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d. All of the above

01-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements

1. Minor Planets are celestial objects orbiting the Sun that are large enough for their gravity to pull them into a spherical shape.
2. Names of celestial bodies are finally approved by a committee at the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

Which of 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) *Hajong, Koch, Rabha, Boro and Mann* are the minority tribes in which of the following states?

- a. Assam
- b. Tripura
- c. Mizoram
- d. Meghalaya

3) "*Asian Development Outlook*" is annually published by?

- a. Asian Development Bank
- b. Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
- c. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- d. Both A and B

4) *School Education Quality Index (SEQI)* sometimes seen in the news recently was developed by?

- a. World Bank
- b. NITI Aayog
- c. Ministry of Human Resources and Development

5) *G5 Sahel* is an institutional framework established by which of the following countries?

1. Mali
2. Chad
3. India
4. Australia
5. Mauritania

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)*

1. It is the sustained changes in the difference between sea surface temperatures of the tropical western and eastern Indian Ocean.
2. It has three phases neutral, positive and negative.

Which of 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 *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*

1. It is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change.
2. It has 195 member states.
3. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and



the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

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

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

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

- It is a supersonic cruise missile and has a range of upto 1500 kms.
- It is jointly developed by India and Russia and has been operationalised in the Indian Armed Forces with all the three services.

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 *Domestic Systemically Important Bank (D-SIBs)*

- These are banks that are systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection.
- Banks whose assets exceed 5% of GDP are considered part of this group.

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 *Enforcement Directorate (ED)*

- The prime objective of the ED is the enforcement of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 (PMLA).
- It comes under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- Minor planets are celestial objects orbiting the Sun that are **not large enough** for their gravity to pull them into a spherical shape.
- Names of celestial bodies are finally approved by a committee at the **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**, a global organisation of professional astronomers, which also decides on definitions of fundamental astronomical and physical constants.
- In the case of small Solar System bodies, the discoverer has the privilege to suggest the name.
- The discoverer holds this privilege for 10 years since the discovery.
- But there is a process to be followed, and not all names are acceptable.

2. d

- Meghalaya's** bid to exclude "**unrepresented tribes**" from the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution has left minor tribes in the hill State edgy.
- Meghalaya is divided into autonomous councils in the names of the three major

matrilineal communities — Garo, Khasi and Jaintia.

- The minority tribes include the **Hajong, Koch, Rabha, Boro** and **Mann**.
- Parts or the whole of the four northeastern States — Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura — fall under the Sixth Schedule, which makes special provisions for “tribal areas”.

3. a

- The **Asian Development Outlook** is an annual publication (available online and in print) produced by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

4. d

- **School Education Quality Index (SEI)** was developed by **NITI Aayog** to evaluate the performance of States and Union Territories (UTs) in the school education sector.
- Developed through a **collaborative process**, including key stakeholders such as **Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD)**, the **World Bank** and sector experts, the index consists of 30 critical indicators.

5. b

- G5 Sahel is an institutional framework for coordination and regional cooperation in development policies and security matters in **West Africa**, established by five African states: **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger**.

6. c

7. d

- The IPCC is the **UN body** for assessing the science related to climate change.
- It was established by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** in 1988 to provide political leaders with periodic scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications and risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- It has 195 member states.

8. b

- It is a supersonic cruise missile and has a range of **upto 300 kms**.

9. a

- D-SIB means that the bank is **too big to fail**.
- According to the RBI, some banks become systemically important due to their **size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection**.
- Banks whose assets exceed **2% of GDP** are considered part of this group.

10. d

- The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.
- It is part of the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.
- The prime objective of the Enforcement Directorate is the enforcement of two key Acts of the Government of India namely, the **Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 (FEMA)** and the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 (PMLA)**.

03-10-2019

1) Which of the following is/are not the initiatives of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)?

1. ARISE
2. Atal Tinkering Labs
3. Atal New India Challenges
4. Mentor India Campaign
5. Atal Pension Yojana

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 5 only
- b. 1 and 5 only
- c. 1, 4 and 5 only
- d. None

2) With respect to *Generation Unlimited* sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements

1. It is a World Bank-led new global partnership.
2. It seeks to address climate change impacts, gender gaps, and the challenges and opportunities afforded by high-impact technologies.

Which of 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 one of the following is the main objective of *Paryatan Parv 2019* sometimes seen in the news recently?

- a. To promote tourism
- b. To promote innovation
- c. To promote neat and tidy India Mission
- d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Vayoshreshtha Samman-2019*

1. The Awards will be given to organisations/individuals rendering distinguished service for the cause of elderly persons from any country.
2. The award was instituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
3. Self nominations for the Sammans shall not be considered by the Screening Committee and the Selection Committee.

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

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *India Economic Summit, 2019*

1. The event is jointly organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and industry body CII.
2. The theme of the summit is “Supporting India’s move towards smart cities”.

Which of 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

1. It is also called as East Sea.
2. It is bounded by Japan and Sakhalin Island to the east
3. It is bounded by Russia and Korea on the Asian mainland to the west.

Identify the sea that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Yellow Sea
- b. Sea of Japan
- c. East China Sea
- d. None of the above

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

1. It is an integral part of the United Nations (UN).
2. It is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

8) Consider the following statements

1. NH 766 passes through this Reserve.
2. This reserve was brought under Project Tiger in 1973.
3. It is part of interconnected forests that include Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and Nagarhole National Park.

Identify the tiger reserve that correctly matches with the above description?

- a. Kali Tiger Reserve
- b. Nagarhole Tiger Reserve
- c. Periyar National Park
- d. None of the above

9) Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat Report, 2019 was released recently by?

- a. Ministry of Railways
- b. Ministry of Home Affairs
- c. Ministry of Rural Development
- d. Ministry of Urban Development

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Nizam Osman Ali Khan

1. He is the eleventh Nizam of Hyderabad.
2. The Nizam had transferred pounds and shillings in 1948 to the high commissioner of India on the assumption of the possibility of joining Pakistan.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country.
- Six major initiatives of AIM:
 1. **Atal Tinkering Labs** - Creating problem-solving mindset across schools in India.
 2. **Atal Incubation Centers** - Fostering world class start-ups and adding a new dimension to the incubator model.
 3. **Atal New India Challenges** - Fostering product innovations and aligning them to the needs of various sectors/ministries.
 4. **Mentor India Campaign** - A national Mentor network in collaboration with public sector, corporates and institutions, to support all the initiatives of the mission.
 5. **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.
 6. **ARISE (Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises)** - To stimulate innovation and research in the MSME industry.

2. d

- **Generation Unlimited** is a new **UNICEF-led global partnership** that **aims to ensure that every young person age 10-24 is in some form** of school, learning, training, self-employment, or age-appropriate employment **by 2030**.
- It aims to co-create and scale up proven solutions related to secondary age-education, skills for learning, employability and decent work, and empowerment, with a focus on girls.

3. a

- Organised by the **Ministry of Tourism**, Paryatan Parv 2019 will be held from 2nd to 13th October, 2019 across the country.
- The idea of Paryatan Parv is to propagate the message of 'DekhoApna Dosh', with the objective **to encourage Indians to visit various tourist destinations of the country and also to spread the message of 'Tourism for All'**.

4. c

- Vayoshreshtha Samman** is a Scheme of awards instituted by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** and gradually upgraded to the status of National Awards, for institutions involved in rendering distinguished service for the cause of elderly persons especially indigent senior citizens and to eminent citizens in recognition of their service/achievements.
- The sammans are **open to all Indian Institutions**, organisations and individuals without any distinction or discrimination on grounds of race, sex, caste or creed.
- These awards are presented as part of the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) on 1st October.
- Self nominations for the Sammans shall not be considered by the Screening Committee and the Selection Committee.

5. a

- World Economic Forum's** 33rd edition of the **India Economic Summit** will begin on October 3 in New Delhi.
- The two-day event is jointly organised by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and industry body **CII**.
- The theme of the summit is **'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'**.

6. b



7. c

- UNICEF**, an **integral part of the United Nations**, works with governments, communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other partners worldwide to advance children's rights.
- It is guided by the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

8. d

9. a

- Jaipur topped the list of cleanest railway stations in the country, as per a report **'Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat 2019'** released by **Ministry of Railways**.

10. d

- The UK High Court has recently ruled in favour of India and dismissed Pakistan's claim over funds belonging to the late **seventh Nizam** of Hyderabad, **Osman Ali Khan** at the time of Partition in 1947 and now worth around 35 million pounds.
- The Nizam had transferred 1,007,940 pounds and nine shillings in 1948 to **the high commissioner of Pakistan** in Britain in 1948 on the assumption of the possibility of joining Pakistan.



04-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan Scheme*

1. It aims at involving public sector companies, corporate citizens/individuals to take up the responsibility for making our heritage and tourism more sustainable.
2. It is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Urban Development and 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) Consider the following statements with respect to *Audio Odigos app*

1. It offers Government of India verified content, with visuals & voice over support.
2. It contains an inbuilt map of the site for a smooth navigation during the tour.

Which of 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 *PRAKASH Portal*

1. The Portal is designed to help in mapping and monitoring entire coal supply chain for power plants.
2. It is developed by NTPC and sources data from different stakeholders such as Central Electricity Authority (CEA),

Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) and coal companies.

Which of 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 *Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV)*

1. It is a type of herpes virus that can cause a highly fatal haemorrhagic disease in young Asian elephants.
2. The disease is usually fatal, with a long course up to 90-100 days and symptoms are hardly visible.

Which of 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. He was deeply influenced by the political teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. Under his leadership, India won the 1965 war against Pakistan.
3. He gave the nation the powerful slogan of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan to enthuse soldiers and farmers.

Identify the personality that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Charan Singh
- b. Morarji Desai
- c. Jawaharlal Nehru
- d. Lal Bahadur Shastri

6) How Scheduled Commercial Banks differ from the Co-operative banks?

1. Unlike commercial banks, UCBs are only partly regulated by the RBI.
2. Unlike commercial banks which are structured as Joint Stock Companies, UCBs are structured as Co-operatives, with their members carrying unlimited liability.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Monsoon Mission (NMM)*

1. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune is responsible for the execution and coordination of this mission.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nomadic Elephant 2019*

1. It is a joint military exercise between India and Oman.
2. 14th edition of Exercise Nomadic Elephant will be conducted at Bakloh, India.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

9) Which of the following is *not* one of the qualification for a person to be appointed as a judge of a high court?

1. He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for five years.
2. He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10) With respect to *Exercise Ekuverin*, consider the following statements

1. It is the 10th edition of joint military exercise conducted alternatively in India and Japan.
2. It focuses on enhancing interoperability for carrying out counter insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in a semi-urban environment under the United Nations mandate.
3. The last exercise which was held in 2018 at Northern Area Headquarters, Bhopal of India.

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

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

Answers

1. a
- Ministry of Tourism's scheme "**Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan**", is a collaborative effort between the **Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India** (ASI) and State Governments / UT Administrations.
 - It aims at involving public sector companies, private sector companies and corporate citizens/individuals to take up the responsibility for making our heritage and tourism more sustainable through development, operation and maintenance of world-class tourist infrastructure and amenities at ASI/ State heritage sites and other important tourist sites in India.
2. c
- Audio Guide: Audio Odigos** offers Government of India verified content, with **visuals & voice over support**.
 - The Audio Odigos app contains an **inbuilt map** of the site for a smooth navigation during the tour.
 - Listeners will be offered various versions of history like Synopsis, Detailed History and Podcasts.
 - The audio can be chosen in their preferred language & version of the history.
 - Audio Odigos can be used in 12 sites that includes Amer Fort, Rajasthan, Chandni Chowk, Red Fort, Purana Quila, Humayun's tomb, Delhi, Fatehpur Sikri, Taj Mahal, Uttar Pradesh, Somnath and Dholavira, Gujarat, Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, Mahabalipuram, Tamilnadu and Mahabodhi Temple, Bihar.
3. c
- Union **Power Ministry** and Union **Coal Ministry** has jointly launched **PRAKASH (Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony) portal** recently.
 - The Portal aims at bringing better coordination for coal supplies among all stakeholders viz - Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Coal India, Railways and power utilities.
- Apart from mapping coal stocks in mines, the portal will also help stakeholders monitor the movement of railway rakes and coal availability at power plants.
4. a
- Since the middle of August, a rare disease has killed five elephants in Odisha.
 - The disease is caused by a virus called **EEHV**, or **Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus**.
 - EEHVs is a type of **herpes virus** that can cause a highly fatal haemorrhagic disease in **young Asian elephants**.
 - Most elephants carry just as most humans carry a cold virus.
 - When EEHV is triggered, the elephant dies of massive internal bleeding and symptoms which are hardly visible.
 - The disease is usually fatal, with a **short course of 28-35 hours**.
5. d
- Under **Lal Bahadur Shastri** leadership, India won the **1965 war** against Pakistan.
 - He gave the nation the powerful slogan of **Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan** to enthuse soldiers and farmers.
6. c
- Co-operative banks, which are distinct from commercial banks, were born out of the concept of co-operative credit societies where members from a community band together to extend loans to each other, at favourable terms.
 - Credit co-operatives (or co-operative banks) are broadly classified into urban or rural co-operative banks based on their region of operation.
 - Urban co-op banks are classified into scheduled and non-scheduled banks.
 - There are three key points of difference between scheduled commercial banks and co-operative banks.
- Unlike commercial banks, UCBs are only partly regulated by the RBI. While their banking operations are regulated by the RBI,

which lays down their capital adequacy, risk control and lending norms, their management and resolution in the case of distress is regulated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies either under the State or Central government.

2. Unlike commercial banks which are structured as joint stock companies, UCBs are structured as co-operatives, with their members carrying unlimited liability.
3. While there is a clear distinction between a commercial bank's shareholders and its borrowers, in a UCB borrowers can double up as shareholders.

7. b

- It was launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
 - Under the National Monsoon Mission initiative, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), NOIDA have embarked upon to build a state-of-the-art coupled ocean atmospheric model for:-
1. Improved prediction of monsoon rainfall on extended range to seasonal time scale (16 days to one season) and
 2. Improved prediction of temperature, rainfall and extreme weather events on short to medium range time scale (up to 15 days) so that forecast skill gets quantitatively improved further for operational services of India Meteorological Department (IMD).

8. b

- **14th** edition of **Indo – Mongolian** joint military training, **Exercise Nomadic Elephant-XIV**, being conducted over a period of 14 days, will commence from 05 Oct 2019.
- The exercise will be conducted at **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, India**.
- Nomadic Elephant-XIV is aimed at training troops in counter insurgency & counter terrorism operations under United Nations mandate.

9. d

Qualifications of Judges

- A person to be appointed as a judge of a high court should have the following qualifications:

1. He should be a citizen of India.

2. (a) He should have held a **judicial office** in the territory of India **for ten years; or**

(b) He should have been an **advocate of a high court** (or high courts in succession) **for ten years**.

- From the above, it is clear that the Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of a high court.
- Moreover, unlike in the case of the Supreme Court, the Constitution makes no provision for appointment of a distinguished jurist as a judge of a high court.

10. b

- **Tenth edition** of the Joint Military **Exercise Ekuverin** between the **Indian Army** and the **Maldives National Defence Force** will be organised from 07 to 20 October 2019 at **Aundh Military Station in Pune, Maharashtra of India**.
- The Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces have been conducting Exercise Ekuverin meaning '**Friends**' in the **Dhivehi language** since 2009.
- The 14 days Joint Exercise held focuses on enhancing interoperability between the two forces **alternatively in India and Maldives** for carrying out counter insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in a semi-urban environment under the United Nations mandate.
- The **last exercise** was held in 2018 at Northern Area Headquarters, Lh. Maafilaafushi of **Maldives**.

05-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Trans-Fats**

1. **Industrial trans-fats are made by adding carbon to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid, and to increase the shelf life of foods.**

2. They are largely present in partially hydrogenated vegetable fats/oils, vanaspati, margarine and bakery shortenings, and can be found in baked and fried foods.
3. FSSAI has recently launched a logo for trans-fat-free claim made by FBOs (food business operators), which was voluntary.

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

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

2) Which of the following is/are called as the *Cotton four (C4) countries*?

1. Mali
2. India
3. Chad
4. Kenya

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to India's first *e-waste clinic* that was setup recently

1. It will be jointly setup by the Ministry of Environment and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
2. It was planned to be setup in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

4) *Ghurrat-ul-Kamal* is a book written by?

- a. Ameer Khusro
- b. Kalidasa
- c. Henry Louis Vivian Derozio
- d. Kabir Das

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Youth Co:Lab*

1. Co-created in 2017 by UNDP and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab is operational in 25 countries across the Asia Pacific region.
2. The initiative aims to create an enabling ecosystem to promote youth leadership, innovation, and social entrepreneurship.

