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INDEX

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 01-10-2020..... | 3 |
| 03-10-2020 | 7 |
| 05-10-2020 | 9 |
| 06-10-2020 | 13 |
| 07-10-2020 | 17 |
| 08-10-2020 | 21 |
| 09-10-2020 | 24 |
| 10-10-2020..... | 29 |
| 12-10-2020 | 33 |
| 13-10-2020..... | 37 |
| 14-10-2020..... | 39 |
| 15-10-2020 | 43 |
| 16-10-2020..... | 47 |
| 17-10-2020 | 49 |
| 19-10-2020 | 52 |
| 20-10-2020 | 54 |
| 21-10-2020..... | 56 |
| 22-10-2020 | 58 |
| 23-10-2020 | 61 |
| 27-10-2020..... | 64 |
| 28-10-2020 | 67 |
| 29-10-2020 | 70 |
| 30-10-2020 | 72 |
| 31-10-2020..... | 75 |



01-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission (ASIIM)*

1. It aims to promote innovation and enterprise among Scheduled Castes students studying in higher educational institutions.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC).

Which of 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 *BrahMos Missile*

1. It is a surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile system that can be launched from land, sea and air.
2. It has been jointly developed by DRDO, India, and NPOM, Russia.
3. It is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine as its first stage and the liquid ramjet as its second stage.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)*

1. It is an informal political understanding among states, formed by the G-7 industrialized countries in 1987.

2. MTCR imposes legally binding obligations on its members to prevent the proliferation of missiles over the range of 300-km.

3. India is one of the member country to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

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) *Yakshagana* is a traditional folk dance form popular in which of the following states?

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Positive Pay System*

1. It is a fraud-prevention system offered by banks to companies to protect them against forged, altered, and counterfeit checks.
2. The system acts as a form of insurance for a company against fraud, losses, and other liabilities.

Which of 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 Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)*

1. It is a viral haemorrhagic fever transmitted by mosquitos.



2. It can also be transmitted from one infected human to another by contact with infectious blood or body fluids.

Which of 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 *Defence Offsets*

- 1. These are arrangements in which the importing country obliges the supplying company of the exporting country to reinvest some proportion of the contract in the importing country.
- 2. These provisions apply to all the procurements under the Fast Track procedure, under the Defence Offset Policy 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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF)*

- 1. It is a formal, political, multilateral counter terrorism platform under the United Nations.
- 2. It's goal is to support and catalyze implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Which of 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 *Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SC)*

- 1. It was set up in 2016 with an objective to provide concessional finance to the entities of the Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs.
- 2. It was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements regarding *Preamble*

- 1. The Preamble has some limitations on the powers of the legislature.
- 2. Preamble is not a part of the constitution.
- 3. Preamble cannot be amended.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- With a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has recently launched the "Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under Venture Capital Fund for SCs"

Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)

Objectives

- To promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs.
- To support (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergetic work with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) set up by Department of Science and Technology.
- To support, promote, hand-hold the start-up ideas till they reach commercial stage by providing liberal equity support.
- To incentivise students with innovative mind-set to take to entrepreneurship with confidence.

Working

- They will be funded Rs. 30 lakhs in 3 years as equity funding so that they can translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.
- Successful ventures would further qualify for venture funding of up to Rs. 5 Crore from the Venture Capital Fund for SCs.

2. d

- *BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile featuring indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other 'Made in India' sub-systems was successfully flight tested recently from ITR, Balasore in Odisha.*
- It is one more major step in enhancing the indigenous content.
- The BrahMos Land-Attack Cruise Missile (LACM) was cruising at a **top speed of Mach 2.8.**

BRAHMOS

- It is a universal long range supersonic cruise missile system that can be launched from **land, sea and air.**
- It has been jointly developed by **DRDO, India, and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM), Russia.**
- BrahMos is a **two-stage missile** with a solid propellant booster engine as its first stage which brings it to supersonic speed and then gets separated.

- The liquid ramjet or the second stage then takes the missile closer to Mach 3 or three times the speed of sound in cruise phase.

3. b

Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)

- It is an **informal political understanding** among states that seek to limit the proliferation of missiles and missile technology.
- The regime was formed in 1987 by the **G-7 industrialized countries** (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the United States).
- There are currently 35 countries that are members (Partners) of the MTCR.
- **India is one among the 35 members** (Joined in 2016).
- There is no formal linkage between the MTCR and the United Nations (UN).
- The MTCR is **not a treaty and does not impose any legally binding obligations** on Partners (members).
- The MTCR seeks to limit the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by controlling exports of goods and technologies that could make a contribution to delivery systems (other than manned aircraft) for such weapons.
- In this context, the Regime places particular focus on rockets and unmanned aerial vehicles capable of delivering a payload of at least **500 kg to a range of at least 300 km** and on equipment, software, and technology for such systems.

4. b

- Yakshagana is a traditional folk dance form popular in **coastal districts of Karnataka** and northern area of **Kasaragod district of Kerala.**
- It is a rare combination of dance, music, song, scholarly dialogues and colourful costumes.
- A celestial world unfolds before the audience, as loud singing and drumming form a backdrop to dancers clad in striking costumes.



- Hence the name Yaksha (celestial) Gana (music).
- This is a night-long event, with elaborately adorned performers dancing to the beat of drums in open-air theatres – usually in the village paddy fields after the winter crop has been harvested.
- Traditionally, men portray all roles, including the female ones, though women are now part of Yakshagana troupes.
- A typical troupe consists of 15 to 20 actors and a Bhagavatha, who is the master of ceremonies and the main storyteller.
- The performances draw crowds from far and wide, with a fair-ground atmosphere pervading the venue till dawn.
- Each performance typically focuses on a small sub-story (known as '**Prasanga**') from ancient Hindu epics of Ramayana or Mahabharata.
- The show consists of both stage performances by talented artists and commentary (performed by the lead singer or Bhagavatha) accompanied by traditional music.
- Musical instruments used in Yakshagana include Chande (drums), Harmonium, Maddale, Taala (mini metal clappers) and flute among others.

5. c

- *Positive Pay System for Cheque Payments* to come into effect from January 1, 2021, according to the RBI.
- Positive pay is an *automated cash-management service employed to deter check fraud*.
- It is *offered by most commercial banks to companies to protect them against forged, altered, and counterfeit checks*.
- The system acts as a *form of insurance for a company against fraud, losses, and other liabilities*.

6. b

- Recently, the Palghar administration in Maharashtra on alert against a possible spread of the *Congo Fever*.

- The *Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)* is a viral haemorrhagic fever usually *transmitted by ticks*.
- It *can also be contracted through contact with viraemic animal tissues*.
- It *can also be transmitted from one infected human to another by contact with infectious blood or body fluids*.
- General supportive care with treatment of symptoms is the main approach to managing Congo fever (CCHF) in people.

7. a

- Defence Ministry released its latest *Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 (DAP 2020)*.
- The new Defence Acquisition Procedure *removes the clause for offsets for certain kinds of defence contracts*.
- *Defence Offsets are arrangements in which the importing country obliges the supplying company of the exporting country to reinvest some proportion of the contract in the importing country*.
- These provisions *will not apply to procurements under the Fast Track procedure*.
- It does not apply also to procurements under the *Option clause* where an offset obligation was not stipulated in original contract.

8. b

- The *Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF)* is an informal, a-political, multilateral counterterrorism platform.
- It is to strengthen the international architecture for addressing 21st century terrorism.
- One of the important goals of the forum is to support and catalyze implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- It is an international forum of 29 countries and the EU.
- It's mission is of reducing the vulnerability of people worldwide to terrorism by preventing, combating, and prosecuting terrorist acts and countering incitement and recruitment to terrorism.



- India is a member to this forum.

9. c

Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SC)

- With a view to developing entrepreneurship amongst the SC/Divyang youth and to enable them to become 'job-givers', Ministry of Social Justice, Government of India had launched the Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SC) in 2014-15.
- The Objective of this fund is to provide concessional finance to the entities of the SC entrepreneurs.
- Under this fund, around 118 companies promoted by SC entrepreneurs have been sanctioned financial assistance to set up business ventures.

10. d

- The Preamble is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of legislature.
- Preamble is a part of the constitution.
- The Preamble can be amended, subject to the condition that no amendment is done to the basic features.
- In other words, the Court held that the basic elements or the fundamental features of the Constitution as contained in the Preamble cannot be altered by an amendment under Article 368.

03-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Tribes India E-Marketplace

1. The platform will showcase the products of tribal enterprises from across the country and help them market it directly.
2. It is an initiative of TRIFED under 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) Sauria Paharia – a primitive tribal community, often seen in the news recently, were listed as Scheduled Tribes in which of the following states?

- a. Jharkhand
- b. Uttar Pradesh
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. All of the above

3) The 73rd World Health Assembly meeting was held recently. It adopted the decade 2020-2030 as?

- a. Decade of Yoga
- b. Decade of Ayurveda
- c. Decade of Mental Health
- d. Decade of Healthy Ageing

4) Which of the following statements regarding 'Atal Tunnel' is incorrect?

- a. It is the longest highway tunnel in the World
- b. It is a horse shoe shaped, single tube tunnel built under the Banihal Pass
- c. It connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year
- d. The Tunnel is built in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas

5) With reference to the "Cabinet mission plan", Consider the following statements

1. It proposed the partition of India with autonomous provinces.
2. It proposed strong centre and a weaker states.
3. The constituent assembly was to be formed on democratic lines.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only



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

Answers

1. c

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs will virtually launch India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace, **Tribes India E-Marketplace** on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2020).

Tribes India E-Marketplace

- It is an initiative keeping in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of making India, Aatmanirbhar and self-reliant.
- It is a path-breaking initiative of TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It will showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country and help them market their produce/ products directly.
- It is a major leap towards the **Digitisation of Tribal Commerce**.

2. a

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs will launch **Pakur Honey** by TRIFED & Tribes India on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2020).

Pakur Honey

- It is 100% natural honey which is multi floral, forest fresh, gathered by Santhal Tribals and Vulnerable Pahadiya tribes from Pakur, Jharkhand.
- Natural Multiflora honey is a good source of anti-oxidants and antiseptic vitamins, nutrients, enzymes and other herbal properties that no other super-food can provide.

Paharias

- In Jharkhand, there are two types of Paharias.

Mal Paharia

- They live in the southern hills of Damin-i-koh and in the south and east of Santhal Parganas.

- A few of them are also found in Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal.
- They are listed as Scheduled Tribes in the states of **Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal**.
- The total population of Mal Paharias is expected to be just over 1 lakh.

Shauria Paharia (Maler Paharia)

- They are mostly found in Santhal Parganas.
- The total population of Shauria Paharias is expected to be around 30,000.
- They are listed as Scheduled Tribes in the states of **Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal**.
- Their own language is "Malto".
- Mainly due to residence on mountain they are called as "**Pahadiya**".
- Their main source of livelihood has been shifting cultivation.

3. d

- Following the 146th WHO Executive Board's recommendation made in February 2020, the 73rd World Health Assembly, held on 3 August 2020, have endorsed the proposal for a Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030) through written silence procedures.
- Member States have asked the Director-General to report back on progress on its implementation every 3 years during the Decade.
- The Health Assembly also asked the Director-General to transmit this decision to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for consideration of the proposal for the Decade by the United Nations General Assembly.

Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)

- It is an opportunity to bring together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector for ten years of concerted, catalytic and collaborative action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.

4. b



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate **Atal Tunnel, Rohtang** on 3rd October 2020.

Atal Tunnel

- It is the **longest highway tunnel** in the World.
- It is a horse shoe shaped, single tube double lane tunnel.
- The 9.02 Km long tunnel **connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley** throughout the year.
- Earlier the valley was cut off for about 6 months each year owing to heavy snowfall.
- The Tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the **Pir Panjal range of Himalayas** at an altitude of 3000 Mtrs (10,000 Feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- The tunnel reduces the road distance by 46 Kms between Manali and Leh and the time by about 4 to 5 hours.
- The South Portal (SP) of Atal Tunnel is located at a distance of 25 Km from Manali, while the North Portal (NP) of the tunnel is located near village Teling, Sissu, in Lahaul Valley.
- It is 10.5-metre wide and has fire proof emergency egress tunnel built into the main tunnel itself.
- It has the state of the art electromechanical system including semi transverse ventilation system, SCADA controlled firefighting, illumination and monitoring system.

Background

- The historic decision to construct a strategic tunnel **below the Rohtang Pass** was taken on **June 03, 2000** when late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister.
- The foundation stone for the Access Road to the South Portal of the tunnel was laid on May 26, 2002.

5. b

05-10-2020

1) **India PV EDGE 2020**, sometimes seen in the news recently, is a global symposium being organized by?

- NITI Aayog
- Invest India
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- All of the above

2) Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune have recently found two new species of pipeworts, a plant group known for their varied medicinal properties, in which of the following regions?

- Western Ghats
- Great Indian Desert
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- None of the above

3) Consider the following statements with respect to **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)**

- It is dedicated to the task of developing man-power for popularizing the use of Indian Sign Language, teaching and conducting research in Indian Sign Language.
- It is an autonomous national institute of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements regarding the legislative procedure in the State Legislature

- There is a system of joint sitting in state legislature to resolve the deadlock between the two Houses on passing the Bills.
- If an ordinary Bill passed by the Council is transmitted to the Assembly and

rejected by the latter, there is an end to the Bill.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5) Which of the following statements regarding 'Cess' is incorrect?

- a. They are taxes, where the revenue received can be spent by the government for any public purpose in any manner it deems appropriate for the nation's good
- b. Every cess is collected after Parliament has authorised its creation through an enabling legislation that specifies the purpose for which the funds are being raised
- c. Article 270 of the Constitution allows cess to be excluded from the purview of the divisible pool of taxes that the Union government must share with the States
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Shaurya Missile*

- 1. It is a indigenously developed hypersonic missile.
- 2. It is nuclear capable, a land variant of short range Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles, K-15 Sagatika missile.

Which of 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 *Polygraph Test*

- 1. It records the body's involuntary responses to an examiner's questions in order to ascertain deceptive behaviour.
- 2. The test measures physiological data from the systems of the human body, generally the respiratory, cardiovascular, and sweat gland systems but not the voice.

Which of 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 *Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB)*

- 1. It is the capital buffer that banks have to accumulate in normal times to be used for offsetting losses during the period of stress.
- 2. Capital buffers are mandated under the Basel III regulatory reforms.

Which of 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) *Antisera* sometimes seen in news is a?

- a. A treatment of Covid-19
- b. A blood serum high in antibodies against specific antigens
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Vulture Conservation in India*

- 1. All the Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centres (VCBC) in India are

directly administered by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

2. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prohibited the manufacture of Diclofenac to conserve vultures.

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

- NITI Aayog, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Invest India are organizing a global symposium 'India PV EDGE 2020' virtually, on October 6, 2020.*

India PV EDGE 2020

- It aims to catalyze cutting-edge PV manufacturing in India.
- There will be a plenary session and subsequent sessions on 'Wafers and Cells', 'Modules and Production Equipment' and 'Supply Chain'.
- It will also include a 'Investors Conclave' on PV Manufacturing.
- Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh states will participate in the conclave.

India and Solar Energy

- India has become the third-largest solar capacity country in the world and set an ambitious target of 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, comprising 300 GW of solar capacity.
- India's NDC document of the Paris Agreement in 2015 called for extraordinary vision, leadership, compassion, and wisdom to combat climate change.
- India PV EDGE 2020 is one small step towards that ambition.

2. a

- Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, have recently found two new species of pipeworts in Western Ghats.*
- They found the new species in Maharashtra and Karnataka while exploring the biodiversity of the Western Ghats.
- The plant group known as pipeworts (*Eriocaulon*), which completes their life cycle within a small period during monsoon, exhibits great diversity in the Western Ghats, having around 111 species in India.
- Most of these are reported from the Western Ghats and Eastern Himalayas, and around 70% of them are endemic to the country.

Some of the species are:

- Eriocaulon cinereum*, is well known for its anti-cancerous, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and astringent properties.
 - E. quinquangulare* is used against liver diseases.
 - E. madayiparense* is an anti-bacterial from Kerala.
- The medicinal properties of the newly discovered species are yet to be explored.
 - Western Ghats** is one of the thirty-five hot-spots of biological diversity in the world.

3. c

- A historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed on 06 October, 2020, between Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) and NCERT (a National Institute of Ministry of Education) to make education materials accessible for Deaf children in their preferred format of communication viz Indian Sign Language.*

Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)

- It is an autonomous national institute of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- It is dedicated to the task of developing manpower for popularizing the use of Indian Sign



Language, teaching and conducting research in Indian Sign Language.

4. b

5. a

- *The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in its latest audit report of government accounts, has observed that the Union government withheld in the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) more than Rs. 1.1 lakh crore out of the almost Rs. 2.75 lakh crore collected through various cesses in 2018-19.*
- The CAG found this objectionable since cess collections are supposed to be transferred to specified Reserve Funds that Parliament has approved for each of these levies.
- The nation's highest auditor also found that over Rs. 1.24 lakh crore collected as Cess on Crude Oil over the last decade had not been transferred to the designated Reserve Fund — the Oil Industry Development Board — and had instead been retained in the Centre's coffers.
- Similarly, the CAG has also found that the Union government in the very first two years of the GST implementation wrongly retained Rs. 47,272 crore of GST compensation cess that was meant to be used specifically to compensate states for loss of revenue.

TAX Vs CESS

- The Union government is empowered to raise revenue through a gamut of levies, including taxes (both direct and indirect), surcharges, fees and cess.
- Direct taxes, including income tax, and indirect taxes such as GST are taxes where the revenue received can be spent by the government for any public purpose in any manner it deems appropriate for the nation's good.
- In contrary, a cess is an earmarked tax that is **collected for a specific purpose and ought to be spent only for that.**
- Every cess is collected after Parliament has authorised its creation through an enabling legislation that specifies the purpose for which the funds are being raised.

- Article 270 of the Constitution allows cess to be excluded from the purview of the divisible pool of taxes that the Union government must share with the States.

