



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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## MONTHLY PRESTORMING

### FEBRUARY 2021

**Shankar IAS Academy™**

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**01-02-2021**

1) With respect to *Economic Survey of India*, consider the following statements:

1. India's first Economic Survey was presented in the year 1950-51.
2. The economic survey has been delinked from the Budget in the year 1964 and thereafter released separately.
3. It will be prepared by the Economics Division of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.

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

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

2) *Green Tax*, sometimes seen in the news recently, refers to?

- a. It is an additional tax on fossil fuels price to reduce carbon dioxide emission
- b. It will be collected from miners to improve the life of persons affected by mining
- c. It is an additional tax collected to dissuade people from using polluting vehicles
- d. None of the above

3) With respect to the guidelines specified by the Government of India regarding the massive vaccination drive for COVID-19, consider the following statements:

1. Vaccination shots should be given only to those 18 years and above.
2. Pregnant and lactating women should not be given vaccination for now.
3. Covishield and Covaxin are the only vaccines approved for emergency use in India so far.

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) With respect to *Tropical Cyclones*, consider the following statements:

1. A tropical cyclone is a rotating low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but has no fronts.
2. Tropical cyclones rotate clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.
3. Tropical cyclones across the globe, except South Pacific Typhoons, are moving westward, closer to land, in recent decades.

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

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

5) Assertion (A): All stars burn nuclear fuel in their cores to produce energy.

Reason (R): The heat generates internal pressure which pushes outwards and prevents the star from collapsing inward due to the action of gravity on its own mass.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

6) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to *Bare Necessities Index*?

1. It has been created for economically weaker states based on data collected by



National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).

2. According to the index the access to basic necessities has improved significantly for the poorest households when compared to the rich households.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Lala Lajpat Rai*

1. He was elected deputy leader of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1926.
2. He founded the Home Rule League of America in New York.

Which of 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) Which of the following organization has released *Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index*?

- a. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- b. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- c. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- d. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

9) Consider the following statements with respect *Collegium System in Judicial Appointments*

1. A Supreme Court collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court.

2. Names recommended for appointment by a High Court collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the Supreme Court collegium.
3. Government cannot raise any objections and seek no clarifications regarding the collegium's choices.

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) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Nuclear Medicines*

1. It uses small amounts of radioactive materials called radiotracers that are typically injected into the bloodstream, inhaled or swallowed.
2. Hyperthyroidism, thyroid cancer, and bone pain from some types of cancer are few diseases treated with nuclear medicine.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. c

- India's first Economic Survey was presented in the year 1950-51.
- It will be presented along with the Union Budget every year up to 1964.
- From 1964 onwards, it has been delinked from the Budget and released separately.
- It will be prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the

Finance Ministry under the overall guidance of the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA).

- Economic Survey is presented normally a day before the presentation of the Union Budget in the Parliament.

2. c

- Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has recently announced his Ministry's approval of a 'green tax' on vehicles of specified vintage, as a means of dissuading people from using polluting vehicles.

### Highlights of the policy

- At the time of fitness certification renewal, an additional green tax of 10%-25% on the road tax payable will be collected from commercial transport vehicles that are older than eight years.
- For personal vehicles the green tax will be collected after 15 years.
- The policy provides exemptions for tractors, harvesters and tillers used in farms, hybrid, electric, ethanol, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered vehicles.
- It also provides a lower green tax for public transport vehicles such as buses.
- Conversely, a higher additional 50% of road tax is proposed for vehicles in highly polluted cities, as well as differential tax based on fuel and vehicle type, such as diesel.
- Vehicles of government departments and public sector units that are older than 15 years are to be deregistered and scrapped.
- Green tax funds are to be kept in a separate account to help States measure pollution and tackle it.
- State governments must now comment on the proposal.
- The policy is scheduled to come into force on April 1, 2022.

3. d

- India recently began its massive inoculation drive for COVID-19.

- Before the drive began, the Health Ministry released a note on precautions and contradictions for the vaccines.
- Covishield and Covaxin, both of which are India-made, are the vaccines cleared so far for COVID-19.

### Highlights of the circular

- The vaccine shots are to be given only to those 18 years and above.
- There should ideally be a gap of at least 14 days between a COVID-19 vaccine shot and other vaccines.
- The circular prohibits the interchange of COVID-19 vaccines – Under the two-dose regime the second dose should be of the same vaccine which was administered the first time around.
- Further, the vaccines should be administered with caution in persons with a history of any bleeding or coagulation disorder (clotting factor deficiency, coagulopathy or platelet disorder).
- The Health Ministry advisory says pregnant and lactating women should not be given either vaccine for now.

4. a

- A new study has recently found that the tropical cyclones across the globe, **except Atlantic hurricanes**, are moving closer to land in recent decades.

### Highlights of the study

- Tropical cyclones generally have been moving westward by about 30 kilometres per decade since 1982, putting them closer to land and making them more dangerous.
- Each decade since the 1980s, an additional two cyclones have come within 200 kilometres of land, the study found.
- But, unlike other areas, the Atlantic hurricane basin didn't show any significant westward shift.
- It may be due to the fact that the Atlantic hurricane zone is more closely surrounded by continents.

### Tropical Cyclone



- It is a rotating low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but no fronts (a boundary separating two air masses of different densities).
- It originates over tropical or subtropical waters and has a closed low-level circulation.
- Tropical cyclones rotate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.

5. a

**Supernova**

- All stars burn nuclear fuel in their cores to produce energy.
- The heat generates internal pressure which pushes outwards and prevents the star from collapsing inward due to the action of gravity on its own mass.
- But when the star ages and runs out of fuel to burn, it starts to cool inside.
- This causes a lowering of its internal pressure and therefore the force of gravity wins; the star starts to collapse inwards.
- This builds up shock waves because it happens very suddenly, and the shock wave sends the outer material of the star flying.
- This is what is perceived as a supernova. This happens in very massive stars.
- In stars that are more than eight times as massive as the Sun, the supernova is accompanied by a collapsing of the inner material of the dying star – this is also known as core collapse supernova or Type II supernova.
- The collapsing core may form a black hole or a neutron star, according to its mass.

6. b

**Bare Necessities Index**

- This index is a means of assessing equity in economic development among states and regions in India.
- This index uses 26 indicators on five dimensions of basic necessities— water, sanitation, housing, micro-environment, and other facilities.

- The index has been created for all states based on data collected by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2012 and 2018.
- The index classifies areas on three levels of access high, medium, low to bare necessities.
- The index has a range of 0 to 1 where 1 represents the best access to the basic necessities.
- Inter-State disparity in access to the basic necessities has declined in 2018, when compared to 2012.
- States such as Kerala, Punjab, Haryana, and Gujarat top the index.
- While eastern Indian States of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Tripura have occupied the lowest positions.

7. c

**Lala Lajpat Rai**

- Lala Lajpat Rai was one of the greatest freedom fighters of India, he was also called 'Punjab Kesari' and 'Lion of Punjab'.
- He believed that the ideals in Hinduism combined with nationalism will lead to the establishment of a secular state.
- He was also involved with the Hindu Mahasabha and also fought against untouchability.
- He founded the Home Rule League of America in 1917 in New York.
- In the USA, he worked to get moral support for the Indian independence movement from the international community.
- In 1928, he moved a resolution in the assembly refusing cooperation with the Simon Commission since the Commission had no Indian members.
- He founded Hindu Relief movement in 1897 to provide help to the famine -stricken people and thus preventing them falling into the clutches of the missionaries.
- He founded the Servants of People Society in 1921.

**Indian Home Rule Movement**



- The Indian Home Rule movement was a movement in British India on the lines of Irish Home Rule movement and other home rule movements.
- The movement lasted around two years between 1916–1918 under the leadership of Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

8. b

#### **Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index**

- Recently, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released 'Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index'.
- The index measures the readiness of 11 health systems across the region i.e. Australia, China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and New Zealand.
- The index ranks countries in adopting personalised healthcare, enabling the right care to be tailored to the right person at the right time.
- It measures performance against 27 different indicators of personalised health across four categories called 'Vital Signs'.
- It includes Policy Context, Health Information, Personalised Technologies and Health Services.
- The index indicated that Singapore performed highest overall of the geographies measured.
- India ranked 10th out of 11 Asia Pacific countries.

9. a

#### **Collegium System in Judicial Appointments**

- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) questioned the government about the delay in clearing Collegium recommendations for judicial appointments to various High Courts (HC).
- It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.

- The SC collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.
- Government can raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as judges.

10. c

#### **Nuclear Medicines**

- Under this stream of medicine the radiotracer travels through the area being examined and gives off energy in the form of gamma rays.
- Such gamma rays are detected by a special camera and a computer to create images of the inside of your body.
- Nuclear medicine imaging provides unique information that often cannot be obtained using other imaging procedures and offers the potential to identify disease in its earliest stages.
- Recently Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has "evolved" the design for the country's first public private partnership research reactor for production of nuclear medicines.
- This project will be a major step towards making India self-reliant in key radio isotopes used in medical and industrial applications.
- At present, India produces all major isotopes in the country under the aegis of BARC.

**02-02-2021**

**1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Pattachitra* Painting**

- 1. It is a form of painting that is painted on a piece of cloth in states of Bengal and Odisha.**
- 2. The Odisha version of the painting depicts Hindu mythology and specially inspired by Jagannath and Vaishnava sect.**

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Leprosy Disease***

- 1. It is an incurable infectious disease caused by parasites.
- 2. India bears more than 50% of the global caseload of the disease.

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

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

**3) Which of the following ministry releases *Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)*?**

- a. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- b. Ministry of Finance
- c. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- d. Ministry of Labour & Employment

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to *National e-Vidhan Assembly (NeVA)***

- 1. It is a part of digital India mission implemented by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- 2. It enables automation of entire law making process, tracking of decisions and documents, sharing of information.

**Which of 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 statements are correct with respect to *Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 (PESA)***

- 1. It empowers gram sabha to identify persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation program.
- 2. It applies to all panchayats, local bodies which are inhabited by tribal communities.

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

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

### Answers

1. c

#### ***Pattachitra Painting***

- Pattachitra style of painting is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of Odisha and Bengal.
- The name Pattachitra has evolved from the Sanskrit words patta, meaning canvas, and chitra, meaning picture.
- All colours used in the Paintings are natural.
- In bengal tradition it is centred around Kalighat (in Kolkata), the theme is not much devotional.
- In odisha tradition it is centred around Puri.
- These paintings are based on Hindu mythology and specially inspired by Jagannath and Vaishnava sect.

2. a

#### ***Leprosy Disease***

- Leprosy disease is chronic, curable infectious disease mainly causing skin lesions and nerve damage.



- It is unique disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- It divides only once every two weeks, which makes it difficult to link exposures to the development of disease.
- Its incubation period ranges from a few months to 20 years and more in some cases.
- Moreover, the dead bacilli often linger in tissues for years, long after an individual has completed Multi drug therapy (MDT) treatment for a recommended period.
- India is home to the highest number of new cases of leprosy in the world.
- The World Health Organization data of the last 10 years reveals that the number of new cases in India reduced to 114,451 in 2019, from 126,800 in 2010.

3. d

**Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)**

- Recently, the Ministry of Labour & Employment has released the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for December 2020.
- The All-India CPI for Industrial Workers for December, 2020 decreased to 118.8 points compared to 119.9 points for November, 2020.
- The CPI tracks the change in retail prices of goods and services which households purchase for their daily consumption.
- In India, there are four consumer price index numbers, which are calculated, and these are as follows:
  1. CPI for Industrial Workers (IW)
  2. CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL)
  3. CPI for Rural Labourers (RL) and
  4. CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (UNME)
- The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation collects CPI (UNME) data and compiles it.
- The remaining three are collected by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour.

- It is used as a tool by the central bank and government for inflation targeting and for inspecting price stability.

4. b

**National e-Vidhan Assembly (NeVA)**

- e-Vidhan is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) included in Digital India Programme and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the States/ UTs with Legislatures.
- Funding of NeVA is on the pattern of Central Sponsored Scheme i.e. 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs.
- The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- NeVA aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.

