



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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## MONTHLY PRESTORMING

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**Shankar IAS Academy™**

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**01-08-2020**

1) A report, *The Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential*, was released recently by?

- WHO
- UNICEF
- UNESCO
- None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *AIM-iCREST Initiative*

- It was launched by the NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Under the initiative, the AIM's incubators are set to be upscaled and provided requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy.

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 *Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)*

- It is the premier central police force of the Union of India for Internal Security.
- The Agency is governed by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Act 1949.

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 pairs

### **Borders – Guarding Forces**

- Indo-Myanmar – Border Security Force
- Indo-Nepal – Indo-Tibetan Border Police
- Indo-Bangladesh – Sashastra Seema Bal

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

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

5) *Baba Kalyani committee* is associated with which of the following?

- Special Economic Zone Policy
- Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises Policy
- Loss making Public Sector Undertakings
- National Education policy Review

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*

- It is a multilateral treaty adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution.
- Certain rights enshrined in ICCPR are specifically enumerated in the Constitution of India.
- India has signed the treaty but not yet ratified it.

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

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

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



1. It includes wild animals that are believed to be harmful to crops, farm animals or which carry disease.
2. States can send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of 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 *Smog Towers*

1. It absorbs the polluted air, purifies the air through its multiple layers and re-circulated it into the atmosphere.
2. It can only filter out PM 10 and not PM<sub>5</sub>.

Which of 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

1. Natural gas
2. Steel
3. Cement

Which of the given above is/are not a Core Industry?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Fiscal Deficit*

1. It is the total debt accumulated over years of deficit spending.
2. It is universally regarded as a negative event and always bad for the economy.

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

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

### Answers

1. b

- Lead poisoning is affecting children on a massive and previously unknown scale, according to a new report launched by **UNICEF and Pure Earth**.
- The report, the first of its kind, says that around 1 in 3 children – up to 800 million globally – have blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL), the level at which requires action.
- Nearly half of these children live in South Asia.
- The report, ***The Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential***, is an analysis of childhood lead exposure undertaken by the Institute of Health Metrics Evaluation (IHME) and verified with a study approved for publication in *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

2. c

- **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** has recently launched AIM-iCREST.

### AIM-iCREST

- It is an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focused on creating high performing Startups. (iCREST)
- Under the initiative, the AIM's incubators are set to be up-scaled and provided requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy.



- This is a first of its kind initiative for advancing innovation at scale in India to encourage and enable holistic progress in the incubator ecosystem across the country,
- AIM has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation for the program.

3. c

- *The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) came into existence as Crown Representative's Police on 27th July 1939.*
- *It became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the CRPF Act on 28th December 1949.*
- *It has completed 82 years of glorious history recently.*

#### Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- It is the premier central police force of the Union of India for **Internal Security**.
- Originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939, it is one of the oldest Central para military forces (now termed as Central Armed Police Force).
- CRPF was raised as a sequel to the political unrest and the agitations in the then princely States of India following the Madras Resolution of the All-India Congress Committee in 1936 and the ever-growing desire of the Crown Representative to help the vast majority of the native States to preserve law and order as a part of the imperial policy
- After Independence, the force was renamed as Central Reserve Police Force by an Act of Parliament on December 28, 1949.
- The CRPF is governed by the CRPF Act 1949 which constituted CRPF as an armed force of the Union.
- The objective of this Act is to provide for the constitution and regulation of an Armed Central Reserve Police Force.
- This Act deals with important aspects of the Force like constitution, duties, control & administration, offences & punishments, and other miscellaneous subject.

4. d

- After Kargil war, a high level committee was constituted by the Govt. of India who emphasized that multiplicity of forces on the same border has also led to lack of accountability on the parts of the forces.
- To enforce the accountability, the principle of 'One Border One Force' may be adopted while considering deployment of Forces at the border.
- Accordingly, the **Indo-Pakistan border and Indo-Bangladesh border given to BSF; the Indo-Myanmar border given to Assam Rifles; the Indo-Nepal border is given to SSB; and the Indo-Chinese border given to ITBP.**
- Each of these forces has also been designated as the lead intelligence agency for that particular border for sharing with the other paramilitary forces and the Army which may be in the hinterland and being able to co-ordinate all the operations.
- As a part of this exercise, it has also been decided that **CRPF** will be the major Force which would be dealing with **counter insurgency or internal security operations all over the country.**

5. a

- The **Baba Kalyani** led committee was constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry **to study the existing SEZ policy of India** and had submitted its recommendations in November 2018.
- The objectives of the committee were to evaluate the SEZ policy and make it WTO compatible, suggest measures for maximizing utilization of vacant land in SEZs, suggest changes in the SEZ policy based on international experience and merge the SEZ policy with other Government schemes like coastal economic zones, Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor, national industrial manufacturing zones and food and textile parks.

6. a

- The UN Human Rights Committee, monitors implementation of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*.

- They have issued a comprehensive legal guidance, also known as 'general comment', on article 21 of ICCPR about fundamental right of peaceful assembly.
- *ICCPR is a multilateral treaty adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution.*
- *There are certain rights enshrined in ICCPR which are specifically enumerated in the Constitution of India, like Right to life and personal liberty, Right to equality, Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion etc.*
- India has not only signed the treaty but also ratified it.

7. c

- Recently, the Supreme Court accentuated the urgent need to find an alternative to killing marauding wild animals as *Vermin* even while protecting crops from them.
- These are wild animals that are believed to be harmful to crops, farm animals or which carry disease.
- As per Section 62 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, States can send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin for selective slaughter.
- The Central Government may by notification, declare any wild animal other than those specified in Schedule I and part 11 of Schedule H of the law to be vermin for any area for a given period of time.
- As long as the notification is in force, such wild animal shall be included in Schedule V of WPA, 1972.

8. a

- Recently, Supreme Court warns IIT Bombay of contempt proceedings over withdrawal from 'Smog Tower Project'.
- These are giant device *absorbs the polluted air, purifies the air through its multiple layers and re-circulated into the atmosphere.*
- With the filters made of carbon nanofibres as a major component is able to clean up to 99.99% Particulate Matter (PM) present in the air.

- China has the world's largest smog tower and has *reduced PM 2.5 by 19%* in an area of around 6 sq km in the tower's vicinity.

9. d

- *The eight core industries' output contracted 23.4 per cent in May.*
- *The eight Core Industries* are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.

10. d

- The Centre's *Fiscal Deficit* has already reached 83.2% of the Budget Estimate (BE) in the first quarter of 2020-21.
- A fiscal deficit is a shortfall in a government's income compared with its spending.
- It is the difference between the total income of the government (total taxes and non-debt capital receipts) and its total expenditure.
- *A Fiscal Deficit is different from Fiscal Debt.*
- *The Fiscal Debt is the total debt accumulated over years of deficit spending.*
- *A fiscal deficit is not universally regarded as a negative event.*
- *A high fiscal deficit can also be good for the economy* if the money spent goes into the creation of productive assets like highways, that boost economic growth and result in job creation.
- Deficit spending and the debts incurred to sustain that spending can help countries climb out of economic recession.

**03-08-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission**

- 1. The scheme aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers while increasing domestic Agarbatti production substantially.**
- 2. The scheme is designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**





on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

Which of 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 *Bharat Airfiber Services*

1. It provides high speed broadband connectivity to subscribers of remote areas by bridging the gap of last mile connectivity through radio waves.
2. It has been introduced by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited as part of digital India initiated 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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Smart India Hackathon 2020*

1. It is a nationwide initiative that is being conducted every year since 2017.
2. The initiative to inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem-solving among students.

Which of 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) *Agatti Island*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following?

- a. West Bengal
- b. Lakshadweep
- c. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- d. None of the above

5) With respect to *Geo-Heritage Monument*, consider the following statements

1. It refers to the geological features which are inherently or culturally significant offering insight to earth's evolution or history to earth science.
2. Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the parent body which is making efforts towards identification and protection of geo-heritage sites.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Aarhus Convention*

1. It is an environmental agreement which links environmental rights and human rights.
2. It establishes a number of rights of the public, individuals and their associations with regard to the environment.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Contempt Of Courts Act, 1971*



1. A person shall be guilty of contempt of court for publishing any fair comment on the merits of any case which has been heard and finally decided.
2. High Court can take action for contempt of subordinate court.

Which of 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 *Crew Dragon spacecraft*

1. It is the first private spacecraft to launch human into space.
2. It is a part of the Dragon 2, a class of reusable spacecraft.

Which of 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 *Galapagos Islands*

1. It is a group of Island in the Pacific Ocean which is administratively a province of the United States.
2. The actively volcanic islands were designated 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

10) Which one of the following is *not* a salient feature of Indian constitution?

- a. Absolute Parliament sovereignty
- b. Federal system with unitary bias
- c. Guaranteeing social equality
- d. The power of the parliament to supplement the Constitutional provisions by legislation

## Answers

1. c

- Union Minister for MSME has recently approved a unique employment generation program proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to make India Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti production.
- The program named as “**Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission**” aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country while increasing domestic Agarbatti production substantially.

## About the Scheme

- The scheme designed by KVIC on PPP mode is unique in the sense that in a very less investment, it will create sustainable employment and help private Agarbatti manufacturers to scale up Agarbatti production without any capital investment by them.
- Under the scheme, **KVIC will provide Automatic Agarbatti making machines and powder mixing machines to the artisans** through the successful private Agarbatti manufacturers who will sign the agreement as business partners.
- KVIC has decided to procure only locally made machines by Indian manufacturers which also aims at encouraging local production.
- KVIC will provide 25% subsidy on the cost of the machines and will recover the remaining 75% of the cost from the artisans in easy installments every month.
- The business partner will provide the raw material to the artisans for making Agarbatti and will pay them wages on job work basis.





- Cost of artisans' training will be shared between KVIC and the private business partner wherein KVIC will bear 75% of the cost while 25% will be paid by the business partner.

2. c

- Union Minister of State for HRD, Electronics, Communication, and IT has recently inaugurated the **"Bharat Air Fibre Services"** at Akola in Maharashtra.
- With inauguration of Bharat Air Fibre services, residents of Akola & Washim district will get Wireless Internet Connections on demand.

### **Bharat Air Fibre services**

- The Bharat Air Fibre services are introduced by BSNL as part of digital India initiatives by the Government of India.
- It provides high speed broadband to subscribers of remote areas by bridging the gap of last mile connectivity through radio waves.
- A vast network of Optical Fibre has been laid by BSNL up to nearest Telephone Exchange or Mobile Tower and from there the connectivity is provided to subscribers over wireless.
- It provides Wireless Connectivity in the range of 20 KMs from the BSNL Locations.

3. c

### **Smart India Hackathon 2020**

- SIH is a nationwide initiative that is being conducted every year since 2017, to provide students a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in our daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving.
- There are two formats for the Hackathon - SIH Software and SIH Hardware Editions.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SIH Software Edition is being conducted in fully ONLINE mode.
- Student participants, coordinators and industry evaluators are coming together on a digital platform designed to facilitate the implementation of the event which is being managed centrally by MHRD's Innovation Cell & All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

4. b

- Recently, the southern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has granted an interim stay on felling of coconut trees on Agatti Island in Lakshadweep.
- The tree-felling is also violating the Union Territory's (UT) Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP).
- IIMP was formulated on the basis of a report submitted by the Supreme Court-appointed Expert Committee, headed by Justice R.V. Raveendran.
- It includes holistic island development plans prepared by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) for implementation by coastal States/ UTs.

### **Agatti Island**

- It is located in the Union territory of Lakshadweep.
- It is at a distance of 459 km (248 nautical miles) from Kochi and is located to the west of Kavaratti Island.
- The lagoon area of this island is habitat of coral growth and multicolored coral fishes in the lagoons.
- Fishing is the most important industry which is perhaps the only island besides Minicoy getting surplus fish.
- Next to fishing, coir (coconut fibre) and copra (dried meat or kernel of the coconut) are the main industries.

5. d

### **Geo-Heritage Monument**

- Geo-heritage refers to the geological features which are inherently or culturally significant offering insight to earth's evolution or history to earth science or that can be utilized for education.
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the parent body which is making efforts towards identification and protection of geo-heritage sites.

6. c

- The Aarhus Convention was in news with regarding to Draft EIA notification.

- The *Aarhus Convention*, 1998, which stipulates that environmental rights and human rights are linked.
- It states that the present generation owes an obligation to future generations.
- It establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement of all stakeholders.
- It links government accountability and environmental protection.
- It focuses on interactions between the public and public authorities in a democratic context.
- It establishes a number of rights of the public, individuals and their associations with regard to the environment.

7. b

- Recently, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court against *Contempt of Court Act*.
- Article 129 of the Constitution conferred on the Supreme Court the power to punish contempt of itself.
- Article 215 conferred a corresponding power on the High Courts.
- The *Contempt of Courts Act, 1971*, gives statutory backing to the idea.
- The law codifying contempt classifies it as civil and criminal.
- *A person shall not be guilty of contempt of court* for publishing any fair comment on the merits of any case which has been heard and finally decided.
- *High Court can take action for contempt of subordinate court.*

8. c

- Recently, NASA astronauts in SpaceX Capsule make first water landing since 1975.
- The *Crew Dragon Spacecraft* splashes down in the Gulf of Mexico from International Space Station.
- It is the *first private spacecraft to launch human into space* by SpaceX.
- It is a *part of the Dragon 2, a class of reusable spacecraft.*

- This was the first launch and landing of American astronauts from American soil after nine years.

9. b

- Recently, a Chinese fishing vessels called, a floating city was sighted near the *Galapagos archipelago*.
- So, Ecuador has officially expressed its discomfort to China over the fishing vessels.
- *Galapagos Islands*, island group of the eastern *Pacific Ocean*, administratively a province of Ecuador.
- The *actively volcanic islands* were designated *UNESCO World Heritage site*.



10. a

- Indian constitution is a synthesis of British parliament sovereignty and American Judicial supremacy.
- ***Absolute parliament sovereignty is not adopted in Indian constitution.***
- The SC can declare the parliamentary laws as unconstitutional through its power of judicial review.
- Constitution has guaranteed social equality by abolishing untouchability in any form and lays down that no citizen may be deprived of access to any public place, of the enjoyment of any public amenity or privilege, only on the



grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

- Indian constitution is more flexible than rigid. Its flexibility is evident in the power given by the Constitution itself to the Parliament to supplement the provisions of the Constitution by legislation.
- Though the makers of the Constitution aimed at exhaustiveness, they realized that it was not possible to anticipate all exigencies and to lay down detailed provisions in the Constitution to meet all situations and for all times.

**04-08-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)***

1. It is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.
2. It is being implemented under National Health Mission (NHM) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

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

**2) Which one of the following is *not* an objective of the draft *Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020* which was released recently?**

- a. To achieve complete self-reliance in defence manufacturing by 2040
- b. To promote export of defence products and become part of the global defence value chains
- c. To create an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation, creates Indian IP ownership and promotes a robust and self-reliant defence industry
- d. None of the above

**3) Which of the following had recently become the *first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy*?**

- a. Iran
- b. U.A.E
- c. Kuwait
- d. Saudi Arabia

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to the *State of Gujarat***

1. Lothal, Dholavira and GolaDhoro are some of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation Sites located in Gujarat.
2. The walled city of Ahmedabad which was founded by Sultan Ahmad Shah in 1411 AD on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati River is one of the UNESCO World heritage site located in Gujarat.

**Which of 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 *Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)***

1. It is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.
2. It is headquartered in Beijing, China.
3. Membership in AIIB shall be open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development 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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Groundnut production in India*

1. India is the second largest producer of groundnuts in the world.
2. It is one of the main Rabi crop.
3. It is an important protein crops grown mostly under rain-fed conditions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM)*

1. The scheme is for funding high risk, high reward science research aims at supporting proposals that are conceptually new.
2. It is an initiative of Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar and National Council of Educational Research and Training.

Which of 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 *Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods Act, 1992*

1. According to this act, no person shall advertise, promote, supply or distribute infant milk substitutes, creating a belief in any manner that it is equivalent to or better than mother's milk.

2. The act prohibits depicting images of a mother or a baby on labels of baby food containers.

Which of 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) *Turkey and Greece* recently seen in news are?

- a. Members of NATO
- b. Members of European Union
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve*

1. It falls under the biogeographic region of the Malabar rain forest.
2. The cloud forest ecology, known as sholas, grows along the folds and valleys of these mountains.

Which of 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

**Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)**

- It is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.



- This is being implemented under **National Health Mission (NHM)** by **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- eVIN combines state-of-the-art technology, a strong IT infrastructure and trained human resource to enable real time monitoring of stock and storage temperature of the vaccines kept in multiple locations across the country.
- This robust system has been used with the requisite customization during the COVID pandemic for ensuring continuation of the essential immunization services and protecting our children and pregnant mothers against vaccine preventable diseases.
- eVIN has reached 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) and will soon be rolled-out in the remaining States and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Ladakh and Sikkim.
- The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network has helped create a big data architecture that generates actionable analytics encouraging data-driven decision-making and consumption based planning that helps in maintaining optimum stocks of vaccines leading to cost savings.
- Vaccine availability at all times has increased to 99% in most health centers.
- This strong platform has the potential to be leveraged for any new vaccine including COVID-19 vaccine, as and when available.
- To support the Government of India's efforts to combat COVID-19, eVIN India is helping the State/UT governments monitor the supply chain of COVID response material.

2. a

- In order to **provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing**, multiple announcements were made under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package'.
- In implementing such framework and to position India amongst the leading countries of the world in defence and aerospace sectors, **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has formulated a draft **Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020)** recently.

### **Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020) Draft**

- It is envisaged as overarching guiding document of MoD to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.

The policy has laid out following **goals and objectives**:

1. **To achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 Crores** including export of Rs 35,000 Crore in Aerospace and Defence goods and services **by 2025**.
  2. To develop a dynamic, robust and competitive Defence industry, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of Armed forces with quality products.
  3. To reduce dependence on imports and take forward "Make in India" initiatives through domestic design and development.
  4. To **promote export of defence products** and become part of the global defence value chains.
  5. To create an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation, creates Indian IP ownership and promotes a robust and self-reliant defence industry.
3. b
- *The Barakah Nuclear Plant's 1st Unit got operational (achieved its criticality) recently.*
  - *Through this, UAE became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy.*

### **Barakah Nuclear Power Plant**

- Barakah is the Arab world's first nuclear reactor started by UAE.
- Barakah, means "blessing" in Arabic, it was built by a consortium led by the Korea Electric Power Corporation.

### **Criticality of a nuclear power plant**

- A nuclear reactor is said to be critical when the nuclear fuel inside a reactor sustains a fission chain reaction.
- Each fission reaction releases a sufficient number of neutrons to sustain a series of reactions.

- Heat is produced in the event, which is used to generate steam that spins a turbine to create electricity.

4. c

- *Ministry of Tourism's DekhoApna Desh Webinar Series titled, "Heritage tourism in Gujarat" was presented recently.*
- The state encompasses some sites of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation, such as **Lothal, Dholavira and GolaDhoro**.
- Lothal is believed to be one of the world's first seaports.
- Gujarat's coastal cities, chiefly Bharuch and Khambhat, served as ports and trading centres in the Maurya and Gupta empires, and during the succession of royal Saka dynasties from the Western Satraps era.
- In the 1600s, the Dutch, French, English and Portuguese all established bases along the western coast of the region.
- Portugal was the first European power to arrive in Gujarat, and after the Battle of Diu, acquired several enclaves along the Gujarati coast, including Daman and Diu as well as Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- These enclaves were administered by Portuguese India under a single union territory for over 450 years, only to be later incorporated into the Republic of India on 19 December 1961 by military conquest.
- The webinar gave a virtual view of different aspects of Gujarat starting with the architectural trail in North Gujarat bordering the state of Rajasthan, showcasing the beautiful stepwells, lakes, Harvesting structure, Rani ki vav, Pathan, Kumbhariya Jain temple etc.
- Raniki Vav is an 11th century stepwell and has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.
- With regards to architecture, Gujarat entered a golden phase with the Solanki dynasty during the 11th & 12th century.
- The rulers of this dynasty had commissioned imposing forts and palaces at Jhinjwada and Dadbhoi, having exquisite carved gateways.

- Also, here are located few of the best Hindu temples of the country like Rudramalaya at Sidhapur, Sun Temple at Modhera, Jain Temples at Palitana, Taranga, Girnar, Mt. Abu and Kumbhhariyaji.
- The walled city of Ahmedabad was founded by Sultan Ahmad Shah in 1411 AD on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati River is now UNESCO World heritage site.

5. d

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.
- Headquartered in Beijing, China.
- It began operations in January 2016 and have now grown to 103 approved members worldwide.
- By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond, we will better connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.
- AIIB is an open and inclusive multilateral financial institution. Our doors are always open to countries and regions dedicated to promoting economic and social development in Asia.
- Membership in AIIB shall be open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.

6. b

- The *Groundnut* sowing in this season has hit all-time high levels.
- Gujarat covers 20.4 lakh hectares as farmers shift from cotton, soyabean.
- *India is the second largest producer of groundnuts* in the world.
- It is one of the main *kharif* crop.
- It is an *important protein crops* grown mostly under *rain-fed* conditions.
- Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya



Pradesh, Orissa, and Uttar Pradesh are the major Groundnut growing states in India.

7. b

- Recently, the Health and Family Welfare Minister launched *Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan, 2020-21*.
- This initiative is a *national programme for popularizing science among school students of Class 6th to 11th*.
- It was *designed to identify the bright minds with a scientific aptitude among the student community*.
- It is an *initiative of Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)*, in collaboration with *Vigyan Prasar*, an autonomous organization under the Department of Science and Technology, and *National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)*.

8. c

- *World Breastfeeding Week* is an annual celebration which is being held every year from 1st August to 7th August.
- The *theme* of World Breastfeeding Week 2020 is "*Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet*".
- The *Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles And Infant Foods (Regulation Of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act, 1992* provides for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and infant foods.
- *According to section 3 of the act, no person shall advertise, take part in promotion of use or sale, supply of or donate or distribute infant milk substitutes or feeding bottles, or give an impression or create a belief in any manner that feeding of infant milk substitutes is equivalent to or better than mother's milk.*
- *The act prohibits depicting images of a mother or a baby on labels of baby food containers.*
- Any person who contravenes the provisions of various sections shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to fine thousand rupees, or with both.