Which of 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) Which of the following is nominated as the Central Nodal Agency to facilitate installation of Electric Vehicles Charging Infrastructure in India?

- a. Rural Electrification Corporation
- b. Energy Efficiency Services Limited
- c. Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- d. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

7) *Halt the Hate* sometimes seen in the news recently is an initiative launched by which of the following?

- a. Amnesty International
- b. Ministry of Home Affairs

- c. Green Peace International
d. Ministry of Women and Child Development

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Urdu Language

1. It is written from right to left.
2. It is one of the official languages under the Constitution of India.

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

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

9) Which one of the following fundamental rights is also available to a foreigner in Indian soil?

- a. Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion/race, caste, sex or place of birth
- b. Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment Protection' of life and personal
- c. Protection of life and personal liberty according to procedure established by law
- d. To practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business

10) With respect to Dark matter which one among the following statement is *not* correct?

- a. Dark matter doesn't obey the principle of electromagnetism
- b. Dark matters possess strong interaction with the normal matter
- c. Dark matter holds slow moving and weak self-interacting particles
- d. Dark matters tend to form non luminous stable halos around the galaxies

Answers

1. c

- Industrial trans-fats are made by adding **hydrogen** to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid, and to increase the shelf life of foods.
- Trans-fats are largely present in partially hydrogenated vegetable fats/oils, vanaspati, margarine and bakery shortenings, and can be found in baked and fried foods.
- **FSSAI** has recently launched a logo for trans-fat-free claim made by FBOs (food business operators), which it stated was **voluntary**.

2. a

The "**Cotton Four**" (**C4**) countries are

1. Mali
2. Chad
3. Benin
4. Burkina Faso

3. d

- The **Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC)** and the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** have joined hands to set up the country's first e-waste clinic in Bhopal. CPCB will offer technical support.
- The clinic is being conceived in compliance with the **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**.

4. a

5. c

- Co-created in 2017 by UNDP and the Citi Foundation, and operational in 25 countries across the Asia Pacific region, the **Youth Co:Lab** initiative aims to create an enabling ecosystem to promote youth leadership, innovation, and social entrepreneurship.
- To recognize young people as critical drivers of sustainable development, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India has recently launched Youth Co:Lab which aims at accelerating social entrepreneurship and innovation in young India.

6. c

- Power Minister has recently approves amendments in Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Guidelines and Specifications.
- At least one Charging Station to be available in a grid of 3 Km x 3 Km in the cities and one Charging Station at every 25 Km on both sides of highways/roads.
- For inter-city travel, Fast Charging Station to be installed at every 100Kms **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** nominated as the **Central Nodal Agency** to facilitate installation of **Charging Infrastructure**.

7. a

8. c

9. c

10. b

09-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan'

1. It is a pioneering and historic exploratory open-water rafting and kayaking expedition on the Ganga River.
2. It starts from Rudraprayag and culminating at Ganga Sagar, covering the entire stretch of over 2500 kms of the Ganga River.

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) The National e-Assessment Scheme (NeAC) will be head by

- a. Finance Minister
- b. Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax
- c. Chairman of CBDT
- d. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax

3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Dearness Allowance'

1. DA is provided by the government to its employees to cushion the impact of the Inflation.
2. The government typically uses the All India Consumer Price Index-based inflation rate as a broad marker to arrive at the DA.
3. An increase in DA will have a positive impact on the sagging consumption demand if the money is spent.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Public Finance Management System (PFMS)'

1. PFMS portal is administered by the Department of Expenditure and implemented by the Controller General of Accounts.
2. It is used only for DBT payments under MGNREGA.

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

5) Consider the following pairs with respect to 'Confluence of Rivers'

Place	Confluence of Rivers
1. Devaprayag Bhagirathi	- Alaknanda and

2. Rudraprayag - Alaknanda and Mandakini
3. Karanprayag - Alaknanda and Pindar

Which of the above pairs are matched correctly?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Geotail'

1. It is a region in space which exists as a result of the interactions between the Sun and Earth.
2. Once every 29 days, the Moon traverses the geotail for about six days.

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

7. Consider the following about Graded Action plan

1. It is called a 'graded' plan because it does its function step by step.
2. It can offer long term solution to combat air pollution.

Which of 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 'Lithium ion Batteries'

1. The lithium-ion battery is a lightweight, rechargeable and powerful battery used in portable electronics.
2. 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for is awarded for the development of lithium-ion batteries.

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

- a. 1 only
 b. 2 only
 c. Both 1 & 2
 d. None

9) Port of Mongla is located in which of the following country

- a. Bangladesh
 b. Kenya
 c. Indonesia
 d. Myanmar

10) Which of the following is NOT correct about Hindu Kush Himalayan Region?

- a. The region extends over all or part of eight countries from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east.
- b. Cryosphere components including permafrost and glacial lakes provide various ecosystem services for mountain as well as downstream communities.
- c. It includes entire territory of Bhutan and Nepal
- d. It includes entire territory of Afghanistan.

Answers

1. a

- The 'Ganga AamantranAbhiyan' is a pioneering and historic exploratory open-water rafting and kayaking expedition on the Ganga River.
- Starting at Devprayag and culminating at Ganga Sagar, the expedition will cover the entire stretch of over 2500 kms of the Ganga River.

- This is the first ever effort by National Mission for Clean Ganga to raft across the entire stretch of the river and the expedition will draw attention to the ecological challenges being faced by Ganga.
 - The expedition will encompass the five Ganga basin states including Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal with stops at Rishikesh, Haridwar, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Sonapur and Kolkata.
2. b
- NeAC will be an independent office that will look after the work of e-Assessment scheme which is recently notified for faceless e-assessment for income tax payers.
 - There would be a NeAC in Delhi to be headed by Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (Pr.CCIT).
 - There are 8 Regional e-Assessment Centres (ReAC) set up at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata Ahmedabad, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad which would comprise Assessment unit, Review unit, and Technical unit and Verification units.
 - Each ReAC will be headed by Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (CCIT).
 - Cases for the specified work shall be assigned by the NeAC to different units by way of automated allocation systems.
3. c
4. a
- Public Finance Management System (PFMS) portal is an end-to-end solution for processing payments, tracking, monitoring, accounting, reconciliation and reporting.
 - It provides platform for efficient management of funds through tracking of funds and real time reporting of expenditure and receipts through treasury and bank interface.
 - It is administered by the Department of Expenditure and implemented by the Controller General of Accounts.
 - PFMS is also used for DBT payments under MGNREGA and other notified schemes of the Government of India.
5. c
- PanchPrayag is an expression used to connote the five sacred river confluences in the Garhwal Himalayas in the state of Uttarakhand.
 - The five prayags in the descending flow sequence of their occurrence are as follows.
 1. Vishnuprayag - Confluence of Alaknanda and Dauli Ganga Rivers.
 2. Nandaprayag - Confluence of Alaknanda and Nandakini Rivers.
 3. Karanprayag - Confluence of Alaknanda and Pindar Rivers.
 4. Rudraprayag - Confluence of Alaknanda and Mandakini Rivers.
 5. Devaprayag - Confluence of Alaknanda and Bhagirathi Rivers. (Beyond this confluence, the river is known as Ganges)
6. c
- Geotail Formation**
- The Sun emits the solar wind, which is a continuous stream of charged particles.
 - These particles are embedded in the extended magnetic field of the Sun, Earth's magnetic field obstructs these solar wind plasma.
 - This interaction results in the formation of a magnetic envelope around Earth.
 - On the Earth side facing the Sun, the envelope is compressed into a region that is approximately three to four times the Earth radius.
 - On the opposite side, the envelope is stretched into a long tail, which extends beyond the orbit of the Moon, this tail is called the geotail.
 - Once every 29 days, the Moon traverses the geotail for about six days.
7. a
- GRAP is approved by the Supreme Court in 2016, the plan institutionalized measures to be taken when air quality deteriorates.
 - GRAP works only as an emergency measure and the plan does not include action by various state governments to be taken throughout the

year to tackle industrial, vehicular and combustion emissions.

- When the air quality shifts from poor to very poor, the measures listed under both sections have to be followed since the plan is incremental in nature.
- If air quality reaches the severe+ stage, GRAP talks about shutting down schools and implementing the odd-even road-space rationing scheme.
- The plan requires action and coordination among 13 different agencies in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan (NCR areas).

8. c

9. a

- Recently Bangladesh signed an agreement to open Chattogram and Mongla ports for India trade.
- The Port of Mongla is the second busiest seaport of Bangladesh.
- It is located in the southwestern part of the country, and lies 62 kilometers north of the Bay of Bengal coastline.

10. d

10-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to GEMINI System

1. It helps fishermen to know the probability of fish catch in the surrounding seas.
2. It works with the help of GAGAN Mission, which is developed by 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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023

1. It is one of the first that fully aligns with the newly adopted WHO 13th General Programme of Work and its 'triple billion' targets and SDGs.
2. It outlines how WHO can support the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and other allied Ministries to drive impact at the country level.

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

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

3) e-Dantseva, the first-ever website and mobile application on oral health awareness was recently launched by?

- a. World Health Organisation
- b. All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- c. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d. Both B and C

4) Which of the following is not one among the major objectives of National Oral Health Programme?

- a. To integrate oral health promotion and preventive services with general health care system and other sectors that influence oral health
- b. To encourage the participation of NGOs to supplement the Government efforts towards family planning programme in India
- c. To Promote Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for achieving public health goals
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) for Cotton*

1. India is implementing a Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) for cotton in 11 African countries from 2012 to 2018.
2. The second phase of the TAP was launched recently and it was expanded to additional five countries in Africa and Asia.

Which of 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) *Global Competitiveness Index* is an annual report compiled by?

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. World Trade Organisation
- c. UN Conference on Trade and Development
- d. Both A and C

7) Consider the following statements

1. Saturn is the planet with most moons in our Solar System.
2. Venus does not have any moons.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements

1. During the reign of Pallava King Narasimhavarman I, Hiuen Tsang, the Japanese Buddhist monk-traveller,

visited the Pallava capital at Kanchipuram.

2. Narasimhavarman I also sent a mission to the Tang court in 720 AD.

Which of 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

1. In a battery, electrons flow from the negative electrode – the cathode – to the positive one – the anode, producing electricity.
2. When a battery is recharged, the direction of the flow of electrons will not change.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)*

1. It is the central repository for marine data in India and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).
2. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

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

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

Answers

1. c
- The Government has recently launched the **Gagan Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information (GEMINI) device**.
 - It is used for seamless and effective dissemination of emergency information and communication on disaster warnings, Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) and Ocean States Forecasts (OSF) to fishermen.
2. c
- Union Health Ministry has recently launched **'The WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023: A Time of Transition'**.
 - The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) provides a strategic roadmap for WHO to work with the Government of India towards achieving its health sector goals, in improving the health of its population and bringing in transformative changes in the health sector.
 - The India CCS is one of the **first that fully aligns** itself with the newly adopted **WHO 13th General Programme of Work** and its **'triple billion' targets**, the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and **WHO South-East Asia Region's eight Flagship Priorities**.
 - It captures the work of the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for 2018–2022.
 - The CCS outlines how WHO can support the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and other allied Ministries to drive impact at the country level.
 - The strategy document builds on other key strategic policy documents including India's National Health Policy 2017, the many pathbreaking initiatives India has introduced – from Ayushman Bharat to its National Viral Hepatitis programme and promotion of digital health amongst others.
3. d
- The **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** in collaboration with the **Union Health Ministry** has recently launched the first-ever website and mobile application on **oral health awareness**.
 - The digital platform, 'e-DantSeva', contains information about the **National Oral Health Programme**, a detailed list of all the dental facility and colleges, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material and a unique feature called the **'Symptom Checker'**.
 - The website also provides GPRS route and satellite images of the facility for easier access to the people.
4. b
- National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) was launched during 2014 - 15 to strengthen the public health facilities of the country for an accessible, affordable & quality oral health care delivery.
- The objectives of NOHP are as under:
- Improvement in the determinants of oral health e.g. healthy diet, oral hygiene improvement etc and to reduce disparity in oral health accessibility in rural & urban population.
 - Reduce morbidity from oral diseases by strengthening oral health services at Sub district/district hospital to start with.
 - Integrate oral health promotion and preventive services with general health care system and other sectors that influence oral health; namely various National Health Programs.
 - Promotion of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for achieving public health goals
5. d
- Union Textile Ministry has recently launched the second phase of the **Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) for Africa** at the Partners Conference in Geneva.
 - In the five year long second phase, the programme will be scaled up in size and coverage and will be **introduced in five additional countries**, namely **Mali, Ghana, Togo, Zambia and Tanzania**.
 - The Cotton TAP programme will now cover 11 **African countries** including the C4 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali).

- India implemented a Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) for cotton in 6 African countries, namely – Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda from 2012 to 2018.
6. a
- India has slipped 10 spots to rank 68th out of 141 surveyed countries in the **annual Global Competitiveness Index**.
 - Last year, India was ranked 58th in the annual Global Competitiveness Index compiled by Geneva-based **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
7. c
- The International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center has recently confirmed **20 new moons** orbiting **Saturn**, making it the **planet with the most moons in our Solar System**, at 82.*
 - Until their confirmation, the planet with the most moons was Jupiter, at 79.
 - Mercury is so close to the Sun and its gravity that it wouldn't be able to hold on to its own moon.
 - Any moon would most likely crash into Mercury or maybe go into orbit around the Sun and eventually get pulled into it.
 - It is not yet clear, however, why **Venus does not have a moon**.
8. d
- The name Mamallapuram derives from Mamallan, or "great warrior", a title by which the Pallava King **Narasimhavarman I** (630-668 AD) was known.
 - It was during his reign that **Hiuen Tsang**, the **Chinese** Buddhist monk-traveller, visited the Pallava capital at Kanchipuram.
 - Narasimhavarman II** (c.700-728 AD), also known as Rajasimhan, sent a mission to the Tang court in 720 with a request that would seem unusual in the context of India-China relations today.
9. a
- When you recharge a battery, you change the **direction of the flow of**

electrons using another power source, such as solar panels.

- The electrochemical processes happen in reverse, and the anode and cathode are restored to their original state and can again provide full power.

10. c

- ESSO-INCOIS was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** (MoES) and is a **unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO)**.

11-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **DHRUV**

- It is an innovative learning programme launched from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The programme will cover students from both Science and Performing Arts.
- The students have been broadly chosen from classes 9 to 12, from all schools including government and private.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Council of Health and Family Welfare (CHFV)**

- It is an apex advisory body to recommend broad lines of policy in regard to matters concerning Health and Family Welfare, in all its aspects.
- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare is the Chairperson, while Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare is the Vice-Chairperson.

Which of 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 *Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) Initiative*

1. It aims at assuring quality health care at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare.
3. The initiative will be implemented by the central government in coordination of the CSC (Common Service Centers).

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

4) Consider the following with respect to *Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON)*

1. It is a satellite dropped from a plane flying over the Atlantic off the Florida coast.
2. It was launched by NASA in collaboration with European Space Agency (ESA).
3. It aims to study the dynamic zone in our atmosphere where terrestrial weather from below meets space weather from above.

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

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

1. Radio waves transmitted from the earth are reflected back to the earth by this layer.
2. Temperature here starts increasing with height.

Which of 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) *Operation Peace Spring* sometimes seen in the news recently was launched by?

- a. Iran
- b. Yemen
- c. Turkey
- d. Saudi Arabia

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

1. Cotton is a drought - resistant crop ideal for arid climates.
2. Food products can also be derived from cotton.

Which of 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) **Amitabh Kant Committee** sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with?

- Privatisation of Railways
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Co-operative Federalism
- Penetration of Primary Health Centre

9) Consider the following statements with respect to **C40**

- The group is committed to delivering on climate targets set under the 2016 Paris Agreement.
- Copenhagen is the host city of this year's conference.

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

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

10) Which of the following is the first country in the world to ban ads for the most unhealthy sugary drinks?

- Brunei
- Australia
- Singapore
- Indonesia

Answers

1. d

- Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme - 'DHRUV', a **14 day learning programme**, has been launched from **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Headquarters at Bengaluru.
- 60 students, 30 each from **Science and Performing Arts** discipline, have been selected for this ambitious programme in the first batch.

- Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme is being started to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge.
- The programme is called **DHRUV** (after the Pole Star) and every student to be called '**DHRUV TARA**'.

2. c

- The **Council of Health and Family Welfare (CHFW)** is an **apex advisory body** to consider and recommend broad lines of policy in regard to matters concerning Health and Family Welfare, in all its aspects.
- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare** is the **Chairperson**, while Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare is the Vice-Chairperson.
- Member, NITI Aayog, Ministers in charge of the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, Medical Education and Public Health in the States/Union Territories with Legislatures, representatives of UTs, Members of Parliament (4), Non-Officials (6), Eminent Individuals (11) are Members of the Council.
- The first meeting of the CCHFW was held in 1988.
- Union Health Minister** had recently inaugurated the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW).

