greenhouse gas concentrations in waters because there are more molecules that can be broken down by sunlight penetrating the water.

8. d

- With the so-called **Velvet Revolution of 1989, Czechoslovakia** freed itself of **communist control** and set out to adapt its command economy to the free market.
- The government introduced a program based on policies of price liberalization, the opening of markets to foreign trade and investment, internal convertibility of the country's currency, privatization of state-owned enterprises, and tax reform.
- **30th anniversary** of the Velvet Revolution was held recently.

9. d

- **Wind direction and Speed** – According to officials at the Central Pollution Control Board, **a change in wind direction and a sudden increase in wind velocity** were the main reasons behind Delhi going from severe to poor in a little over a day.
- Wind blowing northwest brings pollution from Punjab and Haryana to Delhi. Later, the direction changed to northerly this improves the air quality.
- The average wind speed in Delhi was under 10 km/hr. Because of an active western disturbance, the wind speed gradually rose and

it was around 12 km/hr later due to which the air quality improved.

- At greater speeds, pollutants far away can reach a spot within few hours and also be flushed out as quickly if the wind speed holds.
- **Geographic location** – Delhi's location – on the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP), the most polluted belt in the country is also one of the main reasons behind Delhi's Air Pollution.

10. d

- Pneumonic plague and Bubonic plague were types of plague caused by the ***Yersinia pestis* bacterium**.
- Bites from infected fleas are the most common cause of bubonic plague infection, but the pneumonic variant – where the bacterium is breathed into the lungs – is more dangerous because it is spread through coughing.
- A rarer third variant of the diseases is **Septicaemic Plague**, which infects the **bloodstream**.

21-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Hong Kong International Convention sometimes seen in the news recently:

1. It was adopted by UN Environment for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in 2009.
2. India has both signed and ratified the convention.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to India – Europe 29 Business Forum

1. The Europe 29 (E29) region refers to the 29 countries in Central, Eastern and Northern Europe.

2. It has been organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

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 *National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)*

- It is an action plan prepared for the period from 2020-2025.
- It aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families.
- It was drafted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

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

4) *IMD World Talent Ranking, 2019* was released recently by which of the following?

- INSEAD
- World Economic Forum
- International Institute for Management Development
- Both A and C

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)*

- It is the nodal training and research Institute for interventions in the area of

Social Defence which includes drug abuse prevention, welfare of senior citizens etc.

- It is an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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 Idris Elba

- It is a newly discovered wasp species.
- It is a parasite which infects vegetables and acts as a major threat for plants.

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 'moon Europa'

- It is one of the Galilean moons orbiting Jupiter.
- NASA's Galileo spacecraft studied the planet Jupiter and its moons.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Gharial

1. Presently the wild populations of gharials are found in Bangladesh, India and Nepal only.
2. It is listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and as Critically Endangered on IUCN Red List.

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

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

9) 'Orange the World' campaign which was in news recently is related to

- a. Create awareness of patient safety and to make healthcare safer
- b. To help stop the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance Towards creating gender equality in work place
- c. Towards creating gender equality in work place
- d. To end violence against Women around the world

10) The Production Gap which was in news recently was published by

1. Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI),
2. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD),
3. Overseas Development Institute (ODI),
4. Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO),
5. Climate Analytics,
6. UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

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

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

d. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

Answers

1. d

- The **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** adopted the **Hong Kong International Convention** for the **Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in 2009**.
- It aimed at ensuring that ships being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and to the environment.
- *Cabinet has recently approved the proposal for enactment of **Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019** and **accession to the Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009**.*
- The move will help India double its ship-recycling capacity over the next five years.
- **Germany** became the 13th country to accede to the convention. One of the conditions for the convention to come into force is that **at least 15 countries** ratify it.

Background

- India is the leader in the global ship recycling industry, with a share of over 30% of the market.
- As per UNCTAD report on Review of Maritime Transport, 2018, India had demolished 6323 tonnes in 2017, of known ship scrapping across the world.
- The ship-recycling industry is a labour-intensive sector, but it is susceptible to concerns on environmental safety.

2. c

- **India – Europe 29 Business Forum** has been recently organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs**, Government of India and **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** in New Delhi.
- The Europe 29 (E29) region refers to the 29 countries in **Central, Eastern and Northern Europe**.

- The India - Europe 29 Business Forum will act as a bridge and help close the geographical and knowledge gap between the two regions.
- The Europe 29 region comprises Albania, Liechtenstein, Austria, Lithuania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Malta, Croatia, Moldova, Cyprus, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Estonia, Romania, Finland, Serbia, Greece, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Iceland, Sweden, Latvia, Switzerland and Turkey.

3. a

- **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)** has been prepared for **2018-2023**.
- It has been drafted by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- It aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families.

4. c

- According to the **IMD World Talent Ranking, 2019**, India has slipped 6 places to 59 rank on the global annual list of 63 countries.
- It was released by **International Institute for Management Development (IMD)**.
- The ranking is based on the performance in three main categories -- investment and development, appeal and readiness.

5. c

- The **National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)**, New Delhi, is an autonomous body under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- It is the **nodal training and research Institute** for interventions in the area of Social Defence.
- Though social defence covers the entire gamut of activities and programmes for the protection of society, this Institute is currently focusing on human resource development in the areas **of drug abuse prevention, welfare of senior citizens, beggary**

prevention, transgender and other social defence issues.

6. a

- **Idris Elba** is tiny new **wasp species** recently discovered in Mexico.
- It was **found living as a parasite in the eggs of another insect**, known as the 'bagrada bug', which is a major pest of cruciferous vegetables such as cabbage and broccoli.
- So researchers suggest that the species might prove to be a "**protector**" for many crops.



- The discovery of this wasp marks an important step towards the development of efficient and natural control of the stink bug species *Bagrada hilaris* in North America.

7. c

- Recently, **NASA** just detected water vapor on a moon of Jupiter.
- The water vapor above the surface of Jupiter's moon **Europa** for the first time.
- **Europa is the one of the four Galilean moons orbiting Jupiter**, and the sixth-closest to the planet.
- It's yet another clue that Europa could host alien life.
- **Galileo spacecraft** orbited Jupiter, studied the planet and made close passes by all its major moons.

8. c
- Recently, scientists found a secret breeding site of one of the world's most endangered reptiles **Gharial**, breeding in Nepal after 37 years.
 - **Gharials**, sometimes called gavials, are a type of **Asian crocodilian** distinguished by their long, thin snouts.
 - Historically, the range of gharial distribution has dwindled throughout Pakistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh.
 - **Presently, the wild populations of gharials can only be found in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.**
 - They are a **fresh-water crocodiles**. They live in deep fast-flowing rivers.
 - They are listed in **Schedule I** of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and as **Critically Endangered** on IUCN Red List.
9. d
- **'Orange the World campaign'** was organised recently by **UN Women** and other United Nations agencies.
 - 25th November has been designed as the **Orange Day** by the UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign.
 - The **Orange color symbolizes a brighter future, free of violence.**
 - It serves as a means of demonstrating the solidarity in **eliminating all forms of violence.**
 - **Orange** is therefore **used as the color of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.**
 - As a show of solidarity, the UNESCO globe will be illuminated in orange.
 - It also calls upon people from all walks of life, across generations, to take our boldest stand yet **against rape.**
 - The **India Gate in Delhi was lit in the orange colour** on Wednesday evening to mark the **UN campaign.**
10. d
- **The Production Gap** report is a **first-of-its-kind report** published jointly by,
 1. UN Environment Programme (**UNEP**),
 2. Stockholm Environment Institute (**SEI**),
 3. International Institute for Sustainable Development (**IISD**),
 4. Overseas Development Institute (**ODI**),
 5. Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research (**CICERO**),
 6. Climate Analytics.
 - It is is the **first assessment of the gap between Paris Agreement goals and countries' planned production of coal, oil and gas.**
 - It measured the gap between planned fossil fuel production, climate targets of countries, and goals to limit warming by 1.5 degree Celsius and 2°C goals committed to under the Paris Agreement.
 - This report addresses the necessary winding down of the world's production of fossil fuels in order to meet climate goals.
 - The report reviews, across 10 fossil-fuel-producing countries, the policies and actions that expand fossil fuel production and, in turn, widen the gap.
 - It also provides policy options that can help countries better align production with climate goals.
 - This is especially relevant over the next year, as countries prepare new or updated Nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which set out their new emission reduction plans and climate pledges under the Paris Agreement.

22-11-2019

1) In which of the following conditions, Government of India can terminate Citizenship of an Indian?

1. The citizen has obtained the citizenship by fraud
2. The citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India
3. The citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war
4. The citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for seven years continuously

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tuvalu Islands*

1. Tuvalu is a group of nine tiny islands in the South Atlantic Ocean.
2. River Salinas flows through this group of islands.