9. a

- *Turkey and Greece* have locked horns recently after Turkey converted the 1,500-year-old Hagia Sophia from a museum into a mosque.
- The right to explore hydrocarbons in the Eastern Mediterranean is also created tensions between *Turkey and Greece*.
- Both countries are a part of the 30-member NATO alliance.
- *Turkey is officially a candidate* for full membership of the *European Union*, of which *Greece is a member*.

10. c

- Thousands of trees lay dead and strewn around the western parts of the *Nilgiri Plateau* in southern India.
- The extreme weather becomes a danger for the *Nilgiri Biosphere* ecosystem.
- Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere hit a record-breaking 417 ppm in May 2020, highest in three million years.
- The *Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve* falls under the biogeographic region of the *Malabar rain forest*.
- The *cloud forest ecology, known as sholas*, grows along the folds and valleys of these mountains.

**05-08-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)***

- 1. It will be able to finance projects in the rural industrial cooperative sectors and for certain notified services in rural areas like water conservation and irrigation.**
- 2. It was established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.**

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

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



d. Neither 1 nor 2

**2) Ministry of Tourism has recently inaugurated the Thenzawl Golf Resort, under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, in which of the following states?**

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

**3) Beirut, often seen in the news recently, is located in?**

- a. Syria
- b. Jordan
- c. Turkey
- d. Lebanon

**4) Geeta Rahasya is a book authored by?**

- a. Subramaniya Siva
- b. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- c. Debendranath Tagore
- d. Raja Ram Mohan Roy

**5) JoyKali Matar Temple, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in?**

- a. Nepal
- b. Bhutan
- c. Sri Lanka
- d. Bangladesh

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)**

1. It is a statutory, apex body to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in protected areas.
2. It is chaired by the Minister of Environment.

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

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

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

1. It is the process of thermal conversion of organic matter using a catalyst in the presence of oxygen.
2. The process typically occurs at high temperature, under pressure and is an irreversible process.

**Which of 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 Genome Sequencing**

1. A genome is the DNA, or sequence of genes, in a cell.
2. IndiGen project is to sequence whole genomes of diverse ethnic Indian population to develop public health applications.

**Which of 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**

1. China
2. India



3. Nepal
4. Russia
5. Sri Lanka

Which of the Countries given above are members of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) ?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Cess

1. It is a form of tax levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer.
2. The Corona Cess on liquor was imposed by Central government across India on liquor to compensate for the revenue deficit during Covid-19 lockdown.

Which of 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 of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has recently launched the **Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel**, a new initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- He also launched guidance videos produced by NCDC on 'Formation and Registration of A Cooperative' for eighteen different states in Hindi and regional languages.
- The guidance videos in different languages covering 18 States would also strengthen and deepen the major initiatives of our Government to promote and form 10,000 FPOs.

- NCDC has a major role in formation of FPOs in cooperative mode.
- More states would be added to the collection of guidance videos on NCDC Sahakar Cooptube Channel in due course of time.

### National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

- It was established by an **Act of Parliament** in 1963 as a statutory Corporation under the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.

### Functions

- Planning, promoting and financing programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, food stuffs, certain other notified commodities e.g. fertilisers, insecticides, agricultural machinery, lac, soap, kerosene oil, textile, rubber etc., supply of consumer goods and collection, processing, marketing, storage and export of minor forest produce through cooperatives, besides income generating stream of activities such as poultry, dairy, fishery, sericulture, handloom etc.

### Other functions

- NCDC Act has been further amended which will broad base the area of operation of the Corporation to assist different types of cooperatives and to expand its financial base.
- NCDC will now be **able to finance projects in the rural industrial cooperative sectors** and for certain notified services in rural areas like water conservation, irrigation and micro irrigation, agri-insurance, agro-credit, rural sanitation, animal health, etc.

### Achievements

- It has achieved tremendous success with cumulative financial assistance to cooperatives to the tune of Rs.1,54,000 crore.
- Beginning with meager disbursement of Rs.2.36 crores in 1963, NCDC disbursed around Rs.28,000 crore during 2019-20.
- NCDC has made an unprecedented progress in the last six years.
- It has achieved 83% of the cumulative financial assistance calculated since 1963, during these last six years alone.

2. b

- Union Minister of Tourism virtually inaugurated the "Thenzawl Golf Resort" Project in **Mizoram**, implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism in New Delhi recently.
- The Project was sanctioned under the Integrated Development of New Eco Tourism under Swadesh Darshan- North East Circuit at Thenzawl & South Zote, District Serchhip and Reiek, **Mizoram** with a sanctioned amount of Rs.92.25 Crore.

### Golf Tourism in India

- Golf tourism in India particularly, has a strong potential since the climatic condition is more favourable here as compared to most countries.
- The picturesque landscapes of the country and exceptional hospitality services too, add to the enhanced experience of golf tourism in India.
- In order to tap the growing interest in golf tourism, the Ministry of Tourism is creating a comprehensive and coordinated framework for promoting golf tourism in India as a niche tourism product for attracting both International and domestic tourists.

3. d

- A huge blast had occurred recently in the port warehouses near central **Beirut**, storing highly explosive material.
- The massive blast had killed and injured many people and sent shockwaves that shattered windows, smashed masonry and shook the ground across the **Lebanese capital**.

4. b

- **Shrimadh Bhagvad Gita Rahasya**, popularly also known as **Gita Rahasya** or **Karmayog Shashtra**, is a 1915 Marathi language book authored by Indian social reformer and independence activist **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** while he was in prison at Mandalay, Burma.
- It is the analysis of Karma yoga which finds its source in the Bhagavad Gita, a sacred book for Hindus.

- He also ensured that the paper to be used for this work was indigenously manufactured by D Padamji and Sons, a swadeshi paper mill.

5. d

### Joykali Matar Temple

- India began the reconstruction of Joykali Matar temple at Natore in **Bangladesh**.
- It was built approximately 300 years back in the early 18th century by Shri Dayaram Roy.
- He was an influential Dewan of Queen Bhahani of Natore and the founder of Dighapatia Royal Family.
- The MoU for the reconstruction of the temple at Lalbazar, Natore was signed between India in Bangladesh in 2016.
- The Government of India provided a grant assistance for the reconstruction of the historic temple under its High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) scheme.

6. a

- Recently, Railway projects, small-scale development works and under-25 MW capacity hydropower plants are exempted from the approval from the *National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)*.
- There is no need of approval even if they are located within eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) of national parks or wildlife sanctuaries, the environment ministry.
- *NBWL* is a statutory body as it has been constituted under Section 5 A the *Wildlife Protection Act, 1972*.
- It is the apex body to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries i.e. Protected Areas.
- It is a 47-member board (including the chairman) which usually meets once a year. It is chaired by Prime minister.

7. b

- Plastic from used personal protective equipment (PPE) can be transformed into renewable liquid fuels, according to a new study.

- The researchers call for PPE waste to be converted into *bio-fuel* using chemical a process called *Pyrolysis*.
- This breaks down plastic at *high temperature* between 300-400°C for an hour *under pressure, without oxygen*.
- It is an *irreversible process*.

8. c

- Recently, Union Health Minister, announced the completion of pan-India 1000 *Genome Sequencing* of SARS-CoV-2.
- A *genome* is the DNA, or sequence of genes, in a cell.
- *Genome sequencing* is figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides, in a genome.
- *IndiGen project* of India is to sequence whole genomes of diverse ethnic Indian population to develop public health applications.

9. b

- Ahead of *Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meeting*, India to highlight Pakistan inaction.
- Indian agencies are sharing details with key FATF members.
- The *FATF* currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations. *Nepal and Sri Lanka* are not a members of FATF.
- To become a member, a country must be considered strategically important (large population, large GDP, developed banking and insurance sector, etc.), must adhere to globally accepted financial standards, and be a participant in other important international organizations.

10. a

- The Liquor sales decline up to 60% in May-June in states with high Corona cess, according to a report.
- Several States have imposed Corona Cess on liquor to compensate for the revenue deficit during Covid-19 lockdown.
- A Cess is a form of tax charged/levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer.

- It is usually imposed additionally when the state or the central government looks to raise funds for specific purposes.

**06-08-2020**

**1) With respect to *ShadeSmart System*, often seen in the news recently, consider the following statements**

- 1. It is a system where cooling is achieved through radiant heat transfer, as against regular convective air conditioning.**
- 2. This technology will help to bring inside the buildings more daylight with less heat by changing its configuration depending upon the Sun's position.**

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

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

**2) *Habitat Model for Efficiency and Comfort*, often seen in the news recently, is an initiative of which of the following organisations?**

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited
- The Energy and Resources Institute
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- None of the above

**3) Consider the following statements**

- 1. It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.**
- 2. It is the global roadmap for reducing human and economic loss as a direct result of disasters.**
- 3. UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction is tasked to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Agreement.**



Identify the Agreement that correctly matches with the above description:

- Agenda 21
- Beijing Declaration
- Hongkong Convention
- None of the above

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

- It is a disease resulting from deposition of fluorides in the tissues of body due to excess intake of fluoride over a long period.
- The fluorosis may be dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis, and non-skeletal fluorosis.

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 *ATL Tinkering Marathon 2019*

- It is a flagship national annual innovation Marathon challenge held at Atal Tinkering Labs across the country.
- This year, the challenge was executed by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in partnership with MyGOV on its Innovate Platform.
- The central theme of the event is "Research, Ideate, Innovate, Implement – Mindful Innovation for the greater good".

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)*

- It deals with flow of finance, financial products and services outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
- It helps in fund-raising services for individuals, corporations and governments.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *House Arrest*

- The concept of house arrest is specifically mentioned in the criminal law manual.
- The state is empowered to declare a building or a house as a sub-jail.
- The resident of a sub-jail is automatically and undeniably under detention.

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

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

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

- It is a landlocked country of southern Africa.
- It shares border with the Republic of South Africa, Zambia and Malawi.

Which of 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 *Cheetah*

1. India has both Tiger and Cheetah population in the wild.
2. Cheetah are listed as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List of threatened species.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to new *Consumer Protection Act, 2019*

1. The Act brings all kinds of B2C online services, irrespective of their size, all mobile app-based services and all businesses running on social media platforms, within its purview.
2. It empower consumers by recognising those engaged in offline as well as online multi-level transactions.

Which of 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 Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in partnership with the Department of Science & Technology,

Government of India has developed a novel external shading solution for windows in residential and commercial buildings under the project **Habitat Model for Efficiency and Comfort**.

- The **shading system** named as “**ShadeSmart**” has been developed as an innovative and cost-effective solution for achieving indoor comfort with reduced electricity consumption in air conditioning and lighting.

### ShadeSmart

- External shading devices are not common in modern buildings, which are mostly glazed or buildings with curtain walls.
- The shading systems are usually permanent structures, posing challenges such as maintenance, obstruction of views, architecturally not meeting the aspirations of the client, and so on.
- In contrast, ShadeSmart changes its configuration depending upon the Sun's position.
- For example, when the Sun is in the East direction, East façade windows will be shaded, once the Sun is in South orientation during noon ShadeSmart configuration on East changes to provide unobstructed external views and glare-free daylight.
- This technology will help to bring inside the buildings more daylight with less heat, thus making occupants comfortable and also more productive and healthy.
- In the international market, many movable shading devices are available, however, since ShadeSmart is locally produced in India, it becomes an economically viable energy-efficient solution which every building may integrate in order to achieve energy efficiency.

### Radiant Cooling

- It is where cooling is achieved through **radiant heat transfer**, as against regular convective air conditioning.
- This technology is efficient and gives better quality of thermal comfort.
- At present, energy and comfort audits of existing radiant cooled buildings, energy

simulations, and finally, construction of a Demonstration Habitat is being undertaken.

- Besides, the process to integrate radiant cooling in the National Building Code is being undertaken in India.
- Radiant cooled buildings have an extremely high potential of energy-saving (60-70%).
- Standard protocols for operation of radiant cooled buildings and adaptive thermal comfort standards for radiant cooled buildings in India will make it convenient for the masses to adopt radiant cooling technology.

2. b

- *The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in partnership with the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India has developed a novel external shading solution **ShadeSmart** for windows in residential and commercial buildings under the project Habitat Model for Efficiency and Comfort.*

#### **Habitat Model for Efficiency and Comfort**

- The project aims to provide Indian building market with external shading products that can reduce direct solar heat gain inside a building by more than 75%, while allowing natural daylight; and to design and demonstrate the potential of low energy radiant slab cooling, integrated with natural heat sinks and establish their operational mechanism for optimum comfort and energy efficiency.
- It is an initiative of **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** in partnership with the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India.

3. d

- **Sendai Framework** is the global roadmap for reducing human and economic loss as a direct result of disasters.

#### **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

- It was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.

- The Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.
- UNDRR is tasked to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework.
- It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), and advocates for:
  - *The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.*
- It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.
- The Sendai Framework works hand in hand with the other 2030 Agenda agreements, including The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, and ultimately the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. c

- *Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, have developed an **equipment-free fluoride ion detection** and quantification in drinking water with the naked-eye.*
- *It can be operated by non-experts for household use to evade Fluorosis-based disorders.*

#### **Fluorosis**

- It is a crippling disease resulting from deposition of fluorides in the hard and soft tissues of body due to excess intake of fluoride through drinking water/food products/industrial pollutants over a long period.
- It results in dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis, and non-skeletal fluorosis.



- Easy detection of fluorides in water can help preventing the public health hazards.
- Currently, one German company sells a paper-strip test kit for detection of HF with sensitivity of upto 20 ppm that too works only with hydrochloric acid ( $\text{pH} < 1$ ).
- This kit developed by INST can be used by non-expert, with high sensitivity up to 3 ppm and free of dangerous chemicals and equipments.

5. d

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has recently declared the results of its flagship national annual innovation Marathon challenge ATL Tinkering Marathon 2019 held over 5000+ Atal Tinkering Labs across the country and announced 150 winners of the Marathon.
- This year, the challenge was executed by AIM in partnership with MyGOV on MyGov's Innovate Platform.
- With the central theme as "Research, Ideate, Innovate, Implement – Mindful Innovation for the greater good", this year's marathon was uniquely designed by the students themselves.

6. c

- Recently, Injeti Srinivas appointed as Chairman of *International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)*.
- The *main function of the IFSCA* is to regulate all financial products and financial institutions which have been previously approved by any appropriate regulator in an *International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)*.
- The *IFSC deal with flows of finance, financial products and services outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy*.
- It helps in fund-raising services for individuals, corporations and governments.
- It provide service in merger and acquisition activities among trans-national corporations.
- Recently, Injeti Srinivas appointed as Chairman of *International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)*.

7. a

- A few human rights concerns have emerged in the Kashmir Valley over the *House Arrest* of the political leaders.
- The *concept of house arrest is not specifically mentioned in the criminal law manual*.
- The *state is empowered to declare a building or house as a sub-jail*.
- Through such declarations, residential accommodations of some political leaders have been converted into sub-jails.
- The *resident of a sub-jail is automatically and undeniably under detention and what is commonly known as house arrest*.

8. a

- Recently, the US has imposed sanctions on an ally of *Zimbabwe's* president.
- The Zimbabwean administration thwarted a peaceful street protest against economic turmoil and human rights violations.
- They arrested activists, opposition leaders and journalists.
- The people's movement shifted online with a hashtag inspired by the global *#BlackLivesMatter* campaign.
- Online campaign shared with hashtag *#ZimbabweanRightsMatter* demanding the release of those arrested.
- It is a *landlocked country of southern Africa*.
- It *shares border with the Republic of South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and Mozambique*.

9. b

- Recently, four *Cheetah* cubs make their first appearance in Austrian zoo.
- *Asiatic Cheetah became extinct in India*.
- The Supreme Court has allowed the Centre to introduce African cheetah to a suitable habitat in India.
- They are *listed as Vulnerable* in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

10. c

- The *Consumer Protection Act, 2019* has already kicked in and the Ministry of

Consumer Affairs has clarified that *entire B2C online sector to come within new consumer law ambit.*

- All kinds of B2C online services, irrespective of their size and reach, all mobile app-based services and all businesses running on social media platforms, comes within the Act's purview.
- It empower consumers by recognising those engaged in offline as well as online multi-level transactions.
- It includes e-pharmacies, e-tutoring, e-taxis, e-bikes, e-food chains, online ticketing services, online hotel or tour booking platforms, e-deliveries, e-buying and selling platforms, OTT services, app stores, ventures that run on Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, LinkedIn etc. come within the ambit of the new legislation.

**07-08-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tsunami Ready Programme***

1. It is a community performance-based programme initiated by the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
2. India is the first country to implement Tsunami Ready in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

**Which of 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 nodal agency to provide tsunami advisories to India?**

- a. India Meteorological Department
- b. National Disaster Management Authority
- c. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- d. None of the above

**3) With respect to *National Handloom Day*, consider the following statements**

1. The first National Handloom Day was celebrated on 7th August 2015 in Chennai.
2. The day was celebrated to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched in the year 1905.
3. The objective is to generate awareness about Handloom Industry amongst public at large and its contribution to the socio-economic development.

**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) The *Kali River Valley* of Kumaun Himalayas marks the international border between India and?**

- a. China
- b. Nepal
- c. Bhutan
- d. Pakistan

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kisan Rail***

1. It will be the first ever multi commodity special train introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture from Devlali (Maharashtra) to Danapur (Bihar).
2. The train will run on weekly basis and provide seamless supply chain of Perishable produce.

**Which of 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 *relationship between Inflation and Interest Rates*

1. When interest rates are low, the economy grows and inflation increases.
2. To contain inflation the country's central bank typically nudges up the interest rates in the economy.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG)*

1. Comptroller and Auditor-General of India shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
2. CAG shall only be removed from office in like manner and on like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
3. On appointment, the CAG need not to make an oath or affirmation.

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 *Nagara style of architecture*

1. In this style the temple usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways.
2. The Lingaraja temple is one of the grandest and is regarded as a gem of Nagara architectural style.

Which of 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 *Bru tribes* sometimes seen in news are?

- a. Indigenous tribes living only in Mizoram and Tripura
- b. Recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ammonium nitrate*

1. It does not burn on its own and is soluble in water.
2. At very high temperatures, ammonium nitrate can violently decompose on its own.

Which of 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 Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), Odisha has now implemented the **Tsunami Ready programme** in two villages viz., Venkatraipur in Ganjam District, Noliassahi in Jagatsingpur District.
- Based on the National Board recommendations, UNESCO-IOC has approved the recognition of two communities



viz., Venkatraipur and Noliassahi as Tsunami Ready Communities.

- With this recognition, **India is the first country to implement Tsunami Ready in the Indian Ocean Region** and Odisha is the first state.

### **Tsunami Ready**

- It is a community performance-based programme initiated by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO**.
- It aims to promote tsunami preparedness through active collaboration of public, community leaders, and national and local emergency management agencies.
- The main objective of this programme is to improve coastal community's preparedness for tsunami emergencies, to minimize the loss of life and property and to ensure a structural and systematic approach in building community preparedness through fulfilling the best-practice indicators set by the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) of UNESCO-IOC.
- Fulfilment of the guidelines ensures communities have a strong end-to-end tsunami early warning and mitigation system with a particular focus on community awareness and preparedness to respond.
- To implement and monitor the implementation of Tsunami Ready and IOWave Exercises in India, Ministry of Earth Sciences established a National Board under the chairmanship of Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Centre (INCOIS).

2. d

- The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), INCOIS is the nodal agency to provide tsunami advisories to India.
- Tsunami Early Warning Centre is a part of **Indian Nation Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- INCOIS is also providing tsunami advisories to Indian Ocean region (25 countries) as a

Tsunami Service Providers as the responsibility assigned by IOC-UNESCO.

3. d

- *6th National Handloom Day was celebrated on 07th August 2020.*
- *During the event, a Mobile App & Backend Website for Handloom Mark Scheme was launched.*
- *Also, My Handloom Portal and a Virtual Fair was launched.*

### **National Handloom Day**

- 7th August was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on the same date in the year 1905.
- The objective is to generate awareness about Handloom Industry amongst public at large and its contribution to the socio-economic development.
- The first National Handloom Day was held on 7th August 2015 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Chennai.

4. b

- The Kali River Valley of Kumaun Himalayas marks the international border between **India and Nepal**.
- This region experiences intense seismic and landslide events.
- Recently, scientists carried out an integrated field, metamorphic modelling and geochronological investigation in the remote higher parts of the Kali River Valley.

5. b

- **Indian Railways** is introducing first "Kisan Rail" from Devlali (Maharashtra) to Danapur (Bihar) on 07th August 2020.
- The train will run on weekly basis and provide seamless supply chain of Perishable produce.
- This train is a step towards realizing the goal of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022.
- This train will help in bringing perishable agricultural products like vegetables, fruits to the market in a short period of time.





- The train with frozen containers is expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of fish, meat and milk.
- Indian Railways have earlier run single commodity special trains like Banana Specials etc.
- But this will be the **first ever multi commodity trains** and will carry fruits like Pomegranate, Banana, Grapes etc and vegetables like Capsicum, Cauliflower, Drumsticks, Cabbage, Onion, Chillies etc.
- Aggressive marketing is being done with local farmers, loaders, APMC and individuals.
- Demand is being aggregated. It is expected that the train will be patronised well and will be a great help to the farmers, as freight of this train will be charged as per parcel tariff of normal train (P Scale).

6. c

- Recently, the RBI, decided to keep the benchmark *interest rates* of the economy unchanged.
- In a fast-growing economy, incomes go up quickly and more and more people have the money to buy the existing bunch of goods.
- As more and more money chases the existing set of goods, prices of such goods rise.
- In other words, *inflation* which is nothing but the rate of increase in prices.
- *To contain inflation, a country's central bank typically nudges up the interest rates in the economy.*
- By doing so, it incentivises people to spend less and save more because saving becomes more profitable as interest rates go up.
- As more and more people choose to save, money is sucked out of the market and inflation rate moderates.
- In general, *when interest rates are low, the economy grows and inflation increases.*
- Conversely, *when interest rates are high, the economy slows and inflation decreases.*

7. a

- Recently, Girish Chandra Murmu was named as the next *Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)*.
- According to the Article 148 of the constitution, there shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
- *The CAG shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.*
- *The CAG shall only be removed from office in like manner and on like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.*
- On appointment, *CAG has to make an oath or affirmation* before the President or some person appointed in that behalf by him.