6. c

- Recently, India successfully test-fires *Missile Shaurya*.
- It is *indigenously developed nuclear capable hypersonic missile*.
- It is a *land variant of short range Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles K-15 Sagarika*.
- *Shaurya is a canister-based system*, which means that it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments.
- The missile is less vulnerable to anti-ballistic missile defence systems due to its high manoeuvrability.

7. c

- The Uttar Pradesh government is set to conduct *Polygraph And Narcoanalysis Tests* as part of Hathras gangrape investigation.
- The *Polygraph Tests* are also known as *Lie Detector Tests*.
- It *records the body's involuntary responses to an examiner's questions in order to ascertain deceptive behaviour*.
- A numerical value is assigned to each response to conclude whether the person is telling the truth, is deceiving, or is uncertain.
- The *test measures physiological data from the systems of the human body-generally the respiratory, cardiovascular, and sweat gland systems but not the voice*.
- There are other tests that test the voice for deception.

8. c

- Recently, *RBI defers Basel III provisions* amid covid uncertainty.
- The *Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB)* is designed to ensure that banks build up capital buffers during normal times which can be drawn down as losses are incurred during a stressed period.



- It was introduced after the 2008 global financial crisis to improve the ability of banks to withstand adverse economic conditions.
- *Capital buffers are mandated under the Basel III reforms.*

9. c

- ICMR along with Bio E develop purified animal *Antisera* to treat virus.
- *The Highly Purified Antisera can be used in prevention and treatment of Covid-19.*
- Antisera are blood serum high in antibodies against specific antigens.
- They are injected in humans to help kickstart the immune system to fight specific infections.

10. b

- Uttar Pradesh's first *Conservation Centre For Vultures* to come up in Gorakhpur forest division.
- At present there are 9 *Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centres* (VCBC) in India, of which 3 are directly administered by *Bombay Natural History Society* (BNHS).
- The main objective of the VCBCs was to look after the vultures and breed them in captivity and also release them into the wild.
- The *Ministry of Health and Family Welfare* has prohibited the manufacture of *Diclofenac* to conserve vultures.
- Vulture Breeding Facilities have been set up Rani, Guwahati (Assam), Buxa (West Bengal), Pinjore (Haryana) and Bhopal (MP).

06-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)*

1. It is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond Torpedo range.
2. It is an indigenous missile system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

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

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

2) Which of the following is the theme for World Habitat Day 2020?

- a. Municipal Solid Waste Management
- b. Housing Policies: Affordable Homes
- c. Housing For All: A better Urban Future
- d. Technologies as a tool to transform waste to wealth

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Startup Awards 2020*

1. It was conceived by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
2. It is the first ever National Startup Awards to recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers.

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

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

4) *Bongosagar* is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and?

- a. Congo
- b. Bahrain
- c. Djibouti
- d. Bangladesh

5) Consider the following statements regarding the Western Disturbances:



1. These are the tropical storms originating in the Mediterranean region.
2. These bring heavy rainfall to North India and damages Rabi crops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sentinel-6 satellite*

1. It is an operational oceanography programme of two satellites, designed to measure the height of the ocean.
2. It is mission of NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).
3. The mission will collect data of atmospheric temperature and humidity to improve weather forecasts and climate models.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Elephant Reserves*

1. The elephant reserves and corridors have accorded legal status, under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. The Elephant Reserves have to be notified by the State governments.

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

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

- d. Neither 1 nor 2

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Hepatitis C*

1. Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis C virus.
2. It is a bloodborne virus, which can cause both acute and chronic hepatitis.

Which of 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) *Marib*, a city recently seen in news is located in?

- a. Afghanistan
- b. Syria
- c. Iran
- d. Yemen

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kamchatka Peninsula*

1. It is the peninsula in far eastern Russia, lying between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea.
2. The volcanoes of Kamchatka has a high density of active volcanoes, a variety of types, and it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of 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

- Recently, India has successfully flight-tested the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)

- SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond Torpedo range.
- It is an indigenous missile system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

Working

- SMART, when launched from warship or a truck-based coastal battery, takes off like a regular supersonic missile.
- It covers most of its flight in the air at lower altitudes with two-way data link from the warship or an airborne submarine target detection system and provides the exact location of the hostile submarine to correct its flight path midway.
- Just when it approaches close enough to the submerged submarine, the missile will eject the torpedo system into the water and the autonomous torpedo will start moving towards its target to take out the submarine.

2. c

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on World Habitat Day organised a webinar to discuss several issues linked with housing in urban India.

World Habitat Day 2020

- World Habitat Day was established in 1985 by the United Nations General Assembly and was first observed in 1986. The first Monday of October is marked as World Habitat Day.
- World Habitat Day this year looks at the impact of the pandemic on housing in urban areas as many people faced cash crunch during the lockdown and were unable to pay rents.
- The theme for this year's World Habitat Day is '**Housing For All: A better Urban Future**'.

- Affordable, safe and adequate housing for the urban poor has been the Indian government's focus.

3. d

National Startup Awards 2020

- It is the first ever National Startup Awards to recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.
- It was conceived by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The first edition of the Awards invited applications across 12 sectors which were further sub-classified into a total of 35 categories.
- The winning Startups will get cash prizes of Rs 5 lakh each, along with opportunities to present their solutions to relevant public authorities and corporates, for potential pilot projects and work orders.
- As key building blocks of a robust Startup ecosystem, one exceptional Incubator and one Accelerator each will get a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh.

4. d

- The second edition of **Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN)** Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar is scheduled to commence in Northern Bay of Bengal on 03 October 2020.
- Exercise Bongosagar, whose first edition was held in 2019, is aimed at developing inter-operability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.
- In the upcoming edition of Exercise Bongosagar, ships from both navies will participate in surface warfare drills, seamanship evolutions and helicopter operations.
- This edition of Exercise Bongosagar assumes greater significance since it is being conducted during Mujib Barsho, the 100th birth

anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

5. d

- During winter, in north-western India some weak temperate cyclones or extra-tropical cyclones from the Mediterranean Sea cause rainfall in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western UP.
- Although the amount is meagre, it is highly beneficial for the rabi crops.
- It also causes precipitation in the form of snow in the lower Himalayas.
- It is this snow that sustains the flow of water in the Himalayan Rivers during the summer months.

6. d

- The world's latest *Earth-Observing Satellite, Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich* set to launch November 10.
- *Sentinel-6 (Jason-CS)* is an operational oceanography programme of two satellites that will ensure continuity to the 'Jason' series of operational missions.
- It is mission of NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).
- It is designed to measure the height of the ocean, a key component to understanding how Earth's climate is changing.
- A secondary objective of the mission will be to measure temperature and humidity in the troposphere, the atmospheric layer in which we live.
- The satellites will also look at the stratosphere, the layer right above the troposphere.
- The mission will collect data of atmospheric temperature and humidity to improve weather forecasts and climate models.

7. b

- The Union Environment Ministry has proposed an amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It is to accord legal status to Elephant Reserves And Corridors, on the lines of tiger reserves.

- The Elephant Reserves have to be notified by State governments.
- There are 30 notified Elephant Reserves in the country spread over 15 states.
- Baitami (Odisha) and Lemru (Chhattisgarh) are other ERs which are *yet to be notified by the state governments*.
- Under the Wildlife Protection Act, State Forest departments have to prepare a tiger reserve management plan.
- The law also says that no mining or industrial activity will be allowed in the vicinity of the reserves.
- Their boundaries cannot be changed without approval from the National Board of Wildlife.

8. c

- The discovery of *Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)* helped three scientists win the *Medicine Nobel Prize*.
- *Hepatitis C* is a liver disease caused by the *Hepatitis C Virus*.
- *Hepatitis C* is often described as 'acute', meaning a new infection, or 'chronic,' meaning long-term infection.
- It is a major cause of liver cancer.
- The HCV is a *bloodborne virus*, the most common modes of infection are through exposure to small quantities of blood.
- There is currently no effective vaccine against Hepatitis C.

9. d

- Recently, *Yemen's war shifts focus to Marib*.
- *Marib* is the capital city of Marib Governorate and an oil-rich province in Yemen.
- The Yemen's Houthi movement is seeking to push into wealthy government-held areas of Marib.
- It holds some of the country's most important oil and gas resources.

10. c

- An ecological disaster is unfolding on a black volcanic beach of the *Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russia*, according to a report.



- An unknown poison released into the water on the Kamchatka Peninsula kills seafood.
- It is located in far eastern Russia, between the Sea of Okhotsk on the west and the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea on the east.
- Volcanoes of Kamchatka has a high density of active volcanoes, a variety of types, and it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Most of Kamchatka is tundra supporting mosses and lichens, with thickets of Kamchatka alder.

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

07-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Survey Report on Data Governance Quality Index

1. It is a survey conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog.
2. It assesses different Ministries /Departments' performance on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

Which of 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 Ayush Grid

1. It was launched in 2018 for creating a comprehensive IT backbone for the digitalization of the entire AYUSH Sector.
2. It was developed jointly by the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

- a. 1 only

3) Consider the following statements with respect to AYUSH Health Management Information System (AHMIS)

1. It is a comprehensive IT platform to effectively manage all functions of health care delivery systems and patient care in AYUSH facilities.
2. It was originally based on THERAN, a Health Management Information System developed in-house by the Siddha Research Council, Chennai.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)

1. It was launched in 2013 as a response to the Paris Climate Change Agreement.
2. It seeks to put sustainability at the heart of economic policies and practices to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable 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

5) The word "Utkal" in India's National Anthem indicates which of the following region?

- a. Rajasthan



- b. Odisha
- c. Punjab
- d. Sikkim

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

1. All the BRICS member countries are the members of G20.
2. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is established by BRICS countries to mobilize resources for development projects.

Which of 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 **Black Holes**

1. It is an astronomical object, which is extremely dense, with a strong gravitational attraction.
2. The Hubble Space Telescope captured an image of a black hole and its shadow, for the first time.

Which of 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) A new family of **Bony Fish** discovered recently in?

- a. Freshwater ecosystem of Assam
- b. Ganga river system
- c. Western Ghats
- d. None of the above

9) Consider the following statements with respect to **Bharat stage (BS) VI Norms**

1. It is applicable to all the new vehicles, including construction machinery and tractors except Defence vehicles.
2. The standards and the timeline for implementation of the norms are set by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Which of 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 regarding the **Salinity of Ocean water**

1. Any change in temperature and density of water also changes the salinity of the water in an area.
2. The salinity of Bay of Bengal is much greater than that of the Arabian Sea.
3. In Equatorial regions, Salinity decreases with increasing depth of the ocean.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

1. c

Survey Report on Data Governance Quality Index

- It is a survey conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog.

- It assesses different Ministries /Departments' performance on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).
- Department of Fertilizers under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has been ranked 2nd amongst the 16 Economic Ministries / Departments and 3rd out of the 65 Ministries / Departments with a score 4.11 on a scale of 5 on Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI).
- The DMEQ, NITI Aayog has undertaken DGQI exercise: Self-assessment based review of data preparedness levels across Ministries / Departments to produce a DGQI score card.
- Accordingly a survey was initiated with the objective of assessing data preparedness of Ministries / Departments on a standardized framework to drive healthy competition among them and promote cooperative peer learning from best practices.

2. c

- *The operational **integration of Ayush Grid**, the emerging IT backbone for AYUSH Sector with the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**, was endorsed at a high level meeting recently.*
- This integration will be immensely beneficial to the public for availing varied options for their health needs.
- The integration will also accelerate the mainstreaming of AYUSH disciplines of healthcare.

AYUSH GRID project

- It was initiated by the Ministry in 2018 for creating a comprehensive IT backbone for the entire sector.
- Digitalization of the entire Ayush Sector will lead to its transformation in fields of health care delivery at all levels, including research, education, various health programmes and drug regulations.
- This will be beneficial for all stakeholders of Ayush including citizens of the country and in turn will help to achieve various national and global goals in healthcare.

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) advises and gives technical support to the AYUSH GRID Project.

3. d

AYUSH Health Management Information System (AHMIS)

- It is one of the most significant initiatives implemented by the Project AYUSH GRID.
- It was originally based on THERAN, an HMIS developed in-house by the Siddha Research Council, Chennai.
- The AHMIS has now emerged into a robust, cloud-based Information System used by nearly 100 Clinical establishment of the AYUSH Ministry.
- Further, the services of M/s Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore has recently been enlisted to rapidly enhance its scope. The Ministry is also preparing to deploy AHMIS to Ayush units outside the Central Government umbrella, so that the entire Ayush Sector can make use of it.

4. b

Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)

- The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) was launched in 2013 as a response to the call at Rio+20.
- It aims to support those countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories.
- PAGE seeks to put sustainability at the heart of economic policies and practices to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PAGE brings together five UN agencies

1. UN Environment,
 2. International Labour Organization,
 3. UN Development Programme,
 4. UN Industrial Development Organization,
 5. UN Institute for Training and Research
- PAGE represents a mechanism to coordinate UN action on green economy.

- It also aims to assist countries in achieving and monitoring the emerging Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 8: "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all."
- Paris Agreement was signed in 2016, but PAGE was launched in 2013.

5. b

The Odisha region is also known as Utkala and is mentioned in India's national anthem, "Jana Gana Mana".

6. a

- The 2020 BRICS summit to be held on November 17.
- BRICS is a grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- All the BRICS member countries are members of G20.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) is established by BRICS countries to mobilize resources for development projects.
- The BRICS summit is convened annually.
- The Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) make up the financial architecture of BRICS along with the NDB.

7. a

- The 2020 Nobel Prize has been awarded for Black Hole physics.
- A Black Hole is an astronomical object, which is extremely dense, with a strong gravitational attraction, from which no light can escape.
- The Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) captured an image of a black hole and its shadow, for the first time.
- EHT is an international collaboration whose support in the U.S. includes the National Science Foundation.

8. c

- Recently, a new family of Bony Fish discovered in Western Ghats.

- Many of these species are blind, pigment-less, and have peculiar morphological characters that are otherwise not seen in species occurring in surface waters.
- A Bony Fish is one whose skeleton is made of bone.
- They occur in freshwater and ocean environments, including caves, deep-sea habitats, and thermal springs and vents.

9. d

- Recently, Centre extends deadline for new emission norms for Tractors to October 2021.
- The Nonroad Diesel Engines vehicles in India have different emission norms.
- It includes agricultural machinery (agricultural tractors, power tillers and combined harvesters) and construction equipment.
- India is currently in TREM (TRactor EMission norms) 3A.
- The government has deferred applicability date for implementing the next stage of emission norms for tractors (TREM Stage-IV) from October this year to October next year
- For the construction equipment vehicles, the applicability of the next phase of emission norms are proposed to be applicable with effect from April 1, 2021.
- The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

10. a

Factors affecting the ocean salinity are as follows:

1. Evaporation and precipitation decides the salinity of water in the surface layer of oceans
2. Surface salinity is greatly influenced in coastal regions by the fresh water flow from rivers and in Polar Regions by the processes of freezing and thawing of ice.
3. Wind, also influences salinity of an area by transferring water to other areas.
4. The ocean currents contribute to the salinity variations. Any change in temperature and



density of water also changes the salinity of the water in an area.

- The salinity in Bay of Bengal is low due to influx of river water. On the contrary, the Arabian Sea shows higher salinity due to high evaporation and low influx of fresh water.
- Salinity, generally, increases with depth and there is a distinct zone called the halocline, where salinity increases sharply.

08-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements

- 1. India is the largest cotton producer and the 2nd largest consumer of cotton in the world.**
- 2. India's premium Cotton is known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton Trade.**

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 *Cott-Ally*

- 1. It is a free mobile-based application developed by the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.**
- 2. It provides information regarding payment status, purchase centers available across all cotton growing states, variety of cotton, etc.**

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM) Portal*

- 1. It is a database to bridge the gap of demand and supply of skilled workforce across the sectors.**
- 2. It was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).**

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

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

4) *Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report* is a biennial report published by?

- The World Bank
- International Monetary Fund
- UN Development Programme
- None of the above

5) Consider the following statements regarding the *Censure Motion* and *No-confidence Motion*

- 1. If Censure Motion is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers must resign from the office.**
- 2. It is not needed to state the reasons for the adoption of the No-Confidence Motion in the Lok Sabha.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *CRISPR-Cas9*



1. It is a gene-editing technology in which an DNA molecule is programmed to locate the particular problematic sequence on the RNA strand.
2. Cas9 is an enzyme which acts as a pair of molecular scissors that cut the two strands of DNA at a specific location in the genome.

Which of 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 *Minimum Support Price (MSP)*

1. At present, the 'C2' value is taken into consideration for calculating the MSP.
2. The government currently fixes MSP only for cereals and pulses.

Which of 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 *Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)*

1. It is a geo-spatial cooperation which will enable India to avail geospatial maps of the USA to sharpen the accuracy of weapons and automated hardware systems used for military purposes.
2. It provides a legal framework for the transfer of highly sensitive communication security equipment from the USA to 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) *PARAM Siddhi-AI* sometimes seen in news is?

- a. An AI used for the development of drugs and vaccines for COVID 19
- b. An AI based autonomous fighter aircraft
- c. A Supercomputer
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Hydroelectric Projects in India*

1. Dhaulasidh Hydroelectric Project is on the River Dibang, in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Etalin Hydroelectric Project is on the River Beas, in Himachal Pradesh.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- Union Ministry of Textiles has recently launched the 1st ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton on 2nd World Cotton Day on 7th October, 2020 through Video Conferencing.
- Now India's premium Cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton Trade.
- The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.
- Cotton is one of the principal commercial crops of India and it provides livelihood to about 6.00 million cotton farmers.

- **India is the 2nd largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world.**
- India produces about 6.00 Million tons of cotton every year which is about 23% of the world cotton.
- India produces about 51% of the total organic cotton production of the world, which demonstrates India's effort towards sustainability.

2. c

- Further, leveraging the technology, a mobile app, "Cott-Ally" has been developed by CCI for providing latest news regarding weather condition, Crop situation and best farm practices.