5. a

**Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 (PESA)**

- PESA Act states that no state legislation shall be inconsistent with the customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management processes of community resources.
- This is not directory in nature but mandatory.
- Gram Sabha may pass a resolution to the effect stating that a particular law is not in consonance with customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources or any subject matter which comes within the purview of the Scheduled Areas.
- This resolution can be sent to the district development officer (DDO) who is bound to send it to the state government and the governor.
- PESA mandates the State government to take necessary action on such a resolution and communicate it to the Gram Sabha.



- Again, this is a mandatory provision and the state government is bound to reply to such a resolution.
- The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996" (PESA), extends Part IX of the Constitution with certain modifications and exceptions, and applies to the Fifth Schedule Areas notified under article 244(1) of the Constitution.
- At present, Fifth Schedule Areas exist in 10 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana.

**03-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Hydrogen Energy Mission*

1. It aims to produce hydrogen in large scale through reforming methane (CH<sub>4</sub>).
2. It aims to decarbonise heavy industries like steel and cement.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Star Dust 1.0*

1. It is first commercial space launch vehicle powered by biofuel.
2. It is launched by NASA for carrying payloads to moon.

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

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

3) Which of the following organisation is donor of *Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Program*?

- a. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- b. World Economic Forum (WEF)
- c. European Union (EU)
- d. IUCN

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)*

1. It is a statutory multi-disciplinary body under the MoEFCC.
2. It is mandated to establish a centralized wildlife crime data 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

5) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to *O-STORMS Project*

1. It is implemented by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy with a budget overlay of 600 crores.
2. A polar remotely operated vehicle was indigenously developed for shallow waters of up to 500m depth under the project.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answers**

1. b

### **Hydrogen Energy Mission**

- The Union Budget proposed to launch a Hydrogen Energy Mission in 2021-22 for generating hydrogen from **green power sources**.
- Hydrogen can be generated from many sources, but India stresses on the hydrogen sources from renewable sources.
- In the longer term, solar energy and biomass can be used more directly to generate hydrogen.
- This mission would decarbonise heavy industries, and also holds the key to clean electric mobility that doesn't depend on rare minerals.
- Hydrogen can act as an energy storage option, which would be essential to meet intermittencies (of renewable energy) in the future.
- Green hydrogen energy is vital for India to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions and ensure regional and national energy security, access and availability.
- The method of producing hydrogen through methane reforming will result in significant carbon dioxide emissions.
- There is the potential to capture these emissions using carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, although this is relatively underdeveloped in India.

2. a

### **Star Dust 1.0**

- It has a mass of 250 kg and can carry a maximum payload mass of 8 kg.
- It is manufactured by bluShift, an aerospace company that is developing rockets that are powered by bio-derived fuels.
- These rockets will help to launch small satellites called cubesats into space in a way that is relatively cheaper than using traditional rocket fuel and is less toxic for the environment.
- Broadly, biofuels are obtained from biomass, which can be converted directly into liquid fuels that can be used as transportation fuels.

3. c

### **Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Program**

- The MIKE Programme was established by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1997.
- MIKE programme measures the levels, trends and causes of elephant mortality.
- The duration of the program was between May 2017 – December 2019.
- It provides information base to support international decision-making related to conservation of elephants in Asia and Africa.
- The MIKE Programme is entirely dependent on donor support.
- The European Union has been the most important donor for the MIKE programme.
- EU has funded implementation in Africa since its inception in 2001, and in Asia since 2017.
- Funding has also been provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Governments of Japan, the United Kingdom and China.
- There are currently 28 sites participating in the MIKE programme in Asia, distributed across 13 countries, in which India has 10 sites.
- Mike sites in India are
  1. Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve.
  2. Deomali Elephant Reserve.
  3. Dihing Patkai Elephant Reserve.
  4. Garo Hills Elephant Reserve.
  5. Eastern Dooars Elephant Reserve.
  6. Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve.
  7. Shivalik Elephant Reserve.
  8. Mysore Elephant Reserve.
  9. Nilgiri Elephant Reserve.
  10. Wayanad Elephant Reserve.

4. c

### **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)**

- Under Section 38 (Z) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, it is mandated:



1. To collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities.
2. To disseminate the same to State and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals.
3. To establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank.
4. Assist foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control.

5. a

#### **O-STORMS Project**

- Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources, Modelling and Science (O-STORMS) project.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) implements the project.
- A polar remotely operated vehicle was indigenously developed for shallow waters of up to 500m depth under the project.
- It was successfully deployed in the Andaman coral islands and the vehicle was successfully manoeuvred in the undulating reef terrain to record high quality underwater visuals of coral reef biodiversity with spectral irradiance.

**04-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Lingaraj Temple*

1. The central deity of the temple, Lingaraja, is worshipped both as Shiva and Vishnu.
2. The temple is built by the kings from the Somavamsi dynasty, with later additions from the Ganga rulers.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCW)*

1. It will be established as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM).
2. India's first CWCW has been established in Kolkata.

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

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

3) Which of the following agency has setup a committee that recommended introduction of *Cyber Insurance Policy*?

- a. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- b. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- c. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- d. World Bank

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mission Poshan 2.0*

1. It is a merger of Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) and the Poshan Abhiyan.
2. It aims to address malnutrition issues in new borns between 0-6 months in every district of the country.

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

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

5) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to *Chauri Chaura Incident*



1. During the incident a large group of protesters participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) clashed with police who opened fire.
2. It took place in Punjab province of British India, where the protesters torched the homes of British police.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. c

### Lingaraj Temple

- It is an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, situated in the city of Bhubaneswar.
- The temple was built in the 7th century by the King Jajati Keshari.
- The temple marks the culmination of the temple architecture in Bhubaneswar which was the cradle of the Kalinga School of Temple Architecture.
- The temple can broadly be divided into four main halls i.e.
  1. Garba Griha (Sanctum Sanctorum),
  2. Yajana Mandapa (the hall for prayers)'
  3. Natya Mandapa (dance and music hall)
  4. Bhoga Mandapa (where devotees can have the Prasad (offering) of the Lord).
- The harmony between the two sects of Hinduism, Shaivism, and Vaishnavism, is seen in this temple where the deity is worshipped as Harihara, a combined form of Vishnu and Shiva.
- It signifies the syncretisation of Shaivism and Vaishnavism sects in Odisha.

2. a

### Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM)

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has announced the establishment of a Centre for Wetland
- Conservation and Management (CWCM) on the occasion of World Wetland Day.
- It is India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management and will be established in Chennai.
- It will be established as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM).
- The Centre will help in building partnership and networks with relevant national and international agencies.
- The Centre would serve as a knowledge hub and enable exchange between State/ UT Wetland Authorities, wetland users, managers, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners.

3. c

### Cyber Insurance Policy

- A committee set up by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has recommended the introduction of a cyber-insurance policy.
- In October 2020, the IRDAI had set up a committee for cyber liability insurance under P Umesh.
- Cyber insurance policy is a risk transfer mechanism for cyber risk.
- Cyber risk is commonly defined as exposure to harm or loss resulting from breaches of or attacks on information systems.
- This policy will protect the policyholders from cybercrimes.

4. b

### Mission Poshan 2.0

- It will prioritize 112 aspirational districts, will develop practices that will nurture health, wellness and immunity of children and pregnant women thereby making a concerted effort towards eradicating malnutrition from its roots.
- The Poshan Abhiyan was launched in 2017-18 in an effort to reduce stunting in children aged



between zero and six years to 25 per cent, from 38.4 per cent by 2022.

- Similarly, the ministry had launched the SNP as part of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in 2009.
- This scheme targets children (from six months to six years) and pregnant and lactating mothers.

5. d

### **Chauri Chaura Incident**

- The incident occurred at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Province, (modern Uttar Pradesh) in British India on 4 February 1922.
- During this incident, a large group of protesters, participating in the Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police, who opened fire.
- The demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station in retaliation, killing all of its occupants.
- Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the Non-cooperation Movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident.
- The Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) sought to paralyze the government by breaking a specific set of rules and administration.
- The Non-Cooperation Movement (NCM) sought to bring the working of the government to a standstill by not cooperating with the administration.

**05-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to *Rohini Commission*

1. It was established to work out the mechanism in a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within OBCs.
2. It recommended 33% reservation in jobs and education under the central and state government for OBCs.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Privilege Motion*

1. The rules governing privilege motion are mentioned in Indian constitution.
2. When a breach of privilege is found, then an MP can move a privilege motion against those being held guilty of breach.

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

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

3) Which of the following is the first Indian city to adopt the *Metro Neo* mass transport system?

- a. Guwahati, Assam
- b. Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- c. Bangalore, Karnataka
- d. Nashik, Maharashtra

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *DNA Technology Bill*

1. Under the Bill, DNA testing is allowed only in respect of matters listed in the Schedule to the Bill.
2. The Bill provides for the establishment of a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks, for every state, or two or more states.

Which of 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 statements are incorrect with respect to Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council**

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to radio astronomy and is headquartered in the UK.
2. It has proposed to establish world's largest radio telescope in Leh, India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. a

### Rohini Commission

- OBCs are granted 27% reservation in jobs and education under the central government.
  - Rohini Commission was constituted on October 2, 2017, the terms of reference of the commission are as follows
1. To examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes or communities included in the broad category of OBCs with reference to such classes included in the Central List;
  2. To work out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters in a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within such OBCs;
  3. To take up the exercise of identifying the respective castes or communities or sub-castes or synonyms in the Central List of OBCs and classifying them into their respective sub-categories.
  4. To study the various entries in the Central List of OBCs and recommend correction of any repetitions, ambiguities, inconsistencies and errors of spelling or transcription.

- The commission is yet to submit its final report to the union government, a hurdle for the Commission has been the absence of data for the population of various communities to compare with their representation in jobs and admissions.

2. b

### Privilege Motion

- The Members of Parliament (MPs) enjoy certain parliamentary privileges which are bestowed on them collectively and individually so that they can discharge their duties and functions effectively.
- The act of disregarding the immunities and rights by any MP is regarded as a 'breach of privilege' and is a punishable offence under Laws of Parliament.
- When a breach of privilege is found, then an MP can move a privilege motion against those being held guilty of breach.
- Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha reserve the right to punish any action of contempt (not necessarily breach of privilege) which is against its authority and dignity.
- The rules governing privilege motion are mentioned as Rule 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and as Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha Rule Book.
- According to the rules,
  1. An MP may raise a question of breach of privilege with the Speaker or the Chairperson, notices for which have to be sent to them before 10am.
  2. The breach of privilege could be of another MP, a committee or of the House.
  3. The rules mandate the notice should be regarding an incident which has occurred recently and that it needs the intervention of the House.

3. d

### Metro Neo

- Metro Neo is a comfortable, rapid, energy-efficient and less noisy transport medium.
- The central government recently urged all state governments to consider using Metro Neo technology in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.



- The Metro Neo service consists of
- 1. **Electric bus coaches** their lengths varying from 18 to 25 metres with a carrying capacity of 200 to 300 passengers at a time.
- 2. **Feeder Bus Service** - A Feeder Bus of 12-metre length will be battery-powered and run on the existing road on the two feeder routes.
- 3. **Frequency of Service** - The capacity of main corridors will be 15,000 PHPDT (peak hour peak direction traffic).
- The system has been designed in such a way that there will be a train service after every two minutes.
- Metro Neo in Nashik will be implemented by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (Maha-Metro).

4. c

#### **DNA Technology Bill**

- Under the Bill, DNA testing is allowed only in respect of matters listed in the Schedule to the Bill.
- It includes offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and for civil matters such as paternity suits.
- The Bill provides for the establishment of a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks, for every state, or two or more states.
- Every Data Bank will be required to maintain indices for the following categories of data i.e. a crime scene index, a suspects' or under trials' index, an offenders' index, a missing persons' index, and an unknown deceased persons' index.
- The Bill provides for removal of the DNA profiles of the following persons:
  1. Of a suspect if a police report is filed or court order given;
  2. Of an under trial if a court order is given; and
  3. On written request, for persons who are not a suspect, offender or under trial, from the crime scene or missing persons' index.

