



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## MONTHLY PRESTORMING

### JANUARY 2021

**Shankar IAS Academy™**  
Door No 18, New Plot No 259 /109,  
AL Block, 4th Avenue, Shanthi Colony,  
Annanagar, Chennai - 600040.

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**02-01-2021**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation Dazzlers (Laser Dazzlers)*

1. It a lethal method of warning and stopping suspicious vessels and aircrafts from approaching secured areas.
2. It is capable of dazzle during both day and night.
3. The technology was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Family Health Survey (NFHS)*

1. International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai is the nodal agency for the NFHS.
2. The survey is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with supplementary support from UNICEF.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *ASHA-India*

1. It aims to promote domestic research and entrepreneurship by providing

incubation and acceleration support to potential future technologies.

2. Under ASHA-India initiative, five ASHA-India Centers have been set up for providing incubation and acceleration support.

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) *R P Tiwari Committee*, sometimes seen in the news recently was constituted by?

- a. Reserve Bank of India
- b. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- c. University Grants Commission
- d. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

5) India's first Lithium refinery will be set up in?

- a. Assam
- b. Gujarat
- c. Chhattisgarh
- d. Tamil Nadu

6) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)*

1. It is intergovernmental organization that works closely with G7 nations.
2. It brings the world's securities regulators together, and acts as a global standard setter for the securities sector.

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 *Eco-Sensitive Zones*

1. They are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
2. ESZs are notified by MoEFCC, under Environment Protection Act 1986.

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

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

8) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)*

1. It aims to fast-track the construction of affordable housing and meet the target of constructing 2 crore houses by 2022.
2. Under this initiative Light houses are also being constructed in the seashore for providing better navigation to the fishermen.

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Appointment of Judges of High Courts*

1. Appointment procedures of Judges of the High Courts are same as that of the Appointment procedures of Judges of the Supreme Court.

2. Collegium headed by the CJI makes recommendation to the government for appointment of high court judges.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Lightning Strike*

1. It is a massive discharge of electricity in the atmosphere, some of which is directed towards the Earth's surface.
2. These discharges are generated in giant moisture-bearing clouds that are 10-12 km tall.

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

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a contract with Indian Navy for initially supply 20 Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation Dazzlers (Laser Dazzlers) in New Delhi recently.
- The Laser Dazzler would be manufactured by BEL, Pune plant.

## Laser Dazzler

- It is used as a non-lethal method for warning and stopping suspicious vehicles/boats/aircrafts/UAVs/pirates etc. from approaching secured areas during both day and night.

- It is capable of dazzle and thereby suppress the person's/optical sensor's action with disability glare in case of non-compliance to orders.
- It disorient/ confuse/blind a person temporarily.
- It also dazzles and distract aircraft/UAVs.
- It is a portable, shoulder operated and ruggedized for military use in adverse environmental conditions.
- Laser dazzler technology was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

#### ***Atmanirbhar Bharat***

- This unique product is indigenously designed and developed for first time **for the Armed Forces**.
- It will support the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

2. d

#### ***National Family Health Survey (NFHS)***

- It is a large-scale nationwide survey of representative households.
- The MoHFW has designated International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai as the nodal agency.
- The survey is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with supplementary support from UNICEF.
- The survey is based on 131 parameters.

3. d

#### ***ASHA-India***

- It aims to promote domestic research and entrepreneurship by providing incubation and acceleration support to potential future technologies.
- Under ASHA-India initiative, five ASHA-India Centers have been set up for providing incubation and acceleration support.
- The potential technology winners under acceleration support will be announced by the Prime Minister.

- The technologies, processes and materials identified through this initiative will provide a major fillip to young creative minds, start-ups, innovators and entrepreneurs.