Cott-Ally

- It is a free mobile-based application owned by The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.
- It provides a platform to farmers cultivating cotton.
- It provides information regarding their payment status, purchase centers available across all cotton growing states in the country, variety of cotton, latest news, and notifications.
- This application is developed to maintain the transparency about the business between the CCI (Cotton Corporation of India Ltd) team and the farmers.
- If the farmers have any queries, they can reach out CCI team immediately by using the Live Chat feature.
- For raising any complaint, they can easily access the Complaint feature of the application.

3. d

- In an endeavour to improve the information flow and bridge the demand-supply gap in the skilled workforce market, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched 'Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)' portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- ASEEM is usable as a match-making engine to map skilled workers with the jobs available.

The portal consists of three IT based interfaces

1. Employer Portal – Employer onboarding, Demand Aggregation, Candidate Selection
2. Dashboard – Reports, Trends, analytics, and highlight gaps
3. Candidate Application – Create & Track candidate profile, share job suggestion

4. a

- World Bank has recently released its biennial report: *Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report*.

Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report: Highlights

- Global extreme poverty is expected to rise for the first time in 20 years because of the disruption caused by COVID-19, exacerbating the impact of conflict and climate change, which were already slowing down poverty reduction.
- The pandemic may push another 88 million to 115 million into extreme poverty or having to live on less than \$1.50 per day, resulting in a total of 150 million such individuals.
- Sub-Saharan Africa, with 27-40 million new poor, and South Asia, with 49-57 million new poor, will be badly hit as per the Bank's projections.

5. b

- Censure Motion should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha whereas, No-Confidence Motion need not state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
- If Censure Motion is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers need not resign from the office whereas, If No-Confidence Motion is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers must resign from office.

6. b

- Noble Chemistry Prize for *CRISPR-Cas9* gene editing tool.
- CRISPR is an acronym for the 'Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats.'
- It is a gene-editing technology in which an *RNA molecule is programmed to*

locate the particular problematic sequence on the DNA strand.

- That a piece of RNA is called *guide RNA (gRNA)*. It consists of a small piece of pre-designed RNA sequence, that binds to a specific target sequence of DNA in a genome.
- *Cas9 is an enzyme which acts as a pair of molecular scissors* that cut the two strands of DNA at a specific location in the genome.
- It is used to edit parts of the genome by removing, adding or altering sections of the DNA sequence.

7. d

- *Minimum Support Price (MSP)* is a minimum price for any crop that the government considers as remunerative for farmers.
- Swaminathan committee talked about cost of farming at 3 levels.
- Under 'A2' the cost to generate the crop, which includes cost of seeds, manure, , labour costs, fuel costs and irrigation costs.
- Under 'FL', the Committee added the estimated cost of work to the total members of the farmer's family.
- Under 'C2', the estimated land rent and the cost of interest on the money taken for farming were added to A2 and FL.
- *At present, the 'A2+FL' value is taken into consideration for calculating the MSP.*
- The Swaminathan committee has recommended to use 'C2' value for MSP.
- *Government currently fixes MSPs for 23 farm commodities which includes 7 cereals, 5 pulses, 7 oilseeds and 4 commercial crops.*

8. a

- India, US set to hold 2+2 talks, the *Geospatial pact BECA* likely to be signed.
- The *Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)* is one of the 4 foundational military agreements between the US and India.
- The other 3 are GSOMIA, LEMOA, COMCASA.
- *BECA is a geo-spatial cooperation which will enable India to avail geospatial maps of the*

USA to sharpen the accuracy of weapons, automated hardware systems used for military purposes.

- It is an important precursor to India acquiring armed unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Predator-B from the US.
- *COMCASA provides a legal framework for the transfer of highly sensitive communication security equipment from the US to India.*

9. c

- C-DAC to commission *India's fastest HPC-AI Supercomputer 'PARAM Siddhi - AI'* with NVIDIA.
- This initiative will put India among the top countries in global AI supercomputing research and innovation.
- It will be the India's largest *High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) Supercomputer.*
- It is to play a pivotal role in developing a vibrant ecosystem for research and innovation in science and engineering.

10. d

- Recently, the Central Government gives approval to the 66 MW *Dhulasidh Hydro Electric Project in Himachal Pradesh.*
- *The project is to be launched on Beas River in Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.*
- *Etalin Hydroelectric Project is on the River Dibang, in Arunachal Pradesh.*

09-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Stockholm Convention*

- 1. It is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of Chemical weapons.**
- 2. India had ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2006.**

Which of 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) DBT-BIRAC Clean Tech Demo Park which was inaugurated recently will be used for which of the following purposes?

- a. Food Processing
- b. Waste Management
- c. Skill Development
- d. Defence Training Field

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE)*

- 1. It is a road development programme for North Eastern Region and Sikkim.
- 2. It was initiated by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

Which of 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 *Gyan Circle Ventures*

- 1. It will function as a Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) incubation center and serve as a hub for innovation and startups.
- 2. It will be funded by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

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

- d. Neither 1 nor 2

5) The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 is applicable to which of the following communities?

- 1. Buddhist
- 2. Jain
- 3. Sikh
- 4. Parsi or Jews

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *appointment of RBI Governor and Deputy Governors*

- 1. The Governor of the RBI is appointed by the President of India.
- 2. The Governor is not eligible for reappointment.
- 3. The Governor and the Deputy Governors hold office for periods not exceeding five years.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Television Rating Point (TRP)*

- 1. The TRP is recorded by the Broadcast Audience Research Council using Bar-O-Meters that are pre-installed in all the televisions in the households.
- 2. Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) is an autonomous organization

under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Which of 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 *Sarala Puraskar*

1. It is recognised as the highest literary award of India.
2. It is awarded annually by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT).

Which of 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) *Holy See* recently seen in news is?

- a. A Buddhist holy pilgrimage
- b. The largest uninhabited island in the world
- c. A government of the Roman Catholic Church
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Jan Andolan*

1. It aims to create awareness among public regarding generic medicines.
2. It is to enable substantial savings in health care more particularly in the case of poor patients.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

Answers

1. b

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has recently ratified the ban of seven Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's) listed under Stockholm Convention.
- With the decision, India is sending out a positive message to the world that it is active in this area & do not tolerate health & environmental hazard.

Stockholm Convention

- It is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which are identified chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate in living organisms, adversely affect human health/environment and have the property of long-range environmental transport (LRET).
- India had ratified the Stockholm Convention on January 13, 2006 as per Article 25(4), which enabled it to keep itself in a default "opt-out" position such that amendments in various Annexes of the convention cannot be enforced on it unless an instrument of ratification/ acceptance/ approval or accession is explicitly deposited with UN depositary.
- Considering its commitment towards providing safe environment and addressing human health risks, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) had notified the 'Regulation of Persistent Organic Pollutants Rules, on March 5, 2018 under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The regulation inter alia prohibited the manufacture, trade, use, import and export seven chemicals namely
 1. Chlordecone
 2. Hexabromobiphenyl
 3. Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Heptabromodiphenylether (Commercial octa-BDE)



4. Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether (Commercial penta-BDE)
5. Pentachlorobenzene
6. Hexabromocyclododecane
7. Hexachlorobutadiene

- These seven chemicals were already listed as POPs under Stockholm Convention.
- The ratification process would enable India to access Global Environment Facility (GEF) financial resources in updating the NIP.
- The Cabinet further delegated its powers to ratify chemicals under the Stockholm Convention to Union Ministers of External Affairs (MEA) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) in respect of POPs already regulated under the domestic regulations thereby streamlining the procedure.

2. b

- *Union Minister for Science & Technology has inaugurated the "DBT-BIRAC Clean Tech Demo Park" at Barapullah drain site, near Sundial Park, Sarai Kale Khan, New Delhi in a virtual event recently.*

DBT-BIRAC Clean Tech Demo Park

- It will be used to demonstrate innovative Waste-to-Value technologies with support from Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a DBT PSU.
- This park will be managed by the Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC), a public-private-partnership incubator set up jointly by DBT, BIRAC and Tata Power.
- DBT has undertaken several initiatives under Swachh Bharat Mission for the development, demonstration and promotion of innovative clean waste-to-value technologies including biomethanation, constructed wetlands, algal treatment and water membrane filtration.
- The DBT-DESMI project in collaboration with Denmark for cleaning of floating debris from Barapullah nallah, and the LOTUS-HR project in collaboration with Netherlands are already

successfully demonstrated at the Barapullah site.

- Technologies developed by Startups at different locations in the Country will be demonstrated on this site.

3. c

- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** formulated the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) for **North Eastern Region and Sikkim**.

The SARDP-NE programme has been divided into 3 parts:

1. Phase A
2. Phase B
3. Arunachal Pradesh Package

The scheme, SARDP-NE was formulated with the following objectives:

1. Up-gradation of National Highways connecting State Capitals to 2/ 4 lane;
2. Providing connectivity to 88 District Headquarter towns of NER by at least 2-lane road;
3. Providing road connectivity to backward and remote areas of NE region to boost socio - economic development;
4. Improving roads of strategic importance in border areas;
5. Improving connectivity to neighbouring countries.

4. b

- *Union Minister for Education virtually inaugurated the Gyan Circle Ventures recently.*

Gyan Circle Ventures

- It is a MeitY funded Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sri City (Chittoor), Andhra Pradesh.
- It would function as a *Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs* (TIDE 2.0) incubation center as approved by the Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY).

- Gyan Circle Ventures will serve as a hub for innovation and startups by providing support, in various phases, via investments, infrastructure and mentoring.
- Notably, the TBI would have an Advisory Committee comprising leading Industrialists, entrepreneurs and technical experts.
- It would enable incubatees to leverage these expert mentors and networks from both academia and the industry.

5. b

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 applies to:

1. Any person who is a Hindu by religion in any of its forms or developments, including a Virashaiva, a Lingayat or a follower of the Brahmo, Prarthana or Arya Samaj;
2. Any person who is a Buddhist, Jain or Sikh by religion; and
3. Any other person domiciled in the territories to which this Act extends who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew by religion, unless it is proved that any such person would not have been governed by the Hindu law or by any custom or usage as part of that law in respect of any of the matters dealt with herein if this Act had not been passed.

6. c

- Recently, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed M Rajeshwar Rao as the *Deputy Governor of the RBI*.
- The *Financial Sector Regulatory Appointment Search Committee (FSRASC)*, recommend names for the appointment.
- FSRASC includes the cabinet secretary, RBI governor and the financial services secretary, interviewed the candidates for the role of the deputy governor.
- The *Governor and not more than four Deputy Governors of the RBI are appointed by the central government* under the RBI Act.
- The *Governor and Deputy Governors hold office for periods not exceeding five years*.
- The term of the Governor may be fixed by the government at the time of his appointment and are eligible for reappointment.

7. d

- Recently, *Television Rating Point (TRP)* rigged ratings, a fraud busted in Mumbai.
- The police investigates into accusations of tampering of BARC data, that households were being paid to manipulate the TRP.
- TRP is recorded by the Broadcast Audience Research Council using Bar-O-Meters that are *installed in televisions in select households*.
- As on date, the BARC has installed these meters in 44,000 households across the country.
- Selection of households where Bar-O-Meters are installed is a large-scale face-to-face survey and it is done annually.
- As per the guidelines of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, these households rotate every year.
- Anyone who watches television for more than a minute is considered a viewer.
- *BARC India is a Joint Industry Company founded by stakeholder bodies that represent Broadcasters, Advertisers, and Advertising and Media Agencies.*

8. b

- Odia poet Nityanand Nayak to be conferred the prestigious *Sarala Puraskar* for his poetry work 'Setebelaku Nathiba'.
- It is recognised as the foremost literary award of Odisha.
- It has been *annually awarded by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT)*.
- This award is one of the finest contributions of IMPACT to glorify Odia literature.
- The award comprises of a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation.
- *Jnanpith Award*, is the highest literary award in India.

9. c

- The Ministry of External Affairs appointed the next Indian Ambassador to the *Holy See*.
- The *Holy See* is the name given to the government of the Roman Catholic Church,

which is led by the pope as the bishop of Rome.

- The *Vatican City* is called the *Holy See*.
- The term as used by the United Nations refers not to the city of Vatican but to the government of the Roman Catholic Church.
- It is this government, not Vatic Vatican City, which is represented at the UN.

10. d

- Recently, PM launches *Jan Andolan Campaign on COVID-19* *Appropriate Behaviour*.
- The campaign aims to promote Covid-19 appropriate behaviour ahead of the upcoming festive season and reopening of economy.
- It urges people to wear mask, wash hands & follow social distancing.
- Jan Aushadhi Campaign aims to create awareness among public regarding generic medicines.

10-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Vigyan Jyoti*

1. It is an interactive platform that will be built on top of the India Science Over-The-Top (OTT) platform to encourage and inspire high school students to pursue Science & Technology (S&T) for a career.
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Education, currently implemented by the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV).

Which of 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 *Engage with Science Platform*

1. It aims to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning among girl students and to inspire them towards STEM careers.
2. It is an initiative of Department of Science and Technology (DST) under Vigyan Prasar.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Barcode of Life (iBOL)*

1. It is a research alliance aims to develop a globally accessible, DNA-based system for the discovery and identification of all multicellular life.
2. It is one of the attached office of the World Health Organization (WHO).
3. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has recently joined the International Barcode of Life Consortium.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) Which one of the following states has recently became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' State in India which provides 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in the rural areas?

- a. Haryana
- b. Meghalaya
- c. Uttarakhand
- d. None of the above



5) Consider the following statements with respect to *QR codes*

1. It is a three dimensional highly secured matrix code.
2. Codes were mechanically scanned by a narrow beam of mono coherent light.
3. Decoding can be done even in damaged condition.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *India Meteorological Department (IMD)*

1. The IMD issues flood forecasts at various river points.
2. It provide meteorological statistics required for industries and oil exploration.

Which of 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 *Rudram Missile*

1. It is the India's first indigenous anti-radiation, air-to-surface missile.
2. It can detect, track and neutralise the adversary's radar, communication assets and other radio frequency sources.

Which of 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 the *World Food Programme (WFP)*

1. The WFP has an independent source of funds from UN.
2. It was established by the United Nations, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the need for food aid itself.

Which of 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) *Kyrgyzstan* recently seen in news is?

- a. A Central Asian country which shares coastlines of the Caspian Sea
- b. The Tien Shan mountain range pass through Kyrgyzstan
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Khardung La*

1. It is a mountain pass located in the Ladakh region.
2. It is the gateway to the Nubra and Shyok Valleys.

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

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

Answers

1. d

- The Department of Science & Technology (DST) and IBM India recently announced collaborations to scale up two DST initiatives – **Vigyan Jyoti** and **Engage with Science** (Vigyan Prasar).

Vigyan Jyoti

- It is a programme **to promote STEM learning among girl students** and to inspire them towards STEM careers by creating a level-playing field for meritorious girls from grades 9 to 12 to pursue STEM in their higher education, especially from the top colleges in the areas where girls are hugely underrepresented.
- The Vigyan Jyoti programme was launched by DST in 2019 to inspire girl students to pursue higher education and career in STEM fields.
- The program provides a scholarship, visit to nearby scientific institutions, science camps, lecturers from eminent women scientists, and career counseling.
- The program is currently implemented by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in 58 districts, with the participation of about 2900 students.
- The partnership with IBM India will strengthen the current activities and expanded to include more schools in the future.
- Women tech experts working at IBM India will interact inspire girl students to plan for a career in STEM under the program.
- This will strengthen the DST's initiative to increase the number of women in technology fields.

2. b

- The Department of Science & Technology (DST) and IBM India recently announced collaborations to scale up two DST initiatives – **Vigyan Jyoti** and **Engage with Science** (Vigyan Prasar).

Engage with Science

- IBM will work with Vigyan Prasar – an autonomous body under the DST to help India's science popularization agenda through several strategic initiatives, including 'Engage With Science'.

- This is an interactive platform that will be built on top of the India Science Over-The-Top (OTT) platform **to encourage and inspire high school students to pursue Science & Technology (S&T) for a career.**
- As part of the collaboration, IBM will run the day-to-day activities of the program, including student workshops, seminars, and leverage its expertise to mentor the students.
- The platform will make students interact, participate and get involved with the sampling and active consumption of S&T content, including Cloud, Big Data, etc. through the usage of gamification tools and AI/ML components.
- 'Engage With Science' will actively engage with schools, shoot interactive programmes in the school premises, provide windows of recognition, and glorification to select teachers of S&T subjects.
- The partnership with IBM will make these programs of DST and Vigyan Prasar reach the students and teachers in interactive ways on a large scale.
- Scaling up of the interactive learning platform 'Engage with Science' will make learning relevant and foster scientific spirit among the country's youth, it would address the school students directly who need more knowledge outside the classroom and provide insights into an interactive way of learning, thus helping sift the useful from the useless.

3. b

- Union Cabinet has recently approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Zoological Survey of India and the International Barcode of Life.
- Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has joined the International Barcode of Life Consortium, making India the 33rd nation to indicate its commitment to advancing knowledge of global biodiversity through DNA-based analysis.

International Barcode of Life (iBOL) Consortium

- It is a Canadian not-for-profit corporation.
- It is a research alliance with a mission to develop and apply a globally accessible, DNA-

based system for the discovery and identification of all multicellular life.

- Its vision is to illuminate biodiversity for the benefit of our living planet.

4. d

- **Goa** has recently earned itself the unique distinction of becoming first 'Har Ghar Jal' State in the country as it successfully provides 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in the rural areas covering 2.30 lakh rural households.

5. c

Quick Response Code (QRCode)

- It is a two-dimensional machine-readable unique pattern that contains information on a specific task.
- Codes were scanned by a QR reader which is completely different from the conventional barcode reader which uses monocoherent source for reading.
- A common example is QR codes in newspaper advertisements or billboards.
- When scanned using a smartphone, it will direct you to the advertiser's website.
- Multivariate QR codes are available based upon the clients requirements.

6. b

- The *India Meteorological Department (IMD)* issues meteorological or weather forecasts.
- It is the National Meteorological Service of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
- It provide meteorological statistics required for agriculture, water resource management, industries, oil exploration and other nation-building activities.
- The *Central Water Commission (CWC)* issues flood forecasts at various river points.