8. b

- The Ram temple at Ayodhya, to be built in the *Nagara style of architecture*, will comprise three stories with pillars and domes.
- Nagara is the style of temple architecture which became popular in Northern India.
- It is common here to build an entire temple on a stone platform with steps leading up to it.
- Unlike in south India, *it doesn't usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways.*
- The garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower.
- *The Lingaraja temple is one of the grandest and is regarded as a gem of Nagara architectural style.*

9. b

- Recently, *Brus* reject resettlement sites proposed by Tripura non-Brus.
- Organisations of the displaced refugees from Mizoram also rejected inclusion of Joint Movement Committee in monitoring team for settlement.
- The Brus, also called Reangs, are *scattered across Assam, Mizoram and Tripura*, are the most populous tribe in Tripura.
- They are *recognised by the Constitution of India as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)*.

10. c



- Ammonium nitrate is the chemical that exploded in Beirut.
- It does not burn on its own and is soluble in water.
- Instead, it acts as a source of oxygen that can accelerate the combustion (burning) of other materials.
- It's one of the world's most widely used fertilisers.
- At high enough temperatures, however, ammonium nitrate can violently decompose on its own.
- This process creates gases including nitrogen oxides and water vapour. It is this rapid release of gases that causes an explosion.
- If mixed with ingredients like fuel or some other contaminants, or because of some other external factors, it can be very explosive.

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

**3) With respect to Food System Vision 2050 Prize, consider the following statements**

1. It is an initiative of Rockefeller Foundation which envisions regenerative and nourishing food futures for 2050.
2. Naandi Foundation, a Hyderabad based non-profit organization was selected as one of the Top 10 Visionaries in the world for the Food Vision 2050 Prize.

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

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

**08-08-2020**

**1) Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas (SVAMITVA), which aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties, is an initiative of?**

- Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS)**

1. It provides a single window solution for all water resources data and information in a standardized national GIS framework.
2. It is managed by the National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), a unit of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

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

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**

1. It came into existence in 1987 under the aegis of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. It is the national nodal agency works towards the socio-economic development of the tribal people from all states.

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

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

**5) Business Confidence Index (BCI), which tracks the business sentiments of around 600 Indian companies, was computed by?**

- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)



- b. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- c. National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
- d. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Priority Sector Lending (PSL)*

- 1. All the foreign banks in India are not mandated to follow priority sector lending norms.
- 2. Certain loans to individuals for educational purposes including vocational courses are eligible for classification under PSL.

Which of 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 *Pokkali Rice*

- 1. It is known for its saltwater resistance and flourishes in the rice paddies of Kerala coast.
- 2. It is a GI-tagged rice which can help in promoting climate-resilient agriculture.

Which of 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 *Powers of Lieutenant Governor*

- 1. Under President's Rule, the Lieutenant Governor becomes full-fledged executive head of the government.

- 2. The Lieutenant Governor can promulgate ordinance if the Assembly is not in session.

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

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

9) *KV Kamath committee* recently seen in news is constituted?

- a. To Review Welfare of Tribal Schemes
- b. An expert committee to tackle COVID 19
- c. To make recommendations for restructuring of loans
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Dhole (Asiatic wild dogs)*

- 1. It is present only in the Western Ghats states of Karnataka, and Maharashtra in India.
- 2. Dholes as endangered in IUCN red list.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) scheme is an initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.
- It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.

- The scheme is for surveying the land parcels in rural inhabited area using Drone technology.
- The survey shall be done across the country in a phase wise manner over the period of four years (2020 -2024).
- The scheme is proposed as a Central Sector scheme with a projected outlay of Rs 79.65 crores for the pilot phase (FY 2020 -21).

2. c

- *The Ministry of Jal Shakti has recently launched a new version of the India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) with new functionalities and features.*

#### **Water Resources Information System (WRIS)**

- The generation of a database and the implementation of a web enabled Water Resources Information System popularly known as India-WRIS was initiated through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2008 between the Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space.
- This project was funded by the Central Water Commission.
- Under the National Hydrology Project, a central sector scheme approved by the Cabinet in 2016 with the objective to improve the state of information on water resources, India WRIS has been fundamentally revised and improved, new modules and functionalities have been added and technologies have been updated.
- India-WRIS provides a single window solution for all water resources data and information in a standardized national GIS framework.
- It allows users to Search, Access, Visualize, Understand and Analyse comprehensive and contextual water data for the assessment, monitoring, planning and development of water resources in the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).
- India WRIS is managed by the **National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), a unit of the Ministry of Jal Shakti** which has been created upon Cabinet approval by the Ministry of Water Resources, River

Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (now Jal Shakti) in 2018.

3. c

- *Rockefeller Foundation has recently selected Naandi Foundation, Hyderabad-based non-profit, as one of the 'Top 10 Visionaries' in the world for the Food Vision 2050 Prize.*
- The recognition fetches Naandi a prize money of \$200,000.
- Naandi's vision titled **Arakunomics**, a new integrated economic model that ensures profits for farmers and quality for consumers through regenerative agriculture, was based on work with tribal farmers in Araku for nearly 20 years.

#### **Food Vision 2050 Prize**

- The Food System Vision Prize is an invitation for organizations across the globe to develop a Vision of the regenerative and nourishing food system that they aspire to create by the year 2050.
- It is an initiative of Rockefeller Foundation, a New York based organization in partnership with SecondMuse and OpenIDEO.

4. c

- *TRIFED has recently celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day on August 6, 2020.*

#### **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**

- Registered under the then Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 1984, TRIFED came into existence in 1987 as the national nodal agency under the aegis of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, working towards the socio-economic development of the tribal people from all states.
- TRIFED started its operations in 1988 with its head office in New Delhi.
- In its mission to empower these downtrodden tribal people, by promoting the economic welfare of their communities across India (through development of marketing and the sustained upgradation of their skills), TRIFED started the procurement and marketing of tribal art and craft items through its first retail outlet called TRIBES INDIA in New Delhi in 1999.

5. c

- **Business Confidence Index (BCI)**, an indicator of the business sentiment across the Indian industry, compiled by the **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** stood at 46.4 in the first quarter of 2020-21, a drop of 40.1 per cent from its level of 77.4 in the previous quarter.
- It fell 62 per cent in the June 2020 quarter on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis.
- This is the lowest that the BCI has ever fallen in the history of 113 Rounds of the NCAER Business Expectations Survey (BES).

#### **Business Confidence Index (BCI)**

- It tracks the business sentiments of around 600 Indian companies to compute the composite index.
- The NCAER survey elicits responses from firms across six cities to assess business sentiments in the four regions of India: Delhi-NCR represents the north; Mumbai and Pune, the west; Kolkata, the east; and Bengaluru and Chennai represent the south.
- The Business Expectations Survey (BES) has been carried out on a quarterly basis since 1991 by NCAER.

6. b

- Recently, the RBI has tweaked *Priority Sector Lending (PSL)* norms.
- It has now brought startups under the purview of priority sector lending.
- Priority Sector refers to those sectors of the economy which may not get timely and adequate credit.
- PSL is an important role given by RBI to the banks for providing a specified portion of the bank lending to few specific sectors.
- The *PSL norms* mandate foreign banks to eventually lend 40% of their total loan book to the priority sector.
- Certain loans to individuals for educational purposes including vocational courses are eligible for classification under PSL.

7. c

- The *Pokkali Rice* seedlings travel from Kerala to the Sunderbans.
- *Saltwater resistant variety* may help farmers tide over saltwater incursion caused by cyclone Amphan.
- It is known for its saltwater resistance and flourishes in the rice paddies of coastal Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts.
- The uniqueness of the rice has brought it the *Geographical Indication (GI)* tag and is the subject of continuing research.

8. d

- Recently, Manoj Sinha took oath as the new *Lieutenant Governor* of Jammu and Kashmir.
- A Lieutenant Governor also has the same powers as like the Governor.
- The powers a Lieutenant Governor has in the state they administer is equivalent to that of the President.
- Under President's Rule, the Lieutenant Governor becomes full-fledged executive head of the government.
- The Lieutenant Governor can promulgate ordinance if the Assembly is not in session.

9. c

- Recently, RBI has formed a five member committee under the chairmanship of KV Kamath.
- It is to make recommendations on the financial parameters to be considered in the restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid 19.

10. b

- Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh rank high in the conservation of *Dhole* in India, according to a new study.
- It is present in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and also in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha.
- Dholes as endangered in IUCN red list.

10-08-2020



**1) With respect to Comptroller and Auditor General of India, consider the following statements**

1. He/She is one among the bulwarks of the democratic system of government in India.
2. The CAG is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
3. He/She can be removed by the President on same grounds and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court of India.

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

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

**2) Which of the following statements is not correct with respect to Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)?**

- a. It aims to promote the usage of farm mechanization and increase the ratio of farm power to cultivable unit area up to 2 kW/ha
- b. The Mission has 8 components, out of which, 2 are centrally sponsored schemes
- c. The Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- d. None of the above

**3) Depsang Plains, often seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following?**

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

**4) FARMS-app is an initiative of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare for which of the following purposes?**

- a. It helps to improve life of farmers' by giving a complete package of activities to maximize farm returns and suggesting suitable farming system based approaches
- b. It facilitates agricultural mechanization by encouraging small and marginal farmers to take machines on rental basis for agriculture practices
- c. It facilitates farmers to get a minimum pension of Rs 3000/month on attaining the age of 60 through Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan yojana
- d. None of the above

**5) Coronal Multi-channel Polarimeter (CoMP) is an instrument very much useful for the measurement of the global magnetic field of the Sun's corona for the very first time. CoMP is located in?**

- a. Hawaii, USA
- b. Guizhou, China
- c. Sierra Negra, Mexico
- d. Buenos Aires, Argentina

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to Petroleum And Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)**

1. It is a statutory authority under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
2. It provides advisory role in matters of safety to the government and semi-government bodies like Ports and Railways.

**Which of 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 Snow Leopard**

1. It is native to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia.



2. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of the Threatened Species.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to **Black Boxes in Aeroplane**

- 1. It is a black coloured Flight Data Recorder (FDR) which records the activities of the airplane during its flight.
- 2. It is usually placed in the cockpit of an aeroplane.

Which of 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) **Kavkaz 2020** sometimes seen in news is?

- a. A Supersonic Commercial Jet
- b. A South Korea's Counter-Insurgency military exercise
- c. A multilateral strategic command-post exercise of Russia
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to **Confucius Institutes**

- 1. They are non-profit public institutions which aim to promote Chinese and Indian languages and their culture.
- 2. They sponsor educational exchanges and hold public events and lectures to students.

Which of 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

- Former Jammu & Kashmir Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has recently been appointed the next Comptroller Auditor General.
- He will succeed Rajiv Mehrishi.

### Comptroller and Auditor General

- The Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
- He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.
- His duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
- He is one of the bulwarks of the democratic system of government in India; the others being the Supreme Court, the Election Commission and the Union Public Service Commission.
- The CAG is appointed by the president of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
- He holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- He can resign any time from his office by addressing the resignation letter to the president.
- He can also be removed by the president on same grounds and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court.

- In other words, he can be removed by the president on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both the Houses of Parliament with special majority, either on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

2. b

#### **Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)**

- The scheme will be implemented in all the states, to promote the usage of farm mechanization and increase the ratio of farm power to cultivable unit area up to 2 kW/ha.

#### **Mission Objectives**

1. Increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low
2. Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centres' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership
3. Creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments
4. Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities
5. Ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.

#### **Components of SMAM**

1. Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration - **Central Sector Scheme**
2. Demonstration, Training and Distribution of Post Harvest Technology and Management (PHTM) - **Central Sector Scheme**
3. Financial Assistance for Procurement of Agricultural Machinery and Equipment - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
4. Establish Farm Machinery Banks for Custom Hiring - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
5. Establish Hi-Tech, High Productive Equipment Hub for Custom Hiring - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
6. Promotion of Farm Mechanization in Selected Villages - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**

7. Financial Assistance for Promotion of Mechanized Operations/hectare Carried out Through Custom Hiring Centres - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**

8. Promotion of Farm Machinery and Equipment in North-Eastern Region - **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**

- SMAM will have Central Sector Schemes under component No.1 & 2.
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes are covered under component No. 3 to 8 in which Government of India contributes 60% and states contribute 40%.
- Funding pattern for states of Northern-Eastern and Himalayan region, the share of Govt. of India & State Govt. is 90:10.

3. c

- India and China had recently held talks at the Major General-level to discuss issues concerning the strategic Depsang Plains at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO).
- Despite the strategic importance of Depsang Plains, the series of military talks held so far have focussed on the standoff areas at Galwan, Gogra Hotsprings and Finger area of Pangong Tso.
- The Depsang Plains along with Pangong Tso are the two major areas of concern in the ongoing standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern **Ladakh**.

#### **Depsang Plains**

- The Depsang Plains are located at the Line of Actual Control that separates the Indian and Chinese controlled regions.
- The Chinese Army occupied most of the plains in 1962.
- India controls the western portion of the plains as part of Ladakh, whereas the eastern portion is part of the Aksai Chin region, which is controlled by China and claimed by India.
- In April 2013, the Chinese PLA troops set up a temporary camp in the Depsang Bulge, but later withdrew as a result of a diplomatic agreement with India.
- Depsang is one of the few places on the LAC where tank manoeuvres are possible.

4. b
- The agriculture ministry has developed a Multi lingual Mobile App, '**CHC- Farm Machinery**' which connects farmers with Custom Hiring Service Centres situated in their locality.
  - This app is facilitating agricultural mechanization in the country by encouraging small and marginal farmers to take machines on rental basis for agriculture practices without them having to purchase such high priced machines.
  - The app has been further modified and been given the acronym of FARMS-app (Farm Machinery Solutions-app).**
  - The revised version is more user friendly and the scope of the app has also been enhanced.
5. a
- An international team of solar physicists led by those from Peking University, China, and National Center for Atmospheric Research of the United States has recently measured the **global magnetic field of the Sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, for the very first time.***
  - This research has been published in the journal *Science*.
  - The team used the improved measurements of the **Coronal Multi-channel Polarimeter (CoMP)** and advanced data analysis to measure the coronal magnetic field.
  - CoMP is an instrument operated by High Altitude Observatory, of the U.S.
  - It is located at Mauna Loa Solar Observatory, near the summit of that volcano on the big island of **Hawaii**.
6. b
- Post Beirut blast, norms to be tightened for handling of explosive grade chemicals.
  - As per *PESO* rules there are certain basic security provisions like boundary-wall of the premises, locking of godowns, guards, escorting in sensitive areas, etc. for ammonium nitrate.
- PESO is a statutory authority under the Department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP), Ministry of commerce & industry.*
  - It provides advisory role in matters of safety to the government and semi-government bodies like Ports and Railways.
  - It is entrusted with ensuring safety and security of public and property from fire and explosion.
7. c
- Uttarakhand to develop India's first Snow Leopard conservation centre.*
  - Snow Leopard is native to mountain ranges of Central and South Asia.
  - It is listed as *Vulnerable* in the IUCN Red List.
8. d
- The investigators have found the *Black Boxes* from the Air India Express which crashed at Kozhikode.
  - The black boxes, which are actually *two Orange metallic boxes* which records activities of the airplane during its flight.
  - It has two boxes, the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR).
  - Usually they are *placed in the tail-end of the aircraft*, where the structure of the aircraft protects them best in case of a crash.
  - The black box has a locator beacon which is activated in contact with water.
9. c
- India to participate in Kavkaz 2020 exercise in Russia.*
  - The invitation has been extended to at least 18 countries including China, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.
  - It is a *multilateral strategic command-post exercise*, that is about to be held in Russia.
10. b
- Recently, India's Ministry of Education sent a letter to several institutions seeking information about the activities of their *Confucius Institutes (CIs)* and Chinese language training centres.



- *Confucius Institutes* are non-profit public institutions which aim to promote Chinese languages and culture in foreign countries.
- In addition they have become a platform for cultural exchanges between China and the world.
- They sponsor educational exchanges and hold public events and lectures to students.
- It is a key pillar of Beijing's global soft power effort.

**11-08-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**

1. It is a medium – long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
2. Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans.

**Which of 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 incorrect regarding the Union Public Service Commission?**

- a. The entire expenses including the salaries, allowances and pensions of the chairman and members of the UPSC are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India
- b. A member of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman of UPSC or a State Public Service Commission (SPSC), but not for any other employment in the Government of India or a state
- c. The chairman or a member of UPSC is (after having completed his first term) not eligible for

reappointment to that office (i.e., not eligible for second term)

- d. None of the above

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

1. An exoplanet is a planet that orbits a star outside the solar system.
2. Its orbit is wobbly because the gravitational of the star is not at its centre.

**Which of 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 Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)**

1. It is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. Its one of the objective is to serve as the National Reference Centre for the geology of Himalaya.

**Which of 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 Sunspots**

1. These are the areas where the magnetic field is lower than Earth's and much lower than anywhere else on the Sun.
2. It appear relatively dark because the temperatures of Sunspots are thousands of degrees lower than surrounding photosphere.



Which of 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 *Mullaperiyar Dam*

- 1. It is located on the confluence of the Mullayar and the Periyar rivers, operated and maintained by Kerala.
- 2. Tamil Nadu was permitted to generate power from the dam.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Boreal Summer Intraseasonal Oscillation (BSISO)*

- 1. It is the movement of heat from Indian Ocean to western Pacific Ocean during the June-September monsoon season.
- 2. The active phase of BSISO enhances monsoon winds and hence the surface waves.

Which of 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) *Mount Sinabung* recently seen in news is located in?

- a. Costa Rica
- b. Japan

- c. Philippines
- d. Indonesia

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Lok Adalat*

- 1. It is a statutory, alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.
- 2. It is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably.
- 3. The award (decision) is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.

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

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

10) With reference to the Nuclear Plants of India, Consider the following pairs

Power Stations	States
1. Gorakhpur	- Haryana
2. Chukta	- Madhya Pradesh
3. Mahi Banswara	- Rajasthan
4. Mithi Viridi	- Gujarat

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

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

## Answers

1. c

- Prime Minister has recently launched a new **Central Sector Scheme** of financing



*facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore.*

### Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee.
- The duration of the scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).
- Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE scheme for loans up to Rs. 2 Crore.
- The beneficiaries will include farmers, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, FPOs, SHGs, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Projects.
- These assets will enable farmers to get greater value for their produce as they will be able to store and sell at higher prices, reduce wastage, and increase processing and value addition.

2. d

- *Prof (Dr.) Pradeep Kumar Joshi was recently appointed as the new Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).*

The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the UPSC:

1. The chairman or a member of the UPSC can be removed from office by the president only in the manner and on the grounds mentioned in the Constitution. Therefore, they enjoy security of tenure.
2. The conditions of service of the chairman or a member, though determined by the president, cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.
3. The entire expenses including the salaries, allowances and pensions of the chairman and members of the UPSC are charged on the

Consolidated Fund of India. Thus, they are not subject to vote of Parliament.

4. The chairman of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or a state.
5. A member of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman of UPSC or a State Public Service Commission (SPSC), but not for any other employment in the Government of India or a state.
6. The chairman or a member of UPSC is (after having completed his first term) not eligible for reappointment to that office (i.e., not eligible for second term).

3. c

- *In a first, scientists have been able to discover an exoplanet and a wobbly Star using just radio waves.*
- *In this method, scientists detect an exoplanet via auroras formed on it by the interaction of the star and a strong magnetic field around a planetary body.*

### Exoplanets

- An exoplanet is a planet that orbits a star outside the solar system.
- These exoplanets are hard to detect because they are hidden by the bright glare of the stars they orbit around.
- One of the key features of the exoplanet is that its orbit is wobbly because the gravitational of the star is not at its centre which makes the phenomenon possible.
- So far, over 4,000 exoplanets have been discovered by astronomers.
- But, the recent discovery may answer several questions as the previous ones were too difficult to detect.

4. b

- **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)** at Dehradun is an autonomous institution of **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, GoI, which came into being in 1968.
- It has been pursuing basic researches to unravel the orogeny of majestic Himalaya and provide improved understanding on

seismogenesis, geodynamic processes, climate-tectonic interactions, evolution and extinction of life, ore formation, glaciology, river system, natural hazards (landslides, floods, and earthquakes), anthropogenic impact etc. towards the well-being of population and safeguarding the properties and structures in the Himalaya and adjoining areas.

### Objectives

- To undertake, aid, promote, guide and coordinate researches in geology of the Himalaya and foster a tradition of scholarships.
- To carry-out research towards the development of new concepts and models concerning geodynamic evolution of the Himalaya through an integrated interdisciplinary approach.
- To serve as the National Reference Centre for the geology of Himalaya and to provide high level consultancy services to various institutions, public agencies and industries.

5. b

- A *Sunspot* group, AR2770, was observed recently, using images of the Sun's surface from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO).
- A *Sunspot* is an area on the Sun that appears dark on the surface and is relatively cooler than surrounding parts.
- These are the areas where the *magnetic field* is higher than Earth's and much higher than anywhere else on the Sun.
- A typical spot consists of a dark region called the umbra, surrounded by a lighter region known as the penumbra.
- The *sunspots* appear relatively dark because the surrounding surface of the Sun (the photosphere) is about 10,000 degrees F., while the umbra is about 6,300 degrees F.
- Sunspots are quite large as an average size is about the same size as the Earth.

6. a

- The rising water levels in the *Mullaperiyar Dam* due to heavy rains and issuance of the first warning has triggered panic among people living downstream.

- Mullaperiyar dam issue is between two south Indian states that is between Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- It is located on the confluence of the *Mullayar* and the *Periyar* rivers in Kerala, and is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu.
- The dam is in the state of Kerala but it was given on lease to the Tamil Nadu on 29th October, 1886 for 999 years.
- Tamil Nadu was permitted to generate power from the dam, through an agreement in 1970.