5. b

#### **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)**

- SKAO has members from ten countries - Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK.
- Unlike optical telescopes, radio telescopes can detect invisible gas and, therefore, they can reveal areas of space that may be obscured by cosmic dust.
- SKAO council has proposed to establish largest radio telescope in the world, in Africa and Australia whose operation, maintenance and construction will be overseen by SKAO.
- As per NASA, the telescope will accomplish its scientific goals by measuring neutral hydrogen over cosmic time, accurately timing the signals from pulsars in the Milky Way, and detecting millions of galaxies out to high redshifts.

#### **The Indian Astronomical Observatory**

- It is one of the world's highest located sites for optical, infrared and gamma-ray telescopes.
- It is located in Hanle near Leh in Ladakh, India.
- It is operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore.

**06-02-2021**

**1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Gobardhan Scheme**

1. It aims to augment income of farmers by converting biodegradable waste into compressed biogas (CBG).
2. It is implemented by department of Non-Conventional Energy Resources under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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

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



2) Consider the following statements with respect to *No Confidence Motion*

1. If any member of the House feels that the government in power does not have a majority then he/she can move a no-confidence motion.
2. The member need not give a reason for moving the no-confidence motion.
3. Neither a confidence motion nor a no-confidence motion is mentioned in the Constitution.

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

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

3) Which of the following country has proposed to create world's first *Energy Island*?

- a. Iceland
- b. Ireland
- c. Norway
- d. Denmark

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Micro Irrigation Fund*

1. It was conceptualised with a corpus of Rs. 5000 crore under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
2. Reserve bank is the nodal agency for the disseminating the fund.

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

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

5) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *One Person Companies (OPCs)*

1. OPC is effectively a company that has only one shareholder as its member.
2. The residency limit for an Indian citizen to set up an OPC is 120 days.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

### Answers

1. a

#### Gobardhan Scheme

- The Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme is implemented under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin-Phase 2, by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti ministry.
- It was launched in 2018.
- The initiative aims at attracting entrepreneurs for establishing community-based CBG plants in rural areas.
- It encourage farmers to consider dung and other waste not just as a waste but as a source of income.
- It will be easier to keep the village clean and sanitized, livestock health will improve and farm yields will increase.

2. d

#### No Confidence Motion

- If any member of the House feels that the government in power does not have a majority then he/she can move a no-confidence motion.
- If the motion is accepted, then the party in power has to prove its majority in the House.

- If the government is not able to prove its majority in the House, then the government of the day has to resign.
  - Working of No Confidence Motion
1. It can be moved only in the Lok Sabha and not Rajya Sabha.
  2. The Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Lok Sabha specifies the procedure for moving a no-confidence motion.
  3. A minimum of 50 members have to accept the motion and accordingly, the Speaker will announce the date for discussion for the motion.

3. d

### **Energy Island**

- An energy island is based on a platform that serves as a hub for electricity generation from surrounding offshore wind farms.
- The idea is to connect and distribute power between Denmark and neighbouring countries.
- Denmark has already entered into agreements with the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium to begin the joint analysis of connections in the energy island.
- One of these islands will be located in the North Sea and the second island, called the island of Bornholm, will be located in the Baltic Sea.
- It will be able to store and produce enough green energy to cover the electricity requirements of over 3 million households in the European Union (EU).
- Denmark wants to become the first country in the world to begin working on such energy islands with a total capacity of about 5 GW offshore winds.
- The construction of both islands is expected to be complete by 2030.

4. b

### **Micro Irrigation Fund**

- Recently, the Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2021-22 has announced an additional corpus of Rs. 5000 crore for Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF).

- The MIF was conceptualised in 2019-20 with a corpus of Rs. 5000 crore under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is the Nodal Ministry.
- The objective of the fund is to facilitate State Governments' efforts in mobilizing additional resources for expanding coverage under micro irrigation.
- The fund is aimed at incentivizing its adoption beyond provisions of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Per Drop More Crop (PMKSY-PDMC).

### **PMJSY-PDMC**

- It focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation technologies viz. Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems.
- The drip micro irrigation technique not only helps in water saving but also in reducing fertilizer usage, labour expenses and other input costs.

5. c

### **One Person Companies (OPCs)**

- Section 2(62) of Companies Act defines a one-person company as a company that has only one person as to its member.
- Furthermore, members of a company are nothing but subscribers to its memorandum of association, or its shareholders.
- Recently, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has amended the One Person Companies (OPCs) rules after the announcement made by Finance Minister in Union Budget 2021-22.
- The new rules have reduced the residency limit for an Indian citizen to set up an OPC from 182 days to 120 days.
- The amendment will allow Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to incorporate OPCs in India.
- The rule relating to voluntary conversion unless OPC has completed two years from the date of incorporation is proposed to be omitted.



- Thus the conversion of One Person Company into a Public company or a Private company shall be permitted anytime.

**08-02-2021**

**1) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to Registered Unrecognised Political Parties**

1. These are political parties which have contested at least in one Assembly or General Elections since being registered.
2. These Parties do not enjoy all the benefits extended to the recognised parties.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Motion of Thanks to the President's Address**

1. It is available to the MP's to raise discussions and debates to examine and criticise the government and administration for its lapses and failures.
2. The Motion of Thanks must be passed in the House, otherwise it amounts to the defeat of the government.

Which of 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) Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI) is a mission of which of the following space agency?**

- a. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- b. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- c. China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- d. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to Currency Swap Agreement**

1. It is an arrangement between two friendly countries to involve in trading in their own local currencies.
2. Nationalised banks and corporate entities engage in currency swaps with foreign counterparts to meet short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements.

Which of 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 statements are incorrect with respect to Accredited Driver Training Centres**

1. Certificate from Accredited Driver Training Centre is enough to secure driving license without performing a test at the licensing authority's office.
2. Only state governments can own and establish these centres with prior approvals from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answers**



1. a

**Registered Unrecognised Political Parties**

- It constitutes of the following:
  1. The newly registered parties or those which have not secured enough percentage of votes in Assembly or General Elections to become a State party
  2. The political parties which have never contested in elections since being registered
  3. The Registered Unrecognised Parties do not enjoy all the benefits extended to the recognised parties.
- In India the number of these parties increased two-fold in the last 10 years, from 1,112 in 2010 to 2,301 in 2019.
- There are 2,360 political parties registered with the Election Commission of India and 2,301 or 97.50% of them are unrecognised.

2. c

**Motion of Thanks to the President's Address**

- Article 87 provides for the special address by the President and it is also an annual feature.
- The President's Address is the statement of policy of the Government and, as such, is drafted by the Government.
- The address of the president is discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion called the 'Motion of Thanks'.
- If any of the amendments are put forward and accepted then the Motion of Thanks is adopted in the amended form.
- Amendments may refer to matters contained in the Address as well as to matters which, in the opinion of the member, the Address has failed to mention.
- At the end of the discussion, the motion is put to vote.
- The Motion of Thanks must be passed in the House, otherwise it amounts to the defeat of the government.
- It is one of the ways through which the Lok Sabha can also express a lack of confidence in the government.
- The other ways are:

1. Rejection of a money bill.
2. Passing a censure motion or an adjournment motion.
3. The defeat of the government on a vital issue.
4. Passing a cut motion.

3. d

**Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI)**

- It is NASA mission to measure how deforestation has contributed to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.
- A full-waveform LIDAR was attached to the International Space Station to provide the first global, high-resolution observations of forest vertical structure.
- This will allow scientists to map habitats and biomass, particularly in the tropics, providing detail on the Earth's carbon cycle.

4. a

**Currency Swap Agreement**

- A currency swap between the two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.
- Central banks and Governments engage in currency swaps with foreign counterparts to meet short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or to ensure adequate foreign currency to avoid Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis till longer arrangements can be made.
- As per the arrangements, both countries pay for import and export trade at the pre-determined rates of exchange, without bringing in third country currency like the US Dollar.

5. b

**Accredited Driver Training Centres**

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sought to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, to enable existence of Accredited Driver Training centres through a draft notification.
- Successful, time-bound completion of training in these centres will be enough to secure a license from the state transport authorities.



- Rule 15 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules mandates driving test as a prerequisite to evaluate the competence of an aspiring driver, or a candidate for a license.
- Government now seeks to include that anyone who holds a certificate from an Accredited Driver Training Centre, shall be exempted from performing a driving test.
- Anyone can set up these training centres providing they fulfil the accreditation criteria laid down by the Centre, which includes an accreditation fee of Rs 50,000.
- The State Transport Authority or designated official of authorised agency notified by the Central Government, will process the applications for accreditation to the driver training centres and grant a license to run such centre for five years.
- To get a license, a candidate will have to go through 29 hours of training in four weeks, in which 21 hours are practical training including four hours in simulator, virtually driving through rain, fog, night etc.

**09-02-2021**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Flag Code of India***

1. It states that National flag can be used as a drapery in any form only in State funerals or armed forces or other para-military forces funerals.
2. Only central government can accord the status of a state funeral in case of death of a person.

**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 organizations has released *Democracy Index 2020***

- a. World Economic Forum (WEF)

- b. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c. Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- d. Reporters without Borders

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

1. It was discovered in the debris of the first atomic bomb "Little Boy" that was dropped over the city of Hiroshima, Japan.
2. It is a naturally occurring element which has radioactive properties.

**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) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Nord Stream 2 Pipeline***

1. It is a 1,200 km gas pipeline which will run from Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in Germany.
2. It will stretch across three different seas namely Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Mediterranean Sea.

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

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

**5) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to *Quit India Movement***

1. In 1942, All India Congress Committee met at Dhekiajuli, Assam and ratified the 'Quit India' resolution.
2. The immediate cause for the movement was the collapse of Cripps Mission.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

### Flag Code of India

- The Flag Code of India, 2002 reads that the Flag shall not be used as a drapery in any form whatsoever except in State / Military / Central Paramilitary Forces funerals hereinafter provided.
- It also says that on the above occasions too, the flag shall be draped over the bier or coffin with the saffron towards the head of the bier or coffin.
- The Flag shall not be lowered into the grave or burnt in the pyre.
- The flag can only be used during a funeral if it is accorded the status of a state funeral.
- The state funerals are held when people below pass away,
  1. People from police and armed forces,
  2. People who are holding or have held office of President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Minister, Chief Minister.
- The status of a state funeral can be accorded in case of death of people not belonging to the above-mentioned categories by state government.
- Section 2 of Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act says that whoever insults the National Flag or the Indian Constitution shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

2. c

### Democracy Index 2020

- Democracy Index had classified 167 countries, as full democracies, flawed democracies, hybrid regimes and authoritarian regimes.
- It looks at the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on freedom and democracy around the world.
- India had slipped two places to 53rd position in the Democracy Index.
- This is due to the democratic backsliding by authorities and crackdowns on civil liberties have led to a further decline in the country's ranking.
- India has been classified as a 'flawed democracy' along with countries such as the U.S., France, Belgium and Brazil.
- Reporters without Borders releases world press freedom Index.

3. c

### Einsteinium

- The high radioactivity and short half-life of all einsteinium isotopes is the primary reason that it cannot be found in nature.
- It needs to be manufactured using very precise and intense processes.
- The element has been produced in very small quantities and its usage is limited except for the purposes of scientific research.
- It was discovered in 1952 in the debris of the first hydrogen bomb (the detonation of a thermonuclear device called "Ivy Mike" in the Pacific Ocean).
- It produced an explosion that was about 500 times more destructive than the explosion that occurred at Nagasaki.

4. a

### Nord Stream 2 Pipeline

- The entry point of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline into the Baltic Sea will be the Ust-Luga area of the Leningrad Region.
- The pipeline will stretch across the Baltic Sea.
- Its exit point in Germany will be in the Greifswald area close to the exit point of Nord Stream.



- It will carry 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year.
- The under-construction pipeline will run along the already-completed Nord Stream 1 system, and the two together will supply an aggregate of 110 billion cubic metres of gas to Germany per year.