4. c

#### ***R P Tiwari Committee***

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has set up a seven-member committee headed by R P Tiwari.
- This committee will consider the issue of holding common entrance test at undergraduate (UG) level only from the next academic year in central universities to provide a single platform for admission.
- The new National Education Policy (NEP) advocates reducing the number of entrance tests to eliminate the need for taking coaching for these exams.
- If the NEP suggestion is implemented, the National Testing Agency will be established.
- This Agency will be tasked to conduct a common aptitude test as well as specialised common exams for different disciplines at least twice a year, for admission to bachelor degrees in central universities.

5. b

#### ***Lithium Refinery***

- India's first Lithium refinery will be set up in Gujarat.
- It will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material.
- Lithium is a rare element not usually found in India, which would be imported from Australia and processed in this refinery.
- The proposed Lithium refinery will help make Gujarat a domestic hub for Li-ion batteries manufacturing.
- TDS Lithium-Ion Battery Gujarat Private Ltd is India's first Lithium-ion battery manufacturing plant in Gujarat.
- This Lithium ion battery manufacturing plant is expected to become operational by January or February 2021.

6. b

### **International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)**

- The IOSCO is the international organization that brings together the world's securities regulators, covering more than 95% of the world's securities markets.
- It is the global standard setter for the securities sector, which is HQ in Madrid, Spain.
- IOSCO works closely with the G20 and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) in setting up the standards for strengthening the securities markets.
- Recently International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an Associate Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)

7. c

### **Eco-Sensitive Zones**

- Its objective is to minimise the negative impacts of certain activities on the fragile ecosystem encompassing the protected areas.
- In case of places with sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, crucial for landscape linkage, even area beyond 10 km width can also be included in the eco-sensitive zone.
- Activities Allowed under ESZs are
  1. **Prohibited activities** - Examples are Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc), and establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP).
  2. **Regulated activities** - Examples are Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, etc.
  3. **Permitted activities** - Examples are ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, use of renewable energy sources, and adoption of green technology for all activities.

8. a

### **Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)**

- Launched in 2019, the challenge is undertaken under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U).

- GHTC focuses on identifying and mainstreaming proven demonstrable technologies for lighthouse projects and spotting potential future technologies for incubation and acceleration support through ASHA (Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators) – India.
- Light House Projects (LHPs) under GHTC-India comprise about 1000 houses at each location along with allied infrastructure facilities.
- These LHPs demonstrate a variety of technologies, including Prefabricated Sandwich Panel System in LHP at Indore, Monolithic Concrete Construction using Tunnel Formwork etc.

9. b

### **Appointment of Judges of High Courts**

- The procedure of appointing the Judges of the High Courts in India is slightly different from the appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court.
- A person who have selected to become a high court judge should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten years or should have been an advocate of high court(s) for ten years.
- There is no minimum age fixed for high Court judges, and unlike in Supreme Court, there is no provision for appointment of a distinguished jurist as a judge of a high court.
- As per article 217, the chief Justice of the high court is appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief justice of India as well as the Governor of the state in question.

10. c

### **Lightning Strike**

- Moving free electrons in the clouds cause more collisions and more electrons, a chain reaction ensues.
- This process results in a situation in which the top layer of the cloud gets positively charged, while the middle layer is negatively charged.
- The electrical potential difference between the two layers is huge of the order of a billion to 10 billion volts.

- An enormous amount of heat is produced, and this leads to the heating of the air column between the two layers of the cloud.
- This heat gives the air column a reddish appearance during lightning.
- As the heated air column expands, it produces shock waves that result in thunder.
- Lightning incidents in India report is published by Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROPC), a non-profit organisation that works closely IMD to disseminate early lightning forecasts.

**04-01-2021**

1) Which of the following statements are *incorrect* with respect to *Digital Payment Index (DPI)*

1. It aims to reflect accurately the penetration and deepening of various digital payment modes.
2. It is constructed by NITI Aayog with March 2018 as the base period.