7. c

- Recently, researchers at the INCOIS, have found a way to better forecast the *Boreal Summer Intra-Seasonal Oscillation (BSISO)*.
- The *BSISO* of the Asian summer monsoon (ASM) is one of the most prominent sources of short-term climate variability in the global monsoon system.
- *BSISO* is the movement of convection (heat) from Indian Ocean to western Pacific Ocean during the monsoon (June-September).
- They represent the monsoon's 'active' and 'break' periods, in which weeks of heavy rainfall give way to brilliant sunshine before starting all over again.
- The active phase also enhances monsoon winds and hence the surface waves.

8. d

- The Mount *Sinabung* volcano in Indonesia erupted recently.
- Mount Sinabung erupted in 2010 after a 400-year-long hiatus and has been continuously active since September 2013.

9. d

- In a first of its kind in the country, the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) conducted *online Lok Adalat*.
- NALSA along with other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats.
- Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, it is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably.

- Lok Adalats have been given *statutory status* under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- Under the said Act, the award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be a decree of a civil court.
- The *award (decision)* is *final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.*

10. d

**12-08-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0**

1. It aims to serve as a catalyst and help accelerate the entrepreneurial journey of the young innovators in creating a new innovative India.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources Development in collaboration with Dell Technologies.

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

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

**2) Which of the following best describes the term Profit After Tax (PAT)?**

- a. It is defined as any profit that is received through the sale of a capital asset
- b. It is a measure of a company's profitability that looks at the profits made before any tax is paid
- c. The amount of money that remains with the taxpayer after all the necessary deductions have been made
- d. None of the above

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)**

1. It is the official body of apparel exporters in India that provides invaluable assistance to Indian exporters as well as importers.
2. It was incorporated in 1978 and works under the Ministry of Textiles.

**Which of 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) Gandagi Mukh Bharat is a special campaign to promote which of the following?**

- a. Skill India
- b. Clean India
- c. Startup India
- d. Make in India

**5) Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh Committee, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with?**

- a. Employee Social Responsibility
- b. Privatisation of Indian Railways
- c. Business Responsibility Reporting
- d. Efficacy of Public Private Partnership

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to Assam Accord of 1985**

1. Under the Assam Accord of 1985, all those foreigners who had entered Assam between 1951 and 1971 were to be given full citizenship, including the right to vote.
2. Religious persecution was no consideration in the Assam Accord.

**Which of 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 *Indian Elephants*

1. The Indian elephants are the sub-species of Asian Elephants, accounts for majority of remaining elephants on the continent.
2. The Indian elephants are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red list.
3. Project Elephant is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to address issues of man-animal conflict, welfare of captive elephants.

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

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

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

1. It is largest known object in the asteroid belt.
2. It is the only dwarf planet located in the outer solar system.

Which of 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 *One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) Initiative*

1. It is a Chinese initiative to build a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources.

2. It will be developed under the technical Assistance Program of the World 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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *City of Junagadh*

1. A plebiscite was conducted in Junagadh through which it becomes a part of India.
2. It shares border with Pakistan along the Radcliffe Line.

Which of 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

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies has recently launched the **Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0)** for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).

### Student Entrepreneurship Programme

- The Student Entrepreneurship Programme aims to serve as a catalyst and help accelerate the entrepreneurial journey of the young innovators in creating a new innovative India.
- SEP 2.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with Dell volunteers. They will receive mentor support; prototyping and testing support; end-user feedback; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products; manufacturing

support; as well as the launch support of the product in the market.

- SEP 1.0 began in January 2019. Through a 10-month-long rigorous programme, the top 6 teams of ATL Marathon—a nationwide contest where students identify community challenges and create grassroots innovations and solutions within their ATLs—got a chance to transform their innovative prototypes into fully functioning products, which are now available in the market.

2. c

- *Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power, GoI and the 'Central Transmission Utility (CTU)' of the country, has posted a Profit After Tax of Rs. 2,048 crore and Total Income of Rs. 9,817 crore on consolidated basis for Q1FY21.*

#### **Profit After Tax**

- Profit after tax or a gain after tax is essentially the amount of money that remains with the taxpayer after all the necessary deductions have been made.
- It is like a barometer that tells you how much profit a business has really earned.

3. c

- Incorporated in 1978, AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India that provides invaluable assistance to Indian **exporters as well as importers/international buyers** who choose India as their preferred sourcing destination for garments.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Textiles**.

4. b

- *The Prime Minister of India has recently launched the 'Gandagi Mukh Bharat', a special week long campaign for **swachhata** in the run up to Independence Day, during which each day till 15th August will have special swachhata initiatives in urban and rural India to re-enforce the jan andolan for swachhata.*

5. c

- *Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has recently released the 'Report of the*

#### **Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR)'. '**

- Shri **Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh** is the chairman of the Committee on BRR.
- Mr. Singh highlighted the paradigm shift in the business operations from shareholder's perspective to stakeholders and importance of non-financial reporting.
- He also shared the key recommendations of the committee and acknowledge the efforts made by the committee members.

6. b

- The government appointed committee had submitted its recommendations for implementation of *Clause 6 of the Assam Accord*, a key provision that has been contentious for decades.
- Clause 6 reads, Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.
- Under Assam Accord of 1985, all those foreigners who had entered Assam between 1951 and 1961 were to be given full citizenship, including the right to vote.
- The entrants between 1961 and 1971 were to be denied voting rights for ten years but would enjoy all other rights of citizenship.
- *Religious persecution was no consideration in the Assam Accord.*
- Amended *Citizenship Act* has shifted the cut-off date for granting citizenship from 24th of March 1971 to 31st of December 2014.
- The rest had to be expelled.

7. b

- *World Elephant Day* is observed on 12th August every year to raise awareness about the protection and preservation of elephants.
- The Indian elephants are the sub-species of Asian Elephants.
- It has the widest range and accounts for the majority of the remaining elephants on the continent.



- Indian elephants are listed as *Endangered* on the IUCN Red list.
- Project Elephant (PE), a centrally sponsored scheme, was launched in 1992 to provide financial and technical support to major elephant bearing States in the country.
- It also seeks to address the issues of human-elephant conflict and welfare of domesticated elephants.

8. a

- Dwarf planet *Ceres* is an ocean world with salty water under the surface, NASA mission finds.
- Ceres* is a dwarf planet and the largest known object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- It is the only dwarf planet located in the inner reaches of solar system.

9. b

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has put calls for proposals to the *One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)* initiative on hold till further notice.
- The project calls for connecting solar energy supply across borders, added all forms of renewable energy.
- OSOWOG* is India's initiative to build a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources.
- The blueprint for the *OSOWOG* will be developed under the World Bank's technical assistance programme.

10. a

- Recently, Pakistan unveiled a new political map that includes *Junagadh*.
- Junagadh* was the princely state, situated on the southwestern Gujarat.
- A plebiscite was conducted in February 1948, in which people voted to join India.
- The plebiscite was not accepted by Pakistan then, but was overtaken by the first India-Pakistan war over Kashmir that began at the end of October 1947 and continued for over a year.

- Junagadh* is a present day city in the state of Gujarat.

**13-08-2020**

**1) *Milne ice shelf*, a fragment of the former Ellesmere Ice Shelf, is located in?**

- Russia
- Canada
- Ice Land
- Antarctica

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Krishi Megh***

- It is a data recovery center launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- It has been set up under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), funded by both the government and World Bank.
- It has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) in Hyderabad.

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

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

**3) Which of the following is the theme for the *International Youth Day, 2020*?**

- Youth Building Peace
- Safe Spaces for Youth
- Transforming Education
- Youth Engagement for Global Action

**4) *Raman*, often seen in the news recently, is?**

- 3-D printed rocket engine
- India's fastest Super Computer



- c. Under Barrel Grenade launcher
- d. First private Reusable Launch Vehicle

5) With respect to *Tabletop Airport*, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements

1. It is an airport located and built on top of a plateau or hilly surface, with one or both ends of the runway overlooking a drop.
2. Kozhikode International Airport is the only Tabletop Airport 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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Internet Shutdown in India*

1. The internet shutdowns can only be ordered by district magistrates under Section 144 of the CrPC.
2. The order to shutdown internet services has to be forwarded within a day to a review committee, which then has to decide on the validity of the order.

Which of 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 *Andaman and Nicobar Islands*

1. The Andaman and Nicobar Command is the first and only tri-service theater command of the Indian Armed Forces.

2. Little Andaman in the south is separated from the Nicobar Islands by the Nine Degree Channel.

Which of 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 *Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005*

1. The Buddhists, Sikhs, Jew and followers of Arya Samaj, Brahmo Samaj are also considered Hindus for the purposes of this law.
2. It applies to ancestral property and to intestate succession in personal property where succession happens as per law and not through a will.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *The Arctic*

1. It is a semi-enclosed continent almost completely surrounded by land.
2. It is covered by a thin layer of perennial sea ice making it more sensitive to climate changes.

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

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



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

1. They are marine flowering plants, found on all continents.
2. They are one of the most productive ecosystems in the world.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

### Milne ice shelf

- Milne ice shelf is in **Ellesmere Island, Canada** and recently it was broken.
- The Milne ice shelf lost more than 40% of its ice over 2 days end of July 2020.
- This has increased concerns over the rapid melting of ice and the breaking of old ice shelves due to global warming.
- This also meant the last known Epishelf Lake, a water body dammed by the ice shelf and floating on the ocean surface on the Milne ice shelf, no longer exists.
- Ice shelves are large floating pieces of ice that form when a glacier or ice sheet flows into the sea surface.

2. d

- Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has recently launched the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)'s data recovery centre - Krishi Megh.
- The move is aimed at protecting the precious data of the government's premier research body ICAR.
- It has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) in Hyderabad.

- Currently, the main data centre of the ICAR is at the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) in New Delhi.
- Krishi Megh has been set up under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), funded by both the government and World Bank.
- The Ministry also launched the KVC ALUNET (Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Chhatr Alumni Network) and Online Accreditation System for Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions.

3. d

- International Youth Day was designated by the United Nations (UN) in the year 1999, in an attempt to raise awareness regarding the cultural and legal issue concerning youth.
- The first IYD was observed on 12 August 2000 and has been observed annually ever since.
- Each year, the observance of International Youth Day is marked with a theme, relevant to the times.
- The theme for 2020 is '**Youth Engagement for Global Action**', and this has never been of more significance, than during the current conditions.

4. a

- Aerospace startup Skyroot Aerospace has successfully test fired an upper-stage rocket engine recently.
- Through this, it became the first Indian private company to demonstrate the capability to build a homegrown rocket engine.
- The **3-D printed rocket engine – Raman**, named after Nobel laureate CV Raman – has fewer moving parts and weighs less than half of conventional rocket engines with a similar capacity.

5. a

- A Boeing 737 of Air India Express on a special 'Vande Bharat' repatriation flight from Dubai to Kozhikode went past the runway end and safety area, and fell into a valley recently.
- The accident has once again turned the spotlight on operations to what are called 'tabletop airports' in India.

### Tabletop Airport

- It is an airport located and built on top of a plateau or hilly surface, with one or both ends of the runway overlooking a drop.
- The airports in the country which would count as “tabletops”, are namely Lengpui (Mizoram), Shimla and Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), Pakyong (Sikkim), **Mangaluru (Karnataka), Kozhikode and Kannur (both Kerala).**

6. b

- The Central government to implement a “carefully calibrated easing” of the restrictions on high-speed mobile internet services in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Earlier, Internet shutdowns were imposed largely under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) by the District Magistrate.
- However, in August 2017, the Centre promulgated the *Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017*.
- It did this under the authority granted to it by the *Indian Telegraph Act, 1885*.
- These rules trace the legal source of the power to issue shutdown orders to the Union home secretary or the secretary in charge of the home department in a state.
- This order must then be forwarded to a review committee, which is required to decide on its reasonability and validity within five working days.

7. a

- India’s first undersea Optical Fibre Project, has stepped up to connect Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Command is the first and only Tri-service theater command of the Indian Armed Forces.
- Little Andaman in the south is separated from the Nicobar Islands by the Ten Degree Channel.

8. b

- Recently, Supreme Court gave a verdict that *daughters have equal coparcenary rights in joint Hindu family property*.
- It says that the rights do not depend on whether her father was alive or not when the law was enacted in 2005.
- The *Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005* gave Hindu women the right to be coparceners or joint legal heirs like a male heir does.
- The law applied to everyone who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew by religion.
- The *Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and followers of Arya Samaj, Brahmo Samaj* are also considered Hindus for the purposes of this law.
- It applies to ancestral property and to intestate succession in personal property where succession happens as per law and not through a will.

9. b

- The Arctic sea ice is melting faster than ever, according to a study.
- The Satellites capture the Milne Ice Shelf split in the Arctic.
- The Arctic is an ocean, covered by a thin layer of perennial sea ice. (“Perennial” refers to the oldest and thickest sea ice).
- It is a semi-enclosed ocean, almost completely surrounded by land.
- The Arctic Ocean is very deep and closely linked with the climate systems around it, making it more sensitive to climate changes than Antarctica.
- Antarctica, on the other hand, is a continent, covered by a very thick ice cap and surrounded by a rim of sea ice and the Ocean.

10. b

- The UN environmental programme has released a report warning that Kenya’s coast is losing huge amounts of *Seagrass*.
- *Seagrasses* are flowering marine plants that have adapted to survive in marine conditions.



- They are mostly found in shallow sandy bottom habitats and can form dense extensive meadows.
- They are found on all continents except Antarctica.
- They are one of the most productive ecosystems in the world.
- They provide shelter and food to an incredibly diverse community of animals.

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

**14-08-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *NashaMukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21)*

1. The Action plan aims to make India, drug free by focusing every district of India.
2. It is a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Department.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Benjamin Guy Horniman*

1. In 1913, he became the editor of The Bombay Chronicle, a daily founded by Pherozeshah Mehta.
2. He also served as vice president of the Home Rule League under Annie Besant.
3. He was deported to England by the British for his decision to print an unofficial, smuggled report on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

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

- a. 2 only

3) With respect to *Velu Nachiar*, consider the following statements

1. After the death of her husband, Muthuvaduganathaperiya Udaiyathevar, doctrine of lapse was applied and Sivaganga was captured by the British.
2. She raised a battalion of women and named it Udaiyal Regiment in remembrance of Udaiyal, the leader of her bodyguards.
3. Haider Ali, the king of Mysore, sent 5,000 men to help Velu Nachiar to get back Sivaganga.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Overseas Scholarship Scheme*

1. It is a central sector scheme under the Ministry of Human Resources Development.
2. The scheme exclusively focuses on low income students belonging to the Other Backward Class, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community.
3. Bachelors Level courses in any discipline are not covered under the Scheme.

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

**5) Which of the following is the Nodal Ministry for Drug Demand Reduction in India under the National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 2012?**

- a. Ministry of Finance
- b. Ministry of Home Affairs
- c. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to Electric Vehicles**

- 1. The Electric Vehicles produce zero emissions that contribute to climate change and smog than conventional vehicles.
- 2. The registration and number plates are not mandatory for all electric vehicles in India.

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

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

**7) Consider the following statements with respect to a Soil Health Card**

- 1. It indicates only the fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm.
- 2. The organic matter in the soil is the very foundation of good soil health and it consists of plants, animal material which gets converted into humus after decomposing.

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

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

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

- 1. India shares maritime boundary with Mauritius along the Indian ocean region.
- 2. Mauritius is the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) 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

**9) Papum Reserve Forest (RF) sometimes seen in news is located in?**

- a. Gujarat
- b. Tripura
- c. Chhattisgarh
- d. Arunachal Pradesh

**10) Consider the following statements with respect to Gujjars Tribe**

- 1. Gujjars were an ethnic agricultural and pastoral community.
- 2. They are primarily located in the North East 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

### Answers

1. a



- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has formulated '**NashaMukt Bharat Campaign**' to be implemented in 272 districts which are identified as most affected in terms of usage of substances.

#### **NashaMukt Bharat Campaign: Annual Action Plan (2020-21)**

- The Campaign focuses on 272 most affected districts by launching a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Department.

The Campaign Plan has the following components:

1. Awareness generation programmes;
  2. Focus on Higher Educational institutions, University Campuses and Schools;
  3. Community outreach and identification of dependent population;
  4. Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital settings; and
  5. Capacity Building Programmes for Service Provider.
- State Governments and the 272 District Collectors are going to launch the NashaMukt Bharat Campaign on 15th August 2020 which will run for 7 months till 31st March 2021.
  - District and State level NashaMukt Bharat Committees formed would devise a strategy and Action plan for the campaign.
  - These committees would ensure that campaign activities are effectively implemented and the objectives of the campaign are met.
  - These 272 districts have been identified based on the inputs received from Narcotics Control Bureau and the findings on the comprehensive National survey done by the Ministry.

2. d

- Ministry of Tourism recently presents the 47th Webinar titled "**Lesser known stories of India's struggle against the British**" under Dekho Apna Desh webinar series.

#### **Benjamin Guy Horniman**

- The Horniman Circle Gardens is a large park in South Mumbai, situated in the busy Fort district of Mumbai.
- It got its name in honour of **Benjamin Horniman**, the British editor of a newspaper called The Bombay Chronicle.
- The Bombay Chronicle was begun by Sir Pherozeshah Mehta.
- As its editor, Horniman spoke up against colonialism.
- He used the Bombay Chronicle to speak about Indian nationalist causes.
- Then in 1919, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre happened in Amritsar.
- The British knew that there would be a terrible backlash over the incident.
- They immediately clamped down on the press. Horniman defied the censorship.
- He smuggled a first-hand report of the massacre out of Punjab and published it.
- He continued publishing follow ups to the story and got the British really worried.
- They deported Horniman to England. Horniman smuggled reports and photos of British atrocities with him and broke the same stories to an equally shocked British public.
- All this forced the British to confront many of the harsher truths of colonial rule.
- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre was brought before the Parliament and condemned by several British politicians.
- Horniman continued to protest against the cruelties of the British rule in India in all his writings from England.
- In 1926, he exploited a loophole in his deportation order and returned to India to continue his work.
- Even today, in the Horniman Circle, one can see a red building that is the office of the Bombay Samachar, a newspaper printed in Gujarati.
- It is the oldest functioning newspaper in all of Asia.

- It was started in 1822 and is still running after nearly 200 years, today as the Mumbai Samachar.
- That building was also the birthplace of the Bombay Chronicle and the place where Horniman worked from.
- Horniman died in 1948, soon after Indian independence. That's when this circle where the Bombay Chronicle functioned from, was renamed Horniman Circle - **in honour of an Englishman who showed Indians the power of a free press.**

3. c

- Ministry of Tourism recently presents the 47th Webinar titled "**Lesser known stories of India's struggle against the British**" under Dekho Apna Desh webinar series.

**Queen Velu Nachiar (3 January 1730 – 25 December 1796)**

- She was known as **Veeramangai (Brave Woman)**.
- She was the princess of Ramanathapuram and the only child of Raja Chellamuthu vijayaragunatha Sethupathy and Rani Sakandhimuthal of the Ramnad kingdom.
- This story is set in Sivaganga, during the rule of Muthu Vaduganatha Peria Odaya Thevar.
- He was married to the princess of Ramanathapuram, Velu Nachiar.
- King Muthu came into conflict with his neighbour, the powerful king of Arcot.
- At that time, the British power too was rising in South India, and the British had a strong ally in the Nawab of Arcot.
- In 1772, the British attacked Sivaganga, intending to capture it for the Nawab.
- Muthu sent out emissaries to negotiate with them. It seemed though the British agreed to talk with them, so the Sivaganga forces relaxed their guard.
- The British forces swept in and massacred all of them, including King Muthu.
- The crux of the story was the heroic battle waged by Velu Nachiar.

- She was determined to avenge her husband's death.
- She had the support of the Marudu Brothers, fierce warlords who stood by her, along with a band of loyalists.
- Velu Nachiar was protected by Udaiyal, the leader of her bodyguards.
- The British captured her and tortured her to get her to reveal the whereabouts of Velu Nachiar.
- Udaiyal did not give in, and was killed.
- The brave Velu raised one more battalion of women and named it Udaiyal Regiment.
- It was commanded by the fiercely loyal Kuyili.
- Velu Nachiar met Haidar Ali, the king of Mysore, and convinced him to help her.
- Haider Ali sent 5,000 men to help Velu Nachiar to get back Sivaganga.
- But, by now, Sivaganga had been handed over to the British, and they had fortified the place.
- Kuyili smuggled some female guerillas in, and while they held the British at bay, she entered the ammunition store, and set it on fire. She died in the process.
- Velu Nachiar became Queen of Sivaganga and ruled for ten years.
- The Government of India has released a stamp in her honour in 2008.

4. a

**National Overseas Scholarship Scheme**

- It is a Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- The main objective of the National Overseas Scholarship is to facilitate the low income students belonging to the **Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans** category to obtain higher education viz., Master degree or Ph.D courses by studying abroad thereby improving their Economic and Social status.

- In each Selection Year, 100 fresh awards, subject to availability of funds, will be given under the Scheme.
- The Scheme provides financial assistance to the selected candidates.
- If for any specific year, successful candidates are not available to the extent prescribed for each of the above listed categories, the awards for that year will become open for candidates belonging to other categories mentioned above as per merit grades attained by such candidates.
- 30% of the awards for each year shall be earmarked for women candidates.
- Bachelors Level courses in any discipline are not covered under the Scheme.

**Recent developments in National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes students, etc.**

- The Annual Family Income limit for National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes students w.e.f. selection year 2020-21 has been increased from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh per annum.
- Students securing admission in higher ranking institutions internationally will be given preference.
- The minimum qualifying marks have been increased from 55% to 60%.
- Maintenance Allowance has been linked with progress of the awardee.
- Various verification processes have been simplified. Police verification has been done away and self-declaration has been introduced.