3. b

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare along with several State Health Ministers has recently launched **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan, SUMAN initiative** in New Delhi.
- The initiative was launched during the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.
- The initiative aims at assuring dignified, respectful and quality health care at **no cost and zero tolerance** for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility in order to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
- It also provides a positive birth experience to both mother and infant.

4. b
- **NASA** launched a satellite recently to explore the mysterious, dynamic region where air meets space. (Ionosphere)
 - The satellite — called **Icon, short for Ionospheric Connection Explorer** — rocketed into orbit following a two-year delay.
 - It was **dropped from a plane flying over the Atlantic off the Florida coast**.
 - Five seconds after the satellite's release, the attached Pegasus rocket ignited, sending Icon on its way.
 - The new satellite will orbit Earth, studying what happens when space weather and Earth weather interact in Earth's ionosphere, the atmosphere level populated by ions and free electrons.
5. c
- The ionosphere is located between 80 and 400 km above the mesopause.
 - It contains electrically charged particles known as ions, and hence, it is known as ionosphere.
 - Radio waves transmitted from the earth are **reflected back to the earth by this layer**.
 - Temperature here **starts increasing** with height.
6. c
- **Turkey** has recently launched the **Operation Peace Spring**.
 - It was being conducted by Turkish and Turkish-backed Syrian militias, **against Kurdish forces and ISIS**.
 - It aims to establish a **peace corridor along the Turkish border with Syria**.
7. c
- Cotton is a global commodity that is produced all over the world and a single tonne of cotton provides year-round employment for five people on average.
 - Cotton is a **drought - resistant crop ideal for arid climates**, it occupies just 2.1 per cent of the world's arable land, yet it meets 27 per cent of the world's textiles need.
- In addition to its fibre used in textiles and apparel, food products are also derived from cotton like **edible oil** and **animal feed from the seed**.
8. a
- An Empowered Group of Secretaries under the CEO of the NITI Aayog, **Amitabh Kant** will now decide how best to develop the country's railway stations through private participation and bring in private players to run 150 trains.
9. c
- The **C40 World Mayors' Summit** is a three-day conference where city leaders from around the world share ideas on green urban development and on ways to get national governments to act on climate issues.
 - The group is committed to delivering on climate targets set under the **2016 Paris Agreement**, and sets the bar for cities to develop and implement local level plans that comply with those targets.
 - The **host city** of this year's conference (scheduled to last from October 9 to October 12) **Copenhagen**, plans to become carbon neutral by 2025.
10. c
- 12-10-2019**
- 1) Which of the following is the main objective of **mHariyali App**?
- To encourage public engagement in planting trees and other such green drives
 - To increase the participation of NGOs in the policy making process
 - Creating a platform for people with disabilities to show-case their skills
 - None of the above
- 2) Consider the following statements
- It is used in the extraction and polishing of gold, and for gold-plating.
 - It is a rapidly acting, potentially deadly chemical that can exist in various forms.

3. It is contained in cigarette smoke and the combustion products of synthetic materials such as plastics.

Identify the chemical that correctly matches with the above description:

- Ricin
- Arsenic
- Cyanide
- Tetrodotoxin

3) Which of the following is the example of *Elastocaloric effect*?

- Cooling effect produced when rubbers bands are twisted and untwisted
- Storage of Calorie when nylon and polyethylene are heated
- Heating effect produced when rubbers bands are twisted and untwisted
- Storage of Calorie when nylon and polyethylene are cooled

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *SARAS Aajeevika Mela*

- It is an initiative under the Aajeevika Grameen Yojana of Ministry of Rural Development.
- It aims to bring the rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed with the support of DAY-NRLM, under one platform to show-case their skills.
- It is organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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

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

5) Consider the following pairs

Folk Dance – State

- Gidda – Madhya Pradesh
- Ghoomar – Gujarat
- Cheraw – Tripura

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

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

6) Consider the following statements

- He was a Marxist in his youth.
- He took a leading part in the formation of the Congress Socialist Party.
- He was also known as the “Hero of Quit India Movement”.
- He became a Gandhian and was involved in the Bhoodan movement.

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description:

- J. B. Kripalani
- J.P Narayanan
- Nanaji Deshmukh
- Ram Manohar Lohia

7) *Comoros archipelago* sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following?

- Indian Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Atlantic Ocean
- South China Sea

8) *Kayakalp Award* was instituted as part of which of the following Missions?

- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

- b. National Rural Livelihood Mission
- c. PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- d. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana

9) World Vision Report was released recently by which of the following agencies?

- a. UNICEF
- b. Doctors without Borders
- c. World Health Organisation
- d. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

10) Which of the following statement is correct with respect to Mamallapuram?

- a. Mamallapuram was one of two major port cities by the 8th century within the Pandya kingdom
- b. Most of the monuments, like the rock-cut rathas, sculptured scenes on open rocks like Arjuna's penance, attributed to the period of Narasimhavarman
- c. The mandapa or pavilions and the rathas or shrines shaped as temple chariots are hewn from the basaltic rocks
- d. The iconic Shore Temple of Pallavas at Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) was constructed during the reign of RajaRaja Cholan (700-728)

Answers

1. a

- The app is aimed to encourage **Public engagement in planting trees and other such Green drives.**
- People can now upload information/photos of any plantation done by them, which is linked to app and will be displayed on the website.
- The App provides for automatic geo-tagging of plants.
- The App is user friendly and works on any android mobile phone.

2. c

3. a

- When **rubbers bands are twisted and untwisted, it produces a cooling effect.**
- When a rubber band is stretched, it absorbs heat from its environment, and when it is released, it gradually cools down.
- This is called the “**elastocaloric**” effect.
- In the elastocaloric effect, the transfer of heat works much the same way as when fluid refrigerants are compressed and expanded.
- Researchers from multiple universities have found that the elastocaloric effect, if harnessed, may be able to do away with the need of fluid refrigerants used in fridges and air-conditioners.

4. a

- SARAS Aajeevika Mela is an initiative by the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- It aims to bring the rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed with support of DAY-NRLM, under one platform to show-case their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.
- The Mela is organised by the marketing arm of the Ministry, **Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART).**

5. d

1. Gidda – Punjab
2. Ghoomar – Rajasthan
3. Cheraw (Bamboo Dance) – Mizoram

6. b

- **Loknayak** Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) (1902-1979)
- A marxist in his youth.
- Founder general secretary of the Congress Socialist Party and the Socialist Party.
- A hero of the 1942 Quit India movement.
- He declined to join Nehru's cabinet.
- After 1955 quit active politics.

- He became a Gandhian and was involved in the Bhoodan movement.

7. a



8. a

- The **Kayakalp Award** was instituted as part of the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** in 2015 as a national initiative to recognize and felicitate public health facilities that demonstrate high levels of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control measure on promoting cleanliness in public spaces.

9. c

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** released its first World Vision Report this week, proposing ways to address challenges such as integrating eye care into healthcare systems.
- The report found that globally, over 2.2 billion people have vision impairment.
- In a telling finding, the report said that out of these 2.2 billion, 1 billion people are suffering from conditions that are preventable, or unaddressed.

10. b

14-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements

1. Chief Justice of India (CJI) can appoint a judge of a high court as an acting chief justice of the high court.
2. A judge who retired as an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court cannot claim the pension of a regular Chief Justice (CJ).

Which of 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. A cryptocurrency is a tradable digital asset or digital form of money, built on blockchain technology that only exists online.
2. UNICEF is the first UN Organization to hold and make transactions in Cryptocurrency.

Which of 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 pairs with respect exercises with India

Exercise – Country

1. Maitree – Sri Lanka
2. Lamitye – Maldives
3. Dharma Guardian – Nepal

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

- c. 1, 2 and 3
d. None

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (ICTF)*

1. It is conducted as a part of Government of India's efforts to boost farm exports and double farmers' income by 2022.
2. It is being organised by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2019*

1. It is the flagship and premier festival of Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD).
2. It has been organised under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat initiative.

Which of 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 the *Index of Industrial Production (IIP)*

1. IIP figures are calculated half-yearly which maps the change in the volume of production in Indian industries.
2. In this, the whole industrial economy is divided into three sectors, agriculture, manufacturing and mining.

Which of 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 *Article 81 of Indian Constitution*

1. It defines the composition of the House of the People or Lok Sabha.
2. Under this Article, President can nominate up to two Anglo-Indians if he/she feels the community is inadequately represented in 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

8) *Quilombolas* sometimes seen in the news recently refers to?

- a. Afro-Brazilian slaves
b. Extra terrestrial object
c. Negatively charged clouds
d. Largest known black hole

9) *Power of Siberia* sometimes seen in the news recently refers to?

- a. Gas pipeline between India and Russia
b. Military exercise between India and Russia
c. Russian technology of construction on permafrost
d. None of the above

10) *Typbar TCV* is a vaccine against which of the following?

- Typhoid
- Malaria
- Cholera
- None of the above

Answers

1. b

- The **President** can appoint a judge of a high court as an acting chief justice of the high court.
- The Supreme Court has recently ruled that a judge who retired as an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court cannot claim the pension of a regular Chief Justice (CJ).*
- SC held that an Acting CJ needs to be given the pension of a CJ only for the period for which he served as a CJ and not more.
- Only for the limited purpose of salary, such an Acting Chief Justice is treated on a par with the Chief Justice and not for any other purpose, more particularly pension.

2. c

- UNICEF becomes first UN organisation to hold and make transactions in cryptocurrencies ether and bitcoin.*
- UNICEF will use cryptocurrencies to fund open source technology benefiting children and young people around the world.
- Under the structure of the fund, contributions will be held in their cryptocurrency of contribution, and granted out in the same cryptocurrency.
- The first contributions to the Fund will benefit UNICEF Innovation Fund and GIGA initiative to connect schools across the world to the internet.

3. d

- Maitree – Thailand
- Lamitye – Seychelles
- Dharma Guardian – Japan

4. c

- IICTF* is being organised by the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** along with agencies such as **APEDA** and **NAFED** with the support of agriculture and commerce ministries.

5. b

- Ministry of Culture** is organising the **10th** edition of **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav** under the **Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat initiative** in Madhya Pradesh from 14th to 21st October 2019.
- Being the flagship and premier festival of Ministry of Culture, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was conceived in the year 2015.
- After the grand success of the First Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav in November-2015, the Ministry of Culture decided to organize it with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Country in all its rich and varied dimensions.
- So far, this Ministry has organised 9 RSM's i.e. 2 each in Delhi and 2 in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, RSM North East, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

6. d

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** maps the change in the volume of production in Indian industries.
- More formally, it chooses a basket of industrial products – ranging from the manufacturing sector to mining to energy, creates an index by giving different weight to each sector and then tracks the production every month.
- IIP figures are **monthly data** and as such it keeps going up and down.
- In this, the whole industrial economy is divided into three sectors; the first is **manufacturing** with a weight of 77.6 per cent in the index, the second is **mining** with a weight of 14.4 per cent and third is **electricity** with a weight of 8 per cent.

7. a

- Under **Article 331**, the President can nominate up to two Anglo-Indians if he/she feels the community is inadequately represented in the House.

8. a

- A recent agreement signed between **Brazil and the U.S.** allowing the Americans to use the **Alcantara Missile launch site** in the State of Maranhao, threatens to **expel the Quilombolas** from the land they have been living on since their ancestors escaped to freedom from slavery.
- They have set up their free communities, called Quilombos, where **Afro-Brazilian** culture thrived in a rural environment.

9. d

- Dubbed as Power of Siberia, it is a 4000 km long **gas pipeline** from **Russia's Far East to China** is set to be launched in December 2019.

10. a

15-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **LOTUS-HR project**

1. It seeks to treat dirty water of Barapullah drain before it deposits into River Ganga.
2. The project is a partnership between the Department of Biotechnology and its counterpart in the Netherlands.

Which of 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) **Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019** was published recently by?

- a. U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- b. UN Conference on Trade and Development
- c. UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- d. Both B and C

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **'One Nation One Tag – FASTag'**

1. All National Highways and State highways uses FASTags based toll Collection.
2. FASTag employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid account linked to it.

Which of 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 **DFDT insecticide**

1. It is a fast-acting insecticide which kills mosquitoes two to four times faster than DDT.
2. It is found to be highly toxic to other wildlife and environment.

Which of 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) Which of the following Departments are set to be Unified under the proposed RBI's 'Departments for Supervision' (DoS)?

1. Department of banking supervision
2. Department of co-operative banking supervision
3. Department of banking regulation
4. Department of non-banking supervision

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1 and 2 only

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)

1. The scheme is based on the premise that it is centres' responsibility to ensure that discoms become financially viable.
2. Borrowing to be included for calculating fiscal deficit of the State.

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

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

7) UK Sinha committee which was in news recently is related to,

- a. Governance of board of banks
- b. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- c. For reforms within BCCI
- d. 7th Pay Commission

8) "South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work" is a report released recently by which of the following?

- a. World Bank
- b. International Monetary Fund
- c. World Economic Forum
- d. UN Conference on Trade and Development

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pani Bachao Paisa Kamao Scheme*

1. It is a pilot project launched by the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL).

2. The objective of the scheme is to encourage the farmers to save electricity and reduce the use of tube wells and ground water.

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

10) Consider the following pairs

Tribes – States

1. Paniya – Tamil Nadu
2. Bakarwal – Rajasthan
3. Lepcha – Himachal Pradesh

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

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

Answers

1. b

- The second phase of an Indo-Dutch project that seeks to treat dirty water of Barapullah Drain before it deposits into *Yamuna* was launched recently.
- The *Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS-HR)* project was set up in 2017 at the Sun Dial Park as part of a collaboration between the governments of *India* and the *Netherlands*.

2. d

- Non-tariff measures (NTMs) have increased in the past two decades and are affecting trade as well sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Asian countries, according to *The Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019*

- It was published by the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** (ESCAP) and the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** (UNCTAD).
3. b
- Recently 'One Nation One Tag – FASTag' conference was held in New Delhi. It was to roll out the process for having a unified electronic system across the country.
 - Under the National Electronic Toll Collection programme of the Ministry, toll collection at national highways toll plazas is done through RFID based FASTags.
 - However, collection at state highways toll plazas is done either manually or through other tags.
 - This leads to inconvenience for the road users.
 - The Ministry is therefore encouraging states to come onboard FASTag, so that seamless movement of transport can be assured across the nation.
 - The FASTag are a Radio Frequency Identification Card (RFID) pasted to the windscreen of the vehicle.
 - The system operates on the lines of a prepaid phone card, which enables electronic payment at tolls on national highways.
4. a
- Researchers have rediscovered a fast-acting insecticide DFDT, created by Germans during the WW II, and was used by its military for insect control.
 - According to a new study, DFDT dismissed by US military officials following WW II in favor of DDT, could be used to combat malaria and other mosquito-borne illnesses.
 - DFDT kills mosquitoes including species that carry malaria, yellow fever, Dengue and Zika, two to four times faster than DDT.
 - DFDT found to be found to be more effective against insects and less toxic on the environment and wildlife as compared to DDT.
5. d
- RBI has decided to operationalise 'unified departments for supervision and regulation' with effect from November 1, 2019, in a bid to strengthen its oversight of commercial banks, urban co-operative banks (UCBs) and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
 - According to sources, a unified Department of Supervision () is being established by merging all supervisory departments –
 1. department of banking supervision,
 2. department of co-operative banking supervision, and
 3. department of non-banking supervision into one department.
 - Further, a unified Department of Regulation (**DoR**) is being created by merging all regulatory departments –
 1. department of banking regulation,
 2. department of co-operative banking regulation, and
 3. department of non-banking regulation into one department.
6. d
- **UDAY** is for financial turnaround and revival of Power Distribution companies (DISCOMs) and ensure a sustainable permanent solution to the problem.
 - It is based on the premise that it is **states'** responsibility to ensure that discoms become financially viable.
 - Government of India will **not** include the debt taken over by the States as per the above scheme in the calculation of fiscal deficit of respective States.
7. b
- UK Sinha-led working committee is related to MSME sector.
 - The Government and RBI have taken several initiatives and measures to address the issues faced by MSMEs.
 - However, the sector remains informal and vulnerable to structural and cyclical shocks, at times with persistent outcomes.
 - The increasing stress in the sector is a matter of concern and therefore, it was felt imperative

that a comprehensive review should be undertaken of the entire MSME ecosystem along with global best practices for suggesting measures for a holistic development of the sector.

- For this, a committee was appointed under UK Sinha by the RBI to help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises overcome the ongoing liquidity crunch.