Which of 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 *Global Bio-India Summit, 2019*

1. It is one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders conglomerate being held in India for the first time.
2. It has been organised by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of Ministry of Science and Technology.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sowa Rigpa*

1. It is a traditional Greek system of medicine.
2. The majority of theory and practice of Sowa-Rigpa are similar to Ayurveda.

Which of 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 *New Space India Limited (NSIL)*

1. It is a wholly owned Government of India undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS).
2. It is the only commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Shaheen-1*

1. It is a surface-to-surface ballistic missile test fired by Pakistan.



2. It is capable of delivering all types of warheads.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *POSHAN Abhiyaan*

- It is a Ministry of Women and Child Development's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- NITI Aayog closely monitors and undertakes periodic evaluations of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- A special target for stunting is set at 25% by 2022.

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

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

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

- It is a reloadable tag that be read from up to several feet away and need not to be within direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked.
- Person reside within a range of 10 km from the toll plaza can avail a concession on toll to be paid via FASTag.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

9) *MADAD portal* is an online grievances monitoring system for which of the following?

- Railways
- Consular Services
- Coal Quality Monitoring
- Transparency in Education system

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

- These are viruses that can kill the bacteria.
- These are found naturally where bacteria are present.

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

By Deprivation: It is a compulsory termination of Indian citizenship by the Central government, if:

- the citizen has obtained the **citizenship by fraud**
 - the citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India
 - the citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war
 - the citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalisation, been imprisoned in any country for two years and
 - the citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for **seven years** continuously.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently cancelled the citizenship of TRS MLA from Vemulawada in north Telangana Chennamaneni Ramesh.

- The MHA has cancelled his citizenship on the ground of misrepresentation of facts at the time of applying for citizenship in 2008.

2. d

- Tuvalu is a group of **nine tiny islands** in the **South Pacific** which won independence from the United Kingdom in 1978.
- Five of the islands are coral atolls, the other four consist of land rising from the sea bed.
- Formerly known as the **Ellice Islands**, all are **low-lying**, with no point on Tuvalu being higher than 4.5m above sea level.
- Life on the islands is simple and often harsh. **There are no streams or rivers**, so the collection of rain is essential.
- It has recently rejected offers from Chinese firms to build artificial islands that would help it deal with rising sea levels.
- Tuvalu saw the offers as an attempt to reduce Taiwan's influence in the region.
- But it instead reaffirmed its support for Taiwan.



3. c

- Global Bio-India is one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders conglomerate being **held in India for the first time**.

- It has brought academia, innovators, researchers, start-ups, medium and large companies together on the same platform.
- Biotechnology is recognized as the sunrise sector- a key driver for contributing to India's USD 5 Trillion economy target by 2025.
- The three-day event has been organized by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** of **Ministry of Science & Technology** along with its Public Sector Undertaking, **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**.

4. b

- Recently, Union cabinet approves establishment of **National Institute of Sowa Rigpa (NISR)** in Leh.
- It will be an **autonomous national institute** under the **Ministry of AYUSH** with the mandate of undertaking interdisciplinary education and research programmes.
- **“Sowa-Rigpa” (Science of healing)** commonly known as **“Tibetan system of medicine”** is one of the oldest, living and well documented medical tradition of the world.
- It has been originated from Tibet and popularly practice in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia and Russia.
- The **majority of theory and practice of Sowa-Rigpa is similar to “Ayurveda”**.
- **rGyud-bZhi (four tantra)** the **fundamental text book** of this medicine was composed by **Yuthog Yonten Gonpo** who is believed to be the **father of Sowa Rigpa**.

5. a

- **New Space India Limited (NSIL)**, is a wholly owned Government of India undertaking (CPSE), under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS).
- It is to commercially exploit the research and development work of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It is the **second commercial arm of ISRO** after **Antrix**.

- **Antrix Corporation looks at foreign markets** whereas **NSIL** will focus **mostly on domestic industries** for commercialisation activities.
6. d
- **Pakistan** recently test-fired a **nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile ‘Shaheen-1’**.
 - It can strike targets up to 650 kilometres, bringing many Indian cities under its range.
 - The missile is **capable of delivering all types of warheads** (conventional as well as nuclear).
7. d
- The Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition or **POSHAN Abhiyaan**, is a Ministry of Women and Child Development’s flagship programme **to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers**.
 - **NITI Aayog** has **played a critical role** in shaping the POSHAN Abhiyaan.
 - **NITI Aayog** has been **entrusted with the task of closely monitoring the POSHAN Abhiyaan and undertaking periodic evaluations**.
 - **NITI Aayog** is required to submit implementation status reports of POSHAN Abhiyaan every six months to the PMO.
 - The task of implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan is to be carried out through the ‘Technical Support Unit’ (TSU) established at NITI Aayog.
8. c
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced that **FASTags** will become **mandatory** for all vehicles, private and commercial, **from December 1, 2019**.
 - A FASTag is a **reloadable tag that automatically deducts toll charges** and allows a vehicle to pass through a toll gate without stopping for the payment.
 - It uses radio frequency identification (**RFID**) technology to make cashless payments through a prepaid account linked to it.
- It can be read from up to several feet away and **does not need to be within direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked**.
 - The tag, which is valid for five years, comes in seven different colours, violet, orange, yellow, green, pink, blue, black.
 - Each colour is assigned to a particular category of vehicles.
 - People **residing within a range of 10 km from the toll plaza, can avail a concession** on toll to be paid via FASTag.
 - In such a case, they need to submit the required documents, proof of residence at the bank, nearest POS location to validate the residential address is within 10 km of a particular toll plaza.
 - Once the address is verified, they can avail a concession on the toll paid via FASTag assigned to the particular vehicle.
9. b
- The MADAD Portal is an online grievances monitoring system launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on February 21, 2015.
 - The e-portal provides Indian citizens living abroad an online platform in which they can file **consular grievances** to the Indian government.
 - **Rail MADAD** (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) is an app launched by Ministry of Railways to expedite and streamline passenger grievance redressal.
10. c
- Bacteriophages are **viruses** that can kill the bacteria.
- 23-11-2019**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Cartosat-3*
1. It is a third-generation advanced Space-observation satellite with high-resolution imaging capability.
 2. It is the first dedicated Indian satellite aimed at studying celestial sources in X-



ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.

3. It will be launched using PSLV C-47 rocket.

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

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

2) The *Jing Kieng Jri* or *Living Root Bridges* are aerial bridges built by weaving and manipulating the roots of the Indian rubber tree. These are found in?

- Assam
- Nagaland
- Meghalaya
- Karnataka

3) *Budapest Convention* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with?

- Cyber Crime
- Protection of Ozone Layer
- Ballast Water Management
- Civil Liability for oil pollution and damage

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

- It is a natural toxin produced by bacteria known as *Clostridium botulinum*.
- It is found only in soil and can also be artificially prepared.

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 *Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan*

- It is to sensitize and mobilise the community on measures for prevention and control of Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs).
- It is an initiative of NITI Aayog along with WHO.

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 One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme

- It supportswomen above 18 years of age affected by violence, irrespective of caste, class, religion, region, sexual orientation or marital status.
- The Central Government will provide 100% financial assistance to the State Government/UT Administrations under the Scheme.

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 Central Asian Flyway (CAF)

- It is a traditional migration route across the Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and ends in Pakistan.
- Bonn Convention provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.

Which of 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) Ganga Sagar and Mousuni Islands which was in news recently are a part of?

- a. The continental shelf of Bay of Bengal, West Bengal
- b. St. Mary's Island, Karnataka
- c. Willingdon Island, Kochi
- d. Diu Island

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company*

1. It is a common trustee company to manage and operate various credit guarantee trust funds.
2. It has been set up by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Anti-defection law*

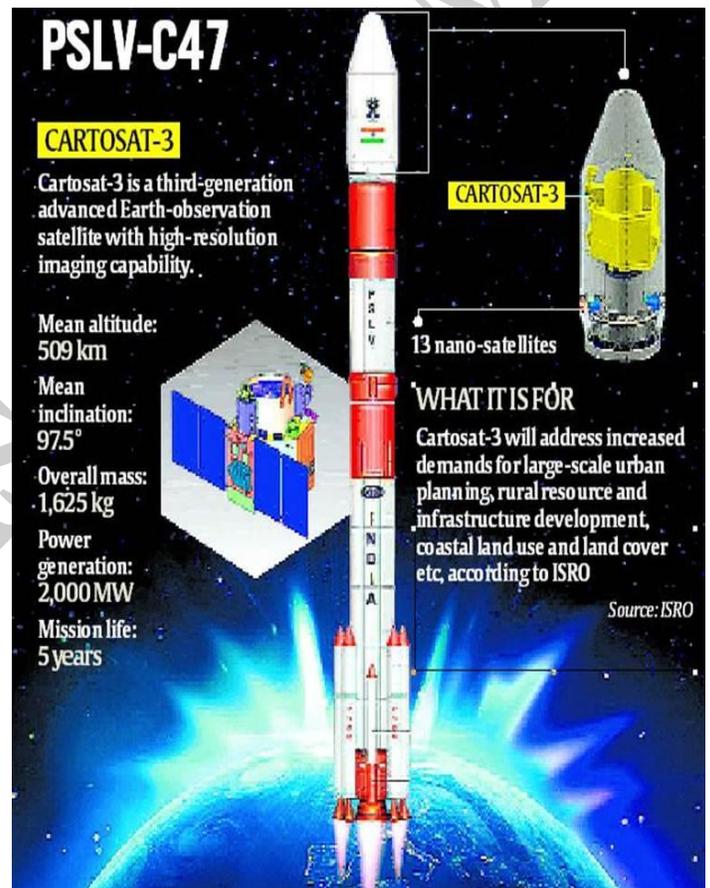
1. It made legislators liable to be penalised for their conduct both inside and outside the legislature.
2. It made the Presiding Officer of the legislature the sole arbiter of defection proceedings.