5. d

- As per the National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 2012, different Departments/Ministries have been allocated different roles.
- While the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the Nodal agency for Drug Demand Reduction**, the aspect of **supply reduction** is looked after by various enforcement agencies under **Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance** and State Governments and **harm**

**reduction by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

6. d

- Recently, *The Delhi Electric Vehicles Policy* was notified and Delhi hopes to become India's electric vehicle capital.
- The Indian government *allows sales of electric vehicles without batteries*.
- *The Electric Vehicles produce fewer emissions* that contribute to climate change and smog than conventional vehicles.
- *A green number plates are mandatory for Electric Vehicles*.

7. b

- Recently, an Indian-American soil scientist Dr Rattan Lal said that, in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh soils are degraded and depleted because 'organic matter' is quite below.
- *The organic matter in the soil is the very foundation of good soil health* and it consists of plants, animal material which gets converted into humus after decomposing.
- The Soil Health Card is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings.
- *It contains the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters*, namely N,P,K (Macro-nutrients); S (Secondary- nutrient); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro - nutrients); and pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters).
- Based on this, the *SHC also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm*.
- It is being implemented through the Department of Agriculture of all the State and Union Territories.

8. d

- Recently, there was an Oil Spill *Mauritius* coast in Indian Ocean.
- This endangers the corals, fish and other marine life around the Indian Ocean island.
- India does not shares maritime boundary with Mauritius.

- Mauritius is the second largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India after Singapore.

9. d

- A study has flagged a high rate of deforestation in *Papum Reserve Forest (RF)* in *Arunachal Pradesh*.
- The study based on satellite data has flagged the deforestation in a *major hornbill habitat* in *Papum Reserve Forest*.
- Papum RF is a nesting habitat of 3 species of the large, colourful fruit-eating hornbills: Great, Wreathed and Oriental Pied.
- It forms part of the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area.

10. a

- A new study sheds light on genetic affinities of *Gujjars* and *Ladakhis*.
- The study is the first comprehensive attempt to *determine the genetic relatedness of the Gujjars and Ladakhis* to populations within India and elsewhere in the world.
- Gujjars were an ethnic agricultural and pastoral community of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- In India, Gujjars are mainly concentrated in the north, across the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Overall, they form 10% of India's population.
- Pakistan and Afghanistan have significant Gujjar populations.
- In Pakistan, they comprise as much as 20% of the population.
- Gujjars can also be Muslim, Sikh, Christian and presumably Buddhist.

**15-08-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Organic Farming***

1. It uses ecologically based pest controls and synthetic fertilizers that conserve biodiversity.

2. Tripura became the first state to become fully organic 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 the *Official Languages Act, 1963***

1. It includes 22 scheduled languages as official language of the Government of India.
2. It states that Hindi or the official language of the State, can be used in addition to the English language, for the purposes of any judgement, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State.

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)***

1. The UAE is the member of OPEC and Israel is the member of OPEC Plus.
2. Israel does not have a diplomatic relations with any of the Arab country.

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

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





**4) Sarthak recently seen in news is a**

- a. A COVID 19 testing kit
- b. An Offshore Patrol Vessel
- c. An e-learning platform
- d. None of the above

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Water Commission (CWC)**

1. It is a premier technical organization in the field of water resources and is functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It undertakes the investigations, construction and execution of water supply and other water development schemes.

**Which of 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

- India ranks 1st in the number of *Organic Farmers* and 9th in terms of area under *Organic Farming*, according to the Ministry.
- *Sikkim became the first state to become fully organic* and other States including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.
- *Organic Farming, uses ecologically based pest controls and biological fertilizers* derived largely from animal and plant wastes and nitrogen-fixing cover crops.
- It enhances biodiversity biological cycles and soil biological activity.
- It is a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agro-ecosystem.

2. b

- Recently, the Supreme Court tells, the Central government to consider amending the *Official Languages Act of 1963*.
- It is to include scheduled languages other than Hindi and English as official language of the Government of India.
- *Scheduled languages (22) are those languages which are listed in the 8th schedule of the Constitution* and are given official recognition and encouragement by the Central government.
- However, *all official communication and publication of rules and notifications by the Central government are in Hindi and English*.
- The Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, *authorise the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English language, for the purposes of any judgement, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State*.

3. d

- Recently, *Israel and the United Arab Emirates*, helped by the US, have arrived at an important peace agreement.
- The UAE is the member of OPEC and *Israel is not a member of OPEC Plus*.
- *The UAE will become the third Arab nation to recognise Israel and to have a normal diplomatic relations with Israel after Egypt (in 1979) and Jordan (1994)*.

4. b

- Recently, Indian Coast Guard *Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarthak'* was launched.
- *Sarthak is the 4th in the series of five OPVs deployed by the Coast Guard to enhance maritime security*.
- It has been *designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited* in line with 'Make in India'.
- The Ship is fitted with state-of-the-art Navigation and Communication equipment.

5. c

- The *Central Water Commission (CWC)* tells states to keep close watch on 15 dams.

- It asked dam officials in these states to release water according to the *Rule Curve* and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- The *Rule Curve* is an international practice of dam operation — must be followed by dam management officials.
- The *Central Water Commission (CWC)* is a premier Technical Organization in the field of Water Resources and is presently functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating with State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country.
- It is for purpose of Flood Control, Irrigation, Navigation, Drinking Water Supply and Water Power Development.
- It also undertakes the investigations, construction and execution of any such schemes as required.

**17-08-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO)*

1. It is a two-tiered organization established in keeping with the vision of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.
2. It puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence.

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

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

2) With respect to *Swasthya Portal*, which was launched recently, consider the following statements

1. It is a comprehensive platform presenting all information pertaining to health and nutrition of tribal population of India.
2. The Portal will be managed by the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Knowledge Management in Health and Nutrition, established by 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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Omega Centauri*, sometimes seen in the news recently

1. It is the brightest and the largest globular cluster in the Milky Way Galaxy.
2. All stars formed from the *Omega Centauri* will be homogeneous in their chemical composition of elemental abundances.

Which of 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) *Vainu Bappu Observatory*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Lakshadweep
- d. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

5) Consider the following pairs



1. Pavitrapati – Anti-Microbial Body Suit
2. Aushada Tara – Biodegradable Face Mask

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *ILO Convention Number 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*

1. It defines a child, as a person under 18 years of age.
2. It is the first ILO Convention to achieve universal ratification.

Which of 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 *National Health Authority (NHA)*

1. It is an apex body responsible for implementing the flagship Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
2. It is an attached office to the NITI Aayog with full functional autonomy.

Which of 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 *National Cadet Corps (NCC)*

1. It is a youth development movement, falls under the purview of Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It is open to all regular students of schools and colleges and the students have a liability for active military service.

Which of 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 *Belarus*

1. It is a landlocked country located in western Asia.
2. India and Belarus maintain comprehensive partnership and have established mechanisms for exchanging views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Reserve Bank of India (RBI)*

1. The RBI pays dividend every year to the government from its surplus, the balance of the profits.
2. The RBI's financial year runs from July-June.

Which of 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 Defence Minister has recently launched the **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation (NIIO)** through an online webinar.
  - The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence in keeping with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
  - The NIIO is a **three-tiered organisation**.
1. Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC) will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives.
  2. A working group under the N-TAC will implement the projects.
  3. A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.
- The Draft Defence Acquisition Policy 2020 (DAP 20) envisages Service Headquarters establishing an Innovation & Indigenisation Organisation within existing resources.
  - Indian Navy already has a functional Directorate of Indigenisation (DoI) and the new structures created will build upon the ongoing indigenisation initiatives, as well as focus on innovation.
  - A compendium of Indian Navy's Indigenisation perspective plans titled 'SWAVLAMBAN' was also released on the occasion.

2. c

- Union Tribal Affairs Minister e-launch "**Swasthya**", a first of its kind Tribal Health & Nutrition Portal: One-stop solution for the health & nutrition status of the tribal population of India recently.
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Piramal Swasthya**,

the Centre of Excellence has developed this Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal.

### SWASTHYA PORTAL

- It is the first of its kind comprehensive platform for health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India.
- It has a dashboard, knowledge repository, partner segment, Sickle Cell Diseases (SCD) support corner.
- The dashboard presents data curated from multiple sources for the 177 identified high priority tribal districts.
- In addition, the Portal also has research studies, innovations and best practices on tribal community curated from multiple sources related to tribal health and nutrition.
- In addition, the SCD Support Corner available in the Portal encourages people with Sickle Cell disease or trait to register themselves.
- It is hoped that this Portal will bridge the existing knowledge, drive evidence-based policy making and catalyze a series of actions which will ultimately lead to overall improvements in the health and nutrition status of the tribal population in India.
- The Portal will be managed by the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Knowledge Management in Health and Nutrition, established by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Piramal Swasthya Management and Research Institute.

3. a

- Globular clusters are the stellar systems with millions of stars formed from the same gaseous cloud.
- Hence, usually, the stars formed will be homogeneous in their chemical composition of elemental abundances.
- But, there are clusters which deviate from this norm. One is being Omega Centauri.

### Omega Centauri

- It is the brightest and the largest globular cluster in our Galaxy, the Milky Way.

- The different stars of Omega Centauri do not show the same metal content, a parameter that indicates its age, but a large range in it.
- Due to the anomalous elemental abundances, the formation scenario may be different from normal.
- Normally, the abundances are derived using the assumption that He is one-tenth of the H-abundance.
- A team of scientists from the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India studied numerous stars of this cluster and **discovered He-enhanced cool bright stars among the metal-rich sample of Omega Centauri**.
- This work, a result of the spectroscopic survey conducted of this cluster, determines the He-abundance of these stars for the first time and has been published in 'The Astrophysical Journal'.

4. b

- The **Vainu Bappu Observatory** is an astronomical observatory owned and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
- It is located at Kavalur in the Javadi Hills, near Vaniyambadi in Tirupattur district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

5. d

- Pune based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, DIAT (DU) developed a Nanofibres of Ayurvedic based **Biodegradable Face Mask** which acts a virus neutraliser to resist against the bacteria / virus, and has named "**Pavitrapati**".
- Accordingly the Transfer of Technology [ToT] of this product signed in June 2020 between DIAT and Kolhapur based Textile Company M/s. Siddheshwar Techtessile Pvt. Ltd., Maharashtra, for actual development to this product on mass level to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus
- Another Transfer of Technology (ToT) has been transferred to M/s. Siddheshwar Techtessile Pvt. Ltd., Maharashtra by DIAT for

development of **anti-microbial body suit** in the name of "**Aushada tara**".

- This suit has superhydrophobic, breathing, anti-microbial, comfort feeling properties.
- The fabric material of the suit has the approval for fighting against the COVID-19.
- The suit had cleared the splash resistant tests and it has got good repellent property of any fluids.
- The above two products are the Trademarked products of DIAT (DU).

6. c

- Recently, *Kingdom of Tonga*, a Polynesian kingdom ratified the *Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour*.
- So, the *ILO Convention No. 182 is the first ILO Convention to achieve universal ratification*.
- This fundamental convention defines as a "*child*" a person under 18 years of age.
- It requires ratifying states to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery.

7. a

- Recently, Prime Minister announced the *National Health ID*.
- According to the *National Health Authority (NHA)*, every patient who wishes to have their health records available digitally must start by creating a *Health ID*.
- Each Health ID will be linked to a health data consent manager such as National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).
- *NHA is an apex body responsible for implementing the flagship public health insurance schemes* like Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- It is an *attached office to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with full functional autonomy*.
- The *NHA's governing board will be chaired by the Minister for Health and Family Welfare*, while its members will include *NITI Aayog CEO and NHA CEO*.

8. d





- Recently, the PM has announced an expansion of the NCC.
- The major expansion of NCC is to cover 173 border and coastal districts.
- *National Cadet Corps (NCC) is a youth development movement.*
- It is a tri-service organization that comprises of army, navy and air force *falls under the purview of Ministry of Defence.*
- *The NCC is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis.*
- *The students have no liability for active military service.*

9. b

- Belarus has been shaken for days by widespread mass protests, triggered by an election which was widely thought to be rigged.
- Europe's longest-serving ruler, President Lukashenko has been in charge of Belarus for 26 years.
- It is a *landlocked country located in Eastern Europe.*
- It is *bordered by Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Ukraine and Poland.*
- India and Belarus maintain comprehensive partnership and have established mechanisms for exchanging views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.

10. b

- The RBI to transfer Rs 57,128 crore surplus to Centre for FY20.
- It is called *transfers to the government, and not dividends.*
- It is because the RBI is not a commercial organisation like banks and other companies owned or controlled by the government to pay a dividend to the owner out of the profit generated.
- The government nationalised it in January 1949, making the sovereign the "owner".
- Under Section 47 of the RBI Act, "after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contributions to staff and superannuation funds and for all other

matters for which provision is to be made by or under this Act or which are usually provided for by bankers, the balance of the profits shall be paid to the Central government".

- This is done in early August by the Central Board.
- *The RBI's financial year runs from July-June at present.*
- It is scheduled to be harmonised with the government's April-March fiscal starting FY22.

18-08-2020

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Air Unique-quality Monitoring (AUM) System, seen in the news recently**

1. It is an indigenous photonic system for real-time remote monitoring of air quality parameters.
2. It can identify, classify, and quantify various pollutants simultaneously with very high precision, sensitivity and accuracy.
3. It has been developed with the support from Department of Science and Technology's Clean Air Research Initiative.

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to SRIJAN Portal**

1. It is a one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items for indigenization.
2. It functions under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

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



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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)*

1. It aims to create an ecosystem which fosters innovation and encourages technology development in Defence.
2. It is being implemented by Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), a Section 8 company formed for this purpose.

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) "Sarabhai Crater", which was named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, is located in which of the following?

- a. Mars
- b. Moon
- c. Arctic
- d. Antarctica

5) *Jaya Jaitley Committee*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with?

- a. Health and Nutrition of Women
- b. Sexual Harassment in Digital Media
- c. Indigenization of Defence Production in India
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)*

1. The role of an ASHA is a functionary of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).
2. They are the frontline village-level health workers who act as the first contact person between the community and the health services.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Fly ash*

1. It is the finest of coal ash particles.
2. It is a pollutant and it contains toxic radioactive matter.

Which of 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 *Asiatic Lion*

1. The Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary and the Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary are the only abode of the Asiatic lion.
2. They are listed as Endangered on IUCN Red List and Appendix-I of the CITES.

Which of 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) **Dak Adalat** sometimes seen in news is a?

- a. e-court, an alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.
- b. Department of Posts, grievances redressal of customers
- c. A consumer grievance redressal forum
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to **East Kolkata Wetlands**

- 1. It is the wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- 2. It nurtures the largest wastewater fed aqua culture system.

Which of 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

- With the support from Department of Science and Technology's Clean Air Research Initiative, Gayatri Vidya Parishad-Scientific and Industrial Research Centre (GVP-SIRC) & GVP College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam, has developed an **indigenous photonic system for real-time remote monitoring of air quality parameters**.
- The system titled **AUM (Air Unique-quality Monitoring)** had CATS Eco-Systems, Nashik as the technology transfer partner for commercialization.

### **AUM (Air Unique-quality Monitoring)**

- It is an innovative application of the principles of laser backscattering, statistical mechanics, optoelectronics, artificial intelligence, machine/deep learning, and Internet of Things.

- It can identify, classify, and quantify **various pollutants simultaneously** (of orders of less than one part per billion) and meteorological parameters, with very high precision, sensitivity and accuracy.
- It offers a number of merits over any of the currently available conventional systems.
- It is portable, compact, low powered and economical, works on plug and play system, requires no setting uptime, and no additional civil infrastructure for housing.
- It is a non-intrusive remote, real-time monitoring system and is capable of monitoring in both spatial and temporal domains, with very high sampling frequencies.
- Also, the data from spatially separated sensors can be seamlessly streamed to a cloud server, from where digestible real-time encrypted information on dashboard is made available to user at any part of the world.
- This system can boost the nation's efforts towards self-reliance in high-end technologies and can additionally be instrumental in supporting the endeavours in improving the nation's health and economy.

2. d

- Pursuant to Atmanirbhar Bharat announcement, **Department of Defence Production under Ministry of Defence** has developed an indigenization portal **SRIJAN**.
- Union Defence Minister has recently launched the Portal.

### **SRIJAN Portal**

- It is a one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items for indigenization.
- It will help industry partners to play an active role in the goal of self-reliance in the defence sector.
- On this portal, DPSUs/OFB/SHQs can display their items which they have been importing or are going to import which the Indian Industry can design, develop and manufacture as per their capability or through joint venture with OEMs.

- The Indian Industry will be able to show their interest. The concerned DPSUs/OFB/SHQs, based on their requirement of the items and their guidelines & procedures will interact with the Indian industry for indigenization.

3. d

- Department of Defence Production (DDP)** has recently signed 4 Contracts of Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC3) under Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).

#### **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**

- iDEX aims to create an ecosystem which fosters innovation and encourages technology development in Defence by engaging R&D institutes, academia, industries, startups and individual innovators.
- The iDEX framework was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in April 2018.
- iDEX is being implemented by Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), a Section 8 company formed for this purpose, with Rs 50 crore support each from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), both of which are Defence Public Sector Units.

4. b

- To mark the completion of one year of centenary celebrations of Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the Father of India's Space Programme, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has announced that Chandrayaan 2 Orbiter has captured the **Moon images of "Sarabhai" Crater**.
- "Sarabhai" Crater is named after Dr Vikram Sarabhai and around 250 to 300 kilometres east of this Crater is where the Apollo 17 and Luna 21 Missions had landed.
- As per the ISRO sources, the Sarabhai Crater captured in 3D images shows that the Crater has a depth of around 1.7 Kms taken from its raised rim and the slope of Crater walls is in between 25 to 35 degree.
- These findings will help the Space Scientists to understand further the process on the lunar region filled with lava.

- It was further informed that Chandrayaan-2 continues to perform as per the design and providing valuable scientific data.

5. a

- In June 2020, the government announced a 10-member panel headed by **Jaya Jaitley** and comprising Secretaries from the Ministries of Human Resource Development; Women and Child Development; and Health and Family Welfare, among others.
- The task force was mandated to work on the issues of women and child development by looking into the **"age of a girl entering motherhood" in order to lower maternal mortality rates and improve nutrition levels**.
- The committee has missed its July 31 deadline to finalise its report and give recommendations.

6. d

- Recently, **ASHA workers** protest demanding smartphones, PPEs and better incentives for COVID-19 service in Haryana.
- Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)** is a trained female community health activist.
- The **role of an ASHA** is that of a community level care provider.
- This includes a mix of tasks: facilitating access to health care services, building awareness about health care entitlements especially amongst the poor and marginalized.
- It is the **Anganwadi worker (AWW)**, who act as a functionary of the **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)**.
- The **Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM)** are the frontline village-level health workers who act as the first contact person between the community and the health services.

7. c

- Recently, the NTPC begun supply of **Fly ash** using newly developed infrastructure at its Rihand project in UP to cement plants.
- The **Fly ash** is a fine powder, which is a byproduct of burning pulverized coal in electric generation power plants.



- It is the *finest of coal ash particles*. It is called fly ash because it is transported from the combustion chamber by exhaust gases.
- It is a *pollutant and it contains, acidic, toxic radioactive matter*,
- lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and uranium.
- It can be used in Concrete production, as a substitute material for Portland cement and sand.

8. b

- Recently, the Gujarat government said they are not in favour of translocating *Asiatic Lions* to Madhya Pradesh.
- The *Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in Barkheda, MP* is selected to translocate the Asiatic lion from Gir National Park, Gujarat.
- At present *Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is the only abode of the Asiatic lion*.
- They are listed in *Schedule I* of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in *Appendix I* of CITES and as *Endangered* on IUCN Red List.

9. b

- The *Department of Posts* to conduct, *regional level Dak Adalat* through video conferencing or video call.
- *Grievances of postal customers would be heard during the adalat*.

10. c

- Recently, NGT warns officials for violating waste dumping norms in the *East Kolkata Wetlands*.
- The *East Kolkata Wetland (EKW)* is the *wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention*.
- The *EKW nurtures the world's largest wastewater fed aqua culture system*.
- Sewerage that is sent to the wetlands are subjected to solar purification followed by natural oxidation.
- Through which the water become conducive for algal and plankton growth which are the primary feed of fishes.

19-08-2020

**1) How different is the PM CARES Fund from the PM's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)?**

1. PMNRF is for all kinds of natural disasters whereas PM CARES fund is specially meant for COVID-19 similar pandemic situations.
2. PMNRF was managed by a committee which included the Prime Minister, the Congress President and a representative of the Tata Trustees whereas the Prime Minister chairs the PM CARES fund and nominate three eminent persons in relevant fields to the Board of Trustees.

**Which of 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 best describes the term "Case Fatality Rate (CFR)", often seen in the news recently?**

- a. The ratio of the number of deaths in a given population to the number of deaths expected
- b. The relative differences in death rates between different populations of the same biological species decrease with age
- c. It is a measure of the number of deaths in a particular population, scaled to the size of that population, per unit of time
- d. It is the proportion of deaths from a certain disease, among all individuals diagnosed, with the disease over a certain period of time

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**

1. It was founded by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, independent India's first Education Minister.
2. It functions as an autonomous body under the administrative control of Ministry of External 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

4) 'ALEKH' is a quarterly e-newsletter on health and nutrition, launched recently by?

- a. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- b. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- c. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- d. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

5) Which of the following does *not* come under the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court?

- a. Dispute between Centre and one or more states
- b. Dispute between the Centre and a Union Territory
- c. Dispute between two or more states
- d. Disputes between the Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more states on the other.

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Election Commission of India*

- 1. It is a permanent constitutional body which conducts elections to Parliament, Legislature of every State, elections to the District Panchayats and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India.
- 2. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.

Which of 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 *Optical Fiber*

- 1. It is a method of data transmission using light pulses through an optical fiber.
- 2. Copper cables are used in this mode of transmission.

Which of 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 *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana*

- 1. It is a campaign launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- 2. The Jan Aushadhi Kendras are a dedicated store to sell high quality and efficacy branded drugs at lower price.

Which of 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) *Paryushan Parv* recently seen in news is,

- a. A Buddhist festival of soul purification & self search
- b. It commemorates Buddha's teaching and pay homage to the Buddha
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

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

1. These are small pieces of plastic, less than 5 mm in length.
2. They do not readily break down into harmless molecules.