8. a

- Bangladesh and Nepal are estimated to grow faster than India in 2019, according to the **World Bank** latest report: **South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) centralization Work**.
- It said that overall growth in South Asia is projected to slow down this fiscal in line with a global downward trend.

9. d

- The **Punjab government** has launched a pilot project last year 'Paani Bachao, Paise Kamao' to check depletion of underground water.
- Under this scheme, farmers will get monetary benefit for less use of tube well.
- The purpose of the scheme was to ensure that farmers use the power with restraint to pump out water from earth.

10. a

1. Lepcha – Sikkim, West Bengal and Tripura
2. Paniya – Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala
3. Bakarwal – Jammu and Kashmir

16-10-2019

1) Global Hunger Index is released by?

1. Concern Worldwide
2. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
3. Welt Hunger Hilfe

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

c. 2 only

d. All of the above

2) Assertion (A): Plants naturally deposit bio-matter as they grow, which in turn feeds the natural bacteria present in the soil.

Reason (R): Energy can be harnessed using fuel cells after the soil micro-organisms breaks down further, releasing energy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. Both A and R is true and R is the correct explanation of A
- b. Both A and R is true, but R is not correct explanation of A
- c. A is true, but R is false
- d. A is false, but R is true

3) Consider the following statements with respect to National Blindness & Visual Impairment Survey India 2015-2019

1. According to the survey, blindness was lowest in Thrissur district of Kerala, whereas Bijnor district in Uttar Pradesh had the highest prevalence.
2. The survey was prepared by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

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

4) Which one of the following best describes the term Track 1.5 Diplomacy?

- a. People-to-people diplomacy undertaken by individuals and private groups
- b. A situation in which official and non-official actors work together to resolve conflicts



- c. Official discussions typically involving high-level political and military leaders
- d. A term for operating on several tracks simultaneously, including official and unofficial conflict resolution efforts

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Economic Outlook (WEO)*

1. It is a survey by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published twice a year.
2. Despite slowdown, India retains the tag of fastest growing economy according to the WEO report released recently.

Which of 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 *Deemed Forests*

1. These are forests that are neither recorded, nor notified by the forest department or revenue department.
2. Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) had made number of trees as a criterion to designate a land as deemed forests.

Which of 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 'Conference On Disarmament' (CD)

1. The CD adopts the rules of procedure and agenda of UN.

2. Its membership includes all known nuclear-weapon states except North Korea.

Which of 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) Recently, National Security Guard (NSG) celebrated its 35th Raising Day Ceremony. Consider the following statements with respect to NSG

1. NSG is not categorised under Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)
2. It releases the annual publication of 'Bomb Shell Magazine'.

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

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

9) The 'Water Grid Project' which was in news recently was launched by which state?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Telangana
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Andhra Pradesh

10) Consider the following statements with respect to India's Foreign Trade

1. China is the India's largest trading partner.
2. India's trade deficit with China has dropped in 2018-19, compared to 2017-18.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- India ranked 102 in 'Global Hunger Index 2019' released jointly by "Concern Worldwide" and "Welt Hunger Hilfe".
- From 2018, **IFPRI stepped aside from its involvement in GHI project.**
- Increase in prevalence of wasting (low weight for height) among children under 5 contributing the most to the country's poor performance.
- The report warned that the progress towards a 2030 zero hunger target that was agreed upon by leaders across the world was "under threat".
- The report, topped by Central African Republic, said that it was becoming difficult to feed the world due to climate change.
- Among the 117 countries, 43 have "serious" levels of hunger.
- The report said that the Central African Republic is in the "extremely alarming" level in the hunger index while Chad, Madagascar, Yemen, and Zambia were in the "alarming" level.

2. b

- *A plant has recently taken the **botanical world's first selfie** using the waste energy it had generated, according to the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).*
- Plants naturally deposit bio-matter as they grow, which in turn feeds the natural bacteria present in the soil, creating energy that can be harnessed by microbial fuel cells and used to power a wide range of vital conservation tools remotely, including sensors, monitoring platforms and camera traps.
- A microbial fuel cell is a device that converts chemical energy to electrical energy by the

action of microorganisms, in this case found in the soil.

How plant energy is captured?

- Under sunlight, plants produce sugars and oxygen from water and CO₂ (photosynthesis).
- These sugars do not remain in the leaves, but are transported throughout the plant to the stem and roots.
- Some of these sugars are excreted by the roots as a waste product from the plant.
- Soil micro-organisms break this down further, releasing energy.
- This energy is captured using an anode (minus) and a cathode (plus) and charge a super capacitor
- When the super capacitor is full, the power is discharged and a photo is taken. The ultimate aim is to use plants to power camera traps and sensors in the wild.

3. c

- Untreated cataract cases are the main cause of blindness in India, in up to 66.2 per cent cases.
- This was revealed in a report: **National Blindness & Visual Impairment Survey India 2015-2019**, prepared by **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, after examining 85,135 persons over 50 years of age between 2015 to 2019 through door-to-door survey.
- Higher prevalence of blindness was noticed in illiterates (3.23 per cent) as compared to 0.43 per cent among 10 pass and above.
- Also the report states that it is more prevalent in rural population (2.14 per cent) as compared to 1.80 per cent in rural populace.
- Blindness was lowest in Thrissur district (Kerala) and in Thoubal district (Manipur) whereas Bijnor district in Uttar Pradesh had the highest prevalence.

4. b

- *The inaugural session of **India-ASEAN Track 1.5 Dialogue** on Cyber Issues was held recently in New Delhi.*

- *India wants countries to find common ground on cyber norms, which encourage international cooperation toward security, while fostering equitable access to cyber space.*
 - **Track 1 diplomacy** – Official discussions typically involving high-level political and military leaders and focusing on cease-fires, peace talks, and treaties and other agreements.
 - **Track 2 diplomacy** – Unofficial dialogue and problem-solving activities aimed at building relationships and encouraging new thinking that can inform the official process.
 - Track 2 activities typically involve influential academic, religious, and NGO leaders and other civil society actors who can interact more freely than high-ranking officials.
 - **Track 1.5 diplomacy** – Some analysts use the term track 1.5 to denote a situation in which official and non-official actors work together to resolve conflicts.
 - **Track 3 diplomacy** – People-to-people diplomacy undertaken by individuals and private groups to encourage interaction and understanding between hostile communities and involving awareness raising and empowerment within these communities.
 - **Multi-track diplomacy** – A term for operating on several tracks simultaneously, including official and unofficial conflict resolution efforts, citizen and scientific exchanges, international business negotiations, international cultural and athletic activities, and other cooperative efforts.
 - These efforts could be led by governments, professional organizations, businesses, churches, media, private citizens, training and educational institutes, activists, and funders.
5. c
- In the gloomy global economic picture painted by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, India retains its rank as the world's fastest-growing major economy according to the **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** released recently.
6. a
- There are forests that are notified either with the forest department or revenue department.
 - Then there are those areas that are like forests but are neither recorded, nor notified.
 - The Supreme Court in a December 12, 1996 judgement had ordered that the states identify and classify these as **deemed forests**.
 - Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) then decided to **let states come up with a criterion to identify deemed forests**, because there are a lot of regional variations between states.
7. a
- The CD was formed in 1979 as the single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum of the international community.
 - The conference has 65 members represent all areas of the world, including all known nuclear-weapon states **including North Korea**.
 - The CD is the successor to the Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament (TNDC), Geneva, 1960; the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament (ENDC), Geneva, 1962-68; and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), Geneva, 1969-78.
 - The CD has a special relationship with the United Nations.
 - **It adopts its own rules of procedure and its own agenda**, taking into account the recommendations made by the UNGA.
 - Its secretary is appointed by the UN Secretary-General.
 - It reports to the General Assembly annually or more frequently, as appropriate.
 - The budget of the CD is included in that of the United Nations, the CD meets on UN premises and is serviced by UN personnel.
 - The Conference conducts its work by consensus.
8. b
- The National Security Guard (NSG) was formed on September 22, 1986 to save the country from terror activities.

- Its core operational capability is provided by Special Action Group (SAG) which is drawn from Indian Army.
- One of its task is to release the annual publication of 'Bomb Shell Magazine'

9. d

- The **Andhra Pradesh** government has launched an ambitious 'Water Grid Project' project.
- It is to provide a drinking water connection to every household in the state by 2022.
- It would ensure supply of clean drinking water to every household from 2022 for at least the next 30 years.

10. b

- The **US** overtook China to once again become India's top trading partner in 2018-19.
- India's trade surplus with the US declined to \$16.8 billion from \$21.2 billion a year ago.
- India's exports are playing in a stronger position with its **trade deficit with China dropping** to \$53 billion in 2018-19, down from \$63 billion a year ago.
- Data showed that **India's dependency on Chinese imports also declined** to \$70 billion from \$76 billion a year ago, with **over a fourth increase in exports** to \$16.7 billion in 2018-19.

17-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Going Online as Leaders (GOAL) Program*

1. It aims to inspire, guide and encourage rural students from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.
2. It was launched by Google in collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Food Safety Mitra (FSM) scheme*

1. A FSM is an individual professional who assists in compliances related to Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
2. FSM would undergo training and certification by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to do their work and get paid by food businesses for their services.
3. It was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Livestock census 2019*

1. It will be conducted once in every 3 years since 1919-20.
2. Livestocks under this census also includes Horse, Mule, Dog, Rabbit and Elephant.
3. Livestock data were collected online for the first time in the 20th Livestock Census conducted recently.

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

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

4) *Shirui Lily Festival* sometimes seen in the news recently was a state festival of?

- a. Assam



- b. Nagaland
- c. Mizoram
- d. Manipur

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Services Exports Promotion Council (SEPC)*

1. It is an Export Promotion Council set up by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
2. It is an advisory body which facilitates service exporters of India.
3. It encourages and monitors the observance of international standards and specifications by exporters.

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

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

6) The island of 'Tulagi' which was in news recently is located in?

- a. St. Lucia
- b. Solomon Islands
- c. Seychelles
- d. Baffin Island

7) Consider the following regarding *Carbon emissions*

1. India stands second as the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China.
2. Qatar stands first as the biggest per capita Carbon emitter.

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

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

- d. Neither 1 nor 2

8) Consider the following statements with respect to World Food Day

1. World Food Day is held annually on 16th October by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
2. FAO is a specialized agency of the USFDA

Which of 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) Which of the following countries borders Syria

1. Lebanon
2. Iraq
3. Israel
4. Armenia
5. Turkey
6. Jordan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10) Project Soli which was in news is related to?

- a. Second generation Autopilot system
- b. A helium-filled balloons to provide a reliable way to beam Internet service from the sky
- c. A 'movable type' high-throughput microarray printing technology

d. A miniature radar to detect minute hand and finger movements

Answers

1. d

- **GOAL (Going Online as Leaders)** is a **Facebook program** aimed at inspiring, guiding and encouraging **tribal girls** from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.
- It was launched in March, 2019 and it connects underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors in the areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life skills.
- *The second phase of the program was launched recently by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Facebook.*
- *They together will digitally mentor 5000 young women in India's tribal dominated districts.*

2. a

- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has recently introduced the scheme of **Food Safety Mitra (FSM)** through which it plans to **engage motivated individuals with the food safety ecosystem at ground level.**
- A FSM is an **individual professional certified by FSSAI** who assists in compliances related to FSS Act, Rules & Regulations with three avatars - Digital Mitra, Trainer Mitra and Hygiene Mitra depending upon their respective roles and responsibilities.
- The FSM scheme will support small and medium scale food businesses to comply with the food safety laws and facilitate licensing and registration, hygiene ratings and training.
- Apart from strengthening food safety, this scheme would also create new employment opportunities for youth, particularly with food and nutrition background.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also launches '**Eat Right Jacket**' and '**Eat Right Jhola**' on World Food Day 2019.

3. c

- The livestock census is conducted **across the country** periodically **since 1919.**
- Since then it has been conducted **once in every 5 years.**
- The census usually covers all domesticated animals and head counts of these animals are taken.
- So far, 19 Livestock Censuses were conducted in participation with State Governments and UT Administrations.
- The 20th Livestock Census was launched during the month of October, 2018.
- The enumeration was done in **both rural and urban areas.**
- Various species of animals (cattle, buffalo, **mithun, yak**, sheep, goat, pig, **horse**, pony, **mule**, donkey, camel, dog, rabbit and **elephant**)/poultry birds (fowl, duck and other poultry birds) possessed by the households, household enterprises/non-household enterprises were counted at that site.
- Another important feature of 20th Livestock Census is it has been designed to capture Breed-wise number of animals and poultry birds.
- For the first time, livestock data were **collected on line** in 20th Livestock Census.
- Advance technology has been adopted to collect data through tablet computers.

4. d

- The third edition of the four-day state festival **Shirui Lily** was recently inaugurated at Shirui Vangayan Ground of Ukhrul in **Manipur.**
- It aims at spreading awareness about the conservation of the endangered Shirui Lily and to promote Ukhrul as a tourist destination.

5. d

- **The Services Exports Promotion Council (SEPC)** has recently brought out the **India Intellectual Property, IP Guide in MIPCOM 2019.**

- **SEPC** is an Export Promotion Council set by **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- It is an apex trade body which facilitates service exporters of India.
- As an **advisory body** it actively contributes to the formulation of policies of Government of India and acts as an interface between the Services Industry and the Government.
- The Council encourages and monitors the observance of international standards and specifications by exporters and keeps abreast of the trends and opportunities in international markets for services and assist members in taking advantage of such opportunities in order to expand and diversify exports.
- Set up in 2006, SEPC now has a strong membership base of more than 3000 members from the 14 service sectors which come under its purview.

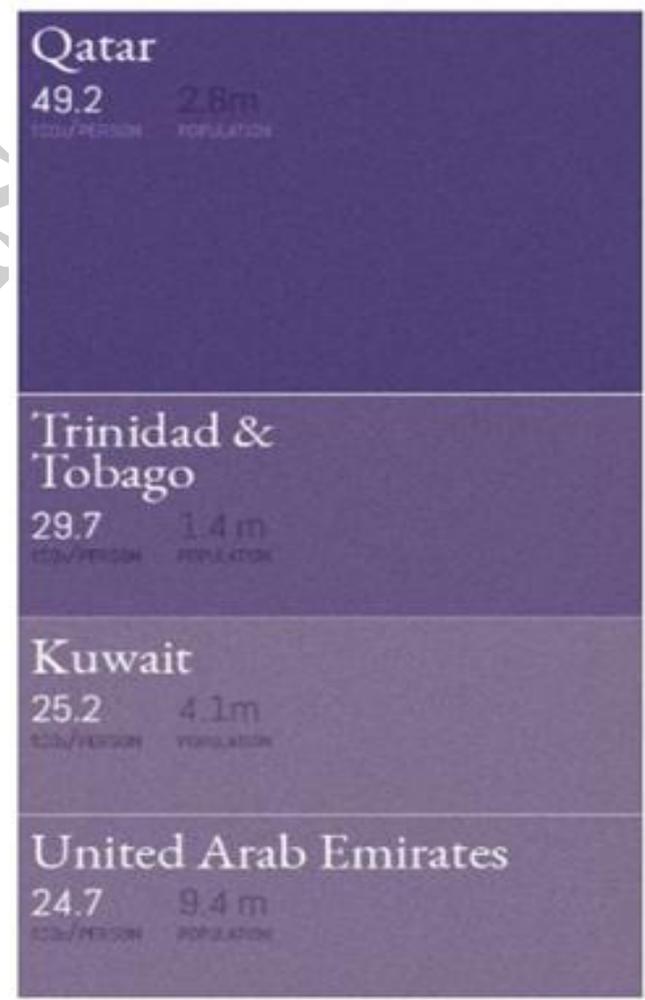
6. b

- The island of ‘Tulagi’ served as a South Pacific headquarters for Britain then Japan, and during World War II, is located in **The Solomon Islands** in the southwestern Pacific.
- Recently, China is set to lease an entire Pacific Island, to effectively take control over it.
- A secretive deal signed last month with a provincial government in the Solomon Islands.
- A Beijing-based company with close ties to the Chinese Communist Party has secured exclusive development rights for the entire island of Tulagi and its surroundings.
- The lease agreement alarmed American officials who see the island chains of the South Pacific as crucial to keeping China in check and protecting important sea routes.
- A military installation by China would carry strategic and symbolic significance.



7. b

- Railway Ministry recently said that Indian Railways will become the world first "net-zero" carbon emitter by 2030.
- As per the NITI Aayog data, Carbon Dioxide emission from Indian Railway was around 6.84 million tons in 2014.
- **India** stands **third** as the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China.
- The **per capita** figures tell a different story as **Qatar tops the list**.
- Here in per capita emission, China doesn't even make the top 20.
- Gulf States making up 3 of the top 4, The US is ranked 8th, behind Australia at 7th.