5. b

### Quit India Movement

- On 7 to 8 August 1942, the All India Congress Committee met at Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay and ratified the 'Quit India' resolution.
- In August 1942, Gandhiji started the 'Quit India Movement' and decided to launch a mass civil disobedience movement 'Do or Die' call to force the British to leave India.
- The movement was followed by large-scale violence directed at railway stations, telegraph offices, government buildings, and other emblems and institutions of colonial rule.
- It was the direct result of Britain's mounting difficulties in the World War II and the failure of the Cripp's mission.
- Recently, the Prime Minister has visited the 'Martyr Town of Dhekiajuli' to lay the foundation stone for two medical colleges and launch a road and highway project.
- In 1942, as part of the Quit India movement, processions of freedom fighters marched to various police stations across several towns in Assam.
- In Dhekiajuli, Assam (known as Martyr's Town) at least 15 people were shot dead, three of them women, including the 12-year-old Tileswari Barua.

10-02-2021

### 1) Consider the following statements about Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary

1. It is located on the River Beas and in the State of Punjab.
2. Bar Headed Geese is a flagship species in the sanctuary.

3. It is known for its flying capacity at extreme altitude i.e. heights of more than 7,000m.

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

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

### 2) World Sustainable Development Summit is a flagship event organised by

- a. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- b. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- c. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- d. None of the above

### 3) Consider the following statements about Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

1. It aims to provide financial assistance to start-ups up to Rs. 70 lakh and incubators up to Rs. 5 crore as grant.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

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

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

### 4) Consider the following statements about Trans fat

1. Trans fat are saturated fatty acids that come from either natural or industrial sources.
2. It is industrially produced by adding hydrogen to vegetable oil converting the liquid into a solid, resulting in "partially hydrogenated" oil (PHO).

3. FSSAI has notified that Trans fat in oil and fats to be limited to 3% in all fats and oils by 2021 and 2 % by January 2022.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements about Information Technology Act, 2000

- The act covers all intermediaries who play a role in the use of computer resources and electronic records.
- It confers on the Central and State governments the power to issue directions to decrypt information in any computer resource based on prescribed grounds.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- Migratory birds census was recently conducted in the sanctuary
- The annual bird count has revealed that thousands of migratory birds died at the lake due to an outbreak of bird flu in late December.
- Bar Headed Geese is a flagship species of the sanctuary.
- The bird is known for its high altitude flying capacity i.e heights of more than 7,000m.

2. d

- The World Sustainable Development Summit is organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- It is the flagship event of TERI which brings together a wide number of governments, business leaders, academicians, climate scientists, youth and the civil society in the fight against climate change.

3. a

- Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.
- Start-ups can avail up to Rs.70 lakh and incubators would get up to Rs. 5 crore as grant and if they are able to spend this in three years, they would get another Rs. 5 crore.
- The Seed Fund will be disbursed to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.
- It is implemented by Ministry of Commerce and Industry

4. b

- Trans fat, or trans-fatty acids, are unsaturated fatty acids that come from either natural or industrial sources.
- Naturally-occurring trans fat come from ruminants (cows and sheep).
- Industrially-produced trans fat are formed in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to vegetable oil converting the liquid into a solid, resulting in "partially hydrogenated" oil (PHO).
- The FSSAI has recently amended its rules to put a cap on trans fatty acids (TFAs) in food products.
- It had capped TFAs in oils and fats to 3% by 2021, and 2% by 2022 from the current levels of 5%.
- Food products in which edible oils and fats are used as an ingredient shall not contain industrial trans fatty acids more than 2% by mass of the total oils/fats present in the product, on and from 1st January, 2022.



- The WHO has called for the elimination of industrially-produced trans fatty acids from the global food supply by 2023.

5. c

- The Information Technology Act, 2000 governs all activities related to the use of computer resources.
- It covers all 'intermediaries' who play a role in the use of computer resources and electronic records.
- The term 'intermediaries' includes providers of telecom service, network service, Internet service and web hosting, besides search engines, online payment and auction sites, online marketplaces and cyber cafes.
- It includes any person who, on behalf of another, "receives, stores or transmits" any electronic record. Social media platforms would fall under this definition.
- Section 69 of the Act confers on the Central and State governments the power to issue directions "to intercept, monitor or decrypt...any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer resource".
- The grounds on which these powers may be exercised are in the interest of the
  1. Sovereignty or integrity of India,
  2. Defence of India,
  3. Security of the state,
  4. Friendly relations with foreign states,
  5. Public order,
  6. For preventing incitement to the commission of any cognisable offence relating to these, or for investigating any offence.

**11-02-2021**

1) Consider the following statements about TIFAC

1. Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

2. It launched a dynamic job portal "SAKSHAM" to eliminate labour contractors and directly map the skills of labours with MSMEs.

3. Seaweed Mission for commercial farming and value addition of seaweeds.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements about Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020

1. It will apply to 11 Major ports and other strategically important Minor ports.
2. It replaces all the existing port trusts and tariff authority for Major ports.
3. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is applicable for the newly created Board of Major Port Authority for each major port.

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

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

3) Meri Saheli Initiative for the security of women was launched by which of the following organisation?

- a. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
- b. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)
- c. Railway Protection Force
- d. Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)





**4) Consider the following statements about National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students**

1. Ministry of Education provides Fellowships to Scheduled Caste students pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D.
2. It is a central sector scheme and funds are not allocated state wise.

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

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

**5) Consider the following statements about Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH code)**

1. It subsumes Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.
2. The provisions of the code are applicable to every establishment in which 10 or more inter-state migrant workers are employed or were employed on any day of the preceding 12 months.

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

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

## Answers

1. b

- TIFAC is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Science and Technology.
- It launched two initiatives – SHAKSHAM and Seaweed Mission
- SHAKSHAM - Dynamic job portal mapping the skills of labours with MSMEs.

- Seaweed Mission for commercial farming and value addition of seaweeds.

2. a

- The Bill will apply to the major ports of Chennai, Cochin, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Kandla, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Paradip, V.O. Chidambaranar, and Vishakhapatnam.
- The Bill provides for the creation of a Board of Major Port Authority for each major port which will replace the existing port trusts.
- The Bill provides that the Board may use its funds for providing social benefits.
- This includes development of infrastructure in areas such as education, health, housing, and skill development.

3. c

‘Meri Saheli’ initiative was launched as Pilot Project by Railway Protection Force (RPF) across South Eastern Railway for security of women passengers in trains originating in that zone.

4. b

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements the National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes (NFSC).
- It provide Fellowships to Scheduled Caste students pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme and funds are not allocated State wise.

5. c

- NITI Aayog has constituted a sub-group to prepare a National Action Plan for Migrant Workers.
- Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 notified in 2020 subsumed Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.
- It provides for decent working conditions, minimum wages, grievances redressal mechanisms, protection from abuse and exploitation, enhancement of the skills and social security to all category of organised and unorganised workers including Migrant workers.



- The relevant provisions of the Code are applicable to every establishment in which 10 or more inter-state migrant workers are employed or were employed on any day of the preceding 12 months.

**12-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Koch Rajbongshis*

- They are served warriors of Ahom Dynasty.
- They are found in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and some parts of Bhutan.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

- It has commissioned Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS) for short and medium range prediction at 12km.
- The mission is launched by Ministry of Earth sciences (MoES).

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

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

3) *National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation* operates under which of the following ministry?

- Ministry of Earth sciences
- Ministry of Communications
- Ministry of Science & Technology
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)*

- It is envisioned to be a digital infrastructure for Education in India.
- It will be beneficial for educational setups established only under central government

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

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

5) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to *Companies Fresh Start Scheme (CFSS)*

- It grants stakeholders with a one-time opportunity to complete their pending compliances including annual filings without any additional fees on account of any delay.
- It is launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. b

*Koch Rajbongshis*

- They traced their roots to the Kamata kingdom, which comprised parts of Assam, West Bengal and adjoining territories.
- The community was dominant and ruled their territory of Kamatapur during the medieval period.

- It was comprised of a large part of Bangladesh, West Bengal, Bihar and India's north-east.
- They are found in Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal and Bihar, and in Bangladesh, Nepal and some parts of Bhutan.
- They were primarily animist, but later on they followed Hinduism/Sanatana (both Shaiva and Vaishnavite).

### **Ahom Dynasty**

- The Ahom dynasty (1228–1826) ruled the Ahom kingdom in present-day Assam, India for nearly 598 years.
- The dynasty was established by Sukaphaa, a Shan prince of Mong Mao who came to Assam after crossing the Patkai mountains.
- The rule of this dynasty ended with the Burmese invasion of Assam and the subsequent annexation by the British East India Company following the Treaty of Yandabo in 1826.

2. d

### **National Monsoon Mission (NMM)**

- It aims to develop a dynamical prediction framework and to improve monsoon prediction skill.
- The four MoES institutes partnered for NMM are:
  1. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune;
  2. National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida;
  3. India Meteorological Department (IMD); and
  4. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

### **Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS)**

- It was previously known as the GFS Global ENSEMBLE (GENS).
- It is a weather forecast model made up of 21 separate forecasts, or ensemble members.
- The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) started the GEFS to address the nature of uncertainty in weather observations.

3. c

### **National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation**

- NATMO being a specialized institution of its kind also engaged cartographic and geographical researches at national level, headquarter at Kolkata.
- It has the largest repository of spatial and non-spatial data processed with greater accuracy for delivering good quality products.
- To ensure precision and value addition, NATMO keeps pace with the most modern technologies viz. GIS, GPS and Remote sensing.
- Main Functions of this organization are :
  1. Compilation of the National Atlas of India in Hindi, English and other regional languages.
  2. Preparation of thematic maps based on socio-economic, physical, cultural, environmental, demographic and other issues.
  3. Preparation of maps/atlasses for visually impaired.
- Recently NATMO has organised 40th Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA) International Congress.

4. a

### **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)**

- NDEAR will be beneficial for both Centre and States in planning, administering and governing school education as well as to teachers, students and schools for having a seamless digital learning experience.
- The institutional structure, governance framework, technology and data of NDEAR will benefit the entire student and teacher community.

5. b

### **Companies Fresh Start Scheme (CFSS)**

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) launched the "Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020
- The Companies Fresh Start Scheme (CFSS) is applicable between the 1st of April, 2020 and the 30th of September, 2020.



- To facilitate Indian companies to make a fresh start, MCA has taken certain alleviative measures for the benefit of all companies by exercising its power under section 460 & 403 of the Companies Act, 2013 and introduces the scheme CFSS-2020
- It should be noted that Companies Act 2013 mandates all companies to make statutory compliance by filing Annual Return and Financial Statements along with various other documents on MCA21 electronic registry within the prescribed time limit.
- It also grants immunity for any prosecution or proceeding against the company for imposing any penalty on account of delay in filing documents.
- The Scheme also provides an opportunity to the inactive company to convert into a dormant company under section 455 of companies act, 2013 by filing form MSC-1 with nominal fees.

**13-02-2021**

**1) Consider the following statements about Hilsa fish**

1. Hilsa fishes are catadromous, which lives most of the time in ocean and move towards fresh water for spawn during rainy season.
2. Farakka Barrage aids the movement of hilsa fishes in the Ganga stream up to Allahabad.
3. There are also records of migration to Cauvery and Godavari River.

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements about Tholpavakkoothu**

1. It is a form of string puppet popular in the State of Kerala.

2. It is performed at the specially constructed theatre called Koothu Madam in front of the Bhagavati temple.
3. It uses Tamil epic Kambaramayana as its basic text.
4. It is also known as Nizhalkkoothu and Olakkoothu.

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements about UAE's Hope Mission**

1. UAE has become the 5th country to reach Martian orbit.
2. Its primary objective is to look for signs of past microbial life, cache rock and soil samples, and prepare for future human exploration.

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

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

**4) Consider the following statements about Tuberculosis**

1. The National Strategic Plan (2017-2025) is implemented with the goal of Ending TB by 2030.
2. Nikshay Poshan Yojana is implemented to provide Rs. 500 per month to all TB patients towards nutritional support.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

**5) Consider the following statements about Vigyan Jyoti programme**

- 1. It is an initiative by the Department of Science and Technology.**
- 2. It is to encourage girls to take interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).**

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

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

**Answers**

1. b

- Hilsa Fishes are Anadromous - lives most of the time in ocean and move towards fresh water for spawn during rainy season.
- Catadromous - Spawn in the marine environment and move to the riverine environment to mature over a several-year period.
- The construction of Farakka barrage in the River Ganga disrupted the journey of Hilsa Fishes which would swim the Ganga upstream to Allahabad and Agra.
- There are documented records of hilsa migration to Godavari and Cauvery river.