Which of 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

### PM CARES Fund

- On March 28, 2020, the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund, or the PM CARES Fund, was set up to tackle distress situations such as that posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The fund receives voluntary contributions from individuals and organisations and **does not get any budgetary support**.
- Donations have been made tax-exempt, and can be counted against a company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) obligations.
- It is also exempt from the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, and accepts foreign contributions.
- The Prime Minister chairs the fund in his official capacity, and can nominate three eminent persons in relevant fields to the Board of Trustees.
- The Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs and Finance are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

### Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

- It was set up in January 1948, originally to accept public contributions for the assistance of Partition refugees.
- It is now used to provide immediate relief to the families of those killed in natural

calamities and the victims of major accidents and riots and support medical expenses for acid attack victims and others.

- The PMNRF was **originally** managed by a committee which included the Prime Minister and his deputy, the Finance Minister, the Congress President, a representative of the Tata Trustees and an industry representative.
- However, in 1985, the committee entrusted the entire management of the fund to the Prime Minister, who currently has sole discretion for fund disbursal.
- A joint secretary in the PMO administers the fund on an honorary basis.

### Limitations of PM CARES

- It is not clear whether the fund comes under the ambit of the RTI Act or oversight by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, although independent auditors will audit the fund.
- The decision to allow uncapped corporate donations to the fund to count as CSR expenditure — a facility not provided to PMNRF or the CM's Relief Funds — goes against previous guidelines stating that CSR should not be used to fund government schemes.
- A government panel had previously advised against allowing CSR contributions to the PMNRF on the grounds that the double benefit of tax exemption would be a "regressive incentive".

2. d

- *On a continuous positive path of slide in its COVID-19 Case Fatality Rate, India has one of the lowest mortality globally and stands at 1.93%.*

### Case Fatality Rate (CFR)

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), CFR is a measure of the severity of a disease and is defined as the proportion of cases of a specified disease or condition which are fatal within a specified time.
- In other words, a CFR — sometimes called case fatality risk or case-fatality ratio — is the proportion of deaths from a certain disease compared to the total number of people

diagnosed with the disease for a particular period.

3. c

- The President of India had recently unveiled the portrait of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India, virtually on his second death anniversary, at the headquarters of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as the ex-officio President of ICCR from March 1977 to August 1979 when he was Foreign Minister.

#### Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

- Established in 1951, ICCR is a society registered in the year 1957 under Society Registration Act 1860.
- ICCR was founded by **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** when he was the Minister of Education.
- The organization was under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs till 1970.
- Since its mandate involved interaction with foreign entities, ICCR was in 1970 transferred from Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- Since then it has been functioning as an autonomous body under the **administrative control of MEA**.

4. a

- A series of initiatives were announced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs recently which included the Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal 'Swasthya' and e-newsletter on health and nutrition ALEKH; opening of National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal.
- 'ALEKH' is a quarterly e-newsletter which emphasize the commitment of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to improve the health and wellbeing of the tribal communities.

5. b

6. b

- Recently, Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa, resigned to join the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as vice-president.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a permanent Constitutional Body.
- The Constitution of India has vested in the ECI the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conduct of elections to Parliament and Legislature of every State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.
- The State Election Commissions are vested with the powers of conduct of elections to the Corporations, Municipalities, Zilla Parishads, District Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Gram Panchayats and other local bodies.
- They are independent of the Election Commission of India.

7. a

- The Prime Minister announced that every village in the country will be connected by the Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).
- OFC is a method of data transmission using light pulses through an optical fiber.
- Optic Fiber uses strands of glass or all plastic cables, to transmit data using pulses of infrared laser light.
- Fiber optic cables are used since they hold a number of advantages over copper cables, such as higher bandwidth and transmit speeds.

8. d

- Recently, the Prime Minister announced that Sanitary napkins to be available for Re 1 at Jan Aushadhi stores.
- The biodegradable sanitary napkin 'Suvidha' sold in a pack of four are available at the subsidised price.



- *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana* is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- It is to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through *Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra*.
- The *Jan Aushadhi Kendras* are a dedicated store to sell generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.

9. d

- *Paryushan Par* is celebrated on 15th August to 22nd August.
- It is an important Jain festival of soul purification & self search.
- It is to focus on spirituality with the hope to live a Jain Way of Life for the rest of the year.

10. c

- The Maldives beaches have the most *Microplastics*, according to the recent study.
- These are small pieces of plastic, *less than 5 mm in length*, that occur in the environment as a consequence of *plastic pollution*.
- The problem with microplastics is that, like plastic items of any size, *they do not readily break down into harmless molecules*.
- Plastics can take hundreds or thousands of years to decompose and in the meantime, wreak havoc on the environment.
- On beaches, microplastics are visible as tiny multicolored plastic bits in sand.
- In the oceans, *microplastic pollution is often consumed by marine animals*.

**20-08-2020**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

1. It is a regional multi-national organization of Arabic-speaking countries on the African and Asian continents.

2. It's mission is to promote trade and economic growth in the region.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal*

1. The Satluj-Yamuna link canal connects Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Sutlej River is the tributary of the Indus River.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *salaries and allowances of MLAs*

1. State legislators decide their salaries and allowances by passing a law in their respective state legislatures in all states in India.
2. The Union Finance Ministry has linked the salaries of MLAs to the cost of inflation index.

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

- a. A landlocked country of western Africa

- b. The Nile River flows through Mali
- c. Both a and b
- d. None of the above

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Lingaraj Temple***

1. It is built in red stone and it is a classic example of Kalinga style of architecture.
2. The linga of Lord Shiva is regarded as Swayambhu (self-originated) and worshipped as both Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu.

**Which of 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

- Recently, after Pakistan Foreign Minister threat to split OIC, Pakistan cosies up to Saudi, Turkey.
- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest organization after the UN with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents.
- The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world.
- It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
- The Arab League is a regional multi-national organization of Arabic-speaking countries on the African and Asian continents.
- It's mission is to promote trade and economic growth as well as sovereignty and political stability in the region.

2. b

- Recently, Punjab seeks re-assessment of river water share, while Haryana wants Punjab to complete *SYL Canal*.
- The *Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal* is a water way to connect the *Sutlej River* in Punjab to Yamuna canal in Haryana.
- The *Sutlej River* is the easternmost tributary of the *Indus River*.

3. d

- The UP, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, HP, Kerala have announced salary cuts for their legislators to curb state expenditure amid the pandemic.
- In most states in India, state legislators decide their salaries and allowances, by passing a law in their respective state legislatures.
- In some states such as Bihar, they have passed an Act which empowers the state government to set and revise their emoluments.
- The Union Finance Ministry linked the salaries of MPs to the cost of inflation index, and provided that the salaries will be revised every five years.

4. a

- The Military officers have taken charge in Mali, after a coup.
- The Mali is a landlocked country of western Africa, mostly in the Saharan and Sahelian regions.
- The Niger River flows through its interior, functioning as the main trading and transport artery in the country.
- Mali is bordered by Algeria in north, by Niger in east, by Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire in south, by Guinea in south-west, and by Senegal and Mauritania in west.

5. c

- The Odisha government chalks out plan for peripheral development of *Lingaraj Temple*.
- It is built in red stone and it is a classic example of Kalinga style of architecture.
- The linga of Lord Shiva is regarded as Swayambhu (self-originated) and worshipped as both Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu.



- Bindusagar, the sacred pond near the temple, has a unique connection with Lord Lingaraj.

**21-08-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020***

1. It aims to systematically rank higher education institutions and universities in India on indicators related to Innovation, Startup and Entrepreneurship Development amongst students and faculty.
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development, implemented by AICTE and Ministry's Innovation Cell.

**Which of 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) *Bhadbhut project*, sometimes seen in the news recently, aims to build a 1.7-km causeway-cum-weir barrage, across which of the following rivers?**

- a. River Cauvery
- b. River Godavari
- c. River Narmada
- d. River Tungabhadra

**3) Which of the following is responsible for the implementation of *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*?**

- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
- b. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- d. None of the above

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Naya Savera Scheme***

1. The scheme aims to empower the students belonging to minority communities and prepare them for competitive examinations.
2. The scheme provides financial support for free coaching to notified minority students in selected coaching 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

**5) Which of the following ministries is implementing the *Nai Udaan Scheme*?**

- a. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- b. Ministry of Minority Affairs
- c. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d. Ministry of Human Resource and Development

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Recruitment Agency (NRA)***

1. NRA an independent body, to be set up as a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act.
2. It will conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to non-gazetted posts in government and public sector banks.
3. The CET will be conducted in all 22 scheduled languages.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Brown Dwarf*

1. The brown dwarf are planets found outside the solar system.
2. They give off high light and energy and are easy to locate.

Which of 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 *Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2020*

1. India ranks among the best in the world in terms of Internet quality.
2. It is released by World Economic Forum.

Which of 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) *Ninja UAV* recently seen in news is?

- a. An Indian Railways drone-based surveillance system
- b. An Drone-based surveillance for implementation of the COVID-19 lockdown
- c. A Indian Navy surveillance drone
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Fair And Remunerative Price (FRP)*

1. It is the minimum price that the central government pays to farmers.

2. The States can set their State Advised Price which are generally higher than FRP.

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

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

## Answers

1. c

- The Vice-President of India virtually announced Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020 recently.

### *Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)*

- ARIIA is an initiative of Ministry of HRD, implemented by AICTE and Ministry's Innovation Cell, Government of India to systematically rank higher education institutions and universities in India on indicators related to Innovation, Startup and Entrepreneurship Development amongst students and faculty.
- ARIIA 2020 will have six Prize categories which also includes special category for women only higher educational institutions to encourage women and bringing gender parity in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The other five categories are 1) Centrally Funded Institutions 2) State funded universities 3) State funded autonomous institutions 4) Private/Deemed Universities and 5) Private Institutions.
- Scores is computed based on the weights allotted to each head, overall score can take a maximum value of 100.
- All recognized Higher Educational Institutions of India are eligible to participate in the ARIIA ranking.

- In the recent ARIIA IIT Madras has bagged the top position under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities.
- ARIIA will set tone and direction for institutions for future development and making them globally competitive and in forefront of innovation.
- ARIIA ranking will certainly inspire Indian institutions to reorient their mind-set and build an ecosystem to encourage high quality research, innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

2. c

### **Bhadbhut project**

- Bhadbhut project in Bharuch is planned to be a 1.7-km causeway-cum-weir barrage with 90 gates, across the river Narmada.
- The barrage will stop most of the excess water flowing out of the Sardar Sarovar Dam from reaching the sea and thus create a “sweet water lake” of 600 mcm (million cubic metres) on the river.
- The sweet water from the reservoir will aim to meet the residential and industrial water requirements of Bharuch, Ankleshwar and Dahej.
- The project also aims to prevent flooding in years when rainfall is higher than normal.
- Embankments 22 km long will be made and will extend upstream towards Bharuch, from either side of the river.
- The barrage design also has a navigation lock to enable any future plans to run a ferry service or boats under the inland waterway scheme.
- The Inland Waterway Authority of India has given clearance for this project.
- The project as faced protests from local fishermen for its likely impact on fishing patterns, notably those of hilsa.
- A marine fish, hilsa migrate upstream and arrives in the brackish water of the Narmada estuary near Bharuch for spawning usually during the monsoon months of July and August, and continue doing so till November.
- Once the barrage is built, it is expected to block their natural entry.

3. d

- Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on 25th December, 2000 to provide all-weather access to unconnected habitations, based on census 2001.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.
- The spirit and the objective of the PMGSY is to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected Habitations.
- A habitation which was earlier provided all-weather connectivity would not be eligible even if the present condition of the road is bad.
- The unit for this Programme is a Habitation and not a Revenue village or a Panchayat.
- A Habitation is a cluster of population, living in an area, the location of which does not change over time.
- Desam, Dhanis, Tolas, Majras, Hamlets etc. are commonly used terminology to describe the Habitations.
- An Unconnected Habitation is one with a population of designated size located at a distance of at least 500 metres or more (1.5 km of path distance in case of Hills) from an All-weather road or a connected Habitation.

4. c

### **Naya Savera Scheme**

- The scheme aims to empower the students belonging to minority communities and prepare them for competitive examinations, so that their participation in government and private jobs improves.
- The scheme provides financial support for free coaching to notified minority students in selected coaching institutions.
- The Scheme is being implemented under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

5. b

### **Nai Udaan Scheme**

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the **minority**

**candidates clearing prelims** conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the State Governments and to increase the representation of the minority in the Civil Services by giving **direct financial support**.

- **Ministry of Minority Affairs** will be the implementing agency.
- Only candidates belonging to notified Minority Communities who fulfill all other eligibility criteria and conditions will be considered for financial support under the scheme.

6. a

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved setting up of *National Recruitment Agency (NRA)*.
- It will be *an independent body, to be set up as a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act*.
- It will conduct the *Common Eligibility Test (CET)* for recruitment to non-gazetted posts in government and public sector banks.
- It will have representatives of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB & IBPS.
- The *CET* will be conducted in 12 major Indian languages.
- It will be held twice a year.

7. d

- Recently, Citizen scientists and NOIRLab facilities discovered almost 100 nearby cool *Brown Dwarfs*.
- *Brown dwarf* are an astronomical object that is intermediate between a planet and a star.
- They are usually have a mass less than 0.075 that of the Sun, or roughly 75 times that of Jupiter.
- They are outside the solar system, they give off little light and energy and they are challenging to locate.

8. d

- The *Digital Quality of Life Index 2020* has been released by *SurfShark*, an online privacy solutions provider.
- It is a research on the quality of a digital wellbeing in 85 countries (81% of the global population), in terms of e-infrastructure.
- India occupies 79th place, ranking below countries including Guatemala and Sri Lanka.
- *India ranks among the lowest in the world in terms of Internet quality*.
- India makes it into the top 10 in terms of Internet affordability.

9. a

- Recently, *Indian Railways* started deploying "*Ninja UAVs*" for establishing a *drone-based surveillance system*.
- It will be deployed in railway areas like station premises, Railway track sections, yards, workshops, etc.
- They are capable of real-time tracking, video streaming and may be operated on Automatic Fail-Safe mode.

10. b

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a hike in the *Fair And Remunerative Price (FRP)* of sugarcane.
- FRP is the *minimum price that the sugar mills have to pay to farmers*.
- It is determined on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and are announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- The *State Advised Prices (SAP)* are announced by state governments which are generally higher than FRP.

**22-08-2020**

**1) "Harit Path" is a mobile app launched recently. It was developed by?**

- Archaeological Survey of India
- Indian Meteorological Department
- Indian Space Research Organisation
- National Highways Authority of India

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Seeds Corporation Ltd. (NSC)*

1. It is a Schedule 'B'-Miniratna Category-I company wholly owned by Government of India.
2. It works under the administrative control of Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmer's Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Accelerating CCS Technologies (ACT)*

1. It is an international initiative to establish CO<sub>2</sub> capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) as a tool to combat global warming.
2. Only European countries can become members of this program which was started in 2016.
3. ACT will be in action for a five-year-period from 2016 to 2021.

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

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

4) With respect to Swachh Survekshan 2020, consider the following statements

1. It is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

2. One city has been given only one Award and the Cities population will be bases on 2011 Census.

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

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

5) With respect to *Sardar Patel National Unity Award*, consider the following statements

1. Not more than three Awards shall be given in a year.
2. It shall not be conferred posthumously at any circumstances.
3. It has been regarded as the highest civilian award in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of India.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Participatory Notes*

1. These are financial instruments required by investors to invest in the Indian securities after registering themselves with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
2. These are among the group of investments considered to be Offshore Derivative Investments (ODIs).

Which of 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 *Basel III*

1. It is an international regulatory accord that introduced a set of reforms designed to enhance banking regulatory framework.
2. Presently India follows Basel-III norms.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)*

1. The scheme is implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) functioning as the nodal agency at the national level.
2. Any individual, above 18 years of age can apply for this scheme.
3. There is no income ceiling for setting up of projects.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

9) *TRIFOOD Project* recently seen in news is?

- a. To improve the income of tribals with the help of better utilization of Minor Forest Produce (MFPs)

- b. A joint initiative of Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Corona Fighters*

1. It is an interactive first-of-its-kind video game on COVID-19.
2. It presents a new and creative way of teaching people the right tools and behaviour to fight the pandemic.

Which of 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

- '*Harit Path*' is a mobile app launched recently by the Union Minister for Road and Transport to facilitate creation of Green Highways across country.
- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, a PSU under the Ministry of Road and Transport developed the Harit Path App.
- The App will also be used to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of the PSU's field units for every plant under the Highway plantation projects.
- NHAI had also recently undertaken a nation-wide plantation drive, **Harit Bharat Sankalp**, under which it planted over 25 lakh plants in 25 days along the stretches of the National Highways across the country.
- Highway contractors have been made accountable for proper upkeep and maintenance of the plantations.

- Under a unique initiative, the payment to the contractors for the plantation work has been linked with the growth of the plants.

2. c

- To improve production and productivity of raw Jute in the country, the Ministry of Textiles will make available certified jute seeds to the farmers through the Jute Corporation of India (JCI).
- National Seeds Corporation (NSC), a CPSE under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare would be ensuring delivery of these quality certified seeds to the JCI.
- An MoU in this regard was signed between the JCI and National Seeds Corporation (NSC) recently.

#### **National Seeds Corporation Ltd. (NSC)**

- It is a Schedule 'B'-Miniratna Category-I company wholly owned by Government of India under the administrative control of Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmer's Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- NSC was established in March-1963 to undertake production of foundation and certified seeds.
- At present, it is undertaking production of certified seeds of nearly 600 varieties of 60 crops consisting of Cereals, Pulses, oilseeds, Fiber, Fodder, Green Manure and Vegetables, in its Farms and through its registered seed growers.

3. b

- The Department of Science Technology (DST) has invited proposals from Indian researchers in the area of CCUS under **Accelerating CCUS Technologies (ACT)** in collaboration with other ACT member countries.
- CCUS is one of the identified innovation challenges in the Mission Innovation (MI) Programme, a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Union to accelerate the global clean energy innovation in
- which the Department of Science & Technology (DST) is an active partner.

#### **Accelerating CCS Technologies (ACT)**

- It is an international initiative to establish CO<sub>2</sub> capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) as a tool to combat global warming.
- The ambition of ACT is to facilitate the emergence of CCUS via transnational funding aimed at accelerating and maturing CCUS technology through targeted innovation and research activities.
- ACT will be in action for a five-year-period from 2016 to 2021.
- ACT started in 2016 with only European members but the objective of ACT has changed from a European to an international perspective.
- From 2018 ACT is open for countries all over the world with interest in CCUS.
- The ACT members are funding agencies from: The Alberta province in Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the Nordic Region, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and the USA.

4. c

- The fifth edition of Swachh Survekshan 2020 was launched at a virtual event titled Swachh Mahotsav organized by MoHUA.
- Indore won the coveted title of the Cleanest City of India, Surat and Navi Mumbai won the second and third position respectively in the > 1 lakh population category.
- Indore in Madhya Pradesh retained its position as the cleanest city in India for the fourth consecutive year.
- Chhattisgarh won the prestigious title of the Cleanest State of India in the > 100 ULB category while Jharkhand was adjudged the Cleanest State of India in the <100 ULB category.

#### **About Swachh Survekshan 2020**

- It is the annual cleanliness urban survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.
- One city has been given only one Award. Cities population is as per 2011 Census.

5. c

- The Sardar Patel National Unity Award shall be regarded as the highest civilian award in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of India.
- The Award shall consist of a medal and a citation. No monetary grant/cash award shall be attached to this Award.
- Not more than three Awards shall be given in a year, subject to a suitable candidate being selected by the Award Committee for that year.
- The Award shall not be conferred posthumously except in very rare and highly deserving cases.

6. b

- Investments through *Participatory Notes (P-notes)* in the domestic capital market soared to Rs 63,288 crore till July-end, making it the fourth consecutive monthly rise.
- *P-notes* are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market *without registering themselves directly with SEBI*.
- These are among the group of investments considered to be Offshore Derivative Investments (ODIs).
- These are popular investments due to the investor remaining anonymous.

7. a

- SBI board had approved a proposal to raise Rs 8,931 crore by issuing *Basel III-compliant bonds* to investors.
- *Basel III* is an international regulatory accord that introduced a set of reforms designed to improve the regulation, supervision, and risk management within the banking sector.
- It is an iterative step in the ongoing effort to enhance the banking regulatory framework.
- Presently India follows *Basel-II norms*.
- The deadline for the implementation of *Basel-III* was March 2019 in India. It was postponed to March 2020.

- In light of the coronavirus pandemic, the *RBI decided to defer the implementation of Basel norms by further 6 months*.

8. d

- Banks sanctioned over 11,000 projects under the *Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)*, up 22% compared to last year.
- The scheme is implemented by *Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) functioning as the nodal agency at the national level*.
- Any individual, above 18 years of age can apply for this scheme.
- There is no income ceiling for setting up of projects.
- Assistance under the Scheme is *available only to new units* to be established.

9. c

- Recently, Tribal Affairs Minister launches *Trifood Project*.
- It is to *improve the income of tribals with the help of better utilization of Minor Forest Produce (MFPs)*.
- It is a *joint initiative of Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED*.

10. c

- Recently, Health Minister has launched an *interactive first-of-its-kind video game on COVID-19, the 'Corona Fighters'*.
- The game presents a new and extremely creative way to teach people the right tools and behaviours to fight Covid-19 pandemic.

**24-08-2020**

**1) Which of the following is incorrect regarding Tenzing Norgay Award, sometimes seen in the news recently**

- It is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air
- This Award is at par with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for sporting excellence



c. The awards are conferred by the President of India, along with Arjuna Awards every year

d. None of the above

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan yojana**

1. The scheme offers cash compensation to insured persons when they are rendered unemployed.
2. It will be implemented by the District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF.

**Which of 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 Visceral Leishmaniasis**

1. It is one of the most neglected tropical diseases.
2. Around 95% of reported cases are from Indian Subcontinent.

**Which of 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) Srisailem Hydroelectric Plant, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located along which of the following rivers?**

- a. R. Penna
- b. R. Krishna
- c. R. Cauvery
- d. R. Tungabhadra

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to Namath Basai Scheme**

1. It is a unique programme that aims to upskill tribal children by encouraging them to learn various languages of opportunities.
2. The programme is being implemented by the Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK).