7. c

- **Rudram Missile**, developed for the Indian Air Force, was successfully flight-tested from a Sukhoi-30 MKI jet.

- It is *India's first indigenous anti-radiation, air-to-surface missile*.
- It can detect, track and neutralise the adversary's radar, communication assets and other radio frequency sources.
- It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It has been developed for the IAF's requirement to enhance its Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) capability.

8. b

- The *World Food Programme (WFP)* was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace 2020.
- It was established in 1961 by the United Nations (UN), with the ultimate goal of eliminating the need for food aid itself.
- It does not have an independent source of funds, it relies entirely on voluntary contributions for its funding.
- Its principal donors are governments, but the organization also receive donations from the private sector and individuals.

9. b

- Street protests erupted in *Kyrgyzstan*, following the recent parliamentary election.
- *Kyrgyzstan* is a landlocked country in Central Asia, bordering Kazakhstan, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Most of *Kyrgyzstan's* borders run along mountain crests of *Tien Shan* mountain range.
- The geographic terrain of *Kyrgyzstan* consists primarily of mountains, most of the c land is covered by *Tian Shan* Mountain range.

10. c

- IAF personnel create new record of highest skydive landing at *Khardungla Pass* in *Leh, Ladakh* region.
- *Khardung La* is known as the gateway to the *Nubra and Shyok Valleys* in the *Ladakh* region.



- It is the highest motorable pass in the world and it is strategically important to India as it is used to carry supplies to Siachen glacier.

12-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements regarding *Calcium nitrate*

- It is used in wastewater treatment.
- It is used as a water-soluble fertilizer in agriculture.
- It is used to increase the strength of cement concrete.

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

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

2) Eight beaches in India have been recently awarded the “BLUE FLAG” Certification. With respect to it, consider the following pairs:

Beaches – States

- Kappad – Gujarat
- Shivrajpur – Bihar
- Rushikonda – Odisha
- Radhanagar – Maharashtra

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *SVAMITVA Scheme*

- The scheme aims to provide the ‘record of rights’ to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards.

2. It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI)*

- It is an apex intelligence organization functioning under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance.
- It was entrusted with the task of collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence relating to evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and duties of Central Excise and Service Tax on an all India basis.

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

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

5) “The National park is situated at a point where the continuity of the Tropical and subtropical dry broadleaf forests belt, which starts from cape comorin in south India, is broken and beyond this the upper Gangetic Plains moist deciduous forests of the great Indo-gangetic plains begins, and also partly, this national park will be submerged due to implementation of the Interlinking of two rivers”.

Which of the following National parks is best described by the above passage?

- Bandhavgarh National park
- Panna National park
- Kanha National park

d. Satpura National park

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)*

1. The plan includes action by various state governments to be taken throughout the year to tackle industrial, vehicular and combustion emissions.
2. The plan is incremental in nature and works only as an emergency measure.

Which of 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 *FELUDA paper strip test*

1. It is a protein based test for SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis.
2. The 'specificity' of a test measures the True Negative Rate (TNR), a test's ability to correctly generate a negative result for people who don't have the condition that's being tested for.

Which of 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 *Sambhar Lake*

1. It is the India's largest inland salt water lake.
2. It is a key wintering area for the flamingos and it has been designated as a Ramsar site.

Which of 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 *Bandung Conference and Principles of Bandung* seen in news is related to?

- a. Human Rights
- b. Commonwealth of Nations
- c. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)*

1. It is an electronic payment system under which the fund transfer is settled in batches.
2. It is used to transfer large money sums from one bank account to another, and there is no upper or maximum ceiling fixed by the RBI.

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

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

Answers

1. d

- Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has recently launched the indigenous variety of **Calcium Nitrate' & Boronated Calcium Nitrate** manufactured by Gujrat State Fertilizers and Chemicals (GSFC) India Ltd through video Conference.
- Calcium Nitrate' & Boronated Calcium Nitrate is being manufactured for the first time in



India. Till now, it was imported from other countries.

- This indigenous variety of calcium nitrate and Boronated calcium nitrate will provide a quality product in cheaper rate to the farmer community in the country than imported ones.
- Last year, around 1.25 lakh metric tons (1,23,000 tons) of Calcium Nitrate was imported in the country.
- Of this, **76% was imported from China** and the rest from other countries like Norway and Israel.

Calcium nitrate

- It is used as a water-soluble fertilizer in agriculture.
- In addition, this product is also used in wastewater treatment and to increase the strength of cement concrete.

2. d

- 8 beaches in India, spread across five states and two union territories, have been recently awarded the “BLUE FLAG” Certification by an International Jury comprising of eminent members viz UNEP, UNWTO, FEE, IUCN.

The beaches that have been awarded the ‘BLUE FLAG’ are

1. Ghoghla – Diu
 2. Kappad – Kerala
 3. Golden – Puri, Odisha
 4. Kasarkod – Karnataka
 5. Padubidri – Karnataka
 6. Shivrajpur – Dwarka, Gujarat
 7. Rushikonda – Andhra Pradesh
 8. Radhanagar – Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- India has also been awarded a 3rd Prize by the International Jury under the “International Best Practices” for pollution control in coastal regions.
 - No 'BLUE FLAG' nation has ever been awarded for 8 beaches in a single attempt so far.

- India is also the first country in “Asia-Pacific” region which has achieved this feat in just about 2 years’ time.
- Japan, South Korea and UAE are the only other Asian nations who have been conferred with a couple of Blue Flag beaches, however, in a time frame of about 5 to 6 years.
- India is now in the league of 50 “BLUE FLAG” countries.

Background

- India began its humble journey in 2018 for development of pilot beaches (one each in coastal states/UTs) and presented the first set of 08 beaches for the certification for the ensuing tourist season 2020.
- SICOM, MoEFCC, in its pursuit of “Sustainable Development” of the coastal regions of India embarked upon a highly acclaimed & flagship program “BEAMS” (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) under its ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) project.
- This was aimed at striving for the coveted International eco-label “Blue flag”, accorded by The Foundation of Environment Education, FEE Denmark.
- The objective of the BEAMS program is to abate pollution in coastal waters & beaches, promote sustainable development of beach amenities/ facilities, protect & conserve coastal ecosystems & natural resources and encourage local authorities & stakeholders to strive and maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene, safety and security for beachgoers in accordance with coastal environment norms & regulations.
- This program promotes beach tourism and recreation in absolute harmony with nature; and is unique in that sense.

3. b

- *Prime Minister has recently launched physical distribution of property cards under SVAMITVA scheme through video conferencing and interacted with the beneficiaries of the scheme.*

SVAMITVA Scheme

- It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, which was launched by the Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2020.
- The scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards.
- The Scheme is being implemented across the country in a phased manner over a period of four years (2020-2024) and would eventually cover around 6.62 lakh villages of the country.
- About 1 lakh villages in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Karnataka, and few border villages of Punjab & Rajasthan, along with establishment of Continuous Operating System (CORS) stations' network across Punjab & Rajasthan, are being covered in the Pilot phase (2020-21).

4. d

- *An intelligence was developed by the officers of Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) that few exporter companies were engaged in fraudulent availment of Input Tax Credit (ITC) on the invoices of non-existing and fictitious firms or such firms which apparently do not have any purchases themselves.*
- The ITC so availed was utilized to pay IGST on the export goods, which was thereafter claimed as cash refund.
- Thus, the government exchequer was put at double loss – on one hand ITC was obtained on goods where no tax was paid and on the other hand IGST paid from such fraudulently availed ITC was obtained as cash refund.
- The amount of IGST refund obtained is estimated to be approx. Rs. 61 crore.

Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI)

- It is an apex intelligence organization functioning under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- It was erstwhile known as Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI).

- It was entrusted with the task of collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence relating to evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and duties of Central Excise and Service Tax on an all India basis.
- DGGI exchanges information with various agencies for combating indirect tax evasion and frauds which includes Income Tax Department, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB), Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid) and various other departments and agencies.

5. b

- Panna national park/tiger reserve situated in the state of Madhyapradesh.
- This area is the northernmost tip of the natural teak forests and the easternmost tip of the natural 'kardhai' forests.
- It will be submerged due to implementation of Ken-Betwa Interlinking of River project.

6. b

- The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to come into force in Delhi, to fight air pollution.
- The plan does not include action by various state governments to be taken throughout the year to tackle industrial, vehicular and combustion emissions.
- The plan is incremental in nature, therefore, when the air quality moves from 'Poor' to 'Very Poor', the measures listed under both sections have to be followed.
- It works only as an emergency measure.

7. b

- Paper-strip COVID-19 test, FELUDA to be released soon in India.
- This has been developed by CSIR-IGIB and has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for a commercial launch.
- It is a nucleic acid based test for SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis.
- The 'Specificity' of a test measures the True Negative Rate (TNR), a test's ability to correctly generate a negative result for people



who don't have the condition that's being tested for.

- The 'Sensitivity' of a test measures the True Positive Rate (TPR), a test correctly generates a positive result for people who have the condition that's being tested for.

8. c

- The Rajasthan government to build temporary shelters for migratory birds near the famous Sambhar Lake.
- Sambhar Lake is the India's largest inland salt water lake, located in Rajasthan.
- It is a key wintering area for the flamingos and it has been designated as a Ramsar site.

9. c

- The ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), was held recently via video conference technology at the UN.
- It was held under the theme, *Bandung+65: more relevant, united and effective NAM against emerging global challenge including Covid-19*.
- The Bandung Conference and Principles of Bandung are related to Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
- The core principles of the Bandung Conference were political self-determination, mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, and equality.

10. b

- RBI announced that RTGS to be available 24x7 from Dec 2020.
- RTGS stands for Real Time Gross Settlement. The facility is used to transfer large money sums from one bank account to another.
- Under RTGS, the funds transfer takes place on a real time basis, or in other words, at the time the request is received.
- It is one of the fastest interbank money transfer facility available.
- As per the RBI's FAQs, the minimum amount that can be remitted through RTGS is Rs 2 lakh with no upper or maximum ceiling.

- However, banks usually have an upper ceiling of Rs 10 lakh.
- The NEFT (National Electronic Funds Transfer) operates on a deferred settlement basis. Fund transfer are settled in batches.

13-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Madrid Principles

1. It is the basis for the formulation of a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
2. It was put forward by Minsk Group which functions under the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Which of 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 INS Sahyadri

1. It is an indigenous, Shivalik-class advanced, stealth-minded, guided-missile frigate warship.
2. It can be equipped with BrahMos anti-ship missiles, Anti-submarine rocket launchers.

Which of 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 Nitrous oxide

1. It is commonly known as laughing gas and it is the greenhouse gas (GHG).

2. It is also the most potent ozone depleting substance (ODS) and is controlled by 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

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

- 1. It aims to provide drinking water to every rural household by 2024.
- 2. Goa became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' 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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Protected Areas (PA) in India*

- 1. The Protected Area (PA) has been clearly defined in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 2. It includes National Park, Wildlife sanctuaries, Tiger Reserve, Conservation reserve, Community reserve.

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

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

1. c

- The *Madrid Principles* could be the starting point for ending the hostility between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- The *Madrid Principles* is the basis for the formulation of a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- It was put forward by Minsk Group which functions under the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
- The OSCE works for stability, peace and democracy through political dialogue about shared values.
- It has 57 participating States in North America, Europe and Asia, and the OSCE is one of the world's largest regional security organization.

2. c

- *INS Sahyadri*, *INS Kora* adjudged best Navy ships at the Fleet Award Function (FAF), 2020.
- *INS Sahyadri* is an indigenous, Shivalik-class advanced, stealth-minded, guided-missile frigate warship.
- It can be equipped with BrahMos anti-ship missiles, Anti-submarine rocket launchers, Barak-1 missiles and Shtil-1 3S90M missile.
- It can also host two HAL Dhruv helicopters or the American made Sikorsky SH-3 Sea King copters.

3. a

- Nitrous oxide human emissions increased 30% in 36 yrs, according to the report.
- The Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is a greenhouse gas which is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- It is also the most potent ozone depleting substance (ODS) but it is not controlled by the Montreal Protocol.
- It's emissions are expected to almost double by 2050.
- The largest source of Nitrous oxide is agriculture, particularly fertilized soil and animal waste.

Answers



- It absorbs radiation and traps heat in the atmosphere, where it can live for an average of 114 years.

4. c

- Recently, Goa became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' state in India.
- Goa provides 100% tap water connections in rural areas.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission with motto Har Ghar Jal, aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024.

5. a

- The Conservation project displaced 18,493 families in 48 yrs.
- The displacements happened from critical tiger habitats, according to RTI response.
- The Protected Area (PA) has been clearly defined in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It includes four categories, National Park, Wildlife sanctuaries, Conservation reserve, Community Reserve.
- Biosphere Reserves and Tiger Reserves are not covered under it.

14-10-2020

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

- It aims at the holistic development of tribals through Self Help Groups (SHGs) operating through Common Services Centers (CSC) of Digital India Programme.
- It was launched by the TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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

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

2) *Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII)* was published recently by?

- INSEAD
- Oxfam International
- Amnesty International
- Both A and B

3) *Kastellorizo Island* sometimes seen in the news recently is located in?

- Black Sea
- Sea of Azov
- Norwegian Sea
- Mediterranean Sea

4) Consider the following statements

- Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- A party seeking registration has to submit an application to the Election Commission of India (ECI) within a period of 120 days following the date of its formation.

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 *Bharatmala Pariyojana*

- It is a sub scheme under the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP).
- It focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps.

Which of 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 salient features of *National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013*

1. The Targeted Public Distribution System to cover 75% and 50% of the population in the rural and urban areas respectively.
2. The NFSA aims to provide foodgrains at subsidized price for 15 years.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *allotment of symbols to political parties in India*

1. A party/candidate has to provide a list of three symbols from the Election Commission's free symbols list at the time of filing nomination papers.
2. Any choice other than from the Election Commission's list will be summarily rejected.
3. Two or more recognised political parties can have the same symbol provided they are not contenders in the same State or Union Territory.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to MOSAiC Mission

1. It aims for studying the impact of climate change on the Antarctica and how it could affect the rest of the world.
2. It is a joint mission of Russia and China.

Which of 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) *Nechiphu Tunnel* recently seen in news is set to be located in?

- a. Assam
- b. Sikkim
- c. Ladakh
- d. Arunachal Pradesh

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *India Energy Modelling Forum*

1. It was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
2. It aims to build the capacity of the Indian institutions.

Which of 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

- Tech for Tribals initiative was e-launched recently by the TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Chhattisgarh MFP Federation and IIT Kanpur.

Tech for Tribals Initiative

- TRIFED, in collaboration with Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) under the ESDP programme commenced the 'Tech for Tribals' programme.
- It aims at the holistic development of tribals with a focus on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT, and business development through SHGs operating through **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)**.
- The beneficiaries will undergo a 30 days program over six weeks comprising 120 sessions.
- The programme aims to tap the traditional knowledge and skills of tribals and add branding, packaging and marketing skills to optimize their income through a market led enterprise model by setting up of Van Dhan Kendras (VDVKs).
- TRIFED has so far sanctioned 1243 Van Dhan Kendras in 21 States and 1 UT involving 3.68 lakh tribal gatherers.

2. b

- *India has fared poorly in protecting labour rights and has slipped to rank 151 among 158 countries, according to Oxfam's Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII) report released recently.*

Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII)

- It is a global report that ranks 158 governments, including India, on their commitment to reducing inequality.
- India also slipped from rank 141 to 151 with weak labour rights and high incidence of vulnerable employment.
- Overall, India ranked 129 in the CRI index out of 158 countries on government policies, and actions in areas of public services of education, health, social protection, taxation, and workers' rights.
- India's health budget was the fourth lowest with half of its population having access to most essential health services, and more than 70 per cent of health spending being met by people themselves, the CRII report said.

Oxfam

- It is a confederation of 20 independent charitable organizations focusing on the alleviation of global poverty, founded in 1942 and led by Oxfam International.
- It is a major nonprofit group headquartered in **Nairobi, Kenya**.

3. d

- Germany's foreign Minister had recently criticized Turkey for unilateral steps in the eastern Mediterranean that are undercutting efforts to de-escalate tensions with Greece and Cyprus over sea boundaries and drilling rights.
- He said that, any attempt by a Turkish survey ship to begin prospecting for hydrocarbons in disputed waters around the Greek island of Kastellorizo would strike a serious blow to efforts at easing tensions and improving ties between the European Union and Turkey.
- Ankara's redeployment of the Oruc Reis survey vessel for new energy exploration around Kastellorizo has reignited tensions over sea boundaries between Greek islands, Cyprus and Turkey's southern coast.
- Turkey rebuffed international criticism of its research ship's redeployment, insisting that the Oruc Reis is operating in Turkish waters.

Kastellorizo

- Kastellorizo, officially Megisti, is a Greek island and municipality of the Dodecanese in the **Eastern Mediterranean Sea**.

4. d

- **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has given a relaxation and has reduced the notice period from 30 days to 7 days **for the parties who have published their public notice on or before 07.10.2020.**

Registration of Political Parties

- Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**.
- A party seeking registration under the said Section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission **within a period of 30 days following the date**

of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

- As per existing guidelines, the applicant association is, inter-alia, asked to publish proposed Name of the party in two national daily news papers and two local daily newspapers, on two days for submitting objections, if any, with regard to the proposed registration of the party before the Commission within 30 days (earlier) from such publication.
- Notice so published is also displayed on the website of the Commission.

Representation of the People Act, 1950 deals with:

1. Delimitation of constituencies
2. Allocation of seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States
3. Procedure for the preparation of electoral rolls and the manner of filling seats
4. Lays down the qualification of voters

5. b

- *A total of 322 projects in a length of 12,413 Km have been awarded under Bharatmala Pariyojana till August, 2020.*
- *Further, 2921 Km has been constructed under the Project till the same date.*

Bharatmala Pariyojana

- It is the second largest highways construction project in the country since National Highways Development Programme (NHDP).
- It is an umbrella program under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions like development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.