2. b

- Tholpavakkothu is a shadow leather puppet theatre form, popular in the Palakkad and neighbouring regions.
- It is preserved as a family tradition by the Pulavars.
- For the first time, the famous shadow leather puppets will be shown with the help of robots.
- The first such robotic leather puppet was installed at the Palakkad District Heritage Museum.

3. a

- The United Arab Emirates' first mission to Mars has recently entered the orbit of the red planet Mars.
- With this, the UAE has become the 5th country after the US, Russia, China, the EU, and India, to reach the Martian orbit.
- The mission was launched from Tanegashima in Japan.
- Its objective is to collect data on Martian climate dynamics and help scientists understand why Mars's atmosphere is decaying into space.

4. b

- The National Strategic Plan (2017-2025) is implemented with the goal of Ending TB by 2025.
- Nikshay Poshan Yojana is implemented to provide Rs. 500 per month to all TB patients towards nutritional support.

5. c

- Vigyan Jyoti programme is a new initiative to encourage girls to take interest in science and build career.
- It was launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls to pursue STEM.
- It had been running successfully in 50 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) since December 2019 and has now been expanded to 50 more JNVs for the year 2021-22.

**15-02-2021**

**1) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme**

- 1. Under the scheme, District Level Centres for Women (DLCWs) are approved for all districts as per census 201**
- 2. It envisages community development engagement through college student volunteers in aspirational districts.**

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



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

**2) Consider the following statements about Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme**

- 1. It is a sub-scheme under National Pension Scheme of Ministry of Finance.
- 2. Under this, widow pension is provided to the widows belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements about Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI)**

- 1. It is a longitudinal survey to examine aging and retirement among India's population aged 55 and above.
- 2. According to the recent report, every 20th family has a history of cancer and it is prevalent more in rural areas than urban areas.

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

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

**4) Consider the following statements about Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**

- 1. It is a short-term debt financing facility.

**2. Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) are beneficiaries of this fund.**

**3. The final authority to sanction loans under the fund is with the banks after checking details and viability of the projects.**

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

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

**5) Researchers have recently discovered fossils of 550-million-year-old 'Dickinsonia', the earliest known living animal in**

- a. Bhimbetka
- b. Nasik
- c. Guwahati
- d. Hampi

### Answers

1. c

- Under the scheme, District Level Centres for Women (DLCWs) and State Resource Centres for Women (SRCWs) are setup to implement women centric schemes/programs.
- It is under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- District Level Centres for women are approved for all districts as per Census of India, 2011.
- The Scheme is implemented through State Governments and UT Administrations with a cost sharing ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State.
- In North East & Special Category States, the funding ratio is 90:10.
- For Union Territories 100% central funding is provided.

2. a



- It is a sub-scheme under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) of Ministry of Rural Development.
- Under this scheme, widow pension is provided to the widows belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- Under the scheme, Central assistance @ Rs. 300/- per month is provided to widows in the age-group of 40-79 years and the pension amount is enhanced to Rs 500/- per month on attaining 80 years.

3. c

- Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI), a longitudinal survey to examine aging and retirement among India's population aged 45 and above.
- According to the report, every 20th Indian family has a history of cancer and it is more prevalent in urban areas compared to rural India.

4. b

- It is a medium - long term debt financing facility.
- Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) are one of the eligible beneficiaries of the Fund.
- Beneficiaries - Farmers, FPOs, PACS, Cooperative Societies, SHGs, Joint Liability Groups, Agri-entrepreneurs, Start-ups, Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Projects, etc.
- It can be used for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee. 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 will be provided under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for loans up to Rs. 2 Crore.
- A Central Project Monitoring Unit has been constituted to verify the applications for

projects received on the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) portal.

- However, the final authority to sanction loans is with the banks after checking details and viability of the projects.

5. a

- Researchers have discovered three fossils of the earliest known living animal, the 550-million-year-old 'Dickinsonia' in Bhimbetka.
- It is the only such fossils available in the country and similar to those seen in south Australia.

**16-02-2021**

**1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *National Coal Index***

1. It is a price index which reflects the change of price level of coal on a particular month relative to the fixed base year.
2. The base year is in line with WPI's base year – 2011-12.
3. It will also include a separate sub-index for the regulated and non-regulated sector.

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)***

1. It exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and members of the defence forces.
2. The appeals against the orders of the CAT could be made only in the Supreme Court and not in the high courts.



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

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

3) Which of the following organization has developed India's Instant messaging app *Sandes*?

- a. Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In)
- b. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
- c. National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)
- d. National Informatics Centre (NIC)

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Arjun Main Battle Tank MK-1A*

1. It is jointly designed, developed and manufactured by DRDO and Lockheed Martin, an US corporation.
2. It has a computer-controlled integrated fire control system with stabilised sighting that works in all lighting conditions.

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

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

5) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Digital Services Tax (DST)*

1. It is a 5% tax that India has charged on digital services revenues of a company generated from across globe.
2. It is applicable only to non-resident digital companies.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. a

### *National Coal Index*

- Ministry of Coal has conceptualized the National Coal Index with a base year FY 2017-18.
- The prices of coal from all the sales channels of coal, including import are taken into account for compiling the NCI.
- The amount of revenue share per tonne of coal produced from auctioned blocks would be arrived at using the NCI by means of defined formula.
- It is composed of a set of five sub-indices: three for Non-Coking Coal and two for Coking Coal.
- The NCI does not include a separate sub-index for the regulated and non-regulated sector, citing the lack of data and the future model of commercial mining.
- It will be used for the calculation of intrinsic mine value and annual escalation rates.
- It will be used to calculate the amount of performance security companies need to pay after winning coal blocks.

2. a

### *Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)*

- It was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states.
- Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services.
- The members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the

secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

- The Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 has given the members of CAT the status of judges of High Courts.
- They hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years, in case of chairman and 62 years in case of members, whichever is earlier.
- The appointment of Members in CAT is made on the basis of recommendations of a high powered selection committee chaired by a Sitting Judge of Supreme Court who is nominated by the Chief Justice of India.
- The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908, it is guided by the principles of natural justice.

3. d

#### **Sandes**

- National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called Sandes on the lines of WhatsApp.
- It can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone with a mobile number or email id.
- Open initially only to government officers, it has now been released for the common public as well.
- In the app there is no option to transfer the chat history between two platforms, the chats on government instant messaging systems or GIMS can be backed up to a users' email.
- GIMS, like other instant messaging apps in the market, uses a valid mobile number or email id to register the user for the first time.
- Further, as an additional safety feature, it allows a user to mark a message as confidential, which, the app's description says, will allow the recipient to be made aware the message should not be shared with others.
- The confidential tag, however, does not change the way the message is sent from one user to another.

4. b

#### **Arjun Main Battle Tank MK-1A**

- It was initiated by DRDO in 1972 with the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) as its lead laboratory.
- Its objective was to create a "state-of-the-art tank with superior fire power, high mobility, and excellent protection".
- It is indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by CVRDE and DRDO along with 15 academic institutions, eight labs and several MSMEs.
- The Arjun tanks stand out for their 'Fin Stabilised Armour Piercing Discarding Sabot (FSAPDS)' ammunition and 120-mm calibre rifled gun.
- It is supposed to have missile firing capability as per the design, but this feature will be added later as final testing of the capability is still on.
- The biggest achievement with the latest version is 54.3 per cent indigenous content against the 41 per cent in the earlier model.

5. b

#### **Digital Services Tax (DST)**

- It is a 2% tax that India has charged since April 2020 on revenues from digital services.
- It is applicable only to non-resident companies.
- The digital services offered in India, including digital platform services, digital content sales, and digital sales of a company's own goods, data-related services, software-as-a-service, and several other categories of digital services.
- It is aimed at ensuring that non-resident, digital service providers pay their fair share of tax on revenues generated in the Indian digital market.
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry clarifies that there is no retrospective element as the levy was enacted before the first day of April, 2020, which is the effective date of the levy.
- The DST does not have extra-territorial application as it applies only on the revenue generated from India.



**17-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Mushaira*

1. It is a poetic symposium, a part of the culture of Pakistan, North India and the Deccan especially among the Hyderabad Muslims.
2. Mazahiya and Tarahi are two different types of Musharia.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kailash Range*

1. The Kailash Range originates from the Northern bank of Tso Moriri in Ladakh.
2. The Kailash Ridge dominates Chushul Bowl which is an important communications centre for defence forces.

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

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

3) Which of the following organization has initiated the traceability software system *GrapeNet*?

- a. Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- b. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- c. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- d. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Maharaja Suheldev*

1. He is said to be an eleventh century ruler of Shrasvati, located in present-day Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district.
2. He bravely fought against the Mahmud Ghazni's during the invasion of Somnath.

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

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

5) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to *Mandarin Duck*

1. It is a small-exotic bird native to East Asia.
2. It is very rare to spot and mentioned as critically endangered under IUCN Red list.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

### Answers

1. c

#### *Mushaira*

- Mushaira is a poetic symposium, an event (called mehfil, mushairi) where poets gather to recite their work so that they may enjoy, criticise, and ultimately appreciate what was recited.
- Urdu Mushaira reach its final, decisive form in 18th century.

- It was popularised by Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal Emperor of India.
  - Union Ministry of Minority Affairs will organise “Mushaira” on the theme of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat”.
  - Types of Mushaira are
1. **Mazahiya Mushaira** - If the poetry is humorous in nature, it is referred to as Mazahiya Mushaira.

Some of the poets now developed it in the form of criticising with a deeper meaning.

1. **Tarahi Mushaira** - The Tarahi Mushaira is a competitive form of mushaira where a misra is given, and poets compose their ghazals using that misra and the behar (rhythmic metre) of the misra.

2. a

### **Kailash Range**

- The Karakoram Range ends on the northern side of the Pangong Tso.
- The Kailash Range originates from the southern bank and runs northwest to southeast for over 60 km.
- The Kailash Ridge is characterised by rugged, broken terrain with heights varying between 4,000-5,500m.
- The key features of Kailash Ridge include Helmet Top, Gurung Hill, Spanggur Gap, Muggar Hill, Mukhpari, Rezag La and Rechin La.

3. c

### **GrapeNet**

- It is a web based certification and traceability software system for monitoring fresh grapes exported from India to the European Union.
- APEDA can trace details of the consignment right upto the farm plot level.
- It collects, stores and reports, forward and backward traces and quality assurance data entered by the stakeholders within the Grapes supply chain in India.
- The Blockchain of GrapeNet will help track all the activities and steps involved in the grapes lifecycle process.

- It will help track right from the allocation of the farms for production of the grapes to the point of grapes being delivered to the customers.

### **APEDA**

- It is an authority established under an act of parliament.
- It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It has been mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the scheduled products.
- It replaced the Processed Food Export Promotion Council (PFEPCC).
- APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.

4. b

### **Maharaja Suheldev**

- He is popularly known to have defeated and killed the Ghaznavid general Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud at Bahraich in 1034 CE, at Chittaura Lake.
- The 17th century Persian-language historical romance ‘Mirat-i-Masudi’ has mentioned about Maharaja Suheldev.
- It was written by Abd-ur-Rahman Chishti during the reign of the Mughal emperor Jahangir.
- The Last invasion of Mahmud Ghazni, in which he sacked and destroyed temple of Somnath happened in 1025 A.D.

5. a

### **Mandarin Duck**

- It is considered the most beautiful duck in the world, was first identified by Swedish botanist, physician and zoologist Carl Linnaeus in 1758.
- Though it's native to East Asia, now it has established populations in Western Europe and America also.
- It is mentioned as Least Concern under IUCN Red list.
- The duck, however, rarely visits India as it does not fall in its usual migratory route.



**18-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Hakim Ajmal Khan*

1. He was one of the founders of Aligarh Muslim University.
2. He was founder of scientific research in Unani System of Medicine.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bhuvan portal*

1. It is a national geo-portal developed and hosted by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
2. It will be used to find, access geospatial information and associated geographic services via the Internet.