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 *National Police K-9 Journal*

1. It is the first such publication in the country on the subject of Police Service K9s (PSKs) i.e. Police Dogs.
2. It is released annually by Union Home Affairs Ministry.

Which of 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 correct with respect to *Geo Engineering*

1. It is a deliberate, large-scale intervention carried out in the Earth's natural systems to reverse the impacts of climate change.
2. LOHAFEX an ocean iron fertilization experiment is one of the geo-engineering initiative 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) Consider the following statements with respect to *Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement*

1. It allows exchanging list of nuclear installations between India and China that prohibits them from attacking each other's atomic facilities.
2. Nuclear installation under the agreement includes only nuclear power plants, Research reactors and Nuclear weapon facilities.

Which of 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 *Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana*

1. Under this scheme a savings account can be opened by legal guardians of the girl child below 14 years of age.
2. The account holder can only withdraw 50% of the accumulated amount and use

it only for the purpose of higher education.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. b

### Digital Payment Index (DPI)

- It is released by RBI with March 2018 as the base period.
- The RBI-DPI comprises five broad parameters that enable the measurement of deepening and expansion of digital payments in the country over different time periods.
- The parameters are including
  - Payment Enablers (weight 25%),
  - Payment Infrastructure -Demand-side factors and (10%),
  - Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%),
  - Payment Performance (45%)
  - Consumer Centricity (5%).
- The RBI-DPI shall be published on RBI's website on a semi-annual basis from March 2021 onwards with a lag of 4 months.

2. a

### National Police K-9 Journal

- Recently, the Union Home Minister has released the inaugural issue of the "National Police K-9 Journal".
- It is a unique initiative that will further enrich the subjects related to Police Service Dog (K-9) (PSK) teams in the country.
- It is a biannual journal which will be released in April and October every year.
- A special 'Police K9 Cell' was established in November 2019 under the Police

Modernization Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs with the mandate of 'Mainstreaming and Augmentation of Police Service K9s in the country'.

3. c

### Geo Engineering

- Climate engineering aka geoengineering is the deliberate and large-scale intervention in the Earth's climate system, usually with the aim of mitigating the adverse effects of global warming.
- Following are the few Geo-Engineering techniques
  - Solar Radiation Management (SRM)** - It refers to offsetting the warming effect of greenhouse gases by reflecting more solar radiation (sunlight) back into space.
  - Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)** - It refers to removing carbon dioxide gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and sequestering it for long periods of time.
  - LOHAFEX - is an ocean iron fertilization experiment to see if iron can cause algal bloom and trap carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
  - It is jointly planned by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in India and the Helmholtz Foundation in Germany.

4. d

### Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement

- It promotes practice of exchanging the list of nuclear installations was carried out under a bilateral arrangement that prohibits them from attacking each other's atomic facilities
- The exchange was made in accordance with Article-II of the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India.
- According to Foreign Office (FO), the exercise is carried out consecutively since January 1, 1992.
- The term "nuclear installation or facility" includes nuclear power and research reactors, fuel fabrication, uranium enrichment, isotopes separation and reprocessing facilities.
- It covers any other installations with fresh or irradiated nuclear fuel and materials in any



form and establishments storing significant quantities of radio-active materials.

5. a

### **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana**

- It enables guardians to open a savings account for their girl child with an authorised commercial bank or India Post branch.
- The SSY account can be opened by legal guardians of the girl child provided the girl shouldn't be more than 10 years of age.
- The individuals can open an account with as low as Rs. 250 and they also have to invest a minimum of Rs. 250 to keep the account active.
- The maximum amount that an individual can deposit per year in a Sukanya Samridhi Yojana account is Rs. 1.5 Lakh.
- The maturity period of an SSY account is 21 years.
- An account holder (the girl) will be able to withdraw from her account once she reaches 18 years of age.

**05-01-2021**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sagarmala Seaplane Services (SSPS)*

1. The project aims to connect Indian states with its neighbouring countries through seaplane services.
2. Sagarmala Development Company Ltd (SDCL) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways will be implementing the project.