- The objective of the program is optimal resource allocation for a holistic highway development/improvement initiative.
- This program envisages a corridor approach in place of the existing package-based approach which has, in many cases, resulted in skewed development.
- It will also subsume unfinished parts of National Highway Development Program.

6. a

- The *World Food Day* is an international day observed every year around the world on 16th October.
- The *National Food Security Act, 2013*, passed with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security.
- It aims to ensure access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- It aims to provide meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth.
- Such women will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.
- Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional standards.

7. d

- Nearly 60 different parties throwing their hats in the election ring in Bihar.
- As per Election Symbols (Reservation & Allotment) (Amendment) Order, 2017, party symbols are either reserved or free.
- *A party/candidate has to provide a list of three symbols from the Election Commission's free symbols list at the time of filing nomination papers.*
- *Any choice other than from the Election Commission's list will be summarily rejected.*

- The Election Commission has a pool of around 200 'free' symbols that are allocated to thousands of non-recognized regional parties before the election.
- *Two or more recognised political parties can have the same symbol provided they are not contenders in the same State or Union Territory.*
- When a recognised political party splits, the Election Commission takes the decision on assigning the symbol.

8. d

- After a year in the Ice, the biggest-ever *Arctic Science Mission, MOSAiC* ends.
- MOSAiC stands for Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate.
- *It aims for studying the impact of climate change on the Antarctic and how it could affect the rest of the world.*
- The German research icebreaker *Polarstern* has sailed from Norway, drifting through the Arctic Ocean.
- A total of 600 people from 17 countries, send their aircrafts and icebreakers, participating in the arctic mission.

9. d

- Recently, Defence Minister lays foundation stone for *Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh*.
- It is to be located on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The 450m-long tunnel, which will bypass the existing road, will be D-shaped and comprise two lanes of 3.5m width each.
- It will reduce distance to the area bordering China by 10km.

10. c

- The NITI Aayog announces governing structure of *India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF)*.
- It was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

- *IEMF aims to engage Indian researchers, knowledge partners, think tanks and national and international government agencies and departments for modelling and long-term energy planning.*
- *It also aims to build the capacity of the Indian institutions.*
- Sustainable Growth Pillar is an important pillar of the India-US Strategic Energy Partnership.
- It provides a platform to examine important energy and environmental related issues.

15-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Artemis Accords*

- 1. It outlines the principles of future exploration of the Moon and beyond.**
- 2. India is a founding member in the space coalition under Artemis Accords.**

Which of 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 *Aquaponics*

- 1. It is a method of raising both fish and vegetables in one integrated ecosystem.**
- 2. It is a ecologically sustainable model, which is a soil-less growing of plants.**

Which of 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 *New Shephard rocket system*

1. It is a rocket system that has been designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the Karman line.
2. The Karman line is a region of the Solar System that exists beyond the orbit of Neptune.

Which of 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) The *World Energy Outlook* recently seen in news is released by?

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. The International Renewable Energy Agency
- c. The International Energy Agency
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *United Nations Human Rights Council*

1. All the members of the United Nations General Assembly are the members of the UN Human Rights Council.
2. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the 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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog*

1. It is a high powered permanent apex advisory body functions as an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.
2. It was constituted to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and to take steps for preserving and improving breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements

1. He bitterly opposed India's involvement in the World War-II.
2. Because of his differences with Nehru, he left Congress in 1948.
3. After Independence, Lohia founded an organisation called "Hind Kisan Panchayat" to help farmers with agricultural solutions.
4. He launched a new Socialist Party in 1955 and edited its journal "Mankind".

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Jagjivan Ram
- b. Nanaji Deshmukh
- c. Ram Manohar Lohia
- d. Jayaprakash Narayan

8) The Chief Minister of a state in India is *not* eligible to vote in the presidential election, if?

- a. He is yet to prove his majority on the floor of the lower house of the state legislature
- b. He himself as a candidate
- c. He is a member of the upper house of the state legislature



d. None of the above

9) Consider the following:

1. Orchid State of India
2. Land of the Rising Sun
3. The Paradise of the Botanists
4. Land of the Dawnlit Mountains

The taglines given above refers to which of the following Indian states?

- a. Assam
- b. Gujarat
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Arunachal Pradesh

10) Consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker of lok sabha submits his resignation to the president of India.
2. The speaker of the lok sabha derives its power and duties from the constitution only.
3. Speaker presides the joint sitting of the two houses of parliament if president summons such sitting to settle a deadlock between the two houses on a bill.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- Eight countries named in NASA's 'Artemis Accords' that aims to send humans back to Moon in 2024.
- It outlines the principles of future exploration of the Moon and beyond.

- It has emphasized the need for international partnerships in building up a sustainable presence on the Moon.
- The treaty paves the way for its founding members, Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, Britain and the United States, to participate in NASA's Artemis program.
- It also aims to return humans to Earth's nearest neighbour, Moon.
- India is not a founding member.

2. c

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mohali, develops technology for *Aquaponic* cultivation of plants.
- It is not only environment-friendly but also has high socio-economic benefits for the farming community.
- *Aquaponics* is a method of raising both fish and vegetables in one integrated ecosystem.
- It is a *ecologically sustainable model*, which is a *soil-less growing of plants*.
- The fish waste provides organic food for plants and plants naturally filter the water, which is used to replenish the fish tank.
- There is no requirement for the use of soil and fertilisers.

3. a

- Recently, *New Shephard rocket system* meant to take tourists to space successfully completed its seventh test launch.
- The system is built by the Blue Origin space company and will eventually allow space tourists to experience microgravity.
- It has been designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the *Karman line*.
- The *Karman line* is the boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space at an altitude of 100km above sea level.
- It is an internationally recognised boundary of space.

4. c

- The *World Energy Outlook*, is the *International Energy Agency's (IEA) flagship publication*.
- It provides a comprehensive view of how the global energy system could develop in the coming decades.
- The assessment of the effects of pandemic on the energy system shows expected falls in 2020 of 5% in global energy demand.
- Oil consumption is anticipated to decline by 8% in 2020 and coal use by 7%.
- Renewables, especially those in the power sector, are less affected than other fuels by the pandemic and its aftermath.

5. b

- Recently, China, Pakistan, Russia win seats on *U.N. Human Rights Council*.
- The *Council is made of 47 Member States*, which are elected by the majority of members of the UNGA through direct and secret ballot.
- The General Assembly takes into account the candidate States' contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard.
- It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.
- The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution.
- Members of the Council serve for a period of 3 years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving 2 consecutive terms.

6. c

- Encouraged by the response to Gaumaya Ganesha Campaign which encouraged usage of eco-friendly material in manufacture of idols for the Ganesha Festival, *Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) has started a nation-wide campaign to celebrate "Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan" this year on the occasion of Deepawali festival*.
- Through this campaign, the RKA is promoting extensive use of cow-dung/ Panchgavya products during this Diwali Festival.

Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog

- The Government of India has constituted the "*Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA)*" to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and to take steps for preserving and improving breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.
- It is a high powered permanent apex advisory body with mandate to help the Central Government to develop appropriate programmes for conservation, sustainable development and genetic upgradation of Indigenous breeds of cows.
- The Aayog will review existing laws, policies as well as suggest measures for optimum economic utilization of cow wealth for enhanced production and productivity, leading to higher farm income and better quality of life for the dairy farmers.
- It also aims at transmission and application of improved technology and management practices at the farmers' doorstep through coordination with dairy cooperatives, farmer producer companies and dairy industry as well as research institutions.
- It will function as an integral part of *Rashtriya Gokul Mission*.
- The Government of India has constituted the "*Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog*" to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and to take steps for preserving and improving breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.

7. c

- *Indian PM recently pays tributes to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia on his death anniversary.*

Ram Manohar Lohia

- He joined the Congress Socialist Party (CSP), the left wing of the Indian National Congress, when it was founded in 1934.
- Lohia worked as a member of the executive committee and also edited the weekly journal.
- His vehement protests against enrollment of Indians in the Royal Army during World War



II which landed him in jail in 1939 and again in 1940.

- During Gandhi's call of Quit India Movement, Lohia and his fellow CSP members, including Jayaprakash Narayan, put up resistance in stealth. For this, he was again jailed in 1944.
- Lohia studied at Berlin University in Germany. During this time, he organised the Association of European Indians that would raise voice against British oppression in India.
- He was jailed for writing an article 'Satyagraha Now' in Gandhi's newspaper Harijan.
- After Independence, Lohia founded an organisation called Hind Kisan Panchayat to help farmers with agricultural solutions.
- He had also protested against the Portuguese government's policy of restricted speech and movement of natives in Goa.
- Lohia made Hindi the official language of India after Independence. He had said, "The use of English is a hindrance to original thinking, progenitor of inferiority feelings and a gap between the educated and uneducated public. Come, let us unite to restore Hindi to its original glory."
- Lohia is also famous for his remark against the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- He wrote a pamphlet named '25000 rupees in a day' where he had said that the amount of money spent on the Prime Minister for a single day is much more than the poor country could afford.

8. c

The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of Electoral College consisting of:

1. The elected members of both the Houses of Parliament
 2. The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states
 3. The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry
- Thus, the nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the members (both elected and nominated) of

the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the election of the President.

- Where an assembly is dissolved, the members cease to be qualified to vote in presidential election, even if fresh elections to the dissolved assembly are not held before the presidential election.

9. d

- Arunachal Pradesh, whose name means Land of the Dawn-Lit Mountains in Sanskrit, is also known as the Orchid State of India or the Paradise of the Botanists.
- It is also known as "Land of the Rising Sun" due to its locality.
- Dong valley in Arunachal witnesses the first sunrise in India.

10. a

16-10-2020

1) Zoji La, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in?

- a. Zaskar Range
- b. Pir Panjal Range
- c. Karakoram Range
- d. Great Himalayan Range

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Solar Alliance (ISA)*

1. Its main objective is to collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.
2. India and Germany were re-elected as the President and Co- President of the ISA for a term of two years 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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to ISA CARES

1. It is an insurance initiative dedicated to healthcare sector in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) / Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of UN Member Countries.
2. It is an initiative of World Bank, funded by European Union and Asian Development Bank.

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

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

4) Angikaar is a campaign for Social behaviour change management launched by?

- a. Ministry of Rural Development
- b. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- c. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- d. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Thalassaemia Bal Sewa Yojna

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It aims to provide a one-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor.

Which of 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

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways has recently initiate the first blasting for Zozila Tunnel in J&K.
- The tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh (Ladakh plateau) on NH-1, and will bring about an all-round economic and socio-cultural integration of Jammu & Kashmir (Now UTs of J&K and Ladakh).
- It involves construction of a 14.15 Km long tunnel at an altitude of about 3000 m under Zoji La pass (presently motorable only for 6 months in a year) on NH-1 connecting Srinagar and Leh through Dras & Kargil.
- It is one of the most dangerous stretch in the world to drive a vehicle & this project is also geo-strategically sensitive.

Some of the important passes of India:

1. Photu La – Zaskar Range
2. Banihal – Pir Panjal Range
3. **Zoji La – Great Himalayan Range**
4. Khardung La – Ladakh Range

2. a

- The Third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held recently.
- It has been attended by 34 ISA Members ministers. 53 Member countries and 5 Signatory and Prospective Member countries participated to the Assembly.
- During the event, **India and France** were re-elected as the President and Co- President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at the virtual meeting of the Third Assembly held on 14 October.

3. d

ISA CARES

- In the wake of the global pandemic, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) responded by setting up ISA CARES.

- It is an initiative dedicated to deployment of solar energy in healthcare sector in LDC/SIDS ISA Member countries.
- It is an initiative aims to solarize one primary health sector in each district of the target Member countries.
- Australia has provided AUD 92,000 for the ISA CARES initiative in the Pacific to provide ongoing reliable solar energy for health centres in the Pacific, helping remote island communities reduce reliance on costly and uncertain diesel fuel imports.

4. c

Angikaar Campaign

- In line with Mahatma Gandhi's vision on clean, green, healthy and litter free India, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) launched angikaar, a campaign to mobilise PMAY (U) beneficiaries for social behavior change management.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA).
- Through this campaign, PMAY (U) mission aims to converge with schemes/ services of various urban missions and other Central Ministries.
- It will also create awareness through a series of Information Education Communication activities.

5. b

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has recently launched the second phase of "Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna" for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients.

Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna

- It was launched in 2017.
- This scheme is a **Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) program.**
- It aims to provide a one-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor.
- The CSR initiative was targeted to provide financial assistance to a total of 200 patients

by providing a package cost not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs per HSCT.

- The scheme has been extended to cover Aplastic Anaemia patients for a total of 200 such patients from this year.

17-10-2020

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

1. The Project envisions improving the overall monitoring and measurement activities in the Indian School Education System through interventions in all the States and UTs of India.
2. It would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
3. The project will be financially supported by the World Bank.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
2. It was founded in 1970 and is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

Which of 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) SCALE India App was launched recently by which of the following Ministries?

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

4) MACS 6478, often seen in the news recently, is?

- A new wheat variety with significantly high yield
- A new potentially habitable Earth sized Exoplanet
- A Supersonic missile system developed by Pakistan
- World's fastest super computer being deployed against the corona virus

5) Which of the following has been recently notified as National Authority for Ships Recycling?

- Minister of Shipping
- Directorate General of Shipping
- Central Pollution Control Board
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answers

1. c

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the implementation of the STARS project with a total project cost of Rs 5718 crore with the financial support of **World Bank** amounting to US \$ 500 million (approximately Rs. 3700 crore).

Project STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States)

- STARS project would be implemented as a new **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. (MOE)

- The union cabinet also approved the setting up and support to the National Assessment Centre, **PARAKH** as an independent and autonomous institution under Department of School Education and Literacy, MOE.
- The project covers 6 States namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.
- The identified States will be supported for various interventions for improving the quality of education.
- The Project envisions improving the overall monitoring and measurement activities in the Indian School Education System through interventions in selected states.
- The project shifts focus from the provision of inputs and maintaining of outputs to actual outcomes by linking the receipt and disbursement of funds to these outcomes.
- The STARS project also aims to focus on initiatives of PM e-Vidya, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission and National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

2. a

- On the occasion of **75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** on 16th October 2020, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination to mark the long-standing relation of India with FAO.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.
- It was founded in October 1945 and is headquartered in Rome, Italy.
- It maintains regional and field offices around the world, operating in over 130 countries.
- The journey of FAO in making the vulnerable classes and masses stronger, economically and nutritionally, has been unparalleled.

India and FAO

- India has had a historic association with FAO.
- Indian Civil Service Officer Dr. Binay Ranjan Sen was the Director General of FAO during 1956-1967.
- The World Food Programme, which has won the Nobel Peace Prize 2020, was established during his time.
- India's proposals for the International Year of Pulses in 2016 and the International Year of Millets 2023 have also been endorsed by FAO.

3. d

- *In an endeavour to provide a single platform to integrate quality assurance across all its services, the **Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC)** has recently announced the launch of Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees (SCALE) India android app.*

SCALE India App

- It is an initiative which aims to provide a one-stop solution for the skilling, learning, assessment and employment needs of the leather and leather products industry.
- The platform caters to the need of all the stakeholders of the skilling and employment ecosystem namely – candidate/trainee, employer, employee, assessor and trainer - all at one place.
- The services are accessible through the web and android application that virtually works on any smart handheld device, desktop/laptop, smartphones, tablets or phablets.
- Apart from providing end to end quality assurance across training, assessment, and certification services, the app will also help employers engage with other stakeholders seamlessly and provide a marketplace for human capital for the leather industry.

Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC)

- Operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), LSSC is committed to strengthen its digital capabilities on quality assurance across training delivery, monitoring, assessments, verification and linkages to ASEEM portal.
- It is a non-profit organisation dedicated to meet the demand for skilled workforce in the leather industry in India.

- LSSC was set up in 2012 as one of the key sector skill councils approved by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

4. a

- A new wheat variety called **MACS 6478**, developed by the Scientists of **Agharkar Research Institute (ARI)**, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has doubled the crop yield for farmers in Karanjkhop, a village in Maharashtra.
- The *chapati* from the flour of this wheat also scores high on quality.
- The newly developed common wheat or bread wheat, also called high yielding Aestivum, matures in 110 days and is resistant to most races of leaf and stem rust.

Fugaku

- Fugaku is the world's fastest supercomputer, being deployed in the fight against the coronavirus.
- **Japan's Fugaku** supercomputer claimed the top spot carrying out 2.8 times more calculations per second than an IBM machine in the US, called Summit.

5. b

- *Central Government has recently notified the **Directorate General of Shipping as National Authority for Recycling of Ships** under the section 3 of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019.*
- As an apex body, DG Shipping is authorized to administer, supervise and monitor all activities relating to Ship Recycling.
- DG Shipping will look after the sustainable development of the Ship Recycling industry, monitoring the compliance to environment-friendly norms and safety and health measures for the stakeholders working in the ship recycling industry.
- DG Shipping will be the final authority for the various approvals required by the Ship-Recycling yard owners and State Governments.
- Under Ship Recycling Act, 2019, India has acceded to Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling under International Maritime Organization (IMO).



- DG Shipping is a representative of India in IMO and all the conventions of IMO are being enforced by DG Shipping.
- National Authority of Ship Recycling will be set up in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The location of the office will benefit the Ship Recycling yard owners situated in Alang,
- Gujarat which is home of Asia's largest ship breaking and ship recycling industry in the world.

19-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements

1. 50% of India's population does not meet the Recommended Dietary Allowance for critical micronutrients.
2. Prevalence of Obesity among males has doubled in the decade: 2005-2015 in India.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC)

1. It is a ministerial-level committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. The IMFC meets twice a year in April and October to discuss matters of common concern affecting the global economy.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme (APFP)

1. Under the APFP, 1000 fellowships will be provided exclusively to ASEAN citizens.
2. The programme is being funded by the Government of India.

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

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

4) KAPILA Campaign was launched recently by the Ministry of Education to serve which of the following purposes?