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

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

3) Which of the following agencies has *not* involved in the development of *E-Chhawani Portal*?

- a. National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- b. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- c. Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE)
- d. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

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

1. It is a medium to showcase, folk and tribal art, dance, music, cuisines & culture of one state in other states.
2. It is the flagship festival of Ministry of Tourism.

Which of 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 statements are incorrect with respect to *Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU)*

1. It will be the nodal agency to deal with complaints of unsolicited commercial communication (UCC).
2. It will be a setup under Ministry of Communications.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. b

### *Hakim Ajmal Khan*

- He was an eminent Indian Unani physician and a noted freedom fighter.
- Unani system originated in Greece, the theoretical framework of Unani medicine is based on the work of Hippocrates (460-377 BC).
- In India, it was introduced by Arabs and Persians sometime around the eleventh century.
- It saw the beginning of its revival during the freedom struggle due to the efforts of Hakim Ajmal Khan.



- He was one of the founders of the Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi.
- He established Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College and Hindustani Dawakhana a pharmaceutical company for manufacturing of Ayurvedic and Unani medicine in Delhi in 1916.
- World Unani Day is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan.
- Aligarh Muslim University was originally established by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan as the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875.

2. a

### **Bhuvan portal**

- Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and MapmyIndia have partnered to come up with an indigenous geospatial portal known as 'Bhuvan'.
- It is a type of web portal used to find and access geographic information (geospatial information) and associated geographic services (display, editing, analysis, etc.) via the Internet.
- MapmyIndia's database will be connected with ISRO's high-end satellite catalogue and earth observation data, which it generates through a constellation of its satellites.
- The collaboration will enable them to jointly identify and build a holistic geospatial portal utilising
  1. Earth observation datasets,
  2. Navigation in Indian Constellation (NavIC),
  3. Web Services and APIs (application programming interface) available in MapmyIndia.

3. d

### **E-Chhawani Portal**

- It is jointly developed by eGov Foundation, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) and National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- It has been created to provide online civic services to over 20 lakh residents of 62 Cantonment Boards across the country.

- It aims to transform the functioning of Cantonment Boards, in line with the vision of 'New India'.
- The portal will ensure effectiveness and transparency of the services distribution system of the Cantonment Boards.

4. a

### **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav**

- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is the flagship festival of this **Ministry of culture**.
- It is organized since 2015 with the active participation of Seven Zonal Culture Centres has been playing a pivotal role to take the vibrant culture of India out to the masses instead of confining to auditoria and galleries.
- Ten editions of RSM have been held till date since November, 2015 in various states and cities such as Delhi, Varanasi, Bengaluru, Tawang, Gujarat, and Tehri.
- The eleventh edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is being held at multiple locations of West Bengal namely Cooch Behar, Darjeeling and Murshidabad.

5. c

### **Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU)**

- It aims to coordinate with various law enforcement agencies, financial institutions and telecom service providers in investigating any fraudulent activity involving telecom resources.
- It will deal with cases of financial fraud, especially in the digital payments space.
- It would also ensure strict compliance of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preferences Regulations (TCCCPR) 2018 which provides a revised regulatory framework aimed at regulating 'unsolicited commercial communication' (UCC) in India.

### **Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC)**

- Unsolicited communications or spam refers to emails or mobile messages that advertise products and services to a large group of recipients without their prior request or consent.

- The issue of UCC has been a major area of concern for the Telecom Ministry as well as the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- It has from time to time fined telecom operators for not following its directives on stopping UCC.

- b. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- c. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- d. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

**19-02-2021**

**1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Khwaja Moinuddin***

1. He was a 14th century Sufi saint of Qadiriyya Order.
2. He rejected all material goods as distractions from the contemplation of God.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Arka subha***

1. It is a new fortified rice variety developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
2. It has a high carotene content of around 2.8% which is the highest among all plant sources.

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

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

**3) Which of the following ministry has brought out *Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary*?**

- a. Ministry of Communications

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Committee on World Food Security (CFS)***

1. It is funded by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP).
2. It has endorsed the first-ever Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN).

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

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

**5) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Combat Net Radio (CNR)***

1. It is the mainstay of communications for the Indian Army in the battlefield
2. It supports voice communication as well as data transmission capability

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. b

### *Khwaja Moinuddin*

- Moinuddin Hasan Chishti was born in Sijistan (modern-day Sistan) in Iran in 1141-42 CE.



- Chishtiya Order was founded in India by Khwaja Moin-Uddin Chishti.
- It emphasised the doctrine of the unity of being with God (wahdat al-wujud) and members of the order were also pacifists.
- They abstained from connection with the secular state.
- Recitation of the names of God, both aloud and silently, formed the cornerstone of Chishti practice.
- His shrine in Ajmer has been visited by rulers like Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Sher Shah Suri, Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, Dara Shukoh and Aurangzeb.

### Major Sufi Orders

- **Suhrawardi Order** - It was founded by Sheikh Shahabuddin Suhrawardi Maqtul.
- The Suhrawardis, unlike the Chishtis, accepted maintenance grants from the Sultans.
- **Naqshbandi Order** - It was founded by the Khwaja Baha-ul-din Naqsh band.
- From the beginning, the mystics of this Order stressed on the observance of the Shariat.
- **Qadiriyya Order** - It was popular in Punjab.
- Sheikh Abdul Qadir of Badaun founded it in the 14th century, they were supporters of the Mughals under Akbar.

2. b

### Arka subha

- The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) has developed a new marigold variety named Arka Shubha.
- It has carotene content of around 2.8% (for all marigolds, it's maximum upto 1.4%) which is the highest among all plant sources.
- This new variety of marigold can be used for extraction of crude carotene even if spoiled after full bloom, unlike that of other varieties.
- Its petals could be used as poultry feed to get quality yolk.

### Carotene

- Carotenes are carotenoid pigments that are oxygen-free.

- Mostly they are unsaturated hydrocarbons that contain only carbon and hydrogen.
- Their color varies from yellow to orange to red.
- Carotene is used in the pharmaceutical sector, there is always a high demand for it.

3. c

### Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary

- Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has released the 3rd edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary with 10,000 terms (including 6,000 earlier terms).
- The Dictionary has been brought out by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous Institute under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).
- It contains total 10,000 terms of everyday use, academic terms, legal & administrative terms, medical terms, technical terms and agricultural terms.
- The Dictionary also contains regional signs used in different parts of the country.

4. d

### Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

- It is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all.
- The Committee reports to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Conference.
- Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) aim to support countries to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by utilizing a food systems approach.
- The Guidelines highlight the complex and multidimensional interlinkages between sustainable food systems and healthy diets.

5. a

### Combat Net Radio (CNR)

- The contemporary CNR equipment in the Indian Army supports voice communication



only and has limited or no data transmission capability.

- To arm the soldiers with advantages offered by technology and equip him to fight a war in the Net–Centric battle space, present radios are to be replaced soon by indigenously developed Software Defined Radio (SDR).
- SDR has enhanced data transmission capability, enhanced voice clarity and data transmission accuracy in spectrally noisy environments.

**20-02-2021**

**1) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to *Certified Jute Seed Distribution Plan***

1. It is launched by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
2. It aims to provide 100% Certified Seeds at subsidized rate to Jute farmers

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Housing Finance Companies***

1. Its financial assets in the business of providing finance for housing constitute not less than 60% of its total assets.
2. Loans provided by HFCs and NBFCs are linked to the prime lending rate (PLR) and to repo rate fixed by RBI.

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

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

**3) Which of the following Ministry has launched *Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge?***

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

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to *India Energy Outlook Report***

1. It is jointly released by Ministry of Coal and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. According to the report Coal currently dominates India's electricity sector, accounting for over 70% of overall generation.

**Which of 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 statements are correct with respect to *Giant Leatherback Turtle***

1. They nest only in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands within the Indian Ocean.
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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

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

**Answers**



1. a

**Certified Jute Seed Distribution Plan**

- Certified Jute Seed Distribution Plan will expand usage of certified seeds to over 55% area under Jute Cultivation.
- The Ministry of Textiles has launched a Certified Jute Seed Distribution Plan under Jute ICARE Program.

**Jute ICARE Program**

- Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise for Jute (Jute ICARE) was launched in 2015.
- The programme was initiated by the National Jute Board (NJB) in association with Central Research Institute for Research in Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF) & Jute Corporation of India (JCI).
- It aims mechanization in jute farming in a farmer-friendly way and accelerated retting using microbial consortium for improved income for jute farmers.

2. c

**Housing Finance Companies**

- A HFC has been defined to mean a non-banking financial company engaged in the housing finance business and which fulfills the following conditions:
- Its financial assets (in the business of providing finance for housing) constitute not less than 60% of its total assets; and
- Out of the total assets (netted off by intangible assets), not less than 50% should be by way of housing financing for individuals.
- Banks are mandated by the RBI, to follow the repo rate-based lending rate for all loans but loans by HFCs and NBFCs are linked to the prime lending rate (PLR).
- The banks cannot lend at rates below the Repo Rate but there is no such restriction on PLR-linked loans.
- The provisions for the regulation of HFCs are provided under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 with the National Housing Bank being the regulatory authority for HFCs.

- Recently, the RBI has issued directives to housing finance companies (HFCs) on maintenance of liquidity coverage ratio, risk management, asset classification and loan-to-value ratio.

3. c

**Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**

- It is an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and technical partner WRI India
- It is a 3-year initiative aimed at supporting early childhood-friendly neighbourhoods under the government's Smart Cities Mission.
- It aims to address the need for early childhood amenities in government office premises, bus shelters and transit hubs.
- The selected cities for the 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' will receive technical assistance, capacity building and scale-up support to experiment, and implement trials and pilots over the next six months

4. b

**India Energy Outlook Report**

- The India Energy Outlook 2021 is a new special report from the International Energy Agency (IEA's) World Energy Outlook series.
- It explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population.
- Presently, India is the fourth-largest global energy consumer behind China, the United States and the European Union.
- India's share in the growth in renewable energy is the second-largest in the world, after China.
- Highlights of the report are
  1. India will make up the biggest share of energy demand growth at 25% over the next two decades, as it overtakes the European Union as the world's third-biggest energy consumer by 2030.



2. India's oil demand is seen rising by 74% to 8.7 million barrels per day by 2040 under the existing policies scenario.
3. A five-fold increase in per capita car ownership will result in India leading the oil demand growth in the world.
4. India will become the fastest-growing market for Natural gas, with demand more than tripling by 2040.
5. Coal currently dominates India's electricity sector, accounting for over 70% of overall generation.
6. Coal demand is seen rising to 772 million tonnes in 2040 from the current 590.

5. a

### **Giant Leatherback Turtle**

- It is the largest of the seven species of sea turtles on the planet.
- It is most long-ranging turtle which are found in all the oceans except the Arctic and the Antarctic Oceans.
- It is listed as 'Vulnerable' under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- They are also listed in Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- The large numbers of Giant Leatherback Turtle have been recorded nesting on the long and wide beaches at the mouth of the Dagmar and Alexandira Rivers on the west coast and at the mouth of the Galathea River along its south eastern coast of Andaman Nicobar Islands

**22-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are *incorrect* with respect to *Juvenile Justice Act 2015*

1. It allowed the trial of juveniles in conflict with law in the age group of 16-18 years as adults.
2. It also streamlined adoption procedures for orphans, abandoned and surrendered children.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Go Electric Campaign*

1. It is a campaign of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) will provide technical support to implement the campaign at the national and state level.

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

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

3) Which one of the following event is related to *Saka Nankana Sahib*

- a. First Sikh Commune
- b. Birth place of Gurunanak Dev
- c. Resting place of Guru Tegh bahadur
- d. Battle ground of Guru Gobind Singh

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rash Behari Bose*

1. He assassinated Dalhousie the then governor general of India.
2. He was prime motive behind Delhi-Lahore Conspiracy case.

Which of 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 statements are incorrect with respect to *Transatlantic Alliance*

1. It is the foundation on which the collective security of the USA and Canada are built.
2. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation has recently joined as observer state in the alliance

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. d

**Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2015**

- It was introduced and passed in Parliament in 2015 to replace the Juvenile Delinquency Law and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2000.
- It allowed the trial of juveniles in conflict with law in the age group of 16-18 years as adults, in cases where the crimes were to be determined.
- The nature of the crime, and whether the juvenile should be tried as a minor or a child, was to be determined by a Juvenile Justice Board.
- The existing Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has been given the status of a statutory body to enable it to perform its function more effectively.