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

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

Answers

1. a



- **ISRO** will launch **Cartosat-3**, and 13 other foreign satellites, aboard a PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) C-47.
- The main purpose of the mission is to place the 1,625-kg Cartosat-3 satellite, the third generation of **Earth-observation remote sensing satellites** that ISRO has been launching and using since 1988.
- These satellites provide high-resolution imagery of the Earth that are used for applications like 3-D mapping, disaster management, agriculture and water

management, recording of changes in land use, and urban and rural infrastructure planning, and even border surveillance.

- The **PSLV-C47 rocket** is also carrying 13 commercial nano-satellites from the United States (U.S).

2. c

- The Jing Kieng Jri or Living Root Bridges – aerial bridges built by weaving and manipulating the roots of the Indian rubber tree – have been serving as connectors for generations in **Meghalaya**.
- Spanning between 15 and 250 feet and built over centuries, the bridges, primarily a means to cross streams and rivers, have also become world-famous tourist attractions.
- Now, new research investigates these structures and proposes to integrate them in modern architecture around the world, and potentially help make cities more environment-friendly.

3. a

- It is the sole legally binding multilateral treaty that coordinates cybercrime investigations between nation-states and criminalises certain cybercrime conduct.
- The convention is led by Council of Europe, which is distinct from European Union.
- Both members and non-members of Council of Europe are parties to the convention.
- Totally 64 nations are party to this convention and 3 countries have signed but yet to ratify the convention.
- India, Russia and China are not members to this convention.
- The 2nd additional protocol to the convention is under preparation and the member countries recently met at Strasbourg.
- Russia recently passed a resolution in United Nation General Assembly (UNGA), to create a new treaty that can coordinate and share data to prevent cybercrime.
- India voted in favour of Russia's resolution.

4. a

Avian Botulism

- Over 17,000 birds were found dead in the past few days in the Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan.
- It is not the first time that where deaths due to botulism have been recorded. It is reported in Lake Michigan in 2007 and 2008 and in Hawaii in 2008.
- The Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, states that climatic conditions were ultimately responsible for having triggered the mass die-off.
- It is occurred due to **avian botulism**, a disease caused by bacteria that affects nerves.
- Botulinum is a natural toxin produced by bacteria known as Clostridium botulin.
- It produces the toxin when it starts reproducing and attack the neurons which leads to muscle paralysis.
- It is commonly found in the **soil, river, and sea water**.
- There are around eight types – A, B, C1, C2, D, E, F, and G – of botulinum toxin and they are distinguishable when diagnosed.
- Botulinum affects both humans and animals, but the type of the toxin varies – botulinum C in birds and A, B and E in humans.

5. a

- **Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan (Peoples Movement)** is a special campaign in Delhi to sensitise and mobilise the community on measures **for prevention and control of Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs)** like Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya.
- It is an initiative of **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

6. b

- The **One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme** provides a range of services including police facilitation, medical aid, psycho-social counselling, legal counselling and temporary shelter to women affected by violence in an integrated manner under one roof.
- It **supports all women including girls below 18 years of age** affected by violence,

irrespective of caste, class, religion, region, sexual orientation or marital status, both in private and public spaces.

- The Centres will be integrated with a Women Helpline to facilitate access.
- The Scheme will be funded through NirbhayaFund .
- The **Central Government will provide 100% financial assistance to the State Government /UT Administrations** under the Scheme.

7. b

- A joint study by Russian and Indian scientists shows that Migratory birds from Siberia and northern Eurasia could be falling prey to power lines and turbines in India.
- The **Central Asian Flyway (CAF)** covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans and the associated island chains.
- It traditionally migrated 5,500 km south across the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, **before arriving at the wintering grounds in Keoladeo Ghana National Park in Rajasthan.**
- Even Indian government has launched a national action plan conservation of migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway.
- India provides a critical stopover as well as a wintering habitat to more than 370 species of migratory birds.
- **CMS or Bonn Convention**(Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.
- CMS brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.

8. a

- **The island at the confluence of the Ganga** and the Bay of Bengal is **losing the battle to sea level rise**, coastal erosion, tidal surges and violent cyclones.

- Studies over the decades have recorded that the **sea level in the area rose** from 2.26 mm a year in 2002 to 12 mm in 2014 and by another 2.9 mm in 2019.
- **Ganga Sagar and Mousuni Islands** are in the Ganges delta, **lying on the continental shelf of Bay of Bengal** to the south of Kolkata, **West Bengal.**
- **Ganga Sagar** is the largest island in the Sundarbans archipelago.
- It is one of the most famous Hindu pilgrimage centres in India.
- Every year on MakarSankranti pilgrims from all over India, gather at Gangasagar for a holy dip at the confluence of the river Ganga and the Bay of Bengal.
- **Gangasagar Fair** is the second biggest congregation of Hindu pilgrims after the KumbhaMela.
- **Mousuni**, which lies a few km south of Ganga Sagar, is similarly exposed to the sea.



9. c

Credit Guarantee Fund

- National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd is a common trustee company to manage and operate various credit guarantee trust funds.
- It has been set up by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- It operates Fund of Funds for Start-ups (FFS) under Start up India Programme.
- Under Startup India initiative, all applications can be submitted to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- Collateral-free loans have been made available to MSMEs under the Credit Guarantee Scheme in Aspirational Districts.

10. c

- It made legislators liable to be penalised for their conduct both inside and outside the legislature.
- It made the Presiding Officer of the legislature the sole arbiter of defection proceedings.

25-11-2019

1) Article 74 of the constitution of India provides that “there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head to advise the President”. Which rule of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules 1961, states that “the Prime Minister may, permit or condone a departure from these rules, to the extent he deems necessary”?

- Rule 2
- Rule 12
- Rule 8
- Rule 10

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)* between Japan and South Korea

1. This allows the two countries to directly share information on North Korea’s nuclear and missile activities.
2. South Korea decided to quit GSOMIA pact with Japan recently.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sumatran Rhinos*

1. They are the smallest of the living rhinoceroses and the only Asian rhino with two horns.
2. They are listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.
3. The New Delhi Declaration was signed to secure the future of Asian rhinos.

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

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

4) Consider the following with respect to *Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsav*

1. The festival honors Lord Bahubali, a revered Buddhist monk.
2. Gomateshwara statue is one of the largest free-standing statues in the world made up of Grey stone.

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 *Golden Rice*

1. It is a Biofortified rice variety.
2. It contains beta-carotene which gives the golden color.
3. It is intended to fight against Vitamin A deficiency.

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

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

6) Which of the following best describes the term “*Sea Ranching*” sometimes seen in the news recently?

- a. Cultivation of marine organisms for food and other products in the open ocean
- b. Fishes are reared in a controlled laboratory environment and let into the sea
- c. Mineral retrieval process that takes place on the ocean floor
- d. Submersion of oil drilling equipments fully in deep ocean waters

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Cochin Forest Cane Turtle*

1. It is endemic to the Western Ghats in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
2. It is extremely rare and cannot be easily spotted.
3. It is herbivorous, with the diet including mostly Sugar Canes.
4. It is listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1, 2 and 4 only

c. 2, 3 and 4 only

d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES)*

1. It is traditionally a quinquennial (recurring every five years) survey.
2. It will be conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF)*

1. It is a fund that are publicly listed and traded on a stock exchange.
2. The price of the ETF is based on the net asset value of the underlying stocks.
3. It is available only for stocks and are not available for currencies and commodities.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Industrial Security Annex (ISA) Pact*

1. It is a military pact recently signed between India and U.S.A.
2. It is a part of the Communications, Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA).