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

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

2) Which of the following are the operational research base stations in Antarctica established under the *Indian Antarctic programme*?

1. Maitri
2. Bharati
3. Himadri
4. Dakshin Gangotri

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

3) With respect to *LYNX U2 System*, often seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Gun Fire Control System designed to acquire, track and engage targets amidst sea clutter.
2. It has been designed and developed indigenously.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bird flu*

1. It is a highly infectious and severe respiratory disease in birds caused by the H5N1 influenza virus.
2. It will not infect humans, though human-to-human transmission is common.

Which of 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) **KSTAR** is a magnetic fusion device which was able to achieve a temperature of over 6.6 times more than that of Sun belongs to which of the following countries?

- a. China
- b. Japan
- c. France
- d. South Korea

6) Which of the following statements are *incorrect* with respect to *Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat*

1. It is endemic to India and found in only in the Kolar district of Karnataka.
2. It is currently evaluated as vulnerable by the IUCN.

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 *Aurangabad City*

1. Aurangabad was built in 1610 by Malik Ambar of the Nijamshahi dynasty.
2. It was renamed Aurangabad by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb when he made it his capital.

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

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

8) Which of the following government agency organized *National Metrology Conclave*?

- a. Indian Metrological Department (IMD)
- b. CSIR - National Physical Laboratory
- c. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
- d. Geological Survey of India

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Natural Gas*

1. It is a fossil fuel source consisting primarily of methane, and cleanest among all the available fossil fuels.
2. It occurs abundantly in the gondwana beds, where dharwars are famous for petroleum.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Trans Fat*

1. It is a major contributor to the rise in non-communicable diseases in India like Cardiovascular disease, Diabetes, etc.
2. In India the amount of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats to 3% for 2021 and 2% by 2022 from the current permissible limit of 5%.

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

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways recently initiated the process of commencing operations of the Seaplane services, on the select routes, under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework through prospective airline operators.

### **Sagarmala Seaplane Services (SSPS)**

- The project execution and implementation would be through **Sagarmala Development Company Ltd (SDCL)**, which is under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.
- The proposed Origin-Destination pairs under Hub and Spoke model include various islands of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep, Guwahati Riverfront & Umranso Reservoir in Assam, Yamuna Riverfront / Delhi (as Hub) to Ayodhya, Tehri, Srinagar(Uttarakhand), Chandigarh and many other tourist places of Punjab & HP; Mumbai (as Hub) to Shirdi, Lonavala, Ganpatipule; Surat (as Hub) to Dwarka, Mandvi & Kandla; Khindsi Dam, Nagpur & Erai Dam, Chandrapur (in Maharashtra) and/or any other Hub & Spoke suggested by the Operator.
- One such Seaplane Service is already in operation between Kevadia and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.

### **Sea Plane Services**

- It will utilize the nearby water bodies for take-off and landing and thus connect those places in a much economical way as conventional airport infrastructure like a runway and terminal buildings are not required for seaplane operations.

2. a

- India has recently launched the 40th scientific expedition to Antarctica.
- The chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasiliy Golovnin will make this journey and will reach Antarctica in 30 days.

### **Indian Antarctic programme**

- The Indian Antarctic expeditions began in 1981.

- The first trip comprised of a team of 21 scientists and support staff led by Dr SZ Qasim.
- After a humble beginning, the Indian Antarctic programme has credited to have built **three permanent research base stations in Antarctica**—named:

1. Maitri

2. Bharati

3. Dakshin Gangotri

- **Dakshin Gangotri** was **decommissioned** on 25 February 1990 and subsequently turned into a supply base.

- As of today, India has two operational research stations in Antarctica named Maitri and Bharati.

- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, manages the entire Indian Antarctic program.

3. c

- Ministry of Defence (MoD) has recently signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for procurement of 10 Lynx U2 Fire Control systems for frontline warships of Indian Navy.