2. a

**Go Electric Campaign**

- It is a campaign of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to promote and spread awareness on electric mobility.
- The BEE, under the aegis of the Ministry of Power, has been mandated to undertake an

awareness drive for promoting public charging, e-mobility and its ecosystem.

- It aims to spread awareness on the benefits of e-mobility and EV Charging Infrastructure as well as electric cooking in India.
- It is aimed at reducing import dependency of India in the coming years.
- It is aimed at creating awareness at a pan-India level and is expected to boost the confidence of electric vehicle manufacturers.
- It would go a long way in fulfilling the main objective of energy transition towards a low carbon economy.

3. b

**Saka Nankana Sahib**

- Nankana Sahib, the birth place of first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev.
- It also the site of the first big agitation by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to take back control of gurdwaras from mahants backed by the British.
- The SGPC came to existence in November 1920, a month after Sikhs removed partial restrictions on Dalit rights inside Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- It started gurdwara reform movement which was aimed at taking possession of historical Sikh Gurdwaras, which had turned personal property of the priests, who were called mahants.

4. b

**Rash Behari Bose**

- He was an Indian Revolutionary born in Subaldaha village, Bardhaman District in West Bengal on 25 May 1886.
- He held a clerical job at the Dehra Dun Forest Research Institute.
- He was, however, attracted to revolutionary ideas and radical movements.
- He became acquainted with Jatin Mukherjee alias Bagha Jatin and got involved with the revolutionary freedom fighters of Bengal.

**Delhi-Lahore Conspiracy Case**



- On 23 December 1912, an assassination attempt was made on Lord Hardinge, the Viceroy of India.
- Bose was the mastermind in this attack, Hardinge was hurt in the attack, though not killed.
- Three others involved Basant Kumar Biswas, Avadh Behari and Amir Chand were caught, tried and executed.
- The attempt happened on the occasion of the transfer of India's capital from Calcutta to Delhi.
- A homemade bomb was thrown into the Viceroy's howdah when the procession was moving in the Chandni Chowk area.
- This event came to be called the Delhi Conspiracy case or the Delhi-Lahore Conspiracy case.

5. c

### Transatlantic Alliance

- The Transatlantic Alliance has been the cornerstone of the post-World War II world order.
- It is a real-world expression of West - of a sense that both sides of Atlantic are in it together.
- It is the foundation on which the collective security and shared prosperity of the USA and Europe are built.
- Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) is an ambitious, comprehensive, and high-standard trade and investment agreement being negotiated between the United States and the European Union (EU).
- The TTIP negotiations were launched in 2013 and ended without conclusion at the end of 2016.

**23-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Central Electricity Regulatory Commission*

1. It regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government.
2. It advise the Central Government on formulation of National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Chandrayaan-3*

1. It is mission to lunar North Pole with lander, orbiter and a rover.
2. Its lander will be equipped with a Laser Doppler Velocimeter (LDV).

Which of 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) *Devasthal Telescope* is situated in which of the following Indian State?

- a. Arunachal Pradesh
- b. Jammu & Kashmir
- c. Himachal Pradesh
- d. Uttarakhand

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Hucheshwara Temple*

1. It is a Chalukya dynasty temple located in Kerala.
2. It was built in 12th century to celebrate the coronation of King Veera Ballala II.

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

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

5) Which of the following statements are *incorrect* with respect to *Silver Antimony Telluride*

1. It is a nanomaterial compound synthesised from Silver, Copper and Tellurium.
2. It is a good conductor of both electricity and heat.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. c

### Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

- The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) had been established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.
- CERC is the Central Commission for the purposes of the Electricity Act, 2003 which has repealed the ERC Act, 1998.
- The Commission consists of a Chairperson and four other Members including Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority who is the ex-officio Member of the Commission.
- It also regulate the inter-State transmission of electricity and to determine tariff for such transmission of electricity, etc.

2. b

### Chandrayaan-3

- The Chandrayaan-1 Moon Mission, launched in 2008, data indicates that the Moon's poles are home to water.
- Chandrayaan-2, aimed at landing a rover on uncharted Lunar South Pole, was launched in 2019 on board the country's most powerful geosynchronous launch vehicle.
- Chandrayaan 3 lander will land at the same location as the Chandrayaan 2, the lunar South Pole, which is a singularly promising part of the moon's surface.
- Unlike its predecessor, Chandrayaan-3 will not have an orbiter, but will only include a lander and rover.

### Laser Doppler Velocimeter (LDV)

- It is the technique of using the Doppler shift in a laser beam to measure the velocity in transparent or semi-transparent fluid flows or the linear or vibratory motion of opaque, reflecting surfaces.
- The measurement with laser Doppler anemometry is absolute and linear with velocity and requires no pre-calibration.

3. d

### Devasthal Telescope

- Devasthal is a mountain peak in Uttarakhand.
- The world-class 3.6 meter optical telescope set up at Devasthal is the Asia's largest fully steerable optical telescope.
- It was set up in year 2016 by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) with support from Belgian government.
- It has assumed global importance for observing a number of time-critical cosmic explosive events such as Gamma Ray Bursts and Supernovae.

4. a

### Hucheshwara Temple

- It is a Hoysala period temple located in Karnataka, an elegant specimen of 12th century Hoysala architecture.
- The temple is located close to Hoysaleswara temple and is more than 900 years old.

- The temple was built in 1173 A.D. by a rich officer called Buci (or Buchiraja), to celebrate the coronation of Hoysala King Veera Ballala II.
- From the inscriptions on the premises, it is evident that these two temples had been commissioned by Buci's older brothers, Govinda and Naka.

5. b

### **Silver Antimony Telluride**

- Silver Antimony Telluride ( $\text{AgSbTe}_2$ ) can help in tapping waste heat produced by all kinds of domestic and industrial appliances, and use it to accomplish other useful work.
- it is a good conductor of electricity but a bad conductor of heat, a property important for Thermo-electric effect.
- The thermo-electric effect involves the process by which heat is transformed to electrical energy.
- The heat from the laptop, for example, can be used to charge a mobile phone. Or, that from the phone can be used to charge a small watch.
- However the energy conversion is not a very efficient process, typically not more than 15 to 20% of the waste heat can be utilised.

**24-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Factors of high rainfall in Cherrapunji*

1. High rainfall in the area is caused by the orography favouring a monsoon wind regime.
2. The changes in the Indian Ocean temperature have a huge effect on the rainfall in the region.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *List of Tree City of the World*

1. It provides a framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry programme.
2. Pune has become the only city in India to be recognised under the 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

3) Which of the following statements are *incorrect* with respect to *Land Titling system in India*

1. Land Titling is the generic term used to describe the programs implemented by the government to enable individuals and government to efficiently trade in rights in land and property.
2. India currently follows the Conclusive Land titling system under which the ownership title is granted by the government, which takes the responsibility for accuracy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)*

1. It is the abnormal accumulation of fat in the liver in the absence of secondary causes of fatty liver.
2. Kidney failure and Pneumonia are the most common cause of death in NAFLD.



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

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

5) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to *Guru Ravidass*

- 1. He was the 4th Guru of the ten Gurus of Sikhism.
- 2. The *Adi Granth* of Sikhs and *Panchvani* are his famous literary works.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. c

### Factors of high rainfall in Cherrapunji

- Cherrapunji (elevation 1313 m) and Mawsynram (elevation 1401.5 m) are located on the southern slopes of the east Khasi Hills in Meghalaya.
- Meghalaya is a mountainous state with numerous valleys and highland plateaus.
- Elevation in the plateau region ranges between 150 m to 1,961 m, with the central part comprising the Khasi Hills with the highest elevations.
- The northward moving moist winds from the Bay of Bengal passing over the plains of Bangladesh are forced to converge in the narrow valleys of the Khasi Hills with orography providing forced ascent that causes condensation, formation of clouds resulting in rain on the windward side of the slope.
- A recent study that looked at the rainfall pattern in the past 119 years found a

decreasing trend at Cherrapunji (Meghalaya) and nearby areas.

2. a

### List of Tree City of the World

- Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations have jointly released the list of 'Tree City of the World'.
- It is an international effort to recognise cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated.
- The 'Tree City of the World' programme provides direction, assistance, and worldwide recognition for communities' dedication to its urban forest
- Hyderabad has become the only city in India to be recognised as a 'Tree City of the World'.

3. a

### Land Titling systems in India

- Land Titling is the generic term used to describe the programs implemented by the government to enable individuals and government to efficiently trade in rights in land and property.
- **Presumptive Land Titling** - India currently follows this system, it means that land records are maintained, with information on possession, which is determined through details of past transactions.
- Ownership is established on the basis of current possession.
- Registration of land is actually a registration of transactions, such as sale deeds, records of inheritance, mortgage and lease.
- Holding registration papers does not actually involve the government or the legal framework guaranteeing the ownership title of the land.
- **Conclusive Land titling system** under this land records designate actual ownership.
- The ownership title is granted by the government, which takes the responsibility for accuracy.

- Once a title is granted, any other claimant will have to settle disputes with the government, not the title holder.
- The government may provide compensation to claimants in case of disputes, but the title holder is not in any danger of losing ownership.
- Recently NITI Aayog has formulated model bill on conclusive land tilting.

4. b

#### ***Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)***

- It is the abnormal accumulation of fat in the liver in the absence of secondary causes of fatty liver, such as harmful alcohol use, viral hepatitis, or medications.
- It is an independent predictor of future risk of cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes and other metabolic syndromes.
- The cardiovascular disease is the most common cause of death in NAFLD.
- Recently, the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched the Operational Guidelines for integration of NAFLD.
- The Government of India has objectives to prevent and control NAFLD with the following
  1. Behaviour and lifestyle changes,
  2. Early diagnosis and management of NAFLD,
  3. Building of capacity at various levels of healthcare for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of NAFLD

5. a

#### ***Guru Ravidass***

- He was a Dalit-poet saint from the Bhakti movement era in northern India who probably lived during the 14th to 16th.
- The 41 hymns of Guru Ravidas have been included in the Guru Granth Sahib.
- The famous saint poetess, Mirabai was a disciple of Guru Ravidas.
- He abandoned saguna (with attributes, image) forms of supreme beings, and focussed on the nirguna (without attributes, abstract) form of supreme beings.

#### ***Guru Ramdass***

- Guru Ram was the fourth of the ten Gurus of Sikhism.
- He faced hostilities from the sons of Amar Das, shifted his official base to lands identified by Amar Das as Guru-ka-Chak.
- This newly founded town was known as Ramdaspur, later it was renamed as Amritsar.
- He is also remembered in the Sikh tradition for expanding the manji organization for clerical appointments and donation collections to theologically and economically support the Sikh movement.
- He appointed his own son as his successor, and unlike the first four Gurus who were not related through descent, the fifth through tenth Sikh Gurus were the direct descendants of Ram Das.

**25-02-2021**

**1) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to *India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)***

1. It has been developed by Ministry of Home Affairs and National Informatics Centre (NIC).
2. It is funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and has support from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog.

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Black Necked Cranes***

1. Its habitat lies in Assam and adjoining low altitude grassland areas.
2. It has been listed as near threatened under the IUCN red list.



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

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

3) With respect to *Pagri Sambhal Movement, 1907*, consider the following statements:

- It is a non-violent farmers' agitation that forced the British government to repeal three laws related to agriculture back in 1907.
- It was founded by Ajit Singh, uncle of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.
- The movement fought against the acts that gave the British government the right to take back the allotted land if the farmer even touched a tree in his field without permission.

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

4) Which of the following are found to be causative agents of *Acute encephalitis syndrome (AES)*?