8. a

- The World Food Day is held annually on 16th October by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- It is celebrated to commemorate the creation of FAO.
- The aim is to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all.
- **FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate arguments and debate policy.

9. c



10. d

- **Project Soli** is driven by Google's Advanced Technology and Projects (ATAP) team.
- It is a **radar chip** can be used to **detect hand movements and gestures** to interpret what they could mean.
- **Soli** is a dedicated radar chip on the front of the Pixel to collect raw data of hand gestures and then interpret them correctly for the right commands.
- Google says the miniature radar understands human motions at various scales, from the tap of a finger to the movements of the body.

- The Soli radar chip emits electromagnetic waves in a broad beam and when a human hand interacts with this, some of these waves are reflected back to the antenna.
- This Motion Sense technology allows Pixel 4 users to wave their hands to snooze an alarm or skip songs or go back to the last song without touching the screen.

18-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *India Innovation Index 2019*

1. NITI Aayog with Cornell University as the knowledge partner released the **India Innovation Index 2019**.
2. Under this, **Telangana is the most innovative major state in India**.

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

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

2) *Global Tuberculosis Report 2019* was recently published by which of the following?

- a. Food and Agricultural Organisation
- b. World Health Organisation
- c. Doctors without borders
- d. Codex Alimentarius commission

3) *Eastern Bridge-V* is a bilateral joint exercise between India and?

- a. Oman
- b. Japan
- c. Australia
- d. South Korea

4) *State of the World's Children report for 2019* was published recently by which of the following?

- UNICEF
- Child Care International
- International Bureau of Children Rights
- Both A and B

5) *xEMU*, sometimes seen in the news recently refers to?

- Korean's Sacred Volcanic Mountain
- NASA's next generation Space Suit
- Earth Quake Warning Mechanism set up in the Pacific Ring of Fire
- First vaccine against a rare genetic disorder: Batten's Disease

6) Which one of the following is the main objective of *Artemis Mission of NASA*?

- To study the global response of the Earth's magnetosphere to changes in the solar wind
- To get the first American woman and the next American man to the surface of the Moon by 2024
- To analyze the landforms, stratigraphy, minerals, and ice of Mars
- To repeatedly probe and making observations of the outer corona of the Sun

7) Which one of the following best describes the term "*Bench Hunting*" sometimes seen in the news recently in the context of Indian Judiciary?

- It is a practice where litigants managed to get their cases heard by a particular judge, ensuring a favourable order
- It is a practice where a particular bench is loaded with huge number of cases and criticized for inefficiency
- It is a practice where a judge is barred from hearing cases due to his/her incapacity
- It is a practice where judges be threatened with political interference and bribery to ensure a favourable order

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mount Paektu*

- It is a volcanic mountain situated at the border between South Korea and China.
- At a height of about 9,000 feet, it is also the highest peak in the Korean peninsula.

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 pairs

- M777 Ultra light howitzer – U.S.A
- K9 Vajra-T – South Korea

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

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

10) *Nikshay Portal* is associated with which of the following?

- Sarva Siksha Abhiyan
- Visually challenged persons welfare
- Legal services to the poor
- Tuberculosis Control

Answers

1. d

- NITI Aayog with Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner released the India Innovation Index (III) 2019.

- **Karnataka** is the most innovative major state in India.
 - Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh form the remaining top ten major states respectively.
 - The India Innovation Index 2019 is calculated as the average of the scores of its two dimensions - Enablers and Performance.
 - The Enablers are the factors that underpin innovative capacities, grouped in five pillars: (1) Human Capital, (2) Investment, (3) Knowledge Workers, (4) Business Environment, and (5) Safety and Legal Environment.
 - The Performance dimension captures benefits that a nation derives from the inputs, divided in two pillars: (6) Knowledge Output and (7) Knowledge Diffusion.
2. b
- The world is not on track to reach the 2020 milestones of the End TB Strategy, according to the *Global Tuberculosis Report 2019* released by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
3. a
- Indian Air Force is participating in a Bilateral Joint exercise with Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO), named **EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V**, scheduled from 17-26 Oct 19, at Air Force Base **Masirah, Oman**.
 - The last exercise, EX EASTERN BRIDGE-IV was held in 2017 at Jamnagar, India.
 - For the first time, MiG-29 fighter aircraft will be participating in an International Exercise outside India.
4. a
- **UNICEF** has recently released its **State of the World's Children report for 2019**.
 - The first UNICEF report in 20 years on child nutrition, it comes on the heels of the Global Hunger Index report released by the organisation Welthungerhilfe.
 - The UNICEF report found that one in three children under the age of five years — around 200 million children worldwide — are either undernourished or overweight.
5. b
- In India, every second child is affected by some form of malnutrition.
 - NASA has recently unveiled its designs for future spacesuits that astronauts will wear during trips to the lunar surface.
 - Known as the **xEMU**, this next generation spacesuit builds on the design of suits already worn by astronauts on the International Space Station.
 - These new ensembles are upgraded so that astronauts wearing them can live and work on the Moon.
6. b
- **ARTEMIS** (Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence and Electrodynamics of Moon's Interaction with the Sun) is the **NASA's mission to the Moon**.
 - NASA has recently revealed new spacesuits **xEMU**, specifically created for the Artemis generation of missions, which aim to get the **first American woman and the next American man to the surface of the Moon by 2024**.
7. a
- **"Bench hunting"** refers to a bid by a litigant, represented and aided by its lawyers, to manage his/her matter being listed and heard by a particular judge or a bench for ensuring a favourable order.
 - This practice mostly occurs in lower courts.
8. b
- **Mount Paektu** or Changbai (in Chinese) is a volcanic mountain that last erupted over 1,000 years ago.
 - It is situated at the border between **DPRK and China** and for centuries has been considered sacred by the Koreans since they treat it to be the spiritual origin of the Korean kingdom, where the founder was born.
 - At a height of about 9,000 feet, it is also the **highest peak in the Korean peninsula**.



9. c

1. M777 Ultra light howitzer – U.S.A
2. K9 Vajra-T – South Korea

10. d

19-10-2019

1) *New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB)* sometimes seen in the news recently, is the fund mobilization arrangement of which of the following banks?

- a. World Bank
- b. New Development Bank
- c. Asian Development Bank
- d. International Monetary Fund

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*

1. It is an international organisation of parliaments of sovereign states under the aegis of United Nations (UN).
2. India is a member to this organisation.
3. It has recently urged legislatures to achieve Zero Child Labour Policy by 2030.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Anglo-Kuki War*

1. The war was fought between English and Kukis, one of the dominant tribes of hill areas surrounding Imphal during the rule of the Maharajas of Manipur during 1927-1929.

2. The war began when the Britishers' asked the Kukis to get enrolled in their labour corps in Bengal and the latter resisted.

3. The war had unified the efforts of Kukis living in northeast India, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

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

4) With respect to the *North East Monsoons*, consider the following statements:

1. North-East monsoon is known to receive a boost from El Nino, whereas it gets depressed when La Nina happens.
2. Many other parts of the country, like the Gangetic plains and northern states, also receive rainfall during the North-East Monsoon.

Which of 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 *International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)*

1. It is an international police cooperation organisation with 194 member states based in Lyon, France.
2. India will host the 91st Interpol General Assembly to be held in 2019.

Which of 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 *Aflatoxins*

1. Aflatoxins are toxins produced by certain bacteria, generally found in agricultural crops.
2. They are carcinogenic in nature, which can cause cancer.

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

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

7) The term '*Seed Sovereignty*' refers to

- a. Replacing existing local seeds with new high yielding varieties
- b. Increasing the seed replacement rate
- c. Self sufficiency and self reliance in production
- d. Reclaiming seeds and biodiversity as commons and public good

8) Consider the following statements with respect to '*International Coffee Organization*' (ICO)

1. It is an intergovernmental organization for coffee, bringing together the exporting and importing countries.
2. It was set up in London under the auspices of the United Nations.
3. India is set to host the 5th edition of The World Coffee Conference, 2020.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to '*Merchant Discount Rate*' (MDR)

1. MDR is the rate charged to a customers for payment processing services on debit and credit card transactions.
2. To boost digital payments, businesses with an annual turnover of more than Rs50 cr. will have to mandatorily offer electronic mode of payments to their customers from November 2019.
3. For more than Rs50 cr. commercial transactions on digital payments, banks will not impose MDR.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to '*Solar Energy Corporation of India*' (SECI)

1. SECI is a CPSU under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
2. It is the only Public Sector Undertaking dedicated to the solar energy sector

Which of 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

- Members of the *International Monetary Fund (IMF)* have recently agreed to a deal which will allow an extension of non-permanent, supplementary sources of

funds: **New Arrangement to Borrow (NAB)**.

- It is a **renewable funding mechanism** that has existed since 1998, and bilateral borrowings from countries — the IMF had entered into after the 2008 financial crisis to increase its lending ability.
- The agreement extended the bilateral borrowing facility by a year — to the end of 2020 — and a potential **doubling of the NAB**.
- But, IMF has postponed the changes proposed to its voting structure.
- The NAB was proposed for the first time at the 1995 **G-7 Halifax Summit** following the Mexican financial crisis.

2. a

- A resolution was passed recently by the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, an **international organisation of parliaments** of sovereign states, has urged legislatures to achieve **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030**.
- It was established in 1889 and headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- India is a member of this organisation.

3. a

Anglo-Kuki War (1917–1919)

- Before the British came in, the **Kukis had been one of the dominant tribes of hill areas surrounding Imphal during the rule of the Maharajas of Manipur**.
- The Kukis exercised full control over their territory until then.
- Therefore, the Anglo-Kuki War was essentially a war for the independence and liberation of the Kukis from the imperialists.
- **The war had unified the efforts of Kukis living in northeast India, Myanmar and Bangladesh**.
- Even so, the state of Manipur had already lost its independence to the Britishers in 1891 and became free only after India became independent in 1947.

- **The Anglo-Kuki War began when the Britishers asked the Kukis to get enrolled in their labour corps in France and the latter resisted.**

- According to the book, “The Anglo-Kuki War, 1917–1919: A Frontier Uprising against Imperialism during the First World War”, the course of the war can be divided into three phases: the first phase (March–October 1917) was the phase of passive resistance, the second phase (October 1917–April 1919) was the period of armed resistance and the third phase (April 1919 onward) was the period of trial and tribulation.

4. c

- Many other parts of the country, like the Gangetic plains and northern states, also receive some rain in November and December but this is **not due to the northeast monsoon**.
- It is caused **mainly by the Western Disturbances**, an eastward-moving rain-bearing wind system that originates beyond Afghanistan and Iran, picking up moisture from as far as the Mediterranean Sea, even the Atlantic Ocean.
- Like the southwest monsoon, the northeast monsoon is also impacted by the warming and cooling of sea surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean.
- But the impact is the opposite.
- The northeast monsoon is known to receive a **boost from El Nino**, when the sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, off the western coast of South America, are warmer than usual.
- And, when the opposite phenomena **La Nina** happens, rainfall during the northeast monsoon is **known to get depressed**.

5. a

- **India has recently won the vote for hosting the 91st Interpol General Assembly in India in the year 2022 as part of celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence at this year's congregation in Chile.**
- Based in **Lyon, France**, Interpol is an international police cooperation organisation

with 194 member states and 100 years of experience of international cooperation in policing.

- The organisation has 90-million records spread across 17 databases.
- Equipped with secure global data communication channel I-24/7, incident response teams, command and control centre, a worldwide network of NCBs, the organisation assist law enforcement agencies of member countries.

6. a

- Recently, traces of **Aflatoxin M1** (AFM1), a deadly carcinogen, were found in some of the milk samples tested as part of a national survey by the FSSAI.
- Aflatoxins are toxins produced by certain **fungi** which are generally found in agricultural crops like maize, peanuts, cotton seed and others.
- They are carcinogenic in nature, which means they can cause cancer.
- Consumption of food containing aflatoxin concentrations of 1mm or higher has been suspected to cause aflatoxicosis, the prognosis of which consists of acute liver failure, jaundice, lethargy and nausea, eventually leading to death.
- **Maltodextrin**, a food additive was also found in Milk samples. Although it is not lethal, its presence increases the levels of fat and Solids-not-Fat (SNF).

7. d

- Seed sovereignty reclaims **seeds and biodiversity as commons and public good**.
- The farmer's rights to breed and exchange diverse open source seeds which can be saved and which are not patented, genetically modified, owned or controlled by emerging seed giants.

8. d

- The International Coffee Organization (ICO) is the main intergovernmental organization for coffee.

- It brings together exporting and importing Governments to tackle the challenges facing the world coffee sector through international cooperation.
- Its Member Governments represent 98% of world coffee production and 67% of world consumption.
- The ICO's mission is to strengthen the global coffee sector and promote its sustainable expansion in a market-based environment for the betterment of all participants in the coffee sector.
- The ICO was set up in London in 1963 under the auspices of the **United Nations** because of the great economic importance of coffee.
- It administers the International Coffee Agreement (ICA), an important instrument for development cooperation.
- The latest Agreement, the ICA 2007, entered into force on 2 February 2011.
- **India** will host the fifth edition of 'The World Coffee Conference' between September 7 and 12, 2020, in Bengaluru.
- The earlier WCCs were held in London, Guatemala, Brazil and Ethiopia.

9. c

- The merchant discount rate is the **rate charged to a merchant** for payment processing services on debit and credit card transactions.
- The merchant must set up this service and agree to the rate prior to accepting debit and credit cards as payment.
- Most merchants can expect to pay a 1% to 3% fee for payment processing of each transaction.
- MDR charges are usually shared in a pre-agreed proportion between banks and Merchants.
- In India, the RBI specifies the maximum MDR charges that can be levied on every card transaction.
- In a move that may boost digital payments, businesses with an annual turnover of more than Rs 50 crore will have to mandatorily offer

electronic mode of payments to their customers from 1st of November 2019.

- Besides, no charges or MDR charge that payment systems and banks impose on commercial transactions will be levied.

10. b

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI) is a CPSU under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- It was set up to facilitate the implementation of JNNSM and achievement of targets set therein.
- It is the **only** CPSU dedicated to the solar energy sector.

21-10-2019

1) “*Mahendraparvata*” a city which was in news recently is located in?

- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Bhutan
- Cambodia

2) With respect to *Bhashan Char Island*, consider the following statements:

- It is seen in the news recently for the reason that it has become the world’s first time-free zone.
- It is located in the Hooghly river estuary in Bay of Bengal.

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

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

3) *Okayama Declaration* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- Health Care
- Climate Change
- Safety of Shipping Vessels
- Global Terrorism

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *South Asian University (SAU)*

- It is an international university established by the eight member nations of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).
- The University is currently functioning in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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 ‘Financial Sector Regulatory Appointment Search Committee’ (FSRASC)

- FSRASC is responsible for selection of RBI Governor and Dy. Governors.
- Finance Minister is the head of the committee.
- FSRASC also look for the heads of SEBI and LIC of India.

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

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

6) ‘Wangala Festival’ is celebrated in?

- Manipur
- Meghalaya
- Mizoram



d. Tripura

7) Consider the following statements with respect to United Nation Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

1. It was created by UNGA Resolution 60/25
2. Its resolutions are legally binding and carry moral authority.

Which of 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 India Ocean Dipole (IOD)

1. The positive IOD which warms the western basin of Indian Ocean relative to east boosts Indian Monsoon.
2. Positive IOD brings good rain to India despite an El-Nino year.

Which of 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 Swabalamban scheme

1. The main objective of this scheme is to motivate the surrendered militants for taking up self employment activities.
2. It was launched by the Government of Odisha.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

10) Consider the following pairs

Places in News – Country

1. Ras al-Ain – Turkey
2. Sarrin – Ukraine

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

Answers

1. d

- Archaeologists uncovered the ancient city of Mahendraparvata located in **Cambodia**.
- One of the first capitals of the Khmer empire, the city is located deep in the Phnom Kulen mountains of North Cambodia.
- ‘Mahendraparvata’ means the mountain of Indra, King of the Gods.
- The city was laid out in a grid structure, with each square in the grid revealing traces of buildings, including temples and grand palaces, predating the famous ‘Angkor Wat’.

2. d

- Thousands of Rohingya living in Bangladesh refugee camps have agreed to move to the **Bhashan Char Island** in the **Bay of Bengal**, despite fears the site is prone to flooding.
- In the past half a century, powerful cyclones have killed hundreds of thousands of people in the **Meghna river estuary** where the island is located.

3. a

- The G20 Health Ministers meeting was recently concluded by adopting the “**Okayama Declaration of the G 20 Health Ministers**”.