- The Lynx system has been designed and developed indigenously that would further the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission.

### **LYNX U2 GFCS**

- It is a Naval Gun Fire Control System designed to acquire, track and engage targets amidst sea clutter which are disturbing radar-echoes of sea wave crests.
- It is capable of accurately tracking air/surface targets, generating required target data for predicting weapon aiming points and engaging target.
- The target engagement is carried out with the medium/short range gun mounts like Russian AK176, A190 and AK630 and the SRGM available onboard ships.

4. a

- Samples of dead migratory water birds found at the Pong Dam Lake in Himachal Pradesh

have tested positive for avian influenza or bird flu.

- It has now become the fifth state to report suspected cases of bird flu after Haryana, Rajasthan, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

### **Avian Influenza**

- It is a highly infectious and severe respiratory disease in birds caused by the H5N1 influenza virus.
- It can occasionally infect humans as well, although human-to-human transmission is unusual, according to the World Health Organisation.

5. d

### **The Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR)**

- It is South Korea's magnetic fusion device.
- The KSTAR has often been referred to as South Korea's "artificial sun".
- It has recently set a new world record for fusion by reaching an ion temperature of over 100 million degrees Celsius for 20 seconds.
- The magnitude of the experiment can be understood from the fact that the Sun burns at 15 million degrees Celsius.
- By comparison, the KSTAR was able to achieve a temperature of over 6.6 times more than that of Sun's.

6. b

### **Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat**

- It is found in only one cave in Hanumanahalli village in the Kolar district of Karnataka, and its population is less than 200 individuals.
- Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests and caves.
- It is currently evaluated as critically endangered by the IUCN.
- Recently Karnataka Forest Department, along with the Bat Conservation India Trust (BCIT), is on a war footing to save the Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat from extinction.

7. d

### **Aurangabad**

- Aurangzeb, who lived in Aurangabad until his death, tortured and killed Chhatrapati Sambahji, son of the Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- Following the historic incident there is a long standing demand for renaming Aurangabad city Sambahji Nagar, which has resurfaced recently.
- The district of Aurangabad is well known for UNESCO Heritage sites such as Ajanta Caves, Aurangabad Caves and Ellora Caves.

8. b

### **National Metrology Conclave**

- National Metrology Conclave 2021 is being organised by CSIR - National Physical Laboratory, which is entering into its 75th year of inception.
- The theme of the conclave is Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation.
- During the conclave following initiatives are being inaugurated
  1. **National Atomic Timescale** - The National Atomic Timescale generates Indian Standard Time with an accuracy of 2.8 nanosecond.
  2. **Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya** - It is supporting testing and calibration of laboratories for quality assurance, at par with international standards.
  3. **National Environmental Standards Laboratory** - will aid self-reliance in the certification of ambient air and industrial emission monitoring equipment.

9. a

### **Natural Gas**

- Natural gas is used as a feedstock in the manufacture of fertilizers, plastics and other commercially important organic chemicals.
- A huge mass of India's natural gas production comes from the western offshore regions, particularly the Mumbai High complex.
- Gondwana is famous for coal fields nor natural gas, where Dharwar (Karnataka) has other minerals like iron, manganese not petrol.
- Union government has recently inaugurated Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Regasification

Terminal at Kochi (Kerala) which extends to Mangaluru (Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka).

- The pipeline will supply environment-friendly and affordable fuel in the form of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to the transportation sector.

10. c

### Trans Fat

- Trans Fat is a food toxin which present in partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, baked and fried foods.
- Trans Fat or trans-fatty acids are a form of unsaturated fat which come in both natural and artificial forms.
- Trans Fats also contribute to insulin resistance and thus elevate the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
- Recently, the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has made an amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations citing reduction in Trans fatty acid levels.
- The FSSAI's revised regulation on trans-fat applies to edible refined oils