**Which of 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 National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**

1. It is a not for profit company under the provisions of Companies Act 1956.
2. It provides an electronic payment facility to customer to make the payments at national, state and city toll plazas.

**Which of 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 Pinaka**

1. It is an indigenous Multi-Barrel Rocket Launch (MBRL) system, developed by the DRDO.
2. The navigation system of the missile is aided by the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

**Which of 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 National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**

1. It's objective is to contribute significantly to skilling up of people in India, mainly by fostering private sector initiatives in skill development programmes and to provide funding.
2. It was set up by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) as Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

**Which of 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) Thumbimahotsavam 2020 recently seen in news is to be conducted in?**

- a. Telangana
- b. Karnataka
- c. Odisha
- d. Kerala

**10) Consider the following**

1. Ukraine
2. Turkey
3. Romania

**Which of the Countries given above shares border with Black sea?**

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

## Answers

1. b

- Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.

## Awards

- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sports person over a period of four years.
- Arjuna Award is given for consistent outstanding performance for four years.
- Dronacharya Award goes to the coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.
- Dhyan Chand Award is for life time contribution to sports development.
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar is given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.
- Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy.
- In addition to these Sports Awards, the Ministry also recognises the spirit of adventure among the people of the country by bestowing the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award.

## Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

- It is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.
- A cash Award of Rs.5.00 lakh and a certificate of honour is given to each Awardee.
- This Award is at par with the Arjuna Award for sporting excellence.
- Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards are conferred by the Hon'ble President of India, along with Arjuna Awards, in a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the month of August every year.

2. a



- **Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana** is a welfare measure being implemented by the **Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation** in 2018.
- It offers cash compensation to insured persons when they are rendered unemployed.

#### Recent Developments

- The ESI Corporation has decided to extend the scheme for one more year up to 30th June 2021.
- It has been decided to relax the existing conditions and the amount of relief for workers who have lost employment during the Covid-19 pandemic period.
- The payment of relief has been enhanced to **50% of average of wages from earlier 25% of average** wages payable upto maximum 90 days of unemployment.
- Instead of the relief becoming payable 90 days after unemployment, it shall become due for payment after 30 days.
- The enhanced relief under the relaxed conditions will be payable during the period of 24.03.2020 to 31st December 2020.
- Thereafter the scheme will be available with original eligibility condition during the period 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2021.

3. a

- *Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science & Technology (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology have developed an oral nanomedicine with the help of surface-modified solid lipid nanoparticles based combinational cargo system for combating Visceral Leishmaniasis.*
- The oral therapeutics could help in the control and elimination of VL.
- The findings of their study supported by the DST-SERB Early Career Research Award have been recently published in the journals 'Scientific Reports' and 'Materials Science & Engineering C'.

#### Visceral leishmaniasis (VL)

- **Also called as Kala- Azar**, it is one of the most neglected tropical diseases.

- It is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anaemia (which may be serious).
- If the disease is not treated, the fatality rate in developing countries can be as high as 100% within 2 years.
- Around 95% of which is reported from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

4. b

- The Criminal Investigation Department and TS Genco constituted a four-member committee to probe into the fire tragedy at the **Srisailem Left Bank power house** that claimed nine lives recently.
- The Srisailem dam straddles the **River Krishna** in a deep gorge on the border of Telangana's Mahabubnagar district and Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district.
- The reservoir of the dam sprawls over 616 sq km, and there are two power plants on either side of the dam.
- The left bank underground station, where the accident happened, is on the **Telangana side**.
- It has 900MW installed capacity for pumped-storage operation; the right bank underground power station, with a capacity of 770MW, is on the Andhra side.

5. b

#### Namath Basai Scheme

- Kerala State government is carrying out a unique programme called "Namath Basai" of **teaching tribal children in their mother tongue**.
- The programme is being implemented by the **Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK)**.
- SSK is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.
- It aims at improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.

- It has succeeded in retaining hundreds of tribal children in their online classes using their mother tongue as language of instruction.
  - It offers pre-recorded classes through a YouTube channel in three tribal languages in Attappady valley in Palakkad District Kerala.
  - These languages belong to the Irula, Muduka and Kurumba tribes.
  - It is being introduced in the tribal belts of Wayanad and Idukki as well.
  - Classes are offered in the Oorali, Muthuvan and Paniya languages in Idukki.
6. c
- Recently, the *National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)* launches international unit to expand reach of UPI.
  - NPCI is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
  - It is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
  - It is a not for profit company under the provisions of Companies Act 1956.
  - It provides an electronic payment facility to customer to make the payments at national, state and city toll plazas by identifying the vehicle uniquely through a FASTag.
7. c
- Recently, DRDO successfully test fires 100% made by Private Sector, Multi Barrel Pinaka Rockets.
  - Pinaka is an indigenous Multi-Barrel Rocket Launch (MBRL) system, developed by the DRDO.
  - It is an all-weather, indirect fire, free flight artillery rocket system.
  - The navigation system of the missile is aided by the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).
8. a
- Recently, IBM India, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) tie-up for offering free digital skills training.
- Under the partnership, *Open P-TECH platform* will offer courses to develop a set of 11 key skills which are generally not available in a college curriculum, but are high in demand and are valued in the job market.
  - NSDC is a not-for-profit public limited company under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.
  - It's objective is to contribute significantly to skilling up of people in India, mainly by fostering private sector initiatives in skill development programmes and to provide funding.
  - It play the role of a 'market-maker' by bringing funds, particularly in sectors where market mechanisms are ineffective or missing.
  - It was set up by Ministry of Finance as Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.
9. d
- Kerala to host first-ever state Dragonfly Festival, *Thumbimahotsavam 2020*.
  - WWF-India State unit has joined hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) for Thumbipuram.
  - This is part of a national dragonfly festival being organised by the WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society & Indian Dragonfly Society in association with the National Biodiversity Board, UNEP, UNDP and IUCN - Centre for Environment Conservation.
10. d
- Recently, Turkey discovers large natural gas reserve in Black Sea.
  - Black Sea is bordered by Ukraine to the north, Russia to the northeast, Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.
- 25-08-2020**
- 1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Council for Transgender Persons**
1. It was established in exercise of the powers conferred by the Transgender



**Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.**

2. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment will be the ex-officio chairperson of the Council.

Which of 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 *National Strategy for Financial Education*, released recently, consider the following statements

1. It is a document released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to achieve a financially aware and empowered India.
2. It has been prepared jointly by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Which of 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) *Kariye Museum*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in?

- a. Syria
- b. Jordan
- c. Turkey
- d. Palestine

4) With respect to *Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India Report*, which was released recently, consider the following statements

1. According to the report, there has not been any change in the sex ratio at birth in India from 2001-2017.
2. The report was brought out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of 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) Electoral disputes arising out of Presidential and vice Presidential elections are settled by?

- a. The Election Commission of India
- b. The Supreme Court
- c. The Joint Committee of the Parliament
- d. The Enquiry committee setup by the Supreme Court

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Border Adjustment Tax (BAT)*

1. It is a tax imposed on the imported goods in addition to the customs duty.
2. It is levied depending on where the goods are consumed rather than where they are produced.

Which of 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 *Asteroids*

1. Asteroids are also called as minor planets, are rocky, airless remnants left over from the early formation of our solar system.



2. They revolve around the sun in elliptical orbits mostly within the main Kuiper Belt.

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

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bonda Tribe*

1. They are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
2. They are mostly living in the remote Garo Hills of Meghalaya.

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

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

9) The *India's longest river ropeway* was recently inaugurated in?

- a. The Ganges  
b. The Sutlej  
c. The Zaskar River  
d. The Brahmaputra

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nuakhai Juhar*

1. It is an agricultural festival to welcome the new crop of the season.
2. It is celebrated in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and the adjoining areas.

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

- a. 1 only  
b. 2 only

## Answers

1. c

- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, the Central Government has recently constituted a National Council for Transgender Persons.
- The Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment will be Chairperson (ex-officio) and Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment will be Vice-Chairperson (ex-officio).

The National Council shall perform the following functions, namely:—

1. to advise the Central Government on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons;
  2. to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons;
  3. to review and coordinate the activities of all the departments of Government and other Governmental and non-Governmental Organisations which are dealing with matters relating to transgender persons;
  4. to redress the grievances of transgender persons; and
  5. to perform such other functions as may be prescribed by the Central Government.
- The other members of the Council include representatives of various Ministries/Departments, five representatives of transgender community, representatives of NHRC and NCW, representatives of State Governments and UTs and experts representing NGOs.
  - A Member of National Council, other than ex officio member, shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of his nomination.

2. a

- National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE): 2020-2025 document was released recently by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE): 2020-2025**

- It recommended a '5 C' approach for dissemination of financial education in the country.
- These include emphasis on development of relevant content in curriculum in schools, colleges and training establishments, developing capacity among the intermediaries involved in providing financial services, leveraging on the positive effect of community-led model for financial literacy through appropriate communication strategy, and, enhancing collaboration among various stakeholders.
- This NSFE for the period 2020-2025, the second one after the 2013-18 NSFE, has been prepared by the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) in consultation with all the Financial Sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA), DFS and other Ministries of Govt. of India and other stakeholders (DFIs, SROs, IBA, NPCI) under the aegis of the Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy (TGFIFL) under the Chairmanship of Deputy Governor, RBI.
- To achieve the vision of creating a financially aware and empowered India, certain strategic objectives have been laid down including inculcating financial literacy concepts among various sections of the population through financial education to make it an important life skill, encouraging active savings behaviour and developing credit discipline.

3. c

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recently ordered another ancient Orthodox church that became a mosque and then a popular Istanbul museum to be turned back into a place of Muslim worship.
- The decision to transform the **Kariye Museum** into a mosque came just a month after a similarly controversial conversion for the UNESCO World Heritage-recognised **Hagia Sophia**.

4. a

- Indian Vice President recently released a report- *Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India and 'Elderly Population in India: Status and Support Systems'*.

**Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India**

- According to the report, there has not been any change in the sex ratio at birth in India from 2001-2017--the number of girl children born is much less than what is the general or natural norm.
- It was brought out by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (IAPPD).
- It also stressed the need for rigorous implementation of Pre-conception & Pre-natal Diagnostics Techniques law to bring about a balance in the sex ratio.

5. b

- Article 71 (1) states that, All doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a President or Vice-President shall be inquired into and decided by the **Supreme Court** whose decision shall be final.

6. c

- The government is examining *Border Adjustment Tax* on imports and infra status for the steel sector.
- It is *imposed on imported goods in addition to the customs duty*.
- It is levied depending on where a good is consumed rather than where it is produced.
- It seeks to promote equal conditions of competition for foreign and domestic companies supplying products or services within a taxing jurisdiction.
- World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules allow for the adjustment of certain types of internal taxes at the border under certain conditions.

7. a

- The *Asteroid 2018VP1*, set to approach Earth just before the US election.
- According to NASA, Asteroid 2018VP1 is very small, approx. 6.5 feet, and poses no threat to Earth.





- Asteroids are also called as minor planets, are rocky, airless remnants left over from the early formation of our solar system.
- They revolve around the sun in elliptical orbits mostly between Mars and Jupiter within the main Asteroid Belt.

8. b

- Recently, The COVID-19 pandemic has reached the Bonda tribe.
- Bondas, are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
- They are residing in the hill ranges of Malkangiri in Odisha.

9. d

- The Assam government has inaugurated a 1.8-km ropeway across the Brahmaputra river.
- It is described it as India's longest river ropeway.
- Thousands of people commute every day between the capital city of Guwahati and the town of North Guwahati, where IIT Guwahati is located.
- The ropeway cuts travel time between the two banks to 8 minutes.

10. c

- Recently, PM extends greeting to farmers on 'Nuakhai Juhar'.
- It is the agricultural festival, also called as Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat.
- It is to welcome the new crop of the season.
- It is one of the most ancient festivals celebrated in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and areas of neighbouring states.
- On this day, people worship food grain and prepare special meals.
- Farmers offer the first produce from their lands to Goddess Samaleswari, the famous 'Mother Goddess' of Sambalpur district of Odisha.

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Right to Information Act, 2005**

1. Only citizens of India have the right to seek information under the provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005.
2. Any citizens of India can file RTI pertaining to matters related to Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, which was reserved to only Citizens of erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Which of 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 Honey Mission**

1. It was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in 2017 under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
2. It aims to take up mass honey production as Sweet Revolution in the lines of White Revolution in Mission mode.

**Which of 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) Edakkal caves, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following?**

- a. Khasi Hills, Meghalaya
- b. Ambukuthi hills, Kerala
- c. Rajmahal Hills, Jharkhand
- d. Shevaroy Hills, Tamil Nadu

26-08-2020



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

1. It is an autonomous institute of Department of Science & Technology (DST).
2. Its one of the objective is to study atmosphere mainly its lower part and covers the studies on aerosols and trace gases.

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

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

5) The Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in which of the following states?

1. Assam
2. Tripura
3. Manipur
4. Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Rules*

1. It is applicable to every company including its holding or subsidiary, and a foreign company having its branch office or project office in India.
2. The CSR projects or programs or activities undertaken in India only shall amount to CSR expenditure.

3. A company cannot collaborate with other companies for undertaking projects for CSR activities.

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 the *Structure of the Earth*

1. The Crust is the outermost part of the earth and it is brittle in nature.
2. Core is separated from the Mantle by Gutenberg's discontinuity.

Which of 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 *Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)*

1. It fixes the standards and specifications for the scheduled products for the purpose of exports.
2. It has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.

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

- a. Formed from the heating of biomass in the absence of oxygen
- b. A coproduct of pyrolysis used to produce liquid and gaseous fuels.
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

**10) Consider the following statements with respect to Open Market Operations (OMO)**

- 1. It refers only to the sale of government securities and treasury bills in the open market by the central bank of the country.
- 2. It is a method, the Central bank uses to manipulate interest rates.

Which of 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

- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions recently informed that any citizen of India can now file RTI pertaining to matters related to J&K and Ladakh, which was reserved to only Citizens of erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, before the Reorganisation Act of 2019.
- It is pertinent to mention here that consequent to the passing of J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, the J&K Right to Information Act 2009 and the Rules there under were repealed and Right to Information Act 2005 and the Rules there under were enforced from 31.10.2019.
- Only citizens of India have the right to seek information under the provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005. Non-Resident Indians are not eligible to file RTI applications.

2. b

- *Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a big leap towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat by creating local employment for migrant workers through its flagship Honey Mission programme.*
- *Minister of State for MSME distributed 700 bee boxes to 70 migrant workers of Saharanpur and Bulandshahr districts of Uttar Pradesh.*

**Honey Mission programme**

- Hon'ble Prime Minister of India envisions to take up mass honey production as Sweet Kranti (Sweet Revolution) in the lines of White Revolution, in Mission mode.
- Honey Mission was launched by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** in 2017 under the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**.
- It aimed at creating employment for the Adivasis, farmers, unemployed youth, and women by roping them in beekeeping while also increasing India's honey production.

3. b

- The government has recently constituted a nine-member expert committee to conduct a detailed study on the present state of the renowned **Edakkal caves** on the **Ambukuthi hills** in Wayanad district of **Kerala**.
- The Neolithic petroglyphs on the walls of Edakkal caves, a treasure trove for archaeologists, historians, and researchers, still await protection from illegal constructions, mining, and urbanisation.
- The mushrooming of resorts on the hills by drastically altering the topography and rampant mining activities are the major threats being faced by the Edakkal caves.

4. c

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

- It is an autonomous institute of Department of Science & Technology (DST).
- It is situated adjacent to the picturesque hill town of Nainital.

- It is one of the leading research Institutes which specializes in observational Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences.
- The main research interests of **Astronomy & Astrophysics division** are in solar, planetary, stellar, galactic and extra-galactic astronomy including stellar variabilities, X-ray binaries, star clusters, nearby galaxies, quasars, and inherently transient events like supernovae and highly energetic gamma-ray bursts.
- Research focus in **Atmospheric Sciences division** is mainly in **the lower part of the atmosphere and covers the studies on aerosols and trace gases**.

5. b

- The Bharatiya Janata Party government in Arunachal Pradesh has recently decided to appeal to the Centre for bringing the State under the purview of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution towards protecting the rights of its indigenous peoples.
- Already, the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system is in force in Arunachal Pradesh and two other states of North East India: Nagaland and Mizoram.
- The ILP, warranted by the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873, is an official travel document issued by the State government concerned to let in an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
- The provisions of Article 371(H) for Arunachal Pradesh do not ensure full protection to the State's people, said its Home Minister Bamang Felix.
- The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**.

6. a

- Recent changes in **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Rules** to benefit companies working on Covid-19 cures.
- The government is temporarily allowing investment in research and development of new drugs, vaccines and medical devices as part of their regular business activities to be

considered as fulfillment of a company's CSR obligations.

- CSR is *applicable to every company including its holding or subsidiary, and a foreign company having its branch office or project office in India*.
- The CSR projects or programs or activities undertaken in India only shall amount to CSR expenditure.
- A company may also collaborate with other companies for undertaking projects or programs or CSR activities.

7. c

- The Earth's Core is a lot younger than previously believed, finds a new research.
- The structure of the earth is divided into four major components: the crust, the mantle, the outer core, and the inner core.
- Crust is the outermost part of the earth and it is brittle in nature.
- Core is separated from the Mantle by Gutenberg's discontinuity.
- Earth's inner core is solid and it is made of iron. Its temperature is about 6,000 degrees Celsius.
- The discontinuity between the crust and the mantle is called as the Mohorovich Discontinuity or Moho discontinuity.

8. c

- Recently, **APEDA signs MoUs with AFC India Ltd and NCUI**, to utilise their expertise in agri sector.
- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** is engaged with State governments for the implementation of agri export policy.
- It fixes the standards and specifications for the scheduled products for the purpose of exports.
- It is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the scheduled products like Fruits, Vegetables and their Products, Meat and Meat Products etc.

- In addition to this, *APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.*

9. c

- *Biochar application can help Ghana's smallholder farmers fight back climate change, according to a new Study.*
- *New research shows Biochar application is more effective in promoting cowpea growth and yield in Ghana.*
- *Biochar could be an effective way to minimise the effect of climate change on agricultural soils.*
- *It enhance crop productivity, improve the retention of nutrients in the soil.*
- *It is formed from the heating of biomass (300–1000°C) in the absence of oxygen.*
- *It is a coproduct of pyrolysis and gasification processes used to produce liquid and gaseous fuels.*

10. b

- *Recently, the Reserve Bank of India announced that it will conduct Open Market Operations (OMO) of government securities.*
- *OMO refers to the sale or purchase of government securities and treasury bills in the open market by the central bank.*
- *It is a method, the Central bank uses to manipulate interest rates.*
- *Buying securities adds money to the system, making loans easier to obtain and interest rates decline.*
- *Selling securities from the central bank's balance sheet removes money from the system, making loans more expensive and increasing rates.*
- *The objective of OMO is to regulate money supply in the economy.*

**27-08-2020**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020***

- 1. It was released by NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness.**
- 2. Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem and Export Performance are the four pillars of Export Preparedness Index.**
- 3. According to the report, most of the Coastal States are the best performers.**

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *NDC Transport Initiative for Asia***

- 1. It aims to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport in India, China and Myanmar.**
- 2. The programme is supported by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and implemented by a consortium of seven organisations**

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

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

**3) When two hurricanes spinning in the same direction pass close enough to each other, they begin an intense dance around their common center. If one hurricane is a lot stronger than the other, the smaller one will orbit it and eventually come crashing into its vortex to be absorbed. Two storms closer in strength can gravitate towards each other until they reach a**



common point and merge, or merely spin each other around for a while before shooting off on their own paths.

The paragraph given above, describes which of the following?

- Kelvin wave
- Gale Warning
- Fujiwhara effect
- Novaya Zemlya effect

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD)*

- The Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Finance.
- It seeks to extend support to the promoters of the operational MSMEs which are stressed and have become NPA.

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

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

5) Consider the following pairs  
*Painting – States*

- Tanjore Painting – Kerala
- Jharnapatachitra – West Bengal

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Contingency Fund (CF) of RBI*

- The RBI may transfers a portion of its surplus funds into its Contingency Fund, which may lower the transfer of surplus to the government.
- The contingency fund of RBI is at the disposal of the President of India.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ganges River Dolphin*

- The Ganges river dolphin can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind.
- They are found in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Indonesia.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Customs Duty*

- It is an indirect tax that is levied only on the import of goods.
- The State owned enterprise, the Public Sector Undertakings are exempted from the Customs Duties in India.

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

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



9) **Warli Tribes** sometimes seen in news, are the tribes of?

- Maharashtra
- Odisha
- West Bengal
- Mizoram

10) Consider the following statements with respect to **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**

- The ASI is an attached office to the Ministry of Culture.
- It takes up conservation project only in India.

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

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

## Answers

1. d

- NITI Aayog** in partnership with the **Institute of Competitiveness** released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 recently.
- It is the first report to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states.

The structure of the EPI includes 4 pillars and 11 sub-pillars:

- Policy
- Business Ecosystem
- Export Ecosystem
- Export Performance

### Sub-Pillars

- Export Promotion Policy; Institutional Framework; Business Environment; Infrastructure; Transport Connectivity; Access to Finance; Export Infrastructure; Trade

Support; R&D Infrastructure; Export Diversification; and Growth Orientation.

### Highlights

- Overall, most of the Coastal States are the best performers. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu occupy the top three ranks, respectively.
- Six of eight coastal states feature in the top ten rankings, indicating the presence of strong enabling and facilitating factors to promote exports.
- In the landlocked states, Rajasthan has performed the best, followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand is the highest, followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh.
- Across the Union Territories, Delhi has performed the best, followed by Goa and Chandigarh.
- NITI Aayog will virtually launch the India Component of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)–Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA).*

2. d

### Nationally Determined Contributions – Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC–TIA)

- It aims to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport in **India, Vietnam, and China**.
- It is a joint programme, supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and implemented by a consortium of seven organisations.
- The India Component is implemented by six consortium organisations.
- On behalf of the Government of India, NITI Aayog, the country's premier policy think tank, will be the implementing partner.
- The NDC-TIA programme has a duration of 4 years and will allow India and other partner countries to achieve accountable long-term targets by making a sectoral contribution through various interventions, coordinated

with a large number of stakeholders in the domain.