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

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

Answers

1. b

- The Centre invoked **Rule 12 of the Transaction of Business Rules, 1961** to revoke President's Rule in Maharashtra.
- It empowered it to **revoke the proclamation** of President's rule **without the prior approval of the Union Cabinet**.
- Titled "**Departure from Rules**", **Rule 12** says, "The Prime Minister may, in case or classes of cases permit or condone a departure from these rules, to the extent he deems necessary."
- The Cabinet can subsequently give post-facto approval for any decision taken under Rule 12.
- The **last big decision taken through the invocation of Rule 12** was in,
 - **re-organisation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territories** of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on October 31.
- Rule 12 is usually not used to arrive at major decisions by the government.
- However, it has been used in matters such as withdrawal of an office memorandum or signing of MoUs in the past.

2. a

- The **General Security of Military Information Agreement**, commonly referred to as **GSOMIA**, allowed **Japan and South Korea** to directly share information on North Korea's nuclear and missile activities.
- The agreement is the first intelligence-sharing agreement between the two nations since Korea's liberation from Imperial Japan in 1945.

- **South Korea, decided to suspend its plans to quit** an intelligence sharing pact with Japan amid pressure from the US.
- Significantly, **both South Korea and Japan are US allies**.
- But in **recent years, the relationship between both countries has deteriorated**, given the **territorial dispute over the Dokdo islands** known as Takeshima in Japan.
- While South Korea controls them, the islands are claimed by Japan.
- Furthermore, the two countries have differing views on Imperial Japan's treatment of Koreans, especially the forced labourers and "comfort women" or "sex slaves".
- In July, Japan imposed export controls on three chemicals that South Korea uses in its important semiconductor industry.
- In August, Japan decided to remove South Korea from its "white list", a fast track trade list of trusted partners.
- This is considered to be retaliation for South Korea's decision to leave the intelligence pact, a decision that was made in August.

3. d

- The **Sumatran rhino** is now **officially extinct in Malaysia**, with the death of the last known specimen.
- The Sumatran rhino once roamed across Asia, but has now almost disappeared from the wild, with fewer than 100 animals believed to exist.
- The species is listed as **Critically Endangered** in IUCN Red List.
- They are the **smallest of the living rhinoceroses** and the **only Asian rhino with two horns**.
- India signed '**The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019**' with **Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia** to increase the population of three species of **Asian rhinos**.
- The **Asian species include** the greater one-horned rhino, the Javan rhino and the Sumatran rhino.

4. d
- It is a ritual celebrated once in 12 years for **Lord Bahubali** in Shravanabelagola, Karnataka.
 - The festival honors **Lord Gommateshwara**, also known as **Lord Bahubali**, a revered figure among the **Jains**.
 - **Lord Bahubali is the son of the first Jain Tirthankara.**
 - The statue was carved under the order of Chamundaraya, who was the **Ganga Dynasty's** minister and commander in 981 AD.
 - It is one of the largest free-standing statues in the world **made up of Granite.**
5. c
- **Bangladesh is on the verge of becoming the first country to approve plantation of Golden Rice.**
 - It is said to be answer to **Vitamin A deficiency**, which in Bangladesh, over 21% of the children are suffering.
 - **Golden rice is a Genetically modified, Biofortified crop.** Biofortification increases the nutritional value in crops.
 - Rice is naturally low in the pigment beta-carotene.
 - It contains '**beta-carotene**' (provitamin A), which is **converted into vitamin A** as needed by the body and **gives the grain its gold color.**
 - It is developed by the Philippines-based '**International Rice Research Institute**' (IRRI).
6. b
- **Sea Ranching** or **Ocean Ranching** is an internationally accepted concept, where fish that are commercially important and need replenishment are reared in a controlled laboratory environment and let into the sea when they are of a certain size.
 - The expectation is that they would develop so that local fishers can catch them.
7. a
- *In an effort to replenish natural fish stock in the sea off the coast of Tamil Nadu, the Fisheries Department has planned to ranch seeds of black tiger shrimps, Indian prawn and cobia at a cost of Rs. 10.5 crore.*
 - The **Cochin Forest Cane Turtle**, *Vijayachelys silvatica* (Family Geoemydidae), is a cryptic species in a monotypic genus **endemic** to the semi-evergreen and evergreen forests of the **Western Ghats** in south-western India.
 - It is the smallest turtle species in India.
 - *Vijayachelys silvatica* is omnivorous, with the diet including insects, molluscs, earthworms, millipedes, and fruits.
 - The turtle that was discovered in 1912 and was again spotted only in 1982 is extremely rare and cannot be easily spotted.
 - The 10-cm-long turtle blended in colour and shape with the dry leaves that clothed the forest floor.



- The cane turtle is an anomaly. It scuttles through the forest, but it is not a tortoise.
- Although the shape of its legs and webbed feet are reminiscent of its aquatic relatives, **it doesn't like water** and stays clear of streams.
- It is listed as "**Endangered**" in the IUCN Red List.

8. c

- The CES is traditionally a **quinquennial** (recurring **every five years**) survey conducted by the government's National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) that is designed to collect information on the consumption spending patterns of households across the country, both urban and rural.
- The data gathered in this exercise reveals the average expenditure on goods (food and non-food) and services and helps generate estimates of household Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) as well as the distribution of households and persons over the MPCE classes.
- The estimates of monthly per capita consumption spending are vital in gauging the demand dynamics of the economy as well as for understanding the shifting priorities in terms of baskets of goods and services, and in assessing living standards and growth trends across multiple strata.

9. b

Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF)

- An ETF is a fund that comprises a group of stocks that are listed on an exchange and can be simply traded like any other listed security.
- Typically, an ETF mirrors a particular index, which means the group of stocks in the ETF would be similar to those in the index that it is benchmarked to. So, for instance, an ETF mirroring the Sensex would have the same 30 stocks that the Sensex has.
- In other words, if one buys an ETF mirroring the Nifty, he's indirectly buying all the stocks that are there in the Nifty without going through the trouble of buying each stock individually.

What are the benefits of investing through ETFs?

- The biggest benefit is liquidity. Since an ETF is publicly listed and traded on a stock exchange, liquidity is not an issue.
- An investor can know the price of each unit of the ETF and take an informed decision.
- The price of the ETF is based on the net asset value of the underlying stocks. Second, the

fund management fee of an ETF is much lower than that of a normal mutual fund scheme.

- So, investors save on that aspect as well while getting the benefit of a professional fund manager.

What is the difference between an ETF and an Index Fund?

- While an index fund is also designed to mirror a particular index, there are some differences between an ETF and an index fund. First, an index fund is just like any other mutual fund wherein the net asset value (NAV) of the fund is based on the closing price of the underlying securities.
- In the case of an ETF, however, the NAV is continuously linked to the current market price of the underlying stocks, which also makes it possible to buy or sell the ETF unit throughout the day just like an ordinary stock. But, since an ETF is traded like a stock, one needs a demat account to buy or sell an ETF whereas an index fund can be bought directly from an asset management company without having a demat account.

Are ETFs available only for stocks?

- No. An ETF can be created for any kind of asset or security that has an index or a liquid market for the underlying securities of the ETF.
- Globally, **there are many ETFs on bonds, currencies and commodities** as well.
- In India, gold ETFs are quite popular and have physical gold as the underlying security.

10. d

- The **Industrial Security Annex (ISA)** is a part of the **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**, which India had signed with the U.S. many years ago.
- The ISA is crucial for U.S. companies bidding for big-ticket Indian deals to partner Indian private companies.
- The next 2+2 dialogue between India and the U.S. is likely to be held on December 18 in Washington, D.C., during which the two countries are **expected to sign the Industrial Security Annex (ISA)** and

review the steps being taken to operationalise the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA).

- But the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA), which is under discussion, is unlikely to be concluded.

26-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) Scheme*

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to State/UTs for protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitats in Protected Areas as well as outside Protected Areas.
3. Currently, 21 critically endangered species have been identified under this programme.

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

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

2) "*Gamosa*" is a traditional textile which recently gets Geographical Identity (GI) tag is famous in which of the following states?

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

3) Which one of the following best describes the term "*Named Driver Policy*" sometimes seen in the news recently?

- a. Four wheeler licenses will be issued to a person only after he/she is certified as a trained two wheeler driver

b. Only the owner will be allowed to drive the vehicle and no others are permitted to drive that vehicle

c. The insurance firm will pay the claim amount in full only if the named driver was at the wheel

d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sabka Vishwas Scheme*

1. The aim of the scheme is to help taxpayers in clearing the disputes under legacy service and central excise tax which are subsumed in Goods and Service Tax.
2. The main components of the Scheme are dispute resolution and amnesty.
3. It was launched by the Ministry of Finance.

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 *Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana*

1. It is a welfare measure being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.
2. It offers cash compensation to insured persons when they are rendered unemployed.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)*

1. It functions as an attached office of the Department of Culture.
2. It takes up the conservation project only in India.