- The declaration, having 52 articles, endorses the Commitment of G20 countries to address the major **global health issues**, and to pave the way towards an inclusive and sustainable world, as envisioned in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
4. a
- **South Asian University (SAU)** is an international university established by the **eight member nations of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC)** viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
 - SAU started its operations from the academic year 2010.
 - SAU attracts students from all member nations and its degrees are recognised by all the eight SAARC countries.
 - The University is currently functioning from Akbar Bhawan Campus in Chanakyapuri, **New Delhi** before it eventually moves in to its 100 acre campus in Maidan Garhi, South Delhi where construction is under way.
5. c
- **FSRASC** was formed by Union Government to look for the heads of **SEBI** and **LIC** of India and later **RBI** governor and Dy. Governor search was also included into it.
 - It is **headed by Cabinet Secretary**.
 - FSRASC select the candidates and send its recommendation to the 'Appointment Committee of Cabinet' which appoints them.
 - Appointment Committee is headed by Prime Minister.
6. b
- The Wangala Festival is the biggest **harvest festival** of the **Garo tribe** in **Meghalaya**.
 - Held in honor of the Sun God of fertility, the festival marks the end of the sowing season and agricultural year.
 - It's celebrated by the beating of drums, blowing horns, and traditional dancing.
 - The highlight is the sound of 100 drums (nagaras) being beaten together.
- Hence, the alternative name for the festival, **100 Drum Wangala Festival**.
 - Other attractions include a traditional dance competition, indigenous games, and handloom and handicrafts exhibition.
7. a
- The UNHRC is an inter-governmental body within UN responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe.
 - It was created by UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 on March 20016.
 - It replaced former UN Commission on Human Rights.
 - It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - Its resolutions are not legally binding but carry moral authority.
 - Recently, UNGA has elected 14 States to the 47 member body of UNHRC.
8. c
- During positive IOD the westerly winds weaken along the equator, allowing warm water to move to Africa.
 - Changes in the winds also allow rise of cool water from deep ocean in the east.
 - This creates temperature difference across tropical Indian ocean with cooler than normal water in the east and warmer than normal water in the west.
 - This event has been found to be beneficial for Indian Monsoon.
 - An IOD can either aggravate or weaken El Nino's impact on the Indian monsoon.
 - If there is a positive IOD, despite an El Nino year, it can bring good rains to India.
 - Positive IOD in 1983,1994 and 1997 facilitated normal or excess rainfall over India, despite an El Nino in those years.
9. a
- The Swabalamban scheme is one of the major schemes launched by the **Assam Government** for Self Employment of the Surrendered Militants of the State.

- The scheme is to be implemented by the Home Department in association with State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development, Assam.
- The objective is to motivate the surrendered militants for taking up self employment activities.

10. d

- Turkey has recently said Kurdish fighters were withdrawing from the **Syria's** border town of **Ras al-Ain** under an agreement brokered with the United States.
- U.S. forces withdraw from **Sarrin**, their largest base in **northern Syria**.

22-10-2019

1) What is 'SONIA' which was in news recently?

- A prime lending rate in US
- NASAs synthetic aperture radar
- A humanoid robot
- An effective overnight interest rate in the British sterling market

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Green Crackers

- Green crackers do not contain chemicals such as lithium, antimony, mercury, arsenic and lead.**
- e-crackers, the latest version, produces the same light and sound as traditional firecrackers without emitting any of the hazardous smoke that spike air pollution.**

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

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

3) Consider the following statements

- He is a Maratha military leader and a close aide of Chhatrapati Shivaji.**

- He is popularly remembered for the Battle of Singhadgad that took place in the year 1670.**
- In the battle, he fought against Udaybhan Rathore, a formidable Rajput warrior to recapture Fort Kandhana.**

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description:

- Peshwa Baji Rao II
- Pratap Singh Bhonsle
- Rajaram Chhatrapati
- Taanaji Malusare

4) Which of the following are commonly used as "Adulterants" in Milk?

- Urea
- Detergents
- Neutralisers
- Hydrogen Peroxide

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTII)

- It is a bilateral treaty signed between India and U.S.A.**
- Its central aims include strengthening India's defence industrial base, exploring new areas of technological development and expanding U.S.-India business ties.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

6) Assertion (A): Meteor showers can also happen on an annual basis.

Reason (R): Like the Earth orbits around the Sun, comets orbit around it as well.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- Both A and R is correct and R is the correct explanation of A
- Both A and R is correct but R is not the correct explanation of A
- A is correct, but R is incorrect
- A is incorrect, but R is correct

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti

- It is an e-Portal launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- It aims to explore unknown aspects of India's lesser-known places and their rural and semi-urban culture.

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 Co-operative banks in India

- Co-operative banks are regulated by state government under States Cooperative Societies Act.
- Co-operative banks are audited by the state government.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Solar PV cells

- A solar PV cell shall be considered to be domestically manufactured only if it uses 'Undiffused silicon wafer' (generally called 'Black Wafer').
- Flagship programmes of MNRE such as KUSUM, have provisions for mandatory use of domestically manufactured solar PV cells.

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 'Siachen Glacier'

- It is located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas.
- It is a part of newly formed Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

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

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

Answers

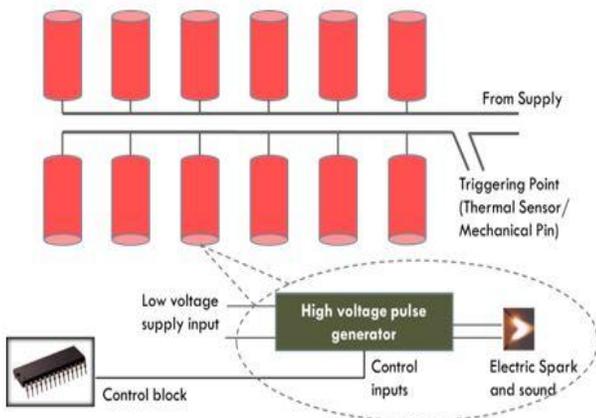
1. d

- SONIA is short for 'Sterling Overnight Interbank Average Rate'.
- It is the effective overnight interest rate paid by the banks for unsecured transactions in the British sterling market.

- It is used for overnight funding for trades that occur in off-hours and represents the depth of overnight business in the marketplace.
- In April 2017, the Bank of England selected SONIA as its preferred alternative to LIBOR.
- SONIA is one of the major alternatives to LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate), the predominant global interest rate benchmark.
- LIBOR is based on estimates, not actual transactions, of surveyed global banks whereas SONIA is based on actual transactions and vetted by the Bank of England, giving it a greater credibility.

2. d

- “Green crackers” are so named because they “do not contain harmful chemicals” that would cause air pollution.
- It do not contain the 5 hazardous chemicals, lithium, antimony, mercury, arsenic and lead banned by Supreme Court in the manufacture of firecrackers.
- **e-crackers**- CSIR-CEERI, being an electronics laboratory, is developing safe and pollution free technology of electronic crackers (E-crackers) to meet latent social aspiration of enjoying fireworks.
- **e-crackers** produces the same light and sound as traditional firecrackers without emitting any of the hazardous smoke that spike air pollution.



- The e-cracker produces different illumination patterns and sounds and is **reusable**.

- It uses a rechargeable battery and is absolutely safe and green

3. d

- In 1665, the Treaty of Purandar was signed between **Jai Singh and Shivaji**.
- Amongst several demands, the treaty had required the Maratha ruler to give up **Fort Kandhana to the Mughals**.
- Shivaji entrusted Taanaji Malusare to recapture the fort.
- In the **Battle of Singhadgad, 1670**, Taanaji fought against Udaybhan Rathore, a formidable Rajput warrior, who was put in charge of Fort Kandhana by Jai Singh.
- Malusare was gravely wounded in the fight and died.
- Enraged by the death of their general, the Marathas fought under the leadership of his brother, Suryaji Malusare, and eventually vanquished the enemy.
- Shivaji, upon hearing the news of Tanaji's demise, said, “Although the fort was captured, a lion was lost”.
- The fort was renamed as **Singhadgad (lion's fort)** by Shivaji to honour Tanaji.

4. c

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** have recently released the **National Milk Safety and Quality Survey 2018**.
- The survey found residues of “**Aflatoxin**” M1 (a type of mycotoxin that can cause disease and death) beyond permissible levels.
- This was the first time milk in India was tested for aflatoxin M1, which comes into contact with milk through feed and fodder, not regulated in the country at present.

5. b

- While DTTI is **not a treaty or law**, it is a **flexible mechanism** to make sure that senior leaders from both countries are engaged consistently to strengthen the opportunities in the field of defence.
- Its central aims include **strengthening India's defence industrial base**, exploring

new areas of technological development and expanding U.S.-India business ties.

6. a
- Meteor showers can also happen on an **annual basis**.
 - Like the Earth orbits around the Sun, comets orbit around it as well.
 - Although they may not be as circular as Earth but maybe lop-sided.
 - Therefore, when comets come closer to the Sun, their icy parts melt and break off, forming the debris that the Earth may encounter **around the same time every year** as it makes way around its own orbit.
 - The Orionids meteor showers will make their yearly appearance this and the next weekend, reaching their peak on October 22.
 - These meteor showers are known for their brightness and speed, travelling at about 66 km/s into the Earth's atmosphere.
7. b
- Union Ministry of Culture has recently launched an e-portal of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) – “Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti”.
 - It will enable digital classrooms that can impart cultural education.
 - The idea is to help dropouts chase careers in cultural areas such as music, painting, theatre and martial arts.
 - The e-portal aims to explore unknown aspects of India's rural and semi-urban culture.
8. b
- Co-operative banks are financial entities established on a co-operative basis and belonging to their members.
 - In India, co-operative banks are registered under the ‘States Cooperative Societies Act’.
 - As per the Cooperative Societies Act, **RBI regulates** the cooperative banks and these are governed by,
 1. The Banking Regulations Act, 1949 and
 2. The Banking Laws (Cooperative Societies) Act, 1965.
- They were brought under the RBI's watch in 1966.
 - The **state government audits cooperative banks** while **RBI** inspects their books once a year.
 - The central banks also does not have powers to supersede the board, remove directors etc.
 - But while that is the case with the majority of cooperative banks, RBI did have the powers to do so in the case of PMC which is a multi-state bank.
9. c
- In a major decision that is likely to give further boost to domestic manufacturing of solar cells in India, MNRE has issued a clarification in respect of domestically manufactured solar PV cell.
 - The Ministry has clarified that if,
 1. **Diffused silicon wafer (generally called ‘Blue Wafer’)** is imported and the same is used as raw material for the manufacture of solar PV cells in India,
 2. such solar PV cells shall not qualify as domestically manufactured solar PV cells, for the purpose of MNRE's Schemes / Programmes.
 - A solar PV cell shall be considered to be domestically manufactured only if the same has been manufactured in India, using **‘undiffused silicon wafer’ (generally called ‘Black Wafer’)**.
 - It is expected that this decision will help in establishing a strong solar manufacturing base in India.
 - It may be noted that a number of flagship programmes of MNRE such as KUSUM, have provisions for mandatory use of domestically manufactured solar PV cells.
10. a
- Recently, Siachen glacier, known for its arduous climate and difficult terrain, is now open for tourism.
 - From Siachen Base Camp to Kumar Post, the entire area has been opened for tourism purposes.

- It is located in the **eastern Karakoram range** in the Himalayan Mountains, just northeast of the point NJ9842 where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.

Siachen glacier



- Stands at a height of 5,400 m and is regarded as the world's highest battlefield.
- It is a part of newly formed **Union Territory of Ladakh**.

23-10-2019

1) **Global Wealth Report, 2019** was published recently by?

- World Bank
- Credit Suisse
- Oxfam International
- World Economic Forum

2) Consider the following statements regarding **Polio eradication**

- Oral polio vaccine (OPV) contains killed poliovirus strains of all three poliovirus types, activating an immune response in the body.**

- India was declared polio-free by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2014.**

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

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

3) **Global Innovation Index** is released by

- Cornell University**
- INSEAD**
- Institute for Competitiveness**
- UN World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**
- GII Knowledge Partners**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**

- The Movement has its origin in the 'Asia-Africa Conference' held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955.**
- The 18th NAM summit to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan.**

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 'National Crime Records Bureau' (NCRB)

1. NCRB was created based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985).
2. It was constituted by merging the Directorate of Coordination and Police Computer (DCPC), Inter State Criminals Data Branch of CBI, Central Finger Print Bureau of CBI, and Statistical Branch of BPR&D.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Data Security Council of India' (DSCI)

1. DSCI is an autonomous body, under the 'Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology' MeitY.
2. It is a premier body on data protection 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) *Electronic Interlocking System* sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following sectors?

- a. Aviation
- b. Construction
- c. Railways
- d. Automobiles

8) *Marawah Island* sometimes seen in the news recently for which of the following reasons?

- a. Oldest known natural pearl was discovered in this Neolithic Site
- b. Island revealed by melting glaciers in the remote Arctic
- c. World's First Island which satisfies 100% of its energy needs through Nuclear technology
- d. None of the above

9) In which of the following states *Snow Leopards* can be seen?

1. Sikkim
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Arunachal Pradesh
4. Jammu and Kashmir

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10) Consider the following pairs

1. Hope Island – Andhra Pradesh
2. Trak Island – Andaman and Nicobar Island

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

Answers

1. b

- The *Credit Suisse Group*, a Switzerland-based multinational investment bank, has

released the 10th edition of its annual Global Wealth Report.

- The report typically tracks both the growth and distribution of wealth – in terms of the numbers of millionaires and billionaires and the proportion of wealth that they hold – as well as the status of inequality around the world.

2. b

- At least 400 children in India would have developed polio after receiving the oral polio vaccine (OPV) over the past five years, has revealed in a just published scientific study.
- The study also revealed that while, India's oral polio vaccine (OPV) drives have eliminated polio from the country, they have also resulted in over 490,000 cases of paralysis during 2000–2017.
- **India was declared polio-free** by the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 2014 in what was considered a landmark in the global drive to eradicate polio.
- **Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)** consists of **killed poliovirus strains** of all three poliovirus types and it produces antibodies in the blood to all three types of poliovirus.
- On the other hand, **Oral polio vaccine (OPV)** uses **live but weakened poliovirus strains**, to produce antibodies that protect children from being infected with 'wild' or naturally-occurring polio viruses.

3. a

- The **Global Innovation Index** rankings are published annually by Cornell University, INSEAD, the UN World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and GII Knowledge Partners.
- The 12th edition, the GII ranks 129 economies based on 80 indicators, ranging from intellectual property filing rates to mobile-application creation, education spending and scientific and technical publications.
- Switzerland retained its number-one spot on the index and India jumps 5 places to 52nd rank.

4. c

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is the largest political grouping of countries in multilateral fora.
- The **Asian-African Conference of 1955** held in **Bandung** was the catalyst for the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- **NAM** was officially established in 1961 at the **Belgrade Summit**.
- The principles that would govern relations among large and small nations, known as the "Ten Principles of Bandung", were proclaimed at that Conference.
- A key role was played in this process by Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia and Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, who later became the founding fathers of the movement.
- The 18th NAM Summit has been scheduled to be held between 25th and 26th October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

5. d

- NCRB, was set-up in 1986 under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was based on the recommendations of the Tandon Committee to the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985).
- It was constituted by merging the Directorate of Coordination and Police Computer (DCPC), Inter State Criminals Data Branch of CBI, Central Finger Print Bureau of CBI, and Statistical Branch of BPR&D.

6. b

- Recently, **India** Launches '**TechSagar**' Knowledge Repository For Businesses, Startups And Researchers.
- TechSagar will provide insights of 25 technology areas like IoT, blockchain, etc.
- The platform aims to provide better opportunity to businesses.

- The 'National Cyber Security Coordinator's office' in partnership with 'Data Security Council of India (DSCI)', launched a digital portal TechSagar.
- Data Security Council of India (DSCI), is a **not-for-profit**, industry body on data protection in India, setup by NASSCOM.
- It is a **premier industry body on data protection in India**, committed to making the cyberspace safe, secure and trusted by establishing best practices, standards and initiatives in cyber security and privacy.