- a. To encourage person with disabilities
- b. To develop Artificial Intelligence Literacy
- c. To develop Intellectual Property Awareness
- d. To develop Patriotism and brotherhood among students

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)

1. It is a quality system evolved by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2. India has been designated the 'Vice-Chair' of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Working Group for 2021 and 2022

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

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

Answers

1. c

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has recently presided over an inter-ministerial meet with FSSAI and senior officials of various ministries to build a 'Whole of Government' approach to achieve 'Vision 2050' of the eat Right India Movement.

Highlights

- The economic cost of food borne diseases in India is estimated to be a whopping \$15 billion.
- Wasting (21%), Underweighting (36%), Stunting (38%) are common among children.
- 50% of women and children suffering from anaemia.
- Prevalence of Obesity has doubled in the decade (2005-2015) from 9.3% to 18.6% among males and from 12.6% to 20.7% among females with a corresponding rise in deaths due to NCDs.
- 50% of India's 1.3 billion population does not meet the Recommended Dietary Allowance for critical micronutrients.

Eat Right India and Fit India Movement

- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare championed the move for an approach of 'Food Security to Nutrition Security'.
- 'Eat Right India' and 'Fit India' Movement will prove to be game changers in the health sector of the country.
- The results will be visible for all of us in the coming ten years.
- A systems-based approach can ensure food safety along with their secure availability, promoting a healthy diet along with taking care of the environment through sustainable practices.

2. c

- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has recently attended the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC).

International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC)

- It is a Ministerial-level committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The IMFC meets twice a year, once during the Fund-Bank Spring Meetings in April, and again during the Annual Meetings in October.
- The Committee discusses matters of common concern affecting the global economy and advises the IMF on the direction of its work.
- This year, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, both the Spring and the Annual meetings took place through video-conference.

3. c

- Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has recently addressed the students from various ASEAN nations at the virtual Welcome Meet for the 1st Batch of ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme.

ASEAN PhD Fellowship Programme (APFP)

- The programme was announced on 25th January 2018, the eve of India's Republic Day, by Honourable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi in the presence of leaders of all the ten ASEAN member states.
- Under the APFP, 1000 fellowships will be provided exclusively to ASEAN citizens.
- It is being funded by the Government of India.
- The APFP is also the largest capacity development programme undertaken by the Government of India for foreign beneficiaries.

4. c

- Union Education Ministry has virtually launched the 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign.
- It is released on the 89th birth anniversary of former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

KAPILA Campaign

- Under this campaign, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of application process for patenting their invention and they will be aware of their rights.



- During the event it has also been decided to celebrate the week of October 15th to 23rd as 'Intellectual Property Literacy Week'.
- The Institution Innovation Council (IIC 2.0) annual report was also presented on the occasion and the launch of IIC 3.0 was announced.

Institution Innovation Council (IIC 2.0)

- The Institution Innovation Council was established by the Ministry of Education in 2018.
- So far, IICs have been established in about 1700 higher educational institutions.
- IIC will be established in 5000 higher educational institutions under IIC 3.0.

5. c

- The OECD has acknowledged the contribution of the Indian GLP program and designated Dr. Ekta Kapoor, Scientist E, NGCMA, DST, as the Vice-Chair of the OECD Working Group on GLP for 2021 and 2022.
- With continued Government commitment and emphasis on further capacity building on GLP in the country, India is destined to be a global leader.

Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)

- It is a quality system evolved by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- It aims to ensure that safety data generated on various chemicals like industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals (Human and Veterinary), agrochemicals, cosmetic products, food/ feed additives, and medical devices, etc., can be relied upon by regulatory authorities.
- India has been designated the 'Vice-Chair' of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Working Group of the OECD, recognising the contribution of the Indian GLP programme.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, established the **National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority (NGCMA)** with the approval of the Union Cabinet on April 24, 2002.

- NGCMA is the National body which grants GLP certification to test facilities (TFs) conducting safety studies on new chemicals of the above-mentioned categories in accordance with OECD Principles of GLP and OECD Council norms.
- The non-hazardous nature of chemicals needs to be established through studies and data, which is examined by the regulators of the concerned countries to certify that the use of these chemicals does not pose any hazards to human health and the environment.

20-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Y20 Global Summit

1. The summit aimed at exchanging ideas and dialogues between nations to empower the youth across the world.
2. The host country for the Y20 Summit this year was Saudi Arabia.

Which of 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) Shahid Beheshti Port, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in?

- a. Caspian Sea
- b. Persian Gulf
- c. Gulf of Oman
- d. Mediterranean Sea

3) With respect to Chakmas and Hajongs, consider the following statements:

1. They are ethnic people who lived in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, most of which are located in Bangladesh.
2. Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists, while Hajongs are Hindus.

Which of 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 *Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)*

- 1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Culture.
- 2. It is an umbrella scheme consisting of a number of Schemes for providing financial assistance to cultural organizations.

Which of 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 is the main theme of 5th Ayurveda Day falls on 13th November 2020?

- a. Go back to past
- b. Ayurveda for Covid-19
- c. Ayurveda in Modern Era
- d. Ayurveda for Inner Peace

Answers

1. c

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri. Kiren Rijiju represented India in the Y20 Global Summit on October 15, 2020.

Y20 Global Summit

- The summit aimed at exchanging ideas and dialogues between nations to empower the youth across the world.

- The host country for the Y20 Summit this year was Saudi Arabia.

2. c

- The Ministry of Shipping has extended the current concessional rate of 40% discount for coastal movement of cargo and vessel related charges, for a period of further one year to clients for cargo being handled at Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Deendayal Port from/to Shahid Beheshti Port, Chabahar, Iran.
- The aim of the extension of discount period is to promote the trade through Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar, Iran. It would give a boost to coastal movement of cargo being handled at Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Deendayal Port from/to Shahid Beheshti Port.

Shahid Beheshti Port

- Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the **Gulf of Oman**.
- It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named **Shahid Kalantari** and **Shahid Beheshti**.

3. c

Chakmas and Hajongs

- They are ethnic people who lived in the **Chittagong Hill Tracts**, most of which are located in Bangladesh.
- **Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists, while Hajongs are Hindus.**
- They are found in northeast India, West Bengal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- The Chakmas and Hajongs living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts fled erstwhile East Pakistan in 1964-65, since they lost their land to the development of the Kaptai Dam on the Karnaphuli River.
- In addition, they also faced religious persecution as they were non-Muslims and did not speak Bengali.
- They eventually sought asylum in India. The Indian government set up relief camps in Arunachal Pradesh and a majority of them continue to live there even after five decades.
- The Chakmas and Hajongs living in India are Indian citizens. Some of them, mostly from

Mizoram, live in relief camps in southern Tripura due to tribal conflict with Mizos.

4. b

- The Ministry of Culture has recently issued guidelines for holding cultural events/activities in Virtual / Online mode under various scheme components of **Central Sector Scheme 'Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana' (KSVY)**.

Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)

- It is an umbrella scheme under the Ministry of Culture for the promotion of art and culture in the country.
- KSVY has the following sub-schemes through which financial assistance is provided to cultural organizations:
 1. Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture.
 2. Scheme of Financial Assistance for Creation of Cultural Infrastructure.
 3. Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Ministry of Culture (Performing Arts Bureau) implements many schemes under its Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY), where the grants are sanctioned/approved for holding programs/activities which involve large audience.

5. b

Ayurveda Day

- The potential role of Ayurveda in the management of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) will be the focus of this year's Ayurveda Day, which will be observed on November 13.
- The practice to observe the Ayurveda Day, which falls on Dhanwantri Jayanti, was started by the Union Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) in 2016.
- This year's special focus will be on the concerns related to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic and how Ayurveda can help build immunity.
- A webinar on the theme -- Ayurveda for Covid-19 pandemic -- will also be organised on the occasion.

21-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Chinese Pink Dolphins

1. It is a species of humpback dolphin inhabiting coastal waters of the eastern Indian and western Pacific Oceans.
2. Recent observations shows that these dolphins are making a comeback in the Rhine River estuary, one of the most heavily industrialized areas on Earth.

Which of 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 Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

1. He is in harmony with the British East India Company and introduces Zamindari system in his territory.
2. He minted coins in the names of Guru Nanak Dev and Guru Gobind Singh.

Which of 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 best describes the Devitrification Process?

- a. Transformation of glass into crystal
- b. Conversion of crystal into molten glass
- c. Extracting Sulphur from subterranean deposits
- d. Nitrogen reacts with Hydrogen to produce Ammonia

4) **SAMEER App**, sometimes seen in the news recently, has been developed by?

- Department of Fisheries
- Central Pollution Control Board
- Indian Meteorological Department
- Department of School Education and Literacy

5) Consider the following statements with respect to **SLINEX – 20**

- It is a bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy (IN) and Sri Lanka Navy (SLN).
- The eighth edition of SLINEX will be held off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

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

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

Answers

1. a

Chinese Pink Dolphins

- Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin is a species of humpback dolphin inhabiting coastal waters of the **eastern Indian and western Pacific Oceans**.
- This species is often referred to as the Chinese white/pink dolphin in China (including Macao), Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore as a common name.
- IUCN Status of the animal is **vulnerable**.
- According to recent observations Chinese pink dolphins are making a comeback in the **Pearl River estuary**, one of the most heavily industrialized areas on Earth.
- Pink dolphins have seen a decline in their numbers in the past 15 years by 70-80 per cent.

Pearl River

- The Pearl River estuary includes Hong Kong, Macau as well as the mainland Chinese cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Dongguan.
- The estuary is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.

Rhine River

- Rhine** is one of the major European rivers, which has its sources in **Switzerland** and flows in a mostly northerly direction through **Germany and the Netherlands**, emptying into the **North Sea**.

2. b

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has recently paid tributes to the brave Baba Banda Singh Bahadur on his 350th Jayanti.

Banda Singh Bahadur (1670-1716)

- He was born in a Minhas Rajput family.
- He became a Sikh warrior known for his struggle against the Mughal Empire in the early eighteenth century after meeting with Sri Guru Gobind Singh.
- Famous for the sack of the Mughal provincial capital, Sirhind, he is revered as one of the most hallowed martyrs of the Khalsa.
- His confrontation with the Mughal administration in Northern India, though brief, was strong enough to shake its foundations.
- One of the most revolutionary acts of Banda Bahadur, after establishing his authority in Punjab, was the **abolition of the zamindari system**, and granting proprietary rights to the actual tillers of the land.
- He minted coins in the names of Guru Nanak Dev and Guru Gobind Singh and issued orders under his seal.
- The name of Mukhlisgarh was changed to Lohgarh (Fort of Steel), and it became the capital of the first Sikh state.
- Banda Singh Bahadur abolished the zamindari system in Punjab.

3. a

- A team of researchers led by **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize recipient** in Physical



Sciences (2020) category Prof. Rajesh Ganapathy from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research has observed glass made of colloidal particles and monitored their dynamics over several days.

Devitrification

- Glass is a non-crystalline, often transparent amorphous solid which is mostly formed by rapid cooling of its molten form.
- However, under certain conditions, during its formation, molten glass may rebel and transform to a crystal - the more stable state, an avoidable process called **devitrification**.
- However, the process of devitrification remains poorly understood as this process can be extremely slow, and this makes it difficult to study it.
- Scientists have now **visualized devitrification in an experiment**, thus taking a step closer to understanding it.
- This could help avoid devitrification in processes of pharma industries – a sector in which dodging this is of paramount importance.
- This is because an amorphous drug dissolves faster than after devitrification, and ensuring that it remains amorphous is therefore essential during storage.
- The experiment can also help in vitrification of liquid nuclear waste as a solid in a glass matrix to safely dispose it deep underground and prevent hazardous materials from leaking into the environment.

4. b

- Union minister of environment, forest, and climate change Prakash Javadekar has recently appealed every citizens to download the CPCB's SAMEER App.

SAMEER App

- It was developed by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** and released in 2016.
- The App will gives complete information about the polluted areas in various cities across the country.

- It identifies areas having heavy pollution with a red mark.

5. a

- *The Eighth Edition of annual Indian Navy (IN) – Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 is scheduled off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October 2020.*
- The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Visakhapatnam in September 2019.

SLINEX - 20

- SLINEX-20 aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- SLINEX series of exercise exemplifies the deep engagement between India and Sri Lanka which has strengthened mutual cooperation in the maritime domain.
- Interaction between the SLN and IN has also grown significantly in recent years, in consonance with India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and Indian PM's vision of 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR)'.
- Synergy developed during SLINEX exercises resulted in seamless coordination of joint SLN – IN efforts in September 2020 to render assistance to MT New Diamond, a Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC), which had caught fire off the East Coast of Sri Lanka.
- The exercise is being conducted in a **non-contact 'at-sea-only' format** in the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic.

22-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Asafoetida (Heeng)

1. Cold desert areas of Indian Himalayan region are suitable for cultivation of asafoetida.
2. India was recently declared self-sufficient in Asafoetida production by the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO).



Which of 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) India's first ever multi-modal logistic park will be developed in which of the following states?

- a. Goa
- b. Bihar
- c. Assam
- d. West Bengal

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ayushman Sahakar*

- 1. It is a scheme to assist cooperatives in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.
- 2. The scheme provides interest subvention of 1% to women majority cooperatives.
- 3. It was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) *Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) System* is associated with which of the following?

- a. SOx Reduction
- b. NOx Reduction
- c. Fly Ash Removal
- d. Zero Liquid Discharge System

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Malabar Exercise*

- 1. It is a series of naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral Indo-Japan maritime exercise.
- 2. Every year, the exercise will be conducted off the Malabar coast, Arabian Sea.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (IHBT), makes history by **introducing asafoetida (Heeng) cultivation** in Indian Himalayan region.
- The first seedling of asafoetida was planted by Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, CSIR-IHBT on 15th October, 2020 at farmer's field in village Kwaring of Lahaul valley to mark initiation of cultivation of asafoetida in India.

Asafoetida

- It is one of the top condiments and is a high value spice crop in India.
- India **imports about 1200 tonnes of raw asafoetida** annually from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan and **spends approximately 100 million USD** per year.
- Lack of planting material of *Ferula assafoetida* plants in India was a major bottleneck in cultivation of this crop.
- The **plant prefers cold and dry conditions** for its growth and takes approximately five years for the production of oleo-gum resin in its roots, therefore **cold desert areas of Indian Himalayan region are suitable for cultivation of asafoetida**.

- Raw asafoetida is extracted from the fleshy roots of *Ferula assa-foetida* as an oleo-gum resin.
- Although, there are about 130 species of *Ferula* found in the world, but only *Ferula assa-foetida* is the economically important species used for the production of asafoetida.
- In India, we do not have *Ferula assa-foetida*, but other species *Ferula jaeschkeana* is reported from the western Himalaya (Chamba, HP), and *Ferula narthex* from Kashmir and Ladakh, which are not the species that yield asafoetida.

2. c

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has virtually laid the foundation stone for the first-ever multi-modal logistic park in **Assam** recently.
- The park will provide direct connectivity to air, road, rail and waterways to the people.
- It will be developed under the ambitious **Bharatmala Pariyojana** of the Government of India.

3. d

- **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has recently launched **Ayushman Sahakar**, a scheme to assist cooperatives in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.

Ayushman Sahakar

- It is formulated by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- Under the initiatives NCDC would extend term loans to prospective cooperatives to the tune of Rs.10,000 crore in the coming years.
- Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund.
- The scheme covers establishment, modernization, expansion, repairs, renovation of hospital and healthcare and education infrastructure.
- NCDC assistance will flow either through the State Governments/ UT Administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives.

- The scheme also provides working capital and margin money to meet operational requirements.
- Further, the **scheme provides interest subvention of 1% to women majority cooperatives.**

4. a

- *NTPC Dadri is striving to become the cleanest coal fired plant in the country and is complying with all the CPCB guidelines on emissions.*
- NTPC Ltd is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under Ministry of Power.

Highlights of the plant

- The **Flue gas emissions and Particulate matter** are well within the CPCB norms with high efficiency **ESP (Electrostatic Precipitators)** in service in all the 210 MW & 490 MW units.
- **For SO_x reduction, Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) system** has been installed.
- **SOFA (Separated Over fire Air) system** has been installed for NO_x emission.
- It has also pioneered **co-firing of Biomass pellets along with coal** in the boilers.
- The pellets are made of husk or agro-residue which would have been burnt otherwise in the fields increasing the pollution in NCR region.
- More than 8000 Tons of pellets have been fired in the boilers of NTPC Dadri, which is equivalent to almost 4000 acres of farm fire avoided.
- NTPC Dadri has set new benchmarks in Water consumption, going beyond compliances, by implementing **Zero liquid discharge system**, and **Rain water harvesting system.**

5. d

Malabar Exercise

- The Malabar series of Naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral **Indian Navy-US Navy exercise.**
- Japan joined the Naval exercise in 2015.



- This annual exercise has been conducted **off the coast of Guam** in the Philippine Sea in **2018, off the coast the Japan in 2019** and is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.
- As India Seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia, Malabar 2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy.
- This year, the exercise has been planned on a 'non-contact - at sea' format.
- The exercise will strengthen the coordination between the Navies of the participating countries.
- The participants of Exercise Malabar 2020 are engaging to enhance safety and security in the maritime domain.
- They collectively support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules based international order.

23-10-2020

1) Recently, Ministry of Shipping has e-launched the development of Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS) in New Delhi. VTMS is mandatory under which of the following Conventions?

- SOLAS Convention
- MARPOL Convention
- Convention on Standards of Training, Certification for Seafarers
- Convention on the International Regulations for Prevention of Collision at Sea

2) Consider the following statements with respect to India International Science Festival (IISF)

1. It is an annual event held every year at New Delhi, India.
2. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will spearhead the 6th edition of IISF with support from all other Science & Technology related ministries and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).

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

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

3) Ministry of Science & Technology has recently inaugurated the Aditi Urja Sanch unit. Consider the following statements regarding the unit:

1. It is a Dimethyl Ether (DME) fired stove which can burn 100% DME as fuel.
2. It is suitable for DME, DME -LPG blended mixtures and also for LPG combustion.
3. It is fully designed and fabricated by CSIR - National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL).

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

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

4) Operation Gulmarg in Indian History refers to which of the following?