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

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

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

1. They are the single largest tribal community in Tripura.
2. They are recognized as a plains tribe in the Sixth 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

8) *Sangai Festival* which was in news recently is celebrated in

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rohtang Tunnel*

1. It will cut through the mighty Pir Panjal range of Himalayas located in the Ladakh Union Territory.

2. The tunnel provides a winter link to residents of Lahaul and Spiti.
3. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) along with Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is working on this project.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *X-59 QueSST*

1. It is a new supersonic demonstration piloted aircraft to fly faster than sound without producing the annoying, sonic booms.
2. It is being indigenously developed by NASA.

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

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

Answers

1. d

- The Government of India provides **financial and technical assistance** to the State/UT Governments for activities aimed at wildlife conservation through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. '**Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats**'.

The scheme has following three components:

1. Support to Protected Areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves)
2. Protection of Wildlife outside Protected Areas and mitigation of Human Wildlife conflict.

3. Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.

Scope

- Under IDWH, the financial assistance is provided to State/UT Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitats in **Protected Areas (PAs) as well as outside PAs** and **also for the recovery programmes of the critically endangered species**.
- The implementation of the schemes would be done through the respective States in designated Tiger Reserves, Protected Areas and Elephant Reserves.
- Presently, **21 critically endangered species** have been identified under this programme.

2. a

- Assam's traditionally woven "**Gamosa**" with its distinctive red border and floral motifs, and a semi-glutinous winter rice variety "**Chokuwa**" have earned the coveted geographical indications (GI) recognition as proof of their unique geographical origins, thereby getting legal protection to prevent their unauthorized use.



- The Muga silk was the state's first product to get the tag in 2007.
- In 2015, the pungent Karbi Anglong ginger and the juicy Tezpur litchi got the recognition.
- The GI Registry journal described the Gamosa as a handloom product, which is one of the unique identities of Assamese society.
- Gamosa is a traditional textile of Assam. It bears great significance for the people of Assam.

- Gamosa is one of the unique identities of Assamese society. It is a symbol of Assamese culture.
 - This is a handloom product which has high esteem and wide usage in Assamese culture.
 - In earlier times, Gamosa was also known as "**Phali**".
 - Furthermore, as it was used to wipe face that is why it was also known as "**Mukhosa**".
 - The **Chokuwa rice of Assam** has been described as a "unique gift of nature".
 - This class of rice is not known in any other parts of the world.
 - Chokuwa rice is a special class of semi glutinous winter rice (Sali rice in vernacular) of Assam which is in cultivation from time immemorial.
 - This group of rice is characterized by low amylase content (12-17%) of the grains.
 - Chokuwa rice varieties are tall, photo-sensitive and long duration varieties with low yield potential.
 - However, this class of semi-glutinous rice differs from other Sali rice varieties in its plant and grain characteristics.
 - Recently, the multipurpose **Assamese gamosa**, a ubiquitous, white cotton towel, has also been assigned a new function – conservation of rare freshwater turtles.
 - Few cultural symbols are as utilitarian as the white handmade cotton **gamosa**, with its characteristic red border of woven motifs.
 - It is valued as a gift for visitors, used as a scarf, anti-dust mask, wrapped around the head as a turban.
 - Conservationists are now banking on this cultural icon to carry forward the message of turtle conservation, with **gamosas** woven with turtle images.
3. c
- **IRDAI panel has recently suggested the Named Driver Policy and use of telematics in insurance sector.**

- A **Named Driver Policy** is a type of insurance policy that, in short, provides coverage for **only the drivers listed on the policy**.
 - (i.e) If you have a **named driver insurance policy**, the only drivers covered the event of a crash are those specifically listed on the policy.
 - If you allow your friend – unlisted on the named driver policy – borrow your vehicle and they get into an accident, you would have no coverage.
 - Use of **telematics or tracking devices** will monitor the driving habits such as acceleration, and braking and will provide feedback to the driver.
 - Auto owners only pay the premium aligned to their driving profile and thus avoid paying for coverage based on one-size-fits-all system.
 - Telematics will eventually pave the way for a 'Pay As You Drive' and 'Pay How You Drive' model.
4. d
- The aim of Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019 is to help taxpayers, including small taxpayers, in clearing the baggage of disputes under legacy taxes (Service Tax and Central Excise), which are subsumed in Goods and Service Tax.
 - It was launched by the Ministry of Finance.
 - The main components of the Scheme are dispute resolution and amnesty.
 - The **dispute resolution component** is aimed at liquidating the legacy cases of Central Excise and Service Tax that are subsumed in GST and are pending in litigation at various forums.
 - The **amnesty component** of the Scheme offers an opportunity to the taxpayers to pay the outstanding tax and be free of any other consequence under the law.
 - The most attractive aspect of the Scheme is that it provides substantial relief in the tax dues for all categories of cases as well as full waiver of interest, fine and penalty.
- In all these cases, there would be no other liability of interest, fine or penalty. There is also a complete amnesty from prosecution.
5. a
- **Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana** is a welfare measure being implemented by the **Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation, Ministry of Labour**.
 - It offers cash compensation to insured persons when they are rendered unemployed.
 - It will be applicable for employees covered under the **Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948**.
- Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation**
- It is **self-financing social security and health insurance scheme** for Indian workers.
 - It is **autonomous corporation by statutory creation under Ministry of Labour and Employment**, Government of India.
 - It is **managed by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** according to rules and regulations stipulated there in the ESI Act 1948.
6. a
- Recently, Ministry of Culture told in Lok Sabha that a total 651 Hindu temples in India are designated as Centrally Protected Monuments under the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.
 - Archaeological and historical pursuits in India started with the efforts of Sir William Jones, who put together a group of antiquarians to form the **Asiatic Society in 1784 in Calcuta**.
 - **ASI** is the successor of **The Asiatic Society of India**. It was established in 1861.
 - It functions as an attached office of the **Department of Culture**.
 - The **major activities** of the Archaeological Survey of India are:
 1. Survey of archaeological remains and excavations

2. Maintenance and conservation of centrally protected monuments sites and remains
3. Chemical preservation of monuments and antiquarian remains
4. Architectural survey of monuments
5. Development of epigraphical research and numismatic studies
6. Setting up and re-organisation of site museums
7. **Expedition abroad**
8. Training in Archaeology
9. Publication of technical report and research works.
- The **ASI has taken up the conservation project of Ta Prohm, Cambodia** under the ITEC programme of Ministry of External Affairs.

7. b

- Recently, the central government extended the ban on the insurgent group **National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)** by 5 more years for its involvement in a series of violent activities including killings and extortion, and for joining hands with anti-India forces.
- National Democratic Front of Bodoland (**NDFB**), an organisation that is known to be involved in attacks, killings, and extortions.
- **Bodos** are the **single largest tribal community in Assam**, making up over 5-6 per cent of the state's population.
- The four districts in Assam, Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri and Chirang, that constitute the Bodo Territorial Area District (BTAD), are home to several ethnic groups.
- They are **recognized as a plains tribe in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**.
- The **Bodos** felt increasingly alienated with the unwillingness of both the central and state governments in resolving the issue. This in turn intensified the **Bodo movement**.
- No longer did they demand a union territory. Instead, the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU)

started agitating for the creation of the **Bodoland state**.

8. d

- Government of **Manipur**, Spearheaded by Tourism Department, celebrates the Manipur **Sangai Festival**.
- Celebrated each year from 21st to 30th of November, this is one of the most popular festivals of India.
- **Theme** - To project & showcase the tourism potential and promote "**DESTINATION MANIPUR**".
- The Festival strives to showcase and promote the best of what the state has to offer to the world in terms of art and culture, handloom, handicrafts & fine arts, indigenous sports, cuisines & music, eco & adventure sports as well as the scenic natural beauty of the land.
- Moreover, the Festival has assumed great significance in recent years as it celebrates ethnic diversity of Manipur Society.
- Participation of various Indian States, foreign traders and cultural troupes in the Festival makes it grander in scale and style.

9. b

- Recently, Defence Minister informed that efforts would be made to make the **Rohtang Tunnel** operational by May 2020.
- The Rohtang Tunnel, when complete, will cut through the mighty **Pir Panjal range** located in the state of **Himachal Pradesh**.
- It will provide a **winter link to residents of Lahaul and Spiti** village of Himachal Pradesh.
- It will reduce the distance between Manali and tribal district Lahaul-Spiti's administrative centre Keylong by around 45 kilometres.
- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** have been working on the project.

10. a

- The **X-59 QueSST**, (short for Quiet SuperSonic Technology), a **new supersonic demonstration piloted aircraft** to enable the next generation of commercial supersonic aircraft.

- US-based aerospace firm **Lockheed Martin Skunk Works** has **partnered with NASA** to enable the next generation of commercial supersonic aircraft.
- It is being **developed by Lockheed Martin Skunk Works** for NASA.
- It has a 4k display instead of a front-facing window.