- This will contribute towards achieving their NDCs and increasing their ambition in the transport sector of 2025 NDCs.
- NDC-TIA India Component will focus on establishing a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for decarbonizing transport in India.

3. c

- *Recently two tropical storms, Marco and Laura, formed in the western Atlantic Ocean at nearly the same time, are likely to impact the Gulf of Mexico, sparking concerns of the rare Fujiwhara effect that occurs when two hurricanes combine to form a mega hurricane.*
- The last time two tropical storms formed at the same time and struck the region was in 1933.

#### **Fujiwhara Effect**

- When two hurricanes spinning in the same direction pass close enough to each other, they begin an intense dance around their common center.
- If one hurricane is a lot stronger than the other, the smaller one will orbit it and eventually come crashing into its vortex to be absorbed.
- Two storms closer in strength can gravitate towards each other until they reach a common point and merge, or merely spin each other around for a while before shooting off on their own paths.
- In rare occasions, the effect is additive when the hurricanes come together, resulting in one larger storm instead of two smaller ones.

4. b

#### **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD)**

- **Union Ministry of MSME** has launched subordinate debt scheme to provide financial facility to stressed MSMEs.
- It aims to provide emergency credit support to MSMEs impacted by coronavirus lockdown.
- Under CGSSD the government has operationalized Rs 20,000 crore stressed fund

which is likely to benefit around 2 lakh medium and small entrepreneurs.

- CGSSD is a part the Rs 20.97 lakh crore Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package.

The highlights of the scheme are

- It seeks to extend support to the promoters of the operational MSMEs which are stressed and have become NPA as on April 30, 2020.
- The promoters of the MSME unit will be given credit equal to 15 percent of stake in the company or Rs 75 lakh, whichever is lower.
- As per the latest norms, this scheme seeks to extend support to MSMEs whose accounts have been standard as on March 31, 2018, and have been in regular operations, either as standard accounts, or as NPA accounts during financial year 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Fraud/willful defaulter accounts will not be considered under the proposed scheme.
- The scheme is valid for stressed MSME units which were Special Mention Accounts (SMA-2) and NPA as of April 30, 2020, who were eligible for restructuring as per RBI guidelines on the books of the lending institutions.

5. b

- Tanjore painting belongs to Tamil Nadu.

6. a

- Recently, the *RBI* has sent most of its surplus, Rs 73,615 crore to its *Contingency Fund*.
- This leads to a sharp fall in the transfer of surplus to the government in the current year.
- The *RBI* stores a *Contingency Fund (CF)*, which is another provision for tackling unexpected emergencies.
- The *RBI* may transfers a portion of its surplus funds into its *Contingency Fund*, which may lower the transfer of surplus to the government.
- The *Contingency Fund of India* is at the disposal of the *President of India*.

7. a

- Recently, experts from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar come together to enhance conservation of *River Dolphins*.



- The Ganges River dolphins live in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems spanning three countries; Nepal, India and Bangladesh.
- They can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind.
- The Irrawaddy Dolphins are found in coastal areas in South and Southeast Asia, and in three rivers: the Ayeyarwady (Myanmar), the Mahakam (Indonesian Borneo) and the Mekong.
- The Mekong River Irrawaddy dolphins inhabit a 118-mile stretch of the river between Cambodia and Lao PDR.

8. d

- Recently, Government extends deferred Customs Duty payment to authorised Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- The PSUs will be allowed to pay customs duty within 14 days of imports.
- Customs Duty refers to the indirect tax imposed on the goods when they are transported across the international borders.
- It is levied on the goods that are imported to the country as well as some goods exported from the country.

9. a

- Recently, State-owned National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) has adorned outer wall of its corporate office in Noida, with Warli Paintings.
- It is a move that also generated employment for coronavirus pandemic-hit painters.
- The Warlis or Varlis are an indigenous tribe, living in the mountainous as well as coastal areas of Maharashtra-Gujarat border and surrounding areas.
- Maharashtra is known for its Warli folk paintings.
- Women are mainly engaged in the creation of these paintings.

10. a

- Recently, Ministry of Culture announces seven new circles of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

- The ASI is an attached office to the Ministry of Culture.
- Under the ITEC programme of Ministry of External Affairs, the ASI took up the conservation project of Ta Prohm, Cambodia.

28-08-2020

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Bureau of Police Research and Development**

1. It is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Home 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) Which of the following tribes is/are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Andaman & Nicobar Islands?**

1. Jarawas
2. Masais
3. Shompenes
4. Great Nicobarese

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

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

**3) Consider the following pairs**

**Folk Dances – States**

1. Dumhal - Tripura
2. Poikkal Kuthirai Attam - Kerala



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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Armed Forces Tribunal*

- 1. It was established by an Act of Parliament.
- 2. Paramilitary forces does not come under its jurisdiction.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)*

- 1. It was setup in 1996 as the National Nodal Agency for the promotion of the Urdu language.
- 2. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD).

Which of 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 *La Nina*

- 1. It is the cooling phase of the ENSO cycle in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

2. The trade winds weaken in La Nina, leading to cooling phase.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksH an Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)*

- 1. It aimed towards ensuring remunerative prices to farmers for their produce.
- 2. It covers all the crop which do not receive the benefits of the MSP procurement system.

Which of 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 *National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)*

- 1. It is an autonomous agency set up by an act of the parliament.
- 2. It carry on research activities in relation to the development, maintenance and management of 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



9) The Atal Tunnel recently seen in news is located in?

- Jammu and Kashmir
- Manipur
- Himachal Pradesh
- None of the above

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

- It is the largest explosion of a star that takes place in space.
- Supernovas are often seen in Milky Way galaxy.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- The Bureau of Police Research and Development is celebrating its Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary on 28th August, 2020.

### Bureau of Police Research and Development

- The **Bureau of Police Research and Development** was raised on 28th August, 1970, **through a resolution** of **Ministry of Home Affairs**, Government of India.
- It was mandated to promote excellence in policing, promote speedy and systematic study of police problems, apply science and technology in the method and techniques by the Police.

2. b

- Five members of the Great Andamanese tribe have recently tested positive for COVID-19.
- The Great Andamanese are one of five a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) that reside in the Andamans archipelago.

PVTGs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- Onges
- Jarawas
- Shompens
- Santenelese
- Great Andamanese**
- Masai** is a tribal community in **East Africa**.

3. c

- To foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, IHM Srinagar and IHM Chennai of Ministry of Tourism organized an online programme 'Fascinating Folk Dances of Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh recently.
- An introduction was given to the famous folk dances from these locations, for e.g dances which are performed at weddings and main events in Kashmir like **Kud, Dumhal, Rouf, Hafiza, BhandJashan** among others.
- Similarly, the tribal dances of Tamil Nadu include dances from the simplest form of a puppet show to the **PoikkalkuthiraiAttam** in which performers dress like a peacock for **MayilAttam**, as a horse while performing **Poikkalkuthirai**, as a bull in **KaalaiAttam**, snake like dress for **PaampuAttam** and as a bear in **KaradiAttam**.

4. c

- Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) is the military tribunal in India, established under **Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007**.
- It was mandated to provide effective redressal mechanism for personnel of three armed forces (Army, Navy and Airforce).
- The Principal Bench of AFT is located at New Delhi and there are eight regional benches at Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai and Jaipur.
- The territorial jurisdiction of AFT covers entire country and covers the three armed forces of India viz. Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Paramilitary forces don't come under its jurisdiction.**

5. c



- *Union Education Minister addressed the inaugural session of the two days World Urdu Conference organised by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language ( NCPUL ) in New Delhi.*
- The Education Minister also made an important announcement and said that Urdu writers and literators will be honoured with awards and honours in the name of important personalities of Urdu like Amir Khusrow, Mirza Ghalib, Agha Hashar, Ram Babu Saxena and Daya Shankar Naseem to encourage Urdu writers for literary and creative services by the Urdu Council from next year.

### **National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)**

- It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD), Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Government of India.
- It was set up to promote, develop and propagate Urdu language.
- The Council started its operation in Delhi on April 1, 1996.
- In its capacity as the National Nodal Agency for the promotion of the Urdu language NCPUL is the principal coordinating and monitoring authority for promotion of Urdu language and Urdu education.

6. a

- According to the World Meteorological Organisation's (WMO), a wet September, late monsoon withdrawal are expected in India due to *La Nina*.
- *La Nina* is the *cooling phase of the ENSO cycle in the equatorial Pacific Ocean*.
- The *trade winds strengthen in La Nina*, leading to *cooling phase*.
- The *trade winds weaken in El Nino*, leading to *warming phase*.
- *La Nina* results in better than normal monsoon in India.

7. a

- The recent reforms in agricultural marketing and the removal of restrictions under the

Essential Commodities Act (ECA) help attract private investment in agriculture.

- The main objective of *PM-AASHA* was to provide an assured price to farmers.
- It is to ensure a return of at least 50% more than the cost of cultivation.
- The *programme was confined to pulses and oilseeds* to limit the fiscal costs, although many other crops, which did not receive the benefits of MSP-procurement system, also needed this coverage.
- Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS) are the Components of PM-AASHA.

8. c

- The *NHAI launches a new Portal* to evaluate performances of its Consultants and Developers.
- It is an *autonomous agency set up by an act of the parliament, NHAI Act, 1988*.
- One of its mission is to develop and provide consultancy and construction services in India and abroad.
- It also carry on research activities in relation to the development, maintenance and management of highways or any other facilities there at.

9. c

- *The Atal Tunnel at Rohtang near Manali* is near completion. It is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister.
- The 9-km-long tunnel under the *Pir Panjal range, Himachal Pradesh* is named after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- It will be the world's longest highway tunnel above the altitude of 10,000 feet (3000 metres).

10. a

- A *Supernova* could have trigger the late Devonian extinction, according to a new study.
- The explosion of a nearby star, occurred between Devonian and Carboniferous periods,

could have caused a mass extinction event that took place 359 million years ago.

- A *Supernova* is the *largest explosion of a star that takes place in space*.
- Supernovas are *often seen in other galaxies*. But supernovas are *difficult to see in our own Milky Way galaxy* because dust blocks our view.
- A *supernova* burns for only a short period of time, but it *can tell scientists a lot about the universe*.
- One kind of supernova has shown scientists that we live in an expanding universe, one that is growing at an ever increasing rate.

**29-08-2020**

**1) With respect to Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of the States (AREAS), consider the following statements**

1. Its objective is to interact and learn from each State Nodal Agency's (SNAs) experiences and also share their best practices and knowledge regarding technologies.
2. Prime Minister is the Patron of the Association and Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy is the ex-officio President of the Association.
3. It is a registered society under the Society Registration Act, and all State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) are the member of the Association.

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Padma Awards**

1. The Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma

**Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.**

2. Government servants including those working with PSUs, Doctors and Scientists are not eligible for Padma Awards.

**Which of 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 Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

1. It is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion launched in 2016.
2. It envisages universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every household.
3. It provides platform for social security schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

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

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

**4) Global Energy Review 2020 Report was published by?**

- a. Energy Watch Group
- b. International Solar Alliance
- c. International Energy Agency
- d. International Renewable Energy Agency Organisation



5) Consider the following statements

1. In 1863, he rode an ox-cart challenging the 'ban' on untouchables from accessing public roads by caste-Hindus.
2. He fought for the rights of farm workers, built schools for Dalits and fought for emancipation of women.
3. He established Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham to help the Dalits by providing them education, finance and legal support.

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Ayya Vaikundar
- b. Mahatma Ayyankali
- c. Sree Narayana Guru
- d. Sahodaran Ayyappan

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Electoral Roll in India*

1. Each State Election Commission is governed by a separate state Act and all the states in India uses the Election Commission of India's electoral rolls for local body elections.
2. The State Election Commissions are free to prepare their own electoral rolls for local body elections, and this exercise does not have to be coordinated with the Election Commission of India.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *National e-Governance Division (NeGD)*

1. It was created by the Ministry of Science and Technology as an independent business division under Digital India Corporation.

2. Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) was developed by NeGD.

Which of 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 *Polio*

1. Polio is one of the major aging-associated disease.
2. All strains of wild poliovirus have officially been certified as globally eradicated.

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

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

9) Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct with respect to *Sudan*

- a. Sudan is a land locked country located in northeastern Africa
- b. The Nile River flows through Sudan
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)*

1. It is an independent judicial body established by the United Nations Convention.
2. It is open to all the States and International organisations which are parties to the Convention.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- *Shri R.K. Singh, Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy and the ex-officio Patron of Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (AREAS) graced the ceremony of 6th Foundation Day of AREAS recently.*

### **Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of the States (AREAS)**

- It has been formed on Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) initiative.
- Its objective is to interact and learn from each State Nodal Agency's (SNAs) experiences and also share their best practices and knowledge regarding technologies and schemes/programmes.
- The AREAS got registered under **Society Registration Act 1860** on 27 August 2014.
- **Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** is the Patron of the Association and **Secretary, MNRE** is the ex-officio President of the Association.
- **All State Nodal Agencies (SNAs)** are the member of the Association.

2. a

### **Padma Awards**

- It is one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
- The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).

- The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.
- The Padma Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- The nomination process is open to the public. Even self-nomination can be made.
- All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards.
- However, Government servants including those working with PSUs, **except doctors and scientists**, are not eligible for these Awards.
- The total number of awards to be given in a year (excluding posthumous awards and to NRI/foreigners/OCIs) should not be more than 120.

3. c

### **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

- It is the biggest financial inclusion initiative in the world announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 15th August **2014**.
- It was launched on 28th August 2014 across the country.
- It is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.
- It provides platform for social security schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).

### **Objectives:**

- Ensure access of financial products & services at an affordable cost
- Use of technology to lower cost & widen reach

### **Basic tenets of the scheme**



- **Banking the unbanked** - Opening of basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account with minimal paperwork, relaxed KYC, e-KYC, account opening in camp mode, zero balance & zero charges
- **Securing the unsecured** - Issuance of Indigenous Debit cards for cash withdrawals & payments at merchant locations, with free accident insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakh
- **Funding the unfunded** - Other financial products like micro-insurance, overdraft for consumption, micro-pension & micro-credit
- The Government decided to extend the comprehensive PMJDY program beyond 28.8.2018 with some modifications.

4. c

- The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** has released a report: **Global Energy Review, 2020**.
- The report includes the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on global energy demand and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

#### Highlights of the report

- Global energy demand is projected to fall six per cent in 2020 and this will be steepest decline in percentage terms in 70 years and the largest ever in absolute terms.
- All fuels except renewables are set to experience their greatest contractions in demand for decades.
- The projected 6% decline would be more than seven times the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on global energy demand, reversing the growth of global energy demand over the last five years.

5. b

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently paid tribute to social reformer Mahatma Ayyankali, saying his work towards social reforms and empowering the downtrodden will always inspire people.
- Mahatma Ayyankali was born on August 28, 1863 in present day Kerala and passed away on June 18, 1941.

6. b

- The government is discussing the possibility of having a *common electoral roll* for elections to the panchayat, municipality, state assembly and the Lok Sabha
- *Each SEC is governed by a separate state Act.*
- Some state laws allow the SEC to borrow and use the EC's voter's rolls in toto for the local body elections.
- In others, the state commission uses the EC's voters list as the basis for the preparation and revision of rolls for municipality and panchayat elections.
- Currently, all states, except Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, adopt EC's rolls for local body polls.
- The SECs are free to prepare their own electoral rolls for local body elections, and this exercise does not have to be coordinated with the EC.

7. b

- Recently, NeGD, CSC e-Governance Services sign MoU to make *UMANG* app services available via CSCs.
- NeGD was created by the Ministry of Electronics and IT as an independent business division under Digital India Corporation.
- *Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG)* was developed by NeGD along with MeitY.

8. d

- Recently, WHO declared Africa free from *Wild Polio*, but vaccine-derived strains remain.
- *Polio (poliomyelitis)* mainly affects children under 5 years of age.
- Of the 3 strains of *Wild Poliovirus* (type 1, type 2 and type 3), wild poliovirus type 2 was eradicated in 1999.
- No case of wild poliovirus type 3 has been found since the last reported case in Nigeria in November 2012.
- Both strains have officially been certified as globally eradicated.



- As at 2020, Wild Poliovirus type 1 affects two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

9. b

- The U.S. and Sudan near pact to compensate american terrorism victims.
- The deal could pave the way for Sudan's removal from the U.S. State Sponsors of Terrorism list.
- Sudan is located in northeastern Africa, bordered by Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, Ethiopia and bordering the Red Sea.
- The Nile River flows through Sudan.

10. c

- Recently, China wins seat at International Tribunal for Law on the Sea (ITLOS).
- China's candidate has won an election to be a judge in ITLOS, responsible for hearing cases concerning the Law of the Sea.
- ITLOS is an independent judicial body established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- It is to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the Convention.
- It is open to all the States and International organisations which are parties to the Convention.
- It is also open to entities other than States Parties, i.e., States or intergovernmental organisations which are not parties to the Convention.

**31-08-2020**

1) *Nayi Disha*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an initiative of which of the following?

- State Bank of India
- University Grants Commission
- Life Insurance Corporation of India
- Ministry of Women and Child Development

2) *AITIGA*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an agreement associated with which of the following?

- MERCOSUR
- India-ASEAN Relations
- Asia-Africa Growth Corridor
- International North-South Transport Corridor

3) Match the following:

**Places – States**

- Channapatna – a. Andhra Pradesh
- Kondapalli – b. Karnataka
- Thanjavur – c. Tamil Nadu
- Dhubri – d. Assam

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1-a; 2-b; 3-c; 4-d
- 1-b; 2-a; 3-c; 4-d
- 1-a; 2-b; 3-d; 4-c
- 1-b; 2-a; 3-d; 4-c

4) Consider the following statements

Every citizen is under a fundamental duty to

- Sing National Anthem
- Render national service when required
- Renounce practices derogatory to women
- Develop humanism and abjure violence

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5) Which of the following crops require high temperature and high humidity/rainfall to grow?



1. Rice
2. Tobacco
3. Tea
4. Sugarcane

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

1. It is the immense envelope of gas surrounding the galaxy.
2. It is present only in Milky way galaxy.

Which of 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 *International Women's Trade Centre (IWTC)*

1. It aims to accelerate women entrepreneurship and get their products marketed globally.
2. Maharashtra to set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre (IWTC).

Which of 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 *United Nation Security Council (UNSC)*

1. It formulate the plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments.
2. It has the power to call on members to apply economic sanctions and other measures involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)*

1. The Prime Minister of India is the President of CSIR.
2. It is funded by Ministry of Science and Technology.
3. It is an autonomous body and registered under Societies Registration Act.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *N95 Respirators*

1. They are capable of filtering out airborne particles, including bacteria and viruses.
2. It is not resistant to oil and it cannot be used in the environment where the oil-based particulates are present.

Which of 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

### Nayi Disha

- The country's largest lender **State Bank of India** has got global recognition for its Human Resource (HR) initiative 'Nayi Disha'.
- The bank has won three Brandon Hall Excellence Awards, also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development.
- Through Nayi Disha, SBI appreciated the workforce for its commitment towards customer service excellence while serving with the same rigour in even the remotest corners of the country.

2. b

- **Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways and Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam** had recently **co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations** held virtually.
- The Ministers' discussion centred on the review of the **ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**.
- Indian Minister Piyush Goyal used the Asean ministerial forum to reiterate India's consistent position that the review of the FTA has been inordinately delayed.
- He asked for a closer engagement ahead of the Asean-India Leaders' Summit scheduled to be held in November and to start the full review before the end of this year.

### AITIGA

- In 2003, India and ASEAN signed a Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation to establish an Asean-India Regional Trade and Investment Area, which would provide a basis for subsequent FTAs covering goods, services and investment.

- The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) was signed in 2009 and it is this that both sides have agreed to review.

3. b

- *In the latest address of Mann ki Baat, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi talked about how to make new toys available to the children and how India could become a big hub of toy production.*
- He also said there are several skilled artisans who possess expertise in making good toys and some parts of the country like **Channapatna in Ramnagaram in Karnataka, Kondapalli in Krishna in Andhra Pradesh, Thanjavur in Tami Nadu, Dhubri in Assam, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh** are also developing as Toy clusters.
- He added that while Global Toy Industry is worth more than 7 lakh crore rupees, India currently has a very little share in it.

4. d

Article 51A(a) states that

- To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem'.
- It mandates respect to the National Anthem and **not recitation**.

5. b

- Tea requires a moist frost-free climate with even rainfall throughout the year.
- Tobacco requires temperature greater than 18°C and in India, it grows under rainfed conditions in Alluvial, Black Clayey soil.

6. a

- Recently, NASA's *Hubble Space Telescope* maps giant *Halo* around *Andromeda galaxy*.
- It is the *immense envelope of gas, surrounding the Andromeda galaxy, our nearest large galactic neighbor*.
- They also found that the *Halo* has a layered structure, with two main nested and distinct shells of gas.
- This is the most comprehensive study of a *Halo* surrounding a galaxy.



7. a
- Kerala to set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre.
  - It is in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  - It aims to accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity while providing women with a safe place away from home to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.
8. a
- Recently, the UNSC unanimously votes to reduce peacekeeping force in Lebanon.
  - The resolution sponsored by France, calls for the reduction of troops.
  - The UNSC formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments.
  - It has the power to call on members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression.
9. d
- All the given statements are correct
  - The CSIR plans to track employees' health over 30 years.
  - It aims to gauge long term health parameters of 10,000 staff.
  - It is to build a medical cohort to give long-term perspective on the malaises that affect Indians and determine if such a databank can be used to help with predicting, the onset of diabetes or cardiovascular disease.
10. c
- The single-use N95 Respirators can be used again after decontamination, according to a new study.
  - Researchers said that N95 respirators can be decontaminated and reused up to three times.
  - N95 respirators are capable of filtering out all types of particles, including bacteria and viruses.
- The 'N' in N95 stands for 'Non-oil', meaning that if no oil-based particulates are present, then it can be used in that environment.