- Annexation of Junagadh, 1948
- Pakistan's incursion of Kashmir, 1947
- Nationalisation of Indian Banks, 1969
- India's intervention in Maldives, 1988

5) Recently, a two member Committee, comprising Harish Kumar and Umesh Sinha, was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- To bring out revival plans for Telecom Sector
- To revamp insurance sector in the time of COVID-19

c. To review the feasibility of Uniform Civil Code in India

d. To examine the issues concerning election expenditure limit for a candidate

Answers

1. a

- Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) Shri. Mansukh Mandaviya has recently e-launched the development of Indigenous Software solution for Vessel traffic services (VTS) and Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS) in New Delhi.
- VTS and VTMS software will pave the way for '**Make for the world**' vessel traffic management systems.
- VTS and VTMS is a software which determines vessel positions, position of other traffic or meteorological hazard warnings and extensive management of traffic within a port or waterway.
- Ministry of Shipping has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10 Crore to IIT, Chennai for development of indigenous VTS software.

Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)

- It contribute to safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment, adjacent shore areas, work sites and offshore installations from possible adverse effects of maritime traffic.

Vessels Traffic Management Systems (VTMS)

- They are installed in some of the busiest waters in the world, and are making valuable contribution to safer navigation, more efficient traffic flow, and protection of the environment.
- Traffic flow in busy approach routes, access channels, and harbours can be coordinated safely, in the best interest of port and its users.
- **VTMS is mandatory under IMO Convention SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea).**

Background

- Presently, India has approximately 15 VTS systems operational along the Indian Coast

and there is no uniformity of VTS software as each system has its own VTS software.

- With the indigenous software development in progress the recent positive cooperation with office of Director General of Light and Lighthouses (DGLL) on joint development of the indigenous VTMS software development as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative will strengthen the cooperation in this area.

Accordingly, indigenous development of VTS software will benefit in:

1. Saving of foreign exchange for various VTSs in India.
2. VTS Software can be provided to Indian trade friendly nations viz. Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Bangladesh and Gulf countries.
3. Will also minimize the cost for future upgradations of software.
4. Shall be easier to interconnect with MIS/ERP softwares of ports.
5. Availability of Indian VTS software shall make Indian companies to be competitive commercially in global bids.
6. Implementation of National Maritime Domain Awareness programme of Indian Navy and NCVTS by DGLL – a real time, interactive aids to navigation system for coastal shipping shall become feasible with Indian VTS software at low cost.

2. d

- The 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020 will be held from 22nd to 25th December, 2020.
- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** will spearhead the IISF 2020 with support of all other concerned ministries this year.

India International Science Festival (IISF)

- IISF is an **annual event** organized jointly by science & technology-related Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).
- It was launched in 2015.
- It is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological

advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.

- The aim is to engage the public with science and celebrate the joy of science and show the ways how science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) provide us with the solutions to improve our lives.
- The first and second IISF were held in New Delhi, the third in Chennai, the fourth in Lucknow, and the fifth IISF was held in Kolkata.

3. c

- Union Minister for Science & Technology has recently inaugurated the **Di-Methyl Ether (DME) fired 'Aditi Urja Sanch'** unit along with the DME-LPG blended fuel cylinders and handed them over for common public and CSIR-NCL (National Chemical Laboratory) canteen use on a trial basis at CSIR-NCL premises.
- CSIR-NCL has also developed nation's first kind of DME pilot plant with 20-24Kg/day capacity.

Aditi Urja Sanch

- It is a Dimethyl ether (DME) fired stove.
- DME is an ultra-clean fuel.
- The conventional LPG burner is not suitable for DME combustion as **DME density is different than LPG**.
- To address this issue, CSIR- NCL's Aditi Urja Sanch has come up with a helpful, innovative setup.
- The new Burner is **fully designed and fabricated by CSIR-NCL for DME, DME - LPG blended mixtures and LPG combustion**.
- Trial runs have demonstrated an improvement by 10-15%, compared to conventional burners using LPG alone.
- A clean cooking fuel combination of DME-LPG also safeguards the well-being of women and children.
- The newly designed stove can burn with up to **30 % DME blended with LPG or 100% DME as fuel**.

- The launch of this burner will also provide a significant boost to the 'Make in India' campaign as all the manufacturers of cylinders, gas stoves, regulators, and gas hose are domestic.

4. b

- A National Symposium & Exhibition on "Memories of 22 October 1947" is being organized by the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation & Museology(NMI), at SKICC, Srinagar, Kashmir.
- On 22 October, 1947, Pakistan invaded Kashmir.
- The invasion, '**Operation Gulmarg**' was result of months of planning and involvement of the topmost leaders of Pakistan including Pakistan's then Prime Minister, Chief Minister of the North West Frontier, Members of Muslim League and Pakistan Army.
- The Tribal Militia invasion of Kashmir backed by Pakistan army on 22 Oct 1947 unleashed a brutal series of plunder, rape, arson, looting and killing.
- The invasion marks the beginning of First Indo-Pak war and set in motion a chain of events that are still affecting the country.
- On 26 Oct 1947 the State of Jammu and Kashmir formally acceded to India and on 27 Oct 1947 Indian troops were airlifted to Kashmir.
- From 22 Oct 1947 onwards till the intervention of the Indian Defense Forces all days in Kashmir were blackened with the horrifying stories of mass plunder and vandalism where many lives were lost to the insatiable ambition of the invading Tribal Militia.
- During this need of hour many willing individuals rose up to the occasion and faced adversity with commendable will and bravery.
- The two-day National Symposium on 22 & 23 Oct 2020 and the Exhibition commencing on 22 Oct 2020 is an attempt to deliberate upon the records and history of this deceitful attack and subsequent victory of India.

5. d

- Election Commission has recently constituted a committee headed by Sh. **Harish Kumar**, Ex. IRS and DG (Investigation) comprising Sh. Umesh Sinha, Secretary General and DG (Expenditure) to examine the **issues concerning expenditure limit for a candidate** in view of increase in number of electors and rise in Cost Inflation Index and other factors.

Background

- Considering the factor of COVID-19, the Ministry of Law & Justice on 19.10.2020 has notified an amendment in Rule 90 of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 enhancing the existing expenditure limit by 10%.
- This increase of 10% will be applicable with immediate effect in ongoing elections.
- Expenditure limit for a candidate was last revised in 2014, while in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana it was revised in 2018.
- In last 6 years the limit was not increased despite increase in electorate from 834 million to 910 million in 2019 to 921 million now.
- Further, Cost Inflation Index during this period has increased from 220 to 280 in 2019 to 301 now.

The committee will have following terms of reference:-

1. To assess the change in number of electors across the States/Union Territories and its bearing on expenditure.
 2. To assess the change in Cost Inflation Index and its bearing on the pattern of expenditure incurred by the candidates in recent elections.
 3. To seek views/inputs of the political parties and other stakeholders.
 4. To examine other factors which may have bearings on expenditure.
 5. To examine any other related issue.
- The Committee will submit its report within 120 days of its constitution.

27-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Azad Hind Government**

1. It was founded on 21st October, 1943 by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
2. This Provisional government of Free India had its own currency, court, civil code and national anthem.

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

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

2) With respect to **Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)**, consider the following statements:

1. It was compiled and released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), a unit works under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. The base year for CPI-IW was revised recently from 2001 to 2016.

Which of 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 **INS Kavaratti**

1. It is an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette built under Project 28 (Kamorta Class).
2. The ship has high indigenous content with the state of the art equipment & systems to fight in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.

Which of 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 Life in Miniature Project

1. It is a collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture and Google Arts & Culture.
2. Under the project, miniature paintings of National Museum, New Delhi will be auctioned and utilized for the welfare of poor artists.

Which of 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) Y. S. Malik Committee, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with?

- a. Women in combat roles
- b. Ship Breaking & Recycling
- c. Representation of Minorities in legislative bodies
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. b

- Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (IC), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel attended Commemoration of 77th Year of Formation of Azad Hind Government recently at Red Fort, Delhi.

Azad Hind Government

- On October 21, 1943, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose announced the formation of the Provisional Government of Free India (PGFI), *Arzi Hakumat-e-Azad Hind*, or, in short, Azad Hind Government, an Indian government-in-exile.

- Bose was convinced that it was armed struggle that would help the countrymen to achieve independence.
- The leadership of Bose pulled Indians, who united with thousands of soldiers, along with former-prisoners and other expatriates who were living in Malayasia and Burma.
- Under the provisional Government, Bose was the Head of State, Prime Minister and Minister of War.
- Captain Lakshmi headed the women's organisation while SA Ayer headed the publicity wing in the newly-formed government.
- Revolutionary leader Ras Behari Bose was designated as the supreme adviser by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The government was supported by the Axis powers of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic, and their allies.
- It **started functioning from Singapore** with 11 ministers and eight representatives from the INA.
- The PGFI was a culmination of the political movement originating in the early 1940's outside India with the purpose to liberate her from the British rule.
- The government of Azad Hind soon had its own currency, court, civil code and national anthem 'Subh Sukh Chain'.
- The INA had its motto, '*Ittehad, Itmad aur Qurbani*' (unity, faith and sacrifice) and its national greeting 'Jai Hind'.
- Its existence gave greater legitimacy to the independence struggle.
- Immediately after the formation of the government-in-exile, Azad Hind declared war against the Britishers and allied forces on the Indo-Burma Front.

2. b

- The Labour and Employment Ministry has recently revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) **from 2001 to 2016**.
- It aims to reflect the changing consumption pattern, giving more weightage to spending on



health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenses, while **reducing the weight of food and beverages**.

CPI-IW

- It is the single most important price statistics, which has financial implications.
- Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been compiling and releasing CPI-IW numbers since its inception in 1946.
- Earlier to this revision, the series were also revised from the year 1944 to 1949; 1949 to 1960; 1960 to 1982 and 1982 to 2001 since inception of Labour Bureau.
- It is primarily used to regulate the dearness allowance of government employees and the workers in the industrial sectors.
- It is also used in fixation and revision of minimum wages in scheduled employments besides measuring the inflation in retail prices.

3. c

- INS *Kavaratti* (P31), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette built under Project 28 (Kamorta Class) was recently commissioned into the Indian Navy by General Manoj Mukund Naravane, Chief of the Army Staff at a ceremony held at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
- It has been named after the capital of the Lakshadweep group of islands.
- The ship is propelled by four Diesel engines.
- The ship has enhanced stealth features resulting in reduced Radar Cross Section (RCS) achieved by X form of superstructure along with optimally sloped surfaces.
- The ship's advanced stealth features make her less susceptible to detection by the enemy.
- The unique feature of this ship is the **high level of indigenisation** incorporated in the production, accentuating our National Objective of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The ship has high indigenous content with the state of the art equipment & systems to fight in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.

- Also, the weapons and sensors suite onboard is pre-dominantly indigenous and showcases the Nation's evolving capability in this niche area.
- Some of the major equipment/systems developed indigenously include Combat Management System, Torpedo Tube Launchers and Infra-Red Signature Suppression System etc.
- The ship is the reincarnation of the erstwhile Arnala Class missile corvette of the same name (INS Kavaratti – P 80).

4. a

- *Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel virtually launched "Life in Miniature" project recently.*
- It is a collaboration between the **National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture**, and **Google Arts & Culture**.
- Under the project, several hundred miniature paintings from the National Museum, New Delhi **can be viewed online on Google Arts & Culture** by people around the world.
- The project uses technologies like machine learning, augmented reality and digitization with high-definition robotic cameras, to showcase these special works of art in a magical new way.

5. d

- *5th General Council meeting of Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) was held recently.*
- The council deliberated the recommendations of the Y. S. Malik Committee to enhance the scope of the IAHE and decided to take further necessary action to transform IAHE into a world-class premier institute in highway sector.

Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)

- It was created in 1983 to provide training at entry level/refresher courses/ training on specialised areas of highway, bridge & tunnel engineering/ orientation programmes/management development programmes/strategic training programmes etc. to highway engineers and professionals

working in Central Government, State Governments, PSUs, Local Bodies, Contractors, Consultants etc.

- The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways constituted a committee under the chairmanship Shri Y. S. Malik, former Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) to give recommendations to transform IAHE into a world-class premier institute in highway sector.

28-10-2020

1) Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme is related to which of the following?

- It offers to settle pending direct tax related disputes
- It provides affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors
- It provides rural people with the right to document their residential properties
- It offers liquidation of past disputes of Central Excise, Service Tax and 26 other indirect tax enactments

2) With respect to Indus Suture Zone (ISZ), consider the following statements:

- It is located in the Ladakh region where Indian and Asian Plates collides each other.
- Recent observations in the area highlights that it is a locked zone, as against the current understanding that it is a tectonically active zone.

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

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

3) Parotid, Submandibular and Sublingual glands are part of which of the following?

- Pineal gland
- Salivary gland
- Pituitary gland
- Lacrimal gland

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

- It is basically a communication agreement between the United States of America and India.
- India and the US have already signed General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) and the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).
- It gives access, to both countries, to designated military facilities on either side for the purpose of refuelling and replenishment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

5) Consider the following pairs

- Kabartal Wetland – Bihar
- Asan Conservation Reserve – Uttarakhand

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

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

Answers

- a

- In order to provide further relief to the taxpayers desirous of settling disputes under Vivad se Vishwas Scheme, the Government has recently further extended the date for making payment without additional amount from 31st December 2020 to 31st March 2021.
- The last date for making declaration under the Scheme has also been notified as 31st December 2020.

Vivad se Vishwas scheme

- It is a direct tax scheme announced in Budget 2020, for settling tax disputes between individuals and the income tax department.
 - The Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020 was enacted on 17th March, 2020 with the objective:
 1. To reduce pending income tax litigation
 2. To generate timely revenue for the Government
 3. To benefit taxpayers by providing them peace of mind, certainty and savings on account of time and resources that would otherwise be spent on the long-drawn and vexatious litigation process.
 - Earlier, the scheme offered complete waiver on interest and penalty to the taxpayers with a full and final settlement of the dispute if the scheme was availed by March 31, 2020.
 - An individual opting for settlement after March 31, 2020 was required to pay additional 10 per cent penalty on the disputed tax amount.
 - It was later extended to 30th June, 2020. Later again, this date was extended further to 31st December, 2020.
2. a
- A group of Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, have found through observations and detailed mapping of geological features that the suture zone of Himalaya that was conventionally thought to be locked is tectonically active.

Indus Suture Zone (ISZ)

- The suture zone of the Himalayas or the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) is located in the Ladakh region where Indian and Asian Plates are joined.
 - It has been found to be tectonically active, as against current understanding that it is a locked zone.
 - This could have major implications in terms of earthquake study, prediction, understanding the seismic structure of the mountain chains well as its evolution.
 - Himalaya were known to be made up of north dipping thrusts like the Main Central Thrust (MCT), the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT), and the Main Frontal Thrust (MFT).
 - As per the established models, all of these thrusts except MFT are locked, and overall deformation in Himalaya is being accommodated only along with the MFT.
 - The new findings, which suggest a more remote fault at the suture zone being neo-tectonically active, could call for a serious relook into the existing evolutionary models using new techniques and a larger geological database.
3. b
- Researchers from the Netherlands Cancer Institute have recently discovered two “unexpected” areas in the back of the nasopharynx.
 - When researchers were studying scans from about 100 people, they found a bilateral structure at the back of the nasopharynx and these glands had similar characteristics of salivary glands.

Salivary Gland Systems

- These are part of exocrine gland systems of Human Body.
- The salivary gland system in the human body has **three paired major glands** and over 1,000 minor glands that are spread throughout the mucosa.
- The three major salivary glands are called **parotid, submandibular and sublingual**.

- These glands produce saliva necessary for swallowing, digestion, tasting, mastication and dental hygiene.
- Researchers have proposed the name “tubarial glands” for their discovery.
- The proposed name is based on their anatomical location.
- Even so, it is not clear yet if these glands will be classified as a conglomerate of minor glands, as a major gland, a separate organ or a new part of an organ system.
- The researchers believe that these glands would qualify as the fourth pair of major salivary glands.
- The researchers believed that the new location of salivary glands will be a good news for patients with head and neck tumours as radiation oncologists will be able to bypass this area to avoid any complications during treatment.

4. a

- *The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation or BECA, long in the making, has finally been signed by India and the US recently.*

Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

- It is the last of the pacts that America signs with close partners.
- It is essentially a communication agreement proposed between the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency of the US Department of Defence and the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India.
- It will allow India and the US to share military information including advanced satellite and topographic data such as maps, nautical and aeronautical charts and geodetic, geophysical, geomagnetic and gravity data.
- Most of the information shared will be unclassified.
- However, the pact includes a provision of sharing classified information with safeguards to prevent it from being shared with any third party.

- Supplemented by highly accurate US satellites, this geospatial information can help in navigation and, more importantly, in targeting military assets.
- India and the US have already signed three key foundational agreements — General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002, the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018.
- LEMOA gives access, to both countries, to designated military facilities on either side for the purpose of refuelling and replenishment.

5. c

- *Recently, Kabartal Wetland (Bihar) and Asan Conservation Reserve (Uttarakhand) have been designated as Ramsar sites.*
- Earlier in 2020, India designated 10 more wetlands as a Ramsar site, taking the total number from 27 to 37.
- **With 2 more inclusions, the total number of Ramsar sites in India is 39, the highest in South Asia.**

Kabartal Wetland

- It is known as Kanwar Jheel, it covers 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains in the Begusarai district of Bihar.
- It acts as a vital flood buffer for the region besides providing livelihood opportunities to local communities.
- It is also a valuable site for fish biodiversity with over 50 species documented.
- It is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway, with 58 migratory waterbirds using it to rest and refuel.
- Five critically endangered species inhabit the site, including three vultures – the red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) – and two waterbirds, the sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and Baer’s pochard (*Aythya baeri*).

Asan Conservation Reserve

- ACR is a 444-hectare stretch of the Asan River running down to its confluence with the



Yamuna River in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand.