Source: NASA

27-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Scheme for setting up of Plastic Parks*

1. Under the scheme, the government provides grant funding up to 90 per cent of the project cost.
2. Plastic parks are being developed by State Governments with the support of Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.

Which of 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 *Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill*

1. It defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.
2. It provides every transgender person a right to reside and be included in his household.
3. It seeks to establish a National Council for Transgender persons (NCT) chaired by the Union Minister for Social Justice.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) *Emissions Gap Report, 2019* was released recently by which of the following?

- a. UN Environment Programme
- b. International Energy Agency
- c. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *BRUIE Robot* sometimes seen in the news recently

1. It is an underwater robot developed for underwater exploration in extra-terrestrial and icy waters.
2. It was developed by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

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

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

5) With respect to “*ElectroSkin*” sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a new fundamental building block for a range of soft next-generation robots.
2. It is an important step towards soft robots that can be easily transported, deployed and even worn.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Global Exhibition on Services (GES)*

1. It is an attempt towards escalating the Indian services bar in the global arena by exploring 12 Champion Services Sectors.
2. GES 2019 SEPC is looking to promote eSports.
3. It is organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) only.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Prosperity & Inclusion City Seal and Awards (PICSA) Index*

1. It provides a new measure of economic productivity that goes beyond GDP.
2. It was commissioned and compiled by Basque institutions and D&L Partners.

Which of 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 *CLSS Awas Portal (CLAP)*

1. It aims to provides a transparent and robust real-time web-based monitoring system for credit-linked Subsidy Services.
2. It was launched by Ministry of Finance.

Which of 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) ‘*She Shuttle*’ which was in news recently was launched in?

- a. Delhi
- b. Mumbai
- c. Pune
- d. Hyderabad

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)*

1. It is an intergovernmental organization responsible for the management and conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.
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

Answers

1. b

Plastic Parks

- A plastic park is an industrial zone devoted to plastic enterprises and its allies' industries.
- It includes a whole range of companies required by the plastics processing community such as
 1. Material and machinery suppliers,
 2. Plastics processing companies,
 3. Plastic recycling companies including waste management system.
- These plastic parks are being developed by State Governments with the support of Department of Chemicals & Petrochemical of Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- The government has approved setting up of 6 plastic parks in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.
- Under the scheme, the government provides grant funding up to 50 per cent of the project cost.
- The remaining project cost is to be funded by State Government beneficiary industries and by a loan from financial institutions.

2. d

- The Bill defines a transgender person as **one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.**
- It includes trans-men and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar and hijra.
- Intersex variations is defined to mean a person who at birth shows variation in his or her primary sexual characteristics, external genitalia, chromosomes, or hormones from the normative standard of male or female body.
- It seeks to establish a **National Council for Transgender persons (NCT)** will consist

of: (i) **Union Minister for Social Justice (Chairperson)**; (ii) Minister of State for Social Justice (Vice- Chairperson); (iii) Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice; (iv) one representative from ministries including Health, Home Affairs, and Human Resources Development.

- Every transgender person shall have a **right to reside and be included in his household.**

3. a

- Global emissions of greenhouse gases, which are responsible for global warming, are growing rather than declining as they should.
- Even if all countries meet the unconditional commitments they made at the Paris conference in 2015, GHG emissions will be way more than what they should be.
- India is among the few countries that are on track to meeting their Paris targets (called 'nationally determined contributions' or NDCs).
- This is the central message of the **United Nations Environment Programme's 'Emissions Gap Report, 2019'**, released recently.
- 'Emissions gap', as defined by the report itself, refers to "the difference between where we're likely to be and where we need to be."

4. c

- **NASA** recently displayed a new **underwater robot** for a mission that could one day search for life in ocean worlds beyond Earth.
- The robot, known as **Buoyant Rover for Under-Ice Exploration (BRUIE)**, is being developed for **underwater exploration in extra-terrestrial, icy waters.**
- It could be used to explore **Jupiter's moon Europa** or **Saturn's moon Enceladus.**

5. c

- **"ElectroSkin"** is a new **fundamental building block** for a range of soft next-generation robots.
- It is an important step towards soft robots that can be easily transported, deployed and even worn.

- The combination of electrical artificial muscles and electrical gripping replicated the movements of animals like slugs and snails, and where they can go, so could our robots.
 - The thin and light robots have been developed using a new way of embedding **artificial muscles and electrical adhesion** into soft materials.
 - Traditional robots are rigid and incompressible whereas soft robots are compliant and can stretch and twist to adapt to their environments.
 - Until now, soft robots have separated their movement abilities from their capabilities to grip the surface they move on.
 - Taking inspiration from biological skins and soft organisms like snails and slugs, researchers have successfully demonstrated a new robotic skin that crawls across a surface by alternately contracting embedded artificial muscles and gripping the surface using electrical charges.
 - In the future, "ElectroSkin" robots could crawl up walls and across ceiling to clean them, explore difficult to reach environments including collapsed buildings, and be used in a range wearable second-skin devices.
 - This new advance could create new thin and light robots for environmental monitoring and deployment in hazardous environments, robot grippers for delicate objects and new wearable technologies.
6. c
- The 5th edition of **GES 2019** is being held from 26-28th November 2019 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - It is an attempt towards escalating the Indian services bar in the global arena by **exploring 12 Champion Services Sectors**, encompassing participation from 74 countries.
 - It is organised by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with Services Export Promotion Council (**SEPC**) and Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**).
 - In **GES 2019 SEPC is also looking to promote eSports**.
7. c
- The eSports industry is expected to grow rapidly and in 2017 worldwide revenue generated in eSports market amounted to USD 655 million.
 - The **first-ever non-commercial, Prosperity & Inclusion City Seal and Awards (PICSA) Index** was **commissioned by Basque institutions and compiled by D&L Partners**.
 - It provides a **new measure of economic productivity that goes beyond GDP**.
 - It provides a holistic account of how well people are doing in an economy and which have the most empowered populations.
 - It marks the first time that the world's major cities have been ranked not just by the size and health of their economy, but for their efforts to build inclusive and prosperous environments for all its citizens.
 - **Bangalore stood at 83rd rank**, while Delhi and Mumbai ranked 101 and 107 among 113 cities in world.
 - **Zurich**, as the **number one**, scores strongly across all measures, on quality of life, work, housing, leisure, safety, and education.
 - The Swiss higher education system attains an especially high score.
 - **Vienna**, the Austrian capital in **2nd place**, scores close to top marks on healthcare.
 - Copenhagen, Luxembourg and Helsinki complete the top five.
8. a
- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** launched the **Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awas Portal (CLAP)** of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Housing for All (Urban).
 - It **aims to provide a transparent and robust real-time web-based monitoring system** for the beneficiaries of the Credit-linked Subsidy Services (CLSS).
 - It will help in addressing the grievances of beneficiaries in a much comprehensive and organized manner and using the portal, a

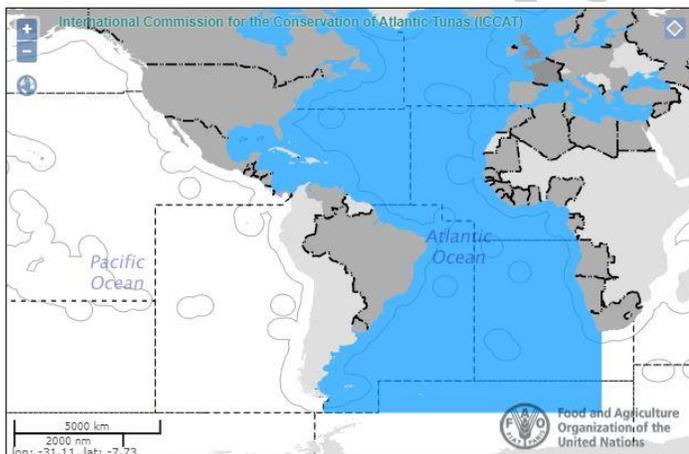
beneficiary can track his application status in real-time.

9. d

- In a move to **improve measures for the safety and security of women, an exclusive bus service for women passengers** was launched in **Hyderabad**.
- **'She Shuttle'** is **equipped with** a well-monitored surveillance system with **CCTV cameras, a lady security guard** and a smartphone application for every passenger with a panic button.

10. a

- Recently, the world's major fishing nations have agreed "modest" quota cuts for the under-pressure **Atlantic Bigeye tuna**.
- **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)** is an intergovernmental organization responsible for the management and conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.
- **India** is a **not** member to this organisation.
- **ICCAT** is one of many regional fisheries management organizations where countries and fishing entities come together to discuss and develop international fisheries management measures.



28-11-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO)*

1. Unlike ENSO, which is stationary, the MJO is a westward moving disturbance of clouds, rainfall, winds, and pressure.
2. It traverses the planet in the polar region similar to the jet streams and returns to its initial starting point in 30 to 60 days, on average.