7. c

- **Electronic Interlocking (EI) system** is a microprocessor based interlocking equipment to read the yard and panel inputs; process them in a fail-safe manner as per selection table and generate required output.
- This system is the alternative to the conventional Relay Interlocking system (PI & RRI).
- *This most advanced System has been recently installed on the Grand Chord route.*
- *The measure is expected to help Indian Railways speed up trains and to achieve its future objective of reducing the travel time between Delhi and Howrah to about 12 hours from the existing 17-19 hours.*

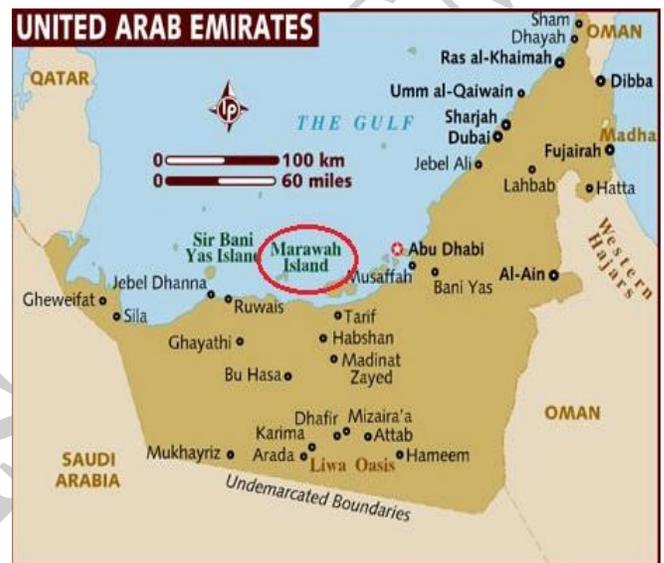
8. a

- The World's oldest known natural pearl discovered at a Neolithic site on Marawah Island, off the coast of Abu Dhabi.
- It is dubbed the 'Abu Dhabi Pearl' that have been radio dated to 5,800-5,600 BCE.
- The discovery proves that pearls and oysters were being used in the UAE nearly 8,000 years ago.
- Prior to this discovery, the earliest pearl was found in another Neolithic site off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

9. d

- India is believed to have 400 to 700 snow leopards spread across Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

- Poaching is a major threat for the snow leopards.
- Project Snow Leopard is an initiative of the Environment Ministry which aims to safeguard and conserve India's unique natural heritage of high altitude wildlife populations and their habitats by promoting conservation through participatory policies and actions.
- Snow leopards play a critical role in their ecosystem as top predators.



10. c

1. Hope Island – Andhra Pradesh
2. Trak Island – Andaman and Nicobar Island

24-10-2019

1) "Gram Manchitra App" which was launched recently for which of the following purposes?

- a. Geo Spatial based decision support system for the panchayats
- b. Affordable access to cutting-edge technology at their doorsteps
- c. To make aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector
- d. To promote startups, generation of employment, and wealth creation in rural areas



2) With respect to “Cape Town Agreement” sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2012.
2. It outlines fishing vessel standards and includes other regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers.
3. India both signed and ratified the Agreement in 2012.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal*

1. The palace was built by the King Chokkalinga Nayakkar in dedication to Lord Vishnu in 1636 AD.
2. It was captured and destroyed partially by the Persian invader Nadir Shah.
3. The original structure was four times bigger than the main portion that remains today.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ozone Hole*

1. Ozone hole over the Antarctic has shrunk this year to its smallest size since scientists began monitoring it in 1982.

2. It is mainly due to the efforts taken to cut down on pollution under the Montreal Protocol.

Which of 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 *Global Ease of doing Business Rankings*

1. It was released annually by the World Bank.
2. According to the Index, India still lags in areas such as enforcing contracts and registering property.

Which of 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 regarding ‘Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources’ (CCAMLR)

1. It was established as a part of part of the ‘Antarctic Treaty System’.
2. India is a member to it 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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program' (GSLEP)

1. It is a high level inter-governmental alliance of all the 12 Snow leopard range countries.
2. The Bishkek Declaration is a part of this program.
3. Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are the part of the GSLEP alliance.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

8) Consider the following statements

1. It is located at the foot of the Shivalik Hills.
2. It is a home to more than 150 varieties of birds and mammals which includes Sambar, Spotted Deer (Chittal), Pangolin (ant eater), Wild boar etc.
3. Recently, a draft notification is issued for declaring a Lake near this Sanctuary as a wetland under the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rule, 2017.

Identify the Wildlife Sanctuary

- a. Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary
- b. Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary
- c. Benog Wildlife Sanctuary
- d. Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary

9) Consider the following statements with respect to "Hunar Haat"

1. It provides market and opportunity to master artisans and craftsmen.
2. It was launched by Ministry of Tribal affairs.

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

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

10) 'Deepotsav Mela' is celebrated in?

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

Answers

1. a

- Union Minister for Panchayati Raj has recently launched a Spatial Planning Application called '**Gram Manchitra**' which is a **Geo Spatial based decision support system for the panchayats**.
- The panchayats can utilize this App to plan, develop and monitor developmental activities on regular time basis.

2. b

- The **2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA)**, adopted by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**, outlines fishing vessel standards and includes other regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers and provide a level playing field for industry.
- It seeks to introduce **mandatory safety measures** for fishing vessels of 24 metres and over in length.
- It seeks to help combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.
- The treaty will enter into force 12 months after at least **22 nations**, with an aggregate 3,600 fishing vessels of 24 metres and over in length operating on the high seas, have expressed their consent to be bound by it.

- Thus far, **13 countries** have ratified the Cape Town Agreement: Belgium, Congo, Cook Islands, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, The Netherlands, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa and Spain.
 - India, ranked third in fisheries, is **yet to ratify** the CTA.
3. b
- *Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal, the **383-year-old** palace of King Thirumalai Nayakkar, will be renovated at a cost of Rs 3 crore.*
 - The palace was built by **King Thirumalai Nayakkar** in **1636 AD** with a view to shifting his capital from Tiruchy to Madurai.
 - The original structure, it is believed, was **four times bigger** than the main portion that remains today.
 - The grandeur waned after the king's grandson Chokkanatha Nayakkar pulled down the palace to carry materials back to Tiruchy to build a palace there.
 - In 1858, the then Governor of Madras Presidency, Lord Napier, carried out restoration works.
 - Post-Independence, it was used as Madurai-Ramnad District Court till 1970, after which it was declared a 'Protected Monument'.
4. a
- Ozone, made up of three oxygen atoms, occurs naturally in small amounts.
 - Roughly 10 km to 40 km up in the atmosphere (the layer called the stratosphere), the ozone layer is a sunscreen, shielding Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation.
 - On the other hand, close to the surface, ozone created as a by-product of pollution can trigger health problems such as asthma and bronchitis.
 - Manufactured chemicals deplete the ozone layer.
 - Each spring over Antarctica, atmospheric ozone is destroyed by chemical processes.
- This creates the ozone hole, which occurs because of special meteorological and chemical conditions that exist in that region.
 - NASA has recently reported that, the ozone hole near the South Pole is at its smallest since it was observed in 1982.
 - But, that is more due to freakish Antarctic weather than efforts to cut down on pollution.
 - There have been **abnormal weather patterns** in the atmosphere over Antarctica.
 - In warmer temperatures like this year, fewer polar stratospheric clouds form and they don't persist as long, limiting the ozone-depletion process.
5. c
- India has improved its score in the **World Bank's global Ease of Doing Business rankings**, rising 14 notches to be placed 63rd out of 190 countries.
 - The country still lags in areas like enforcing contracts and registering property.
 - It takes 58 days and costs on average 7.8 per cent of a property's value to register it, longer and at greater cost than among OECD high-income economies.
 - And it takes 1,445 days for a company to resolve a commercial dispute through a local first-instance court, almost three times the average time in OECD high-income economies," stated the release.
6. c
- Recently, Australia and France proposed to create a massive ocean sanctuary in the east Antarctica.
 - The proposed "East Atlantic Marine Park" has been struck down at the meetings of the 'Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources' (**CCAMLR**).
 - The **CCAMLR** was established by international convention in 1982 with the objective of conserving Antarctic marine life.
 - It is part of the 'Antarctic Treaty System'.
 - It was signed by 14 states and has been ratified by 35 states (including **India**) and the European Community.

- Its headquarter is in Tasmania, Australia.
 - Its goal is to preserve marine life and environmental integrity in and near Antarctica.
 - It was established in response to increasing commercial interest in Antarctic krill resources, a keystone component of the Antarctic ecosystem and over-exploitation of several other marine resources in the Southern Ocean.
7. a
- **GSLEP** is a high level inter-governmental alliance of all the 12 snow leopard range countries.
 - India has ratified and played an important role in the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program.
 - The snow leopard's habitat extends through 12 countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
1. **Turkmenistan** is **not** a part of it.
- The **Bishkek Declaration** is a declaration on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard.
 - It has been adopted by all the 12 snow leopard range countries in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, October 23, 2013.
 - **"Secure 20 by 2020"** will lay the foundation to reach the ultimate goal: ensuring that snow leopards remain the living icon of mountains of Asia for generations to come.
8. b
- The Chandigarh administration issued a draft notification for declaring **Sukhna Lake** as a wetland under the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rule, 2017.
 - **Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary** spreading over an area of 2600 hect. is situated at 1 Km. in the North-East of **Sukhna Lake**.
 - It forms the part of Sukhna Lake catchment area falling in **Shivalik hills**.
 - Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary is an abode of wide variety of Mammals, birds, reptiles, butterflies and micro-organisms.
- There are more than 150 varieties of birds including aquatic birds. Prominent among them are Peacock, Red jungle fowl, Grey partridge, Cuckoos, Night jays, Golden Oriole, Kingfisher, Swifts, Hoopoes etc.
 - The following mammals are found here: Sambar, Spotted Deer (Chittal), Pangolin (ant eater), Wild boar, Jackal, Small Indian Civet etc.
 - There are varieties of reptiles including snakes like Cobra, Rat snake, Common Krait, Russell's viper, Indian Python and common Monitor (Gho), Turtle etc.
 - Shivalik hills are ecologically sensitive and geologically unstable and thus are highly prone to soil erosion during rains.
 - The soil in the Shivaliks is sandy, embedded with pockets of clay which is highly susceptible to erosion by surface run off.
9. a
- "Hunar Haat" is a mission to provide employment and opportunities for artisans, craftsmen and culinary experts.
 - It is to ensure 'Development with Dignity' to Artisans and Craftsmen of the Country.
 - It is being organised across the country by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**.
 - The next "Hunar Haat" will be organised from November 1-10, 2019 in Prayagraj, UP.
10. d
- **Deepotsav** or the festival of lamps is celebrated in Ayodhya, **Uttar Pradesh**, during Diwali, where over 5.50 lakh earthen lamps or **diyas** will be lit.
 - Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has granted the **status of State fair** to the Deepotsav Mela.
 - With this change in status, Deepotsav will now be planned by the District Magistrate of Ayodhya.
 - In 2018, Ayodhya broke a Guinness World Record by lighting more than 3 lakh earthen lamps and keeping them lit for at least 45 minutes on the banks of river Saryu.

- Last year, the festival showcased the Korean connection to the town, and South Korea's first lady Kim Jung-sook was the chief guest at the event.

29-10-2019

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Vishwa Shanti Stupa*

- It is a World Peace Pagoda situated on the Ratnagiri hills in Rajgir.
- It was built by a Japanese Buddhist rattled by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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 *IndiGen Genome project*

- It was undertaken by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- The outcomes of the project will have applications in a number of areas including predictive and preventive medicine with faster and efficient diagnosis of rare genetic diseases.

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

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

3) *INS Baaz* is an Indian Naval Air Station located in which of the following?

- Karnataka
- Maharashtra

- Andhra Pradesh
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4) Who among the following regulates postal exchange between one country and another?

- UN Postal Administration
- UN Universal Postal Union
- Telecommunication Certification Body
- International Telecommunication Union

5) "*Uluru*" sometimes seen in the news recently is a?

- Type of Mughal Painting
- Sacred desert rock in Australia
- Salt Water Lake in Northern Europe
- Martial Art form famous in Manipur

6) How is *Parole* different from *Furlough*?

- Parole* is a system of releasing a prisoner with suspension of the sentence whereas *furlough* is treated as the remission of the sentence.
- Furlough* is seen as a matter of right for a prisoner, to be granted periodically irrespective of any reason whereas *Parole* is not seen as a matter of right, and is given to a prisoner for a specific reason.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards (NCSRA)*

- It aims to recognize corporate initiatives in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to achieve

inclusive growth and inclusive and sustainable development.

- It has been instituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

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 *Exercise SHAKTI*

- It is a biennial exercise and is conducted alternately in India and France.
- It will focus on counter terrorism operations in backdrop of semi-desert terrain under United Nations Mandate.

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

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

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

- They are not a single tribe, but an ethnic community comprises of several tribes who live in the state of Nagaland and its neighbourhood.
- They speak various Sino-Tibetan languages, mostly distinct to each tribe.

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

- A country can unilaterally stop postal exchanges with another country without any notification.
- Pakistan has recently stopped exchange of postal mails with India unilaterally.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- Indian President Ram Nath Kovind recently inaugurated the golden jubilee celebrations of the *Vishwa Shanti Stupa*, a peace pagoda situated on the *Ratnagiri hills, Bihar*.
- The pagoda was built by a Japanese Buddhist Nichidatsu Fujii rattled by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- He also found solace in the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The Vishwa Shanti Stupa stands for establishing unity and peace across the world and promoting non-violence.

2. c

- The *Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)* has recently conducted Whole Genome Sequencing of 1,008 Indians from different populations across the country.
- The outcomes of the IndiGen will have applications in a number of areas including predictive and preventive medicine with faster and efficient diagnosis of rare genetic diseases, he added.
- The outcomes of the IndiGen will have applications in a number of areas including *predictive and preventive medicine* with faster and efficient diagnosis of rare genetic diseases.

- The IndiGen initiative was **undertaken by CSIR** in April 2019, which was implemented by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad.
 - This has enabled benchmarking the scalability of genome sequencing and computational analysis at population scale in a defined timeline.
 - The ability to decode the genetic blueprint of humans through whole genome sequencing will be a major driver for biomedical science.
3. d
- **INS Baaz** is located at **Campbell Bay** on the Great Nicobar island, the southernmost and largest island of the **Nicobar islands**, in the Union Territory of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
 - This island is also the location of the **Indira Point** and is less than 250 km by sea from Banda Aceh in Indonesia.
 - The primary functions of the INS Baaz include helping build Maritime Domain Awareness by providing information via airborne surveillance using aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
 - The base was first equipped with a runway of 3,500 feet but was later lengthened to enable larger aircraft to operate from it.
 - The location has been described as India's "window into East and Southeast Asia", and is in close vicinity of the Six Degree Channel, also called the Great Channel, one of the Indian Ocean's busiest shipping lines, carrying strategic cargo to East Asian countries.
 - It is also close to the **Strait of Malacca**.
4. b
- The **United Nations' Universal Postal Union (UPU)** frames rules for international mail exchange, and fixes rates for international postal services.
 - The UPU has 192 member-countries and is headquartered in Bern.
 - Constituted in 1874, the UPU has four units: the Congress, the Council of Administration, the International Bureau, and the Postal Operations Council.
 - It regulates 6.40 lakh postal outlets worldwide. India joined the UPU on July 1, 1876 and Pakistan on November 10, 1947.
5. b
- Uluru is an ancient **sandstone monolith** in Central **Australia**, famous for its gorgeous auburn hue, which seems to change with changing seasons and time of day.
 - It is one of Australia's prime tourist attractions.
 - The rock has a circumference of 9.4 km, and its 1,140-foot summit — taller than Eiffel Tower — has been a popular climbing destination.
 - Uluru is considered sacred by Australia's indigenous **Anangu people**.
6. c
- Parole**
- It is a system of releasing a prisoner with **suspension of the sentence**.
 - The release is conditional, usually subject to behaviour, and requires periodic reporting to the authorities for a set period of time.
 - Parole is considered a reformatory process.
 - The provision (along with furlough) was introduced with a view to humanising the prison system.
- Furlough**
- It is a concept broadly similar to parole, but with some significant differences.
 - Furlough is given in cases of **long-term imprisonment**.
 - The period of furlough granted to a prisoner is treated as **remission** of his sentence.
 - **Furlough** is seen as a **matter of right** for a prisoner, to be granted periodically **irrespective of any reason**, and merely to enable the prisoner to retain family and social ties, and to counter the ill-effects of prolonged time spent in prison.
 - **Parole**, by contrast, is **not seen as a matter of right**, and is given to a prisoner

for a **specific reason**, such as a death in the family or a wedding of a blood relative.

7. c

- The **National CSR Awards** has been instituted by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs to recognize corporate initiatives** in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to achieve inclusive growth and inclusive and sustainable development.
- These awards are the highest recognition in the domain of CSR by the Government of India.
- The Awards have been instituted in 2017 subsequent to the recommendations of the High Level Committee on CSR.