- Viruses*
- Bacteria*
- Fungus*
- Parasites*
- Chemical and Toxins*

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 & 5 only
- 2 & 4 only
- 1, 3 & 5 only
- All of the above

5) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to *Polar vortex*

- It is a whirling cone of high pressure over the poles that is weakest in the winter months.
- Weakening polar vortex causes deep freeze conditions in a large low-pressure area around the North and South Poles.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

### Answers

1. b

### India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)

- It is an open-source software platform which facilitates the secure, authenticated, and managed exchange of data amongst various data platforms.
- It has been developed in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- It serves as a seamless interface for data providers and data users to share, request, and access datasets related to cities, urban governance, and urban service delivery.
- It is designed to address the problem of data silos, both within and across cities.
- It creates a secure and reliable channel for data producers or owners to share their data, with complete control over what is shared and with whom, in order to enable sharing while addressing security and privacy protections by design.

2. a

### Black Necked Cranes



- Both the sexes in the black necked crane are almost of the same size but male is slightly bigger than female.
- The upper long neck, head, primary and secondary flight feathers and tail are completely black and body plumage is pale gray/whitish.
- A conspicuous red crown adorns the head.
- In 2020, a re-assessment of the crane's population led its status to change from Vulnerable to Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.
- The bird is revered by the community of Monpas (major Buddhist ethnic group of Arunachal Pradesh) as an embodiment of the sixth Dalai Lama (Tsangyang Gyatso).
- Monpas inhabit the West Kameng and Tawang districts, are essentially Buddhists who follow the Mahayana sect.
- The high altitude wetlands of the Tibetan plateau, Sichuan (China), and eastern Ladakh (India) are the main breeding ground of the species, the birds spend winter at lower altitudes.
- In Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, it only comes during the winters.
- In Arunachal Pradesh, it can be seen in West Kameng district and Tawang district.

3. c

### **Pagri Sambhal Movement 1907**

- It was a successful farm agitation that forced the British government to repeal three laws related to agriculture back in 1907.
- The three farm-related acts at the centre of the storm in 1907 were
  1. Punjab Land Alienation Act 1900,
  2. Punjab Land Colonisation Act 1906
  3. Doab Bari Act.
- The acts would reduce farmers from owners to contractors of land, and gave the British government the right to take back the allotted land if the farmer even touched a tree in his field without permission.

- Ajit Singh persuaded Congress leader Lala Lajpat Rai to come on the stage during a rally in Lyallpur in 1907 to protest against the laws.
- 'Pagri sambhaal oh Jatta' became the anthem of the movement.
- Lyallpur district was chosen as centre for agitation because it was a developed area and it had people from almost all parts of Punjab as also retired military people.
- The agitation couldn't remain non-violent as Ajit Singh was booked for sedition after his speech at a public meeting in Rawalpindi in 1921 and violence erupted afterwards.

4. d

### **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)**

- AES is characterized by an acute onset of fever and clinical neurological manifestation that includes mental confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma.
- Viruses have been mainly attributed to be the cause of AES in India although other sources such as bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemical, and toxins have been reported over the past few decades.
- In some cases, encephalitis may be the result of an immune system disorder.
- The causative agent of AES varies with season and geographical location, and predominantly affects population below 15 years.
- Mild cases may cause no symptoms or mild flu-like symptom and severe cases can be life-threatening.

5. a

### **Polar vortex**

- It is described as a whirling cone of low pressure over the poles that is strongest in the winter months due to the increased temperature contrast between the polar regions and the mid-latitudes, such as the US and Europe.
- The polar vortex spins in the stratosphere.
- Usually, when the vortex is strongest, cold air is less-likely to plunge deep into North America or Europe.



- But occasionally, the polar vortex is disrupted and weakens, due to wave energy propagating upward from the lower atmosphere.
- When this happens, the stratosphere warms sharply in an event known as sudden stratospheric warming, in just a few days, miles above the Earth's surface.
- The warming weakens the polar vortex, shifting its location somewhat south of the pole or, in some instances, 'splitting' the vortex up into 'sister vortices'.
- A warmer Arctic, in turn, favours more severe winter weather in the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes including the eastern US.
- The deep freeze can be caused by the weakening polar vortex, a swirling mass of cold air over a large low-pressure area around the North and South Poles.

**26-02-2021**

**1) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to NASA's *Perseverance Mission***

1. It will explore Jezero Crater, an ancient river delta that has rocks and minerals that could only form in water.
2. It will be partially powered by Photo voltaic cell and by Hydrogen fuel Cell

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to WHO Certification Scheme for Drugs**

1. The Scheme applies for both finished and pharmaceutical products.
2. It is a mandatory agreement among various countries.
3. Under this, the recommended manufacturing facilities and operations

**conform to good manufacturing practices (GMP).**

**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

**3) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to *Findings on Sun's Rotation***

1. Sun rotates more quickly at its equator than at its poles.
2. Sun's differential rotation rates cause its magnetic field to become twisted and tangled.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**4) Which of the following ministry has launched *Smart Code Platform*?**

- a. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- b. Ministry of Electronics and Information technology
- c. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- d. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

**5) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to *International Mother Language Day***

1. It is initiated by International Linguistics forum.
2. The day commemorates a long struggle by Bangladesh to protect its mother language Bangla.



Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. a

### NASA's Perseverance Mission

- Perseverance is designed to better understand the geology of Mars and seek signs of ancient life.
- It will collect rock and soil samples in cigar-sized tubes.
- A Mars Fetch Rover (provided by the European Space Agency) will land, drive, and collect all samples from the different locations, and return to the lander.
- These samples will be transferred to the Mars Ascent Vehicle which will meet with an Orbiter.
- The Orbiter will carry the samples back to Earth.
- It is different from previous missions because it is capable of drilling and collecting core samples of the most promising rocks and soils, and setting them aside in a "cache" on the surface of Mars.
- A Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (MMRTG) which converts heat from the natural radioactive decay of plutonium (Plutonium Dioxide) into electricity will power the mission.

2. b

### WHO Certification Scheme for Drugs

- According to the UNO body, the role of WHO in the area of medicines regulatory support is two-fold:
  1. It relates to the development of internationally recognised norms, standards and guidelines.
  2. It relates to providing guidance, technical assistance and training in order to enable

countries to implement global guidelines to meet their specific medicines regulatory environment and needs.

- The WHO's certification scheme is for finished pharmaceutical products, and is a voluntary agreement among various countries.
- A specific pharmaceutical product is authorised for marketing in the certifying country, or if not, the reason why authorisation has not been accorded.
- Maharashtra government has announced that sale of Coronil will not be allowed in the state without proper certification from competent health organisations like WHO, IMA and others.

### Good Manufacturing Practices

- Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) is a system for ensuring that products are consistently produced and controlled according to quality standards.
- It is designed to minimize the risks involved in any pharmaceutical production that cannot be eliminated through testing the final product.

3. c

### Findings on Sun's Rotation

- The scientists have estimated how the Sun has rotated over a century from data extracted from old films and photographs that have been digitized.
- The tangles in the magnetic field lines can produce strong localized magnetic fields and when the Sun's magnetic field gets twisted, there are lots of sunspots.
- The sunspots which form at the surface with an 11-year periodicity are the only route to probe the solar dynamo or solar magnetism inside the Sun and measure the variation in solar rotation.
- The team compared the consistent digitized data with manual data of rotation taken earlier and said that they have been able to differentiate the behaviours of the bigger and smaller solar spots.
- Recently, the researchers from the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) have used the digitized data



of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory in order to probe Sun's rotation over the Century.

#### **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory**

- It is a Solar Observatory of the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**, located in **Palani range of hills**.
- It was established in **1899** as a **Solar Physics Observatory**.

4. d

#### **Smart Code Platform**

- It is a platform that enables all ecosystem stakeholders to contribute to a repository of open-source code for various solutions and applications for urban governance.
- It is designed to address the challenges that urban local bodies (ULBs) face in the development and deployment of digital applications to address urban challenges.
- As a repository of open-source software, the source code available on the platform will be free to use without any licensing or subscription fees.

5. a

#### **International Mother Language Day**

- UNESCO declared 21st February as International Mother Language Day in 1999 and World has been celebrating the same since 2000.
- The day also commemorates a long struggle by Bangladesh to protect its mother language Bangla.
- The resolution to mark 21st February as the International Mother Language Day was suggested by Rafiqul Islam, a Bangladeshi living in Canada.
- He proposed the said date to commemorate the 1952 killings in Dhaka during the Bangla Language Movement.
- The initiative is aimed at preserving and promoting mother languages.
- The aim is to protect the diverse culture and intellectual heritage of different regions of the world.

**27-02-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to **Qualified Institutional Buyers**

1. It include mutual funds, insurance companies or foreign portfolio investors.
2. Any individual investor can obtain the Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB) status.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to **Blank- Cheque Company**

1. It is an entity specifically set up with the objective of acquiring a firm in a particular sector.
2. Money raised through this company is kept in a current account, which can be accessed while making the acquisition.

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

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

3) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to **Mannathu Padmanabhan**

1. In 1924 he took part in the Vaikom Sathyagraha and led the famous "Savarna Jadha" which was an anti-untouchability agitation.
2. He was awarded the title of "Bharata Kesari" by the President of India



Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) Newly discovered species *Cremanthodium indicum* is placed under which of the following IUCN Red List category?

- a. Vulnerable
- b. Near Threatened
- c. Endangered
- d. Critically Endangered

5) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to President's Rule

- 1. It can be extended for a maximum period of six months with the approval of the Parliament.
- 2. The revoking of proclamation of President's Rule does not require the parliamentary approval.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. a

### Qualified Institutional Buyers

- Currently, the Indian markets have the concept of Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs), which these investors enjoy greater market access.
- However, an individual investor cannot obtain the QIB status.

- They are those institutional investors who are generally perceived to possess expertise and the financial capacities to evaluate and invest in the capital markets.

### Accredited Investor

- The concept of accredited investor will provide QIB-like status to individual investors.
- Accredited investors, also called qualified investors or professional investors, are those who have an understanding of various financial products and the risks and returns associated with them.

2. b

### Blank-Cheque Company

- Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC), or a blank-cheque company aims to raise money in an Initial Public Offering (IPO), and at this point in time, it does not have any operations or revenues.
- Money raised through this company is kept in an Escrow account, which can be accessed while making the acquisition.
- If the acquisition is not made within two years of the IPO, the SPAC is delisted and the money is returned to the investors.
- These are attractive to investors, despite them essentially being shell companies, as the blank-cheque companies are people sponsoring.

### Escrow Account

- It is a legal concept describing a financial instrument whereby an asset or escrow money is held by a third party on behalf of two other parties that are in the process of completing a transaction.
- The third-party holds the funds until both parties have fulfilled their contractual requirements.
- Escrow is associated with real estate transactions, but it can apply to any situation where funds will pass from one party to another.

3. c

### Mannathu Padmanabhan

- He was a social reformer and freedom fighter from Kerala, he dedicated his life to the upliftment of the society and Nair community.
- He was captivated by Mahatma Gandhi and his principles of Satyagraha.
- He received the Padma Bhushan award in 1966.
- He founded the Nair Service Society which has its headquarters in Perunna, Changanacherry.
- In 1914 "Nair BhruthyaJanasangham" was formed to organise and bring social reformation to the Nair community.
- In 1925, Nair Service Society was registered under the Indian Companies act.
- He became a member of the Indian National Congress in 1947 and took part in the Travancore State Congress agitation.
- The proclamation shall be approved by Rajya Sabha in the meantime.
- Every resolution approving the proclamation of President's Rule or its continuation can be passed by either House of Parliament only by a simple majority.
- The approval of the proclamation by both the Houses of Parliament implies that the President's Rule continues for six months.
- It can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.
- The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 introduced a new provision to put restraint on the power of Parliament to extend a proclamation of President's Rule beyond one year.

4. d

#### ***CremanthodiumIndicum***

- Recently, a new species of alpine plant in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district has been discovered by a group of scientists.
- The new species belongs to the family of Himalayan sunflower.
- The species is named as 'Cremanthodiumindicum'.
- Cremanthodium is an alpine genus distributed in the Sino-Himalayan region, with a total of 78 recognized species.
- It is endemic to Penga-Teng Tso Lake of Tawang district.
- The alpine plant species is assessed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

5. a

#### ***President's Rule***

- The proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.
- The proclamation survives until 30 days from the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after its reconstitution.