Which of 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) Researchers have recently discovered a new species of non-venomous snake *Trachischium apteii*, which belongs to the fossorial group that live mostly underground in which of the following regions?

- a. Rajasthan
- b. Western Ghats
- c. Arunachal Pradesh
- d. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

3) With respect to *15th Finance Commission*, consider the following statements:

1. The term of 15th Finance Commission was extended for two years recently.
2. Its recommendations will be applicable for six years and not the conventional five-year period.

Which of 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 *The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019*

1. It will provide security only for the Prime Minister and his/her immediate family residing with him at his official residence, as well as any former prime minister and members of his immediate family.
2. According to the bill, the SPG will provide security to former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members for the rest of their lives.

Which of 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) *Tally Valley Wildlife Sanctuary* is located in which of the following states?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Telangana
- c. Arunachal Pradesh
- d. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

6) *Him Vijay Exercise* which was in news recently is?

- a. An inter-service military exercise involving the participation of the Indian Army, Air Force, Navy and the Coast Guard
- b. To help to fight against Air Pollution in Delhi
- c. To validate operational capabilities, test mobility and coordination of Indian Army in difficult terrain
- d. To address the mass death of migratory birds in Sambhar Lake

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT)*

1. It is tax to be paid by shareholders when they get their dividends from the companies profit.
2. It is a part of income tax liability of a company.

Which of 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 *FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry)*

1. It is a government owned, not-for-profit organisation, which articulates the views and concerns of industry.
2. It serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies.
3. Along with the Ministry of HRD and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, FICCI organises Higher Education Summit.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)*

1. It is the premier trade promotion agency of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry committed to showcase excellence achieved by the country in trade and commerce.

2. It is conferred with Category-1 Mini-Ratna, Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

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 *Superbugs*

- It refers to microorganisms that develop antimicrobial resistance
- It is associated only with Bacteria.

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

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

Answers

1. d

- Both El Nino and MJO are ocean-atmosphere interactions that occur in the equatorial region and influence a number of weather events worldwide, including the Indian monsoon.
- El Nino**, the unusual warming of sea-surface Pacific waters off the South American coast, is a **stationary system**.
- The MJO**, on the other hand, is a **moving system** of wind, cloud and pressure that brings rain as it circles around the equator.
- The MJO is an **eastward moving** disturbance of clouds, rainfall, winds, and pressure that traverses the planet in the **tropics** and returns to its initial starting point in **30 to 60 days**, on average.

2. c

- Researchers have discovered a new species of **non-venomous burrowing snake** in

Arunachal Pradesh, named ***Trachischium apteii***.

- It was found under fallen logs inside a thickly forested area of the **Tally Valley Wildlife Sanctuary** near the town of Ziro in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The newly discovered species belongs to a group of **fossorial snakes** that **live mostly underground**, and surface mainly during or after a heavy monsoon shower.
- Trachischium** species are commonly called slender snakes, and are currently known by seven species that are distributed across the Himalayas, and the Indo-Burma and Indo-China regions.



3. b

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the extension of the term of the 15th Finance Commission, which will now submit two reports.
- The term had been extended till **October 30, 2020 (11 months)**.
- The first report, for financial year 2020-21, will be submitted in the coming months before the Union Budget, and the second report for the period 2021-26 will be presented by October 30, 2020.
- This will effectively mean the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations will be **applicable for six years** and not the conventional five-year period.
- It is not unprecedented for the term of a Commission to be extended when there is a restructuring of States, or if the terms of reference for the Commission have been significantly expanded.

- It happened before in the 14th Finance Commission when Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were split.
 - 15th Finance Commission has seen its terms of reference expanded and the reorganisation of J&K.
 - The 9th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of N.K.P. Salve also saw its recommendation period extended to six years from the conventional five.
4. a
- Under the Act, the SPG provides security to the Prime Minister and his immediate family members.
 - It also provides security to former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members for a **period of one year** from the date on which they cease to hold the office.
 - Beyond this period, the SPG security is provided based on the level of threat as decided by the central government.
 - The Bill amends this provision to state that the SPG will provide security to the Prime Minister, and members of his immediate family residing with him at his official residence.
 - It will also provide security to any former Prime Ministers, and his immediate family members residing with him at the residence allotted to him.
 - This security will be provided for a **period of five years** from the date on which he ceases to hold the office of Prime Minister.
 - The Act provides that if the SPG security is withdrawn from a former Prime Minister, it will also be withdrawn from his immediate family members, unless the level of threat faced by the immediate family member warrants such security.
 - The Bill removes this condition to state that **if the SPG security is withdrawn from a former Prime Minister, it will also be withdrawn from his immediate family members.**
5. c
6. c
- **Exercise 'Him Vijay'** is the **Indian Army's biggest ever mountain combat exercise.**
 - It is **to test mobility, communication and coordination of such huge body of fast-moving troops in difficult terrain.**
 - In this exercise, the capability of newly-conceived **Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)** was tested.
 - The 'Him Vijay' will include troop mobilisation, mountain assault and air assault.
7. d
- Indian corporates are now demanding to abolish the **Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT)** on the pretext of double taxation.
 - A dividend is a return given by a company to its shareholders out of the profits earned by the company in a particular year.
 - Dividend constitutes income in the hands of the shareholders which ideally should be subject to income tax.
 - However, **the income tax laws in India provide for an exemption of the dividend income** received from Indian companies by the investors by levying a tax called the Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) on the company paying the dividend.
 - **DDT is to be paid by 'companies' who distribute their profits** to their shareholders in the form of dividends.
 - The reason why DDT exists is that the profits earned by companies must be retained within the company to fund its future operations and growth.
 - It is to be paid within 14 days of declaration, distribution or payment of dividend whichever is the earliest.
 - It is **applicable only to domestic companies** in India.
8. b
- Recently, President of India addressed in the **15th FICCI Higher Education Summit.**
 - It provides exposure to Global Best Practices for education, deliberations on policy

roadmap, explore partnerships opportunities, and augment their brand value by taking advantage of multiple promotional opportunities.

- This Summit is being organised by the **FICCI** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- Established in 1927, **FICCI** is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India.
- It is an **non-government, not-for-profit organisation**, **FICCI** is the **voice of India's business and industry**.
- It **articulates the views and concerns of industry**.
- It **serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies**, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies.

9. c

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is set to revamp the **PragatiMaidan**, a space for exhibitors from India and abroad.
- **India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)**, is the premier **trade promotion agency of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- It is committed to showcase excellence achieved by the country in diverse fields especially trade and commerce.
- It provides a wide spectrum of services to trade and industry and acts as a catalyst for growth of India's trade.
- It approves holding of international trade fairs in India and regulates holding of various expositions in India.
- It has an extensive infrastructure as well as marketing and information facilities that are availed by both exporters and importers.
- It is also providing assistance to State Governments in setting up **Regional Trade Promotion Centres (RTPC)** in various State's Capital and major cities.

10. b

- A new research in the US has found a high incidence of **Superbugs** in Walmart's pork products.
- Microorganisms that develop antimicrobial resistance are referred to as "**Superbugs**".
- Antimicrobial resistance happens when **microorganisms (such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites)** change when they are exposed to antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics).
- Often, **superbugs** are bacteria that have become resistant to antibiotics. They **can also be fungi**.

29-11-2019

1. Consider the following statements with respect to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- 1. All decisions are taken by consensus of all member countries.**
- 2. If the stability is threatened, NATO would even defend non-NATO members.**

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

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

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Union Territory of Daman & Diu

- 1. Daman and Diu are separated by the Gulf of Kutch.**
- 2. Both Daman and Diu remained as a part of the Portuguese dominions in India.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

3. Consider the following statements with respect to Green Highways Policy 2015

1. It aims to promote greening of Highway corridors with participation of only government institutions.
2. The monitoring mechanism is in place by using ISRO's Bhuvan and GAGAN satellite systems.

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

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

4. 'Phishing' which was in news recently is related to,

- a. Fraudulent use of phone to solicit personal information, often targets users of Voice over IP (VoIP) services like Skype and calls.
- b. A scam where a fraudster installs malicious code on a personal computer or server.
- c. An attack that try to lure victims via text messages (SMS)
- d. A fraudulent use of electronic communications, especially emails to deceive and take advantage of users.