Objectives:

1. Increase competition in various categories of companies to infuse excellence in their CSR activities
2. Encourage companies to spend the entire amount i.e. eligible CSR spend
3. Recognise the impact, innovation, usage of technology, gender and environment issues, sustainability, scalability and replicability of CSR activities.
4. Channelise CSR activities of corporate so that the benefits of their activities reach the marginalised sections of society and in remote areas of the country

8. c

- It is a **biennial exercise** and is conducted alternately in **India and France**.
- As part of Exercise SHAKTI – 2019, French Army troops arrived in India on 26 October 2019 for training with Indian Troops.
- The bilateral training exercise will be conducted at Foreign Training Node at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.
- The joint exercise will focus on Counter Terrorism operations in backdrop of semi-desert terrain under United Nations Mandate.
- The training will focus primarily on high degree of physical fitness, sharing of drill at tactical level and learning of best practices from each other.

- The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two Armies.

9. c

- The Nagas are **not a single tribe**, but an ethnic community that **comprises several tribes** who live in the state of **Nagaland** and its neighbourhood.
- The Nagas speak various **Sino-Tibetan languages**, mostly distinct to each tribe.

10. b

- Under **United Nations' Universal Postal Union (UPU)** rules, when a country decides to suspend exchange with a country, **it must notify the operator of the other country** (in India's case, India Post) and, if possible, the duration for which services are being stopped.
- The UPU's **International Bureau too has to be notified**.
- **In a unilateral decision, Pakistan has stopped exchange of postal mails with India since August 27.**

30-10-2019

1) With respect to Contract Farming, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to direct ownership or leasing in of farmland by business organisations in order to produce for their captive processing requirements or for the open market.
2. Tamil Nadu has become the first State in the country to enact a law on contract farming.

Which of 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) What is the objective of VIPER robot sometimes seen in the news recently?

- To rescue humans trapped in deep bore wells
- To aid in space construction activities
- To remove snow in roads during winter
- To search for deposits of water below the Moon surface

3) Consider the following statements with respect to "Absentee voters"

- It refers to someone who is employed in "essential services".
- It also includes voters with disabilities and those above 80 years of age.

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

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

4) J. Satyanarayana Committee sometimes seen in the news recently is associated with which of the following?

- Utkarsh 2022
- National Digital Health Blueprint
- New India Movement 2017-2022
- National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy

5) Which of the following have emerged as 'basic features' of the Constitution from the various judgements?

- Judicial review
- Parliamentary system
- Effective access to justice
- Welfare state (socio-economic justice)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 2 only

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

6) Consider the following with respect to 'Thotlakonda site' which was in news recently,

- It is a sacred destination for Jainism.
- Stone wells for collecting water is an essential feature.

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

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

7) 'Operation Dhanush' conducted by Indian Railways is aimed at?

- Implementation of bio-toilets
- Ensuring women safety
- Constructing bridges at level crossings
- Controlling ticket touts

8) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Long Period Average (LPA)' in Indian Monsoon

- It is the average rainfall received by the country as a whole during the south-west monsoon only.
- It is the average of a 50-year period.
- The current LPA (89 cm) is based on the average rainfall over years 1951 and 2000.

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

9) Committee of Secretaries (CoS) headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba which was in news is related to?

- To mitigate financial stress in telecom sector
- For disinvestment process of Air India
- For restructuring of Banking sector
- To decide the appropriate level of Direct tax and tax reforms.

10) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Capsaicin'

- It is an active ingredient in chillies.
- It is known to have anti-obesity or fat reducing properties and can enhance the effect of obesity-related hormones.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- Contract farming** is an agreement that involves producers/farmers, intermediaries, processing and or marketing firms, to provide the farm produce at predetermined prices and quality, at specified places, after a specified duration.
- Corporate farming** refers to direct ownership or leasing in of farmland by business organisations in order to produce for their captive processing requirements or for the open market.
- Tamil Nadu** becomes **first State** in country to get law on contract farming.
- Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act.

- The law would safeguard the interests of farmers during times of bumper crop or when market prices fluctuate.
- They would be paid a pre-determined price, which had been arrived at the time of signing agreements with buyers.
- A six-member body, called the Tamil Nadu State Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority, would be formed to ensure proper implementation of the Act and make suggestions to the State government for promotion and better performance of contract farming.

2. d

- NASA plans to send water-hunting robot VIPER (Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover) to moon surface in 2022.
- It aims to search for deposits of water below the surface.
- It is an effort to evaluate the vital resource ahead of a planned human return to the moon in 2024 to possibly use it for astronauts to drink and to make rocket fuel.
- The rover is expected to arrive on the moon's south polar region in December 2022, carrying four instruments to sample lunar soil for traces of hydrogen and oxygen – the basic components of water that can be separated and synthesized into fuel for a planned fleet of commercial lunar launch vehicles.

3. c

- The Union government has introduced a new category of **'absentee voters'**, who can now also opt for postal voting.
- People under the new category can choose to vote through postal ballot by filling up Form 12D and submitting it to the nodal officer within five days of notification of an election.
- These votes will be registered at a special centre specified by the Election Commission (EC).
- The Law Ministry has recently amended the Conduct of Election Rules 1961 to give voting and ballot voting to voters with disabilities and those above 80 years of age and include them in the category of **'absentee voters'**.

- An absentee voter is someone who is employed in “**essential services**”.
- The EC will notify which jobs and professions are covered under “essential services” after consulting the government.

4. b

- Sh. J. **Satyanarayana**, Former Chairman, UIDAI and Chairman of the **National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB) Committee** submitted the final National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB) report to Union Health Minister.
- NDHB will help in providing a common platform for integration of existing applications in health domain and data which has existed in silos, either in public health facilities, or, in private healthcare facilities, in India.
- The release also stated that building on the initial document of “National Health Stack” (NHS) by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has defined clear timelines, targets and the resources required for this digital convergence of healthcare programmes in India.

5. d

From the various judgements, the following have emerged as ‘basic features’ of the Constitution or elements / components / ingredients of the ‘basic structure’ of the constitution:

1. Supremacy of the Constitution
2. Sovereign, democratic and republican nature of the Indian polity
3. Secular character of the Constitution
4. Separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary
5. Federal character of the Constitution
6. Unity and integrity of the nation
7. Welfare state (socio-economic justice)
8. Judicial review
9. Freedom and dignity of the individual
10. Parliamentary system
11. Rule of law

12. Harmony and balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
13. Principle of equality
14. Free and fair elections
15. Independence of Judiciary
16. Limited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution
17. Effective access to justice
18. Principles (or essence) underlying fundamental rights.
19. Powers of the Supreme Court under Articles 32, 136, 141 and 142
20. Powers of the High Court’s under Articles 226 and 227

6. b

- Recently, the Archaeology department said that, Thotlakonda Buddhist site to be renovated as meditation place.
- The Thotlakonda Buddhist site, a sacred place of Buddhists during 300 BC to 300 AD, will be renovated as a meditation place for Vizagites and tourists.
- It is situated on a hill near Bheemunipatnam about 15 kilometres from **Visakhapatnam** in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- It was first founded by Indian navy during aerial survey in 1993.
- Literally means "Hill with stone wells" due to its stone wells that collected water for Buddhist people.
- Thotlakonda complex is beautiful with magnificent structural design and meditation halls constructed to tender peace and harmony to monks.
- The Buddhist monks arriving from places like China, Burma and many other countries would stay at this site for months before finishing their learning.
- Thotlakonda Complex is a dwelling of various Stupas, Viharas and Chaityas.
- This wonderful and peaceful monastery positioned atop the hill gives ideal destination for worship.

7. d

8. d
- The record-breaking rainfall this monsoon season, particularly during August and September, has left weather scientists confounded.
 - The September rainfall (152% of long period average, or **LPA**) was the highest since 1917,
 - The August rainfall (115% of LPA) was the highest since 1996.
 - The overall seasonal rainfall (110% of LPA) was the highest since 1994.
 - LPA is the average rainfall received by the country as a whole during the **south-west monsoon only**, for a 50-year period.
 - The current LPA is 89 cm, based on the average rainfall over years 1951 and 2000.
 - This is the average rainfall recorded **during the months from June to September**, calculated during the 50-year period.
 - It is kept as a benchmark while forecasting the quantitative rainfall for the monsoon season every year.
 - The country is said to have received,
 - Deficient rainfall** if the actual rainfall falls below 90% of LPA.
 - Excess rainfall** if the rainfall is greater than 110% of LPA.
 - It is deemed '**normal**' when the actual rainfall received falls between 96 and 104% of LPA.
9. a
- The government has set up a **Committee of Secretaries (CoS)** under Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba to suggest **measures to mitigate financial stress in the telecom sector**.
 - The **CoS** will comprise representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Law and Telecom.
 - Sources in the government said it will consider issues such as deferment of spectrum auction for 2 years and reduction in spectrum usage charges, and take a relook at the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) charges.
10. d
- Capsaicin**, an active ingredient of **chilli**, is known to have anti-obesity or fat reducing properties.
 - Now Indian scientists have figured out how this property of capsaicin can enhance the effect of obesity-related hormones.
 - Researchers of CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) here have found that capsaicin, the hot factor present in chillies, could increase the effect of obestatin and thus help reduce fat in the body.
 - Obestatin is a hormone which sends 'stop eating' signals.
 - The team cultured 3T3-L1 cells in the presence of either obestatin or obestatin along with Capsaicin and **Genistein**.
 - Genistein** is another nutraceutical that is present in soya bean and that affects fat accumulation.
- 31-10-2019**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to *e-Office Project*
- It is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the National e-Governance Programme (NeGP).
 - Department of Administrative Reform and Public Grievances (DARPG) is the nodal agency for implementing the project.
- 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 *National Pension System (NPS)*
- The scheme is governed and administered by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
 - Overseas Citizens of India are not eligible to apply for the NPS Scheme.

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

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

3) With respect to *Strategic Partnership Council (SPC)* which was established recently between India and Saudi Arabia, consider the following statements:

- The council will be jointly headed by the Indian Minister of external affairs and his Saudi Arabian counterpart.
- Apart from Saudi Arabia, India only shares such high-level mechanism with Russia.

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

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

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

- It was founded at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg as a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy.
- It was established jointly by the UN Environment, UNDP and IUCN.

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

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

5) Consider the following pairs

Cyclones – Origin

- Maha – Atlantic Ocean
- Kyarr – Arabian Sea
- Hagibis – Pacific Ocean

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

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

6) Consider the following statement with respect to 'Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation' (APEC)

- It is the only international intergovernmental grouping in the world committed to reducing barriers to trade and investment without requiring its members to enter into legally binding obligations.
- India is a member.

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 FSSAI

- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.
- FSSAI issues the "Orange Book".

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 'Lymphatic Filariasis'

1. It is commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected temperate disease.
2. It is caused mainly by Culex mosquito.
3. WHO recommends three drug treatment to accelerate the global elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Health Profile 2019'

1. There has been a consistent decrease in the birth rate, death rate and natural growth rate in India since 1991 to 2017.
2. The population continued to grow since 1991 to 2017.
3. The rural and urban differentials in the Infant mortality rate has declined considerably.

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

10) The term 'Qubit' seen in news is related to

- a. A basic unit of information in a quantum computer
- b. It works based on the principle of Superposition
- c. Both a and b
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. c

- **e-Office** is one of the Mission Mode Projects (MMP), which is aimed at significantly improving the operational efficiency of Central Government Ministries and Departments through improvement in the workflow mechanisms.
- e-Office, as an e-Governance initiative, would be crucial in shaping Government Process Re-engineering (GPR), which eventually enhances the quality of services delivered to the citizens.
- The **Department of Administrative Reform and Public Grievances (DARPG)** is the nodal agency for implementing the project.
- The project aims to usher in paperless, more efficient, effective and transparent inter-government and intra-government transactions and processes.

2. d

- **National Pension System (NPS)** is governed and administered by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.
- PFRDA is the statutory Authority established by an enactment of the Parliament, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the National Pension System (NPS) and pension schemes to which this Act applies.
- **PFRDA has now permitted Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to enroll in National Pension Scheme (NPS) at par with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).**
- Now, any Indian citizen, resident or non-resident and OCIs are eligible to join NPS till the age of 65 years.

3. d

- **India and Saudi Arabia** elevated their partnership to a new level by establishing **Strategic Partnership Council** and concluding key pacts in defence industry and security with an eye to fight international terror amid fast changing geopolitics.

- The council will be **headed by Prime Minister Modi and King Salman**.
 - Under Vision-2030, Saudi Arabia has selected eight countries for entering into strategic partnerships. These are: India, China, the UK, the US, France, Germany, South Korea and Japan.
 - The setting up of the strategic council is significant, as Saudi Arabia is **only the fourth nation** with whom India shares such an inter-governmental mechanism, which is headed by the Prime Minister.
 - Before **Saudi Arabia**, India only shares such high-level mechanism with **Russia, Germany and Japan**.
4. c
- SEED was founded by the United Nations Environment Programme (**UN Environment**), the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**) at the 2002 **World Summit on Sustainable Development** in Johannesburg.
 - It is a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy.
 - This initiative works in Asian and African countries including Ghana, India, Indonesia, South Africa, Thailand and Uganda and supports small and growing enterprises with business and capacity-building support.
 - *Four Indian start-ups working on sustainable development was among the fourteen start-ups selected for 2019 SEED Awards.*
 - The awards, an annual affair, are granted to organisations working on sustainable development.
 - Every year, awards are decided under various categories.
 - This year's categories include SEED Low Carbon, SEED Africa Awards, SEED South Africa Climate Adaptation Awards and SEED Gender equality award.
5. a
1. Maha – Arabian Sea
 2. Kyarr – Arabian Sea
 3. Hagibis – Pacific Ocean
6. a
- Recently, **Chile** President Sebastian Pinera announced that Chile won't host APEC and COP25 summits, after weeks of street protests.
 - The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.
 - Its members are of **21 Pacific Rim economies** that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
 - **21 Members Economies:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Peru, Russian and Vietnam.
 - **India is not a Member.** India is observer of APEC since 2011 and has applied for membership.
 - **APEC** operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum.
 - It is the **only international intergovernmental grouping** in the world committed to reducing barriers to trade and investment without requiring its members to enter into legally binding obligations.
 - APEC achieves its goals by promoting dialogue and arriving at decisions on a consensus basis, giving equal weight to the views of all members.
7. c
- **FSSAI** asked sweet makers to maintain quality for a healthy and safe Diwali celebration and asked people to buy sweets only from FSSAI licensed and registered sweet shops where the quality of the sweets is in no doubt.
 - **The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has been established under Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.

- FSSAI has been created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.
- FSSAI has taken up an initiative to launch **'SNF@Workplace'** (Safe and Nutritious Food at Workplace) which is a nation-wide campaign to help people eat safe and eat right while at work.
- FSSAI issued the **'Orange Book'** for the implementation of the program **'SNF@Workplace'** along with the best practices and the performance matrix guidelines.
- The Orange Book serves as guide for general practices recommended for ensuring safe and nutritious food at workplace.

8. c

- Recently, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated National Symposium on the theme 'United to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis'
- **'Call to Action to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2021'** was signed during the event.
- 'Lymphatic Filariasis', commonly known as 'Elephantiasis', is a **Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)**.
- It is **caused mainly by Wuchereria Bancrofti** (worm) and **spread by Culex mosquito**.
- This mosquito grows in dirty accumulated water.
- The disease is caused by three species of thread-like nematode worms, known as filariae – **Wuchereria bancrofti, Brugia malayi and Brugia timori**.
- According to the WHO, infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes.

- The infection is usually acquired in childhood, causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system.

9. a

- Recently, Health Minister released the 14th National Health Profile (NHP), 2019.
- As per the survey, the highest population density of 11,320 people per sq km was reported by the NCT of Delhi whereas Arunachal Pradesh has reported the lowest population density of 17.
- Life expectancy in India has increased from 49.7 years in 1970-75 to 68.7 years in 2012-16.
- For the same period, the life expectancy for females is 70.2 years and 67.4 years for males.
- There has been **consistent decrease** in the birth rate, death rate and natural growth rate in India since 1991 to 2017.
- **The population, however, continues to grow**, as the decline in the birth rate is not as rapid as the decline in the death rate.
- **The infant mortality rate** has declined considerably (33 per 1,000 live births in 2016), **however differentials of rural (37) & urban (23) are still high**.
- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for the country was 2.3 whereas in rural areas it has been 2.5 and it has been 1.8 in urban areas.
- Dengue and Chikungunya, transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, are a cause of great concern to public health in India.

10. c

- A qubit is a 'quantum bit' is a qubit is the **basic unit of information in a quantum computer**.
- The conventional computers use bit, **1's** and **0's** as the basis of their calculation.
- Basically they represent "Yes" and "No", or "ON and "OFF".
- **Quantum computing** make use of a property of a sub-atomic particles in which they can simultaneously exist in different states.
- A **Qubit** can thus be **both 1 and 0** at the same time. This property is called as **Superposition**.