- It is Uttarakhand's first Ramsar Site.
- The damming of the River by the Asan Barrage in 1967 resulted in siltation above the dam wall, which helped to create some of the Site's bird-friendly habitats.
- These habitats support 330 species of birds including the critically endangered red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*).
- Other non-avian species present include 49 fish species, one of these being the endangered Putitora mahseer (*Tor putitora*).

d. 1, 2 and 3

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme

1. It is an alliance of all snow leopard range countries to save snow leopard and its mountain ecosystems.
2. India is party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013.

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

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

29-10-2020

1) Global Action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation (GREEN) is an initiative of?

- a. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- b. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c. Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC)
- d. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

2) Consider the following statements with respect to the International Labour Organization (ILO)

1. It was founded as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended the First World War.
2. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.
3. The Governing Body is the executive council of the ILO and meets three times a year in Geneva.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) Kisan Suryodaya Yojana was launched by which of the following states?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Rajasthan
- c. West Bengal
- d. Andhra Pradesh

5) Electricity Access & Utility Benchmarking Report was released recently by?

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Ministry of Power
- c. Rockefeller Foundation
- d. All of the above

Answers

1. c

- NTPC Limited has recently entered a 3,582-crore rupees foreign currency loan agreement with the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC).

- This is under JBIC's GREEN or Global Action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation initiative.
- The loan proceeds will be utilised by NTPC for funding its capital expenditure for flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD) and renewable energy projects.
- The facility is extended under JBIC's outreach for projects that ensure conservation of the global environment.
- FGD is expected to substantially reduce sulphur emissions in the flue gases of thermal power plants and is a critical step towards environmental sustainability.

2. d

- *After 35 years, India assumes the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of International Labour Organization.*
- Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary (Labour and Employment) has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for the period October 2020- June 2021.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- It is the United Nations agency for the world of work.
- It sets international labour standards, promotes rights at work and encourages decent employment opportunities, the enhancement of social protection and the strengthening of dialogue on work-related issues.
- The ILO has a unique structure, bringing together governments, employers' and workers' representatives.
- The ILO has 187 member States and is one of the oldest UN agencies.
- The ILO's Secretariat has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and a global network of technical experts and field offices in more than 40 countries.
- The International Labour Conference (ILC) meets once a year to adopt new international labour standards and to approve the ILO's work plan and budget.

- The Governing Body is the executive council of the ILO and meets three times a year in Geneva.

Background

- The ILO is founded as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended the First World War, 1919, to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace cannot be achieved without social justice.
- The ILO becomes the first specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946.
- The Organization is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.

3. c

- *October 23, 2020 was celebrated every year as International Snow Leopard Day.*
- Government of India has been conserving snow leopard and its habitat through the **Project Snow Leopard (PSL)**. The PSL was launched in 2009.
- Government is also committed to landscape restoration for snow leopard habitat conservation, and implementing participatory landscape-based management plans involving local stakeholders.
- India is also party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013.

Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)

- It is an unprecedented alliance of **all snow leopard range countries**, non-governmental organizations, multi-lateral institutions, scientists and local communities, united by one goal: saving the snow leopard and its mountain ecosystems.
- It seeks to address high-mountain development issues using the conservation of the charismatic and endangered snow leopard as a flagship.
- India is party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013.

4. a

Kisan Suryodaya Yojana

- Kisan Suryodaya is scheme of Gujarat state government.
- It is aimed at providing day-time electricity to farmers in Gujarat for irrigation and farming purposes.
- Under the scheme Rs. 3,500 crore will be spent over the next three years for providing solar power to farmers for irrigation during daytime (5 AM to 9 PM).
- 10 districts including Dahod, Gir-Somnath and Tapi have been selected under the Scheme for 2020-21.
- The remaining districts will be covered in a phase-wise manner by 2022-23.
- About 3,500 circuit kilometers (CKM) of new transmission lines will be laid for this project.
- The scheme would help in the expansion of micro irrigation in the state.
- Micro irrigation is defined as the frequent application of small quantities of water directly above and below the soil surface; usually as discrete drops, continuous drops or tiny streams through emitters placed along a water delivery line.

5. d

- *NITI Aayog, Ministry of Power, Rockefeller Foundation and Smart Power India have recently launched the 'Electricity Access in India and Benchmarking Distribution Utilities' report.*
- The report is based on a primary survey conducted across ten states, representing about 65 per cent of the total rural population of India and with a sample size of more than 25 thousand, including households, commercial enterprises and institutions.
- According to the report, 92 per cent of customers reported the overall availability of electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises.
- 87 per cent of the surveyed customers have access to grid-based electricity. The remaining 13 per cent either use non-grid sources or do not use any electricity at all.

- The hours of supply have improved significantly across the customer categories to nearly 17 hours per day.
- The report underlines some best practices adopted by the better-performing electricity distribution utilities in India and provides key recommendations to enhance sustainable electricity access.
- The data from the survey provides evidence that the infrastructure of providing electricity across sectors has improved over time.
- It also shows that reforms undertaken by the Government have been appreciated by the stakeholders.

30-10-2020

1) Operation Meri Saheli, often seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- Indian Navy
- Indian Railways
- Central Pollution Control Board
- National Disaster Response Force

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Jute Cultivation

- The cultivation of jute in India is mainly confined to the eastern region of the country.**
- It requires humid climate with temperature fluctuating between 24 degree Celsius and 38 degree Celsius.**
- New grey alluvial soil of good depth receiving silt from annual floods is most suitable for jute growth.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Coastal Shipping Bill, 2020*

1. It is proposed to do away with the requirement of trading licence for foreign flag vessels for coastal trade.
2. The Bill seeks to reduce transportation costs, while encouraging foreign flag vessels to increase their share in coastal shipping.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *SERB-POWER Scheme*

1. The Scheme aims to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions.
2. The scheme was instituted by the Science and Engineering Research Board under the Department of Science & Technology (DST).

Which of 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) *Secure Application for Internet (SAI)*, often seen in the news recently, is a messaging application software launched by?

- a. Google
- b. Facebook
- c. Microsoft
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. b

- Indian Railways has recently launched “Meri Saheli” initiative for focused action on **security of women** across all zones with an objective to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.
- An initiative of RPF, the Strategy of the entails interaction with lady passengers especially those travelling alone by a team of young lady RPF personnel at the originating station.
- These lady passengers are briefed about all precautions to be taken during the journey and told to dial 182 in case they face or see any problem in the coach.
- The RPF team collects only the seat numbers of the ladies and conveys them to stoppages en-route.
- The platform duty RPF personnel at the stopping stations en-route keep unobtrusive watch over the concerned coaches and berths and if need arises, interact with the lady passengers.
- RPF/RPSF escort onboard also covers all the coaches/identified berths during its duty period.
- RPF teams at the destination collect the feedback from the identified lady passengers.
- The feedback is then analysed and corrective action, if any, is taken.
- If some distress call comes from a train covered under “Meri Saheli” initiative, the disposal of the call is monitored at the level of senior officers.
- The “Meri Saheli” initiative was started as a pilot project in South Eastern Railway in September 2020 and after getting encouraging response from lady passengers, it was extended to all zones and KRCL w.e.f. 17.10.2020.

2. d

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has recently approved that 100% of the

food grains and 20% of the sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.

- The decision to pack sugar in diversified jute bags will give an impetus to the diversification of the jute industry.
- Further, the decision also mandates that initially 10% of the indents of jute bags for packing food grains would be placed through reverse auction on the GeM portal.
- This will gradually usher in a regime of price discovery.
- The Government has expanded the scope of mandatory packaging norms under the Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987.

Jute

- It is soft, flexible and hard-wearing bast fibre.
- Jute fibres are long, lustrous, resilient and softer to touch.
- It has a natural colour in light tan to brown range and its fibre can be bleached and can be dyed well.

Distribution of Jute Cultivation

- The cultivation of jute in India is mainly confined to the eastern region of the country.
- The jute crop is grown in nearly 83 districts of seven states - West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya.
- West Bengal alone accounts for over 50 percent raw jute production.
- The leading world's jute producing countries are India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand.
- India is the world's largest producer of raw jute and jute goods, contributing to over 50 percent and 40 percent respectively of global production.

Requirements

- Jute crop requires humid climate with temperature fluctuating between 24 degree Celsius and 38 degree Celsius.
- Minimum rainfall required for jute cultivation is 1000 mm.
- New grey alluvial soil of good depth receiving silt from annual floods is most suitable for jute growth.

- However, jute is grown widely in sandy looms and clay loams.

Jute Cultivation

- Jute is generally sown during March to May depending on the nature of land and atmospheric condition.
- About 90 to 100 days after sowing and jute plants attain desired length from 8 to 12 feet high, are cut with stickles close to the ground.
- The stems are then made into bundles and left on field for 3 to 4 days.
- These bundles are then steeped in water for retting for, about 3 weeks.
- During this period, fibres get loose from the stem of the plant and are separated manually. These fibres are washed thoroughly in clean water, dried under sun and made into bundles.

3. d

- *The Ministry of Shipping has drafted a Coastal Shipping Bill, 2020 in lieu of part XIV of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.*

Some of the highlights of the Bill are as under:

- The definition of coastal shipping and coastal waters has been expanded.
- It is proposed to **do away with the requirement of trading licence for Indian flag vessels for coastal trade.**
- The Bill seeks to create a competitive environment and reduce transportation costs, while **encouraging Indian vessels to increase their share in coastal shipping.**
- The Bill also proposes integration of coastal maritime transport with inland waterways.
- There is a provision for a National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan.

4. c

- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has been contemplating to institute a scheme to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research in various S&T

programs in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories.

- *Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare has recently launched a Scheme titled "SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)".*
- The scheme was designed exclusively for women scientists.

SERB – POWER Scheme will have two components namely

1. SERB-POWER Fellowship
2. SERB- POWER Research Grants.

The salient features of each of these are as follows:

Salient features of the **SERB-POWER Fellowship**:-

1. Target: Women researchers in 35-55 years of age. Up-to 25 Fellowships per year and not more than 75 at any point in time.
2. Components of support: Fellowship of Rs. 15,000/- per month in addition to regular income; Research grant of Rs. 10 lakh per annum; and Overhead of Rs. 90,000/- per annum.
3. Duration: Three years, without the possibility of extension. Once in a career.

Salient features of the **SERB – POWER Research Grants**:

1. POWER Grants will empower women researchers by funding them under following two categories:
 1. Level I (Applicants from IITs, IISERs, IISc, NITs, Central Universities, and National Labs of Central Government Institutions): The scale of funding is up to 60 lakhs for three years.
 2. Level II (Applicants from State Universities / Colleges and Private Academic Institutions): The scale of funding is up to 30 lakhs for three years.
1. POWER Grant will be regulated through terms of reference conforming to SERB-CRG (Science and Engineering Research Board-Core Research Grant) guidelines.
- While a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted for the purpose will help in identifying the POWER Fellowship, the

existing Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) mechanism will be used to select the POWER Research Grants.

- It is proposed to institute 25 POWER Fellowships annually.
- A total of 50 Power Grants each will be sanctioned in Level I & Level II per annum.

5. d

- In the quest for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', **Indian Army** has developed a simple and secure **messaging application** named the "Secure Application for Internet (SAI)".
- The application supports end to end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platform over internet.
- The model is similar to commercially available messaging applications like Whatsapp, Telegram, SAMVAD and GIMS and utilises end to end encryption messaging protocol.
- The application has been vetted by CERT-in empaneled auditor and Army Cyber Group.
- The process for filing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), hosting the infrastructure on NIC and working on iOS platform is currently in progress.
- SAI will be utilised pan Army to facilitate secure messaging within the service.

31-10-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Jammu & Kashmir

1. Any Indian citizen can buy land in Jammu and Kashmir without being a domicile.
2. An Army officer not below the rank of Corps Commander can declare an area as Strategic Area within a local area.

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

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

2) Aegean Sea is an arm of Mediterranean Sea, located between _____ on the west and _____ on the east?

- Italic peninsula & Anatolia
- Greek peninsula & Asia Minor
- Asia Major & Schengen peninsula
- Greek Peninsula & Gibraltar Island

3) With respect to Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, consider the following statements

- It is a permanent body chaired by a retired Supreme Court Judge or a retired Chief Justice of High Court.
- The Commission will supersede all existing bodies such as the CPCB, and even the state governments of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements

- Anginda peak is the highest peak in this National Park.
- The indigenous tribal groups including Mudugas and Kattunaikkars lived within the park boundaries.
- A perennial river named Kunthipuzha is passing through the western side of the park, from north to south direction finally merging in to Bharathapuzha.

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

- Periyar National Park
- Palamau National Park
- Silent Valley National Park

d. Gulf of Mannar National Park

5) Public Affairs Index-2020 was recently released by?

- NITI Aayog
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- None of the above

Answers

1. c

- Recently Union government has notified 'Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020.
- It states that any Indian citizen can now buy land in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) without being a domicile.
- The introduction of the UT of J&K Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020 has resulted in the repeal of at least 11 land laws in J&K, including the J&K Big Landed Estates Abolition Act that had resulted in famous 'Land to tiller' rights.

The features of the latest order are as follows

- No domicile or permanent resident certificate is required to purchase non-agricultural land in the UT.
- People as well as investors outside J&K can now purchase land in the UT, ending the exclusive rights of locals over the land granted under Article 370 (now abrogated).
- The Centre also notified the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, which paves the way for the acquisition of land in J&K by all Indian citizens.
- The amendment has Abolished the Big Land Estate Abolition Act, 1950 – this provided for redistribution of land which paved the way for rural prosperity and ended landlordism in J&K.
- Empowers the Centre to declare any area in J&K as 'strategic' and intended for the direct



operational and training requirement of the armed forces.

6. However, this can be only done by an army officer of or above the rank of a corps commander.
7. Spouses of a J&K domicile shall also be deemed as a domicile, earlier, spouses of domiciles were not considered domiciles.
8. Children of central government officials posted for over ten years in J&K will also continue to be considered domiciles.

2. b

- *A strong earthquake struck in the Aegean Sea between the Turkish coast and the Greek island of Samos, killing at least 14 people and injuring hundreds amid collapsed buildings and flooding.*

Aegean Sea

- **Aegean Sea** is an arm of the **Mediterranean Sea**, located between the **Greek peninsula on the west and Asia Minor on the east**.
- Asia Minor also called as Anatolia, the peninsula of land that today constitutes the Asian portion of Turkey.
- The Aegean is connected through the straits of the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, and the Bosphorus to the Black Sea, while the island of Crete can be taken as marking its boundary on the south.

3. b

- *The President of India has recently signed **The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020**.*
- The Ordinance seeks **to create an overarching body to consolidate all monitoring bodies**, and to bring them on one platform so air quality management can be carried out in a more comprehensive, efficient, and time-bound manner.
- The Centre also seeks to relieve the Supreme Court from having to constantly monitor pollution levels through various pollution-related cases.

Composition

- The Commission, which will be a permanent body, will have over 20 members, and will be chaired by a retired official of the level of Secretary to the Government of India or Chief Secretary of a state.
- It will include a representative of the Secretary of the MoEF, five Secretary level officers who will be ex officio members, and two joint secretary level officers who will be full-time members.
- The Commission will also have representation from the CPCB, ISRO, air pollution experts, and three representatives of non-government organisations (NGOs).
- As associate members, the Commission will have representatives from various other Ministries including the Ministries of Agriculture, Petroleum, Power, Road Transport and Highways, Housing and Urban Affairs, and Commerce and Industry.

Powers of the Commission

- In matters of air pollution and air quality management, the Commission will supersede all existing bodies such as the CPCB, and even the state governments of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- It will have the powers to issue directions to the states.
- The Central Pollution Control Board and its State branches have the powers to implement provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act for air, water and land pollution.
- In case of dispute or a clash of jurisdictions, the commission's writ will prevail specific to matters concerning air pollution.
- The Commission will also coordinate efforts of state governments to curb air pollution, and will lay down the parameters of air quality for the region.
- It will have powers to restrict the setting up of industries in vulnerable areas, and will be able to conduct site inspections of industrial units.
- If its directions are contravened, through say, the setting up of an industrial unit in a restricted area, the Commission will have the

power to impose a fine of up to Rs 1 crore and imprisonment of up to 5 years.

4. c

- *The Centre has recently notified 9.8 km around the boundaries of the Silent Valley National Park as an eco-sensitive zone.*
- *A notification issued recently says that 148 sq km area will be eco-sensitive and several new restrictions on human activities will be imposed in the area.*

Silent Valley National Park

- It is one of the most popular biodiversity-rich forests in the country.
- A large part of Silent Valley still remains untouched by human beings.
- It has a large variety of flora and fauna.
- As many as 17 species of its flora had been red-listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The main basin of the perennial river Kunthipuzha, which runs from north to south and empties its waters into the Bharathapuzha, is covered by these forests.
- Anginda Peak (2,383 m) is the highest peak in the Silent Valley National Park.
- The indigenous tribal groups that live within park boundaries include Irulas, Kurumbas, Mudugas and Kattunaikkars, the ethnic heritage of these communities is well protected.

5. d

- *Kerala was adjudged the best governed State in the large States category, while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the Public Affairs Index-2020 released by the Public Affairs Centre recently.*
- Public Affairs Centre is a New Delhi based not-for-profit organization.
- It was headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K. Kasturirangan.

Highlights

- According to the PAC, the governance performance is analysed in the context of

sustainable development defined by the three pillars of equity, growth and sustainability.

- Four southern States — Kerala (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468) stood in the first four ranks in the large State category in terms of governance.
- Uttar Pradesh (-1.461), Odisha (-1.201) and Bihar (-1.158) were at the bottom of the ranking.
- In the small State category, Goa ranked first with 1.745 points, followed by Meghalaya (0.797) and Himachal Pradesh (0.725).
- The worst performers in the index with negative points were Manipur (-0.363), Delhi (-0.289) and Uttarakhand (-0.277).
- Chandigarh emerged at the top in the category of Union Territories with 1.05 PAI points, followed by Puducherry (0.52) and Lakshadweep (0.003).
- Dadar and Nagar Haveli (-0.69), Andaman, Jammu and Kashmir (-0.50) and Nicobar (-0.30) were the worst performers.