5. Consider the following statements with respect to Ashram Schools

1. These are residential schools which impart education to the children belonging to Scheduled Tribes (STs).
2. The scheme provides for 100% central financing for the construction of ashram schools in naxal areas.
3. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has the responsibility for running and overall maintenance of the schools.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is set to meet in London in December to celebrate its **70th anniversary**.
- The member countries consult and take decisions on security issues at all levels and in a variety of fields.
- A **NATO decision** is the expression of the **collective will of all 29 member countries** since **all decisions are taken by consensus**.
- It is an intergovernmental military alliance started to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- **If the stability is threatened, NATO would defend non-members.**
- On August 28, 2014, NATO announced it had photos proving that Russia invaded Ukraine.
- Although **Ukraine is not a member**, it had worked with NATO over the years.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine threatened nearby NATO members.
- In the 1990s, NATO stopped further bloodshed from occurring in Bosnia and Kosovo.
- Since 2003, NATO has helped to ensure that Afghanistan is no longer a safe haven for international terrorist groups.
- NATO has also helped to prevent piracy off the Horn of Africa.

2. a

- A **Bill** has been **introduced in Lok Sabha to merge two Union Territories, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, into one.**

- **Daman and Diu** are separated by the ‘**Gulf of Khambhat**’, located on India’s western coast near Gujarat.
- For over four centuries, **both Daman and Diu** remained **part of the Portuguese dominions in India**, and were ruled from Goa.



- **Dadra and Nagar Haveli** are also located on India’s western coast near Gujarat, and were **colonial possessions of Portugal** before they became part of independent India.

3. b

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways gave the details of the **Green Highways Policy-2015** in Lok Sabha recently.
- Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy 2015 was **launched to promote greening of Highway corridors with participation of the community, farmers, private sector, NGOs, and government institutions.**
- The vision of the policy is to provide dignified employment to local people and communities.

- This was to reduce the impact of air pollution and dust by planting trees and shrubs along the National Highways.
- They act as natural sink for air pollutants and arrest soil erosion at the embankment slopes.
- There is a **strong monitoring mechanism in place by using ISRO’s Bhuvan and GAGAN satellite systems.**
- Every planted tree is counted and auditing is done. The agencies performing good is being awarded.

4. d

- **Google says it warned 500 users in India** of government-backed **Phishing attacks.**
- **Phishing** - A fraudulent use of electronic communications, **especially emails** to deceive and take advantage of users.
- The goal is to trick the email recipient into believing that the message is something they want or need, a request from their bank, for instance, or a note from someone in their company and to click a link or download an attachment.
- A majority of internet scams are considered to be Phishing scams.
- **Pharming** - scam where a **fraudster installs malicious code on a personal computer or server.**
- This code then redirects any clicks you make on a website to another fraudulent Website without your consent or knowledge.
- **Vishing** - **Fraudsters use the phone, phone calls** to solicit your personal information.
- It often targets users of Voice over IP (VoIP) services like Skype.
- **Smishing** - It uses **cell phone text messages (SMS)** to lure consumers in. Often the text will contain an URL or phone number.

5. a

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has decided to provide financial support to State Governments to set up 97 more **Ashram Schools.**

- It is under the **Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSS)**.
- The **scheme provides for 100% central financing for the construction of ashram schools for girls and for ashram schools for boys in naxal areas.**
- The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment recommended providing 100% central financing for all ashram schools.
- The **'State government'** has the **responsibility for running and overall maintenance of the schools, including appointment of teachers.**

30-11-2019

1. Consider the following statements regarding Yuwaah Youth Skilling Initiative

1. It aims to provide relevant skills to adolescent girls and boys for their productive lives and future of work.
2. It was launched by World Bank in India.

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

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)

1. NAG is 4th generation indigenous ATGM with a range of 4km.
2. SPIKE is 5th generation ATGM imported from Israel with target precision of 4km.

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

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding NuGen Mobility Summit

1. It is the largest automotive technology summit organised by International Center of Automotive Technology (ICAT).
2. It covers relevant topics of alternate fuel systems and E-mobility.
3. ICAT works under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Which of the above statement(s) is/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 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

1. Conference of Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC.
2. COP25 to UNFCC will take place under the Presidency of the Government of Chile, to be held in Madrid, Spain.

Which of 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 SHE-Box

1. It has been developed by NITI Aayog along with UN Women with the objective to facilitate registration of complaints related to sexual harassment of women at workplace.
2. It provide a single window access to every woman only in organised sector.

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

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

6. 'Surya Kiran' is a military exercise between

- India – Indonesia
- India – Russia
- India – Nepal
- India - Sri Lanka

7. 'Chagos Islands' which was in news recently is located in

- Oceania
- Philippine Sea
- South Pacific
- Indian Ocean

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Hallmarking

- In India, at present Gold is the only precious metal brought under the purview of Hallmarking.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Ministry Of Science and Technology provides Hallmark certification.

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

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

9. Consider the following statements Securities Appellate tribunal (SAT)

- It has all the powers of a Civil Court.

2. It hears and disposes of appeals against orders passed by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the PFRDA Act, 2013.

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

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

10. Consider the following statements regarding BOD & COD

- The higher the Biological Oxygen Demand, the lesser the amount of dissolved oxygen available for higher organisms.
- Chemical oxygen Demand is slightly a better measure than Biological oxygen Demand.
- COD measures the amount of oxygen in parts per million required to oxidise only in non-biodegradable compounds in the water sample.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- YuWaah is a multi-stakeholder alliance by UNICEF which aims to facilitate youth to gain relevant skills for productive lives and the future of work.
- The target age group of YuWaah includes adolescent girls and boys.
- It intends to create platforms to guide youth to market opportunities and facilitate integration of career guidance in school education.

2. c
- NAG is 3rd generation ATGM whereas SPIKE is 4th generation ATGM.
3. a
- NuGen Mobility Summit-2019 is the first in a series of the conference organized by International Center of Automotive Technology (ICAT), Manesar in Haryana.
 - It is the largest automotive technology event covering relevant topics of alternate fuel systems and E-Mobility.
 - In the three-day conference, Automotive technology experts from 15 countries including India will be presenting more than 120 technical research papers.
 - ICAT, Manesar is a division of NATRIP Implementation Society (NATIS) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
4. c
- The **Conference of Parties (COP)** is the **supreme decision-making body** of the UNFCCC.
 - **All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP,**
 - The Parties review the implementation of the Convention and other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention.
 - Massive protests triggered by social unrest over economic issues have forced **Chile** to cancel its hosting of COP25.
 - So, the **COP25** will take place **under the Presidency of the Government of Chile,** to be held in **Madrid, Spain.**
 - The logistical support will be provided by the Government of Spain.
5. c
- **SHe-Box** (Sexual Harassment electronic Box) is an online Complaints Management System for lodging complaints related to workplace sexual harassment.
 - It is an initiative of **Ministry of Women and Child Development.**
- It provides a **single window access to every woman, irrespective of her work status,** whether working in **organised or unorganised, private or public sector,** to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment.
6. c
- Joint military exercise '**Surya Kiran – XIV**' between **India and Nepal** will be conducted at Salijhandi, Rupendehi district of Nepal from 3rd to 16th December 2019.
 - It is an annual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India.
 - The aim of this exercise is to increase interoperability in jungle warfare and counter terrorist operations in mountainous terrain, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, medical and environmental conservation including aviation aspects.
7. d
- Recently, Mauritius called the UK an "illegal colonial occupier" after it ignored a UN mandated deadline to return the **Chagos Islands,** to Mauritius.
 - The United Nations had given UK six months to process the transfer, a move the UK and the US have bitterly resisted.



- **Chagos Archipelago or Chagos Islands** are a group of seven atolls comprising more than 60 individual tropical islands **located in the Indian Ocean.**
- Mauritius has argued that the Chagos Islands has been a part of its territory since at least the

18th century, till the UK broke the archipelago away from Mauritius in 1965.

- After Mauritius gained independence from the UK in 1968, the United Kingdom refused to return the Chagos Islands to Mauritius.
- The largest island on the Chagos Islands archipelago, **Diego Garcia**, is where the US and the UK operate a large military base.

8. d

- Union Government has announced that Notification for **mandatory Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery & Artefacts** across the nation to be issued on 15th January, 2020.
- Hallmarking is the accurate determination and official recording of proportionate content of precious metal in precious metal articles.
- **In India, at present 2 precious metals** namely **gold** and **silver** have been **brought under the purview of Hallmarking**.
- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the National Standard Body of India, under the he aegis of **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**.
- It is **established under the BIS Act 2016** for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.

9. c

- Securities Appellate Tribunal is a statutory body established under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- It hears and disposes of appeals against orders passed by
 1. SEBI under the SEBI Act, 1992
 2. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the PFRDA Act, 2013 and
 3. Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) under the Insurance Act, 1938, the General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act, 1972 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

10. b

- Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), the amount of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms in the biological process of metabolizing organic matter in water.
- The more organic matter there is (e.g., in sewage and polluted bodies of water), the greater the BOD.
- The greater the BOD, the lower the amount of dissolved oxygen available for higher animals such as fishes.
- The BOD is therefore a reliable gauge of the organic pollution of a body of water.
- COD measures the amount of oxygen in parts per million required to oxidise biodegradable and non-biodegradable compounds in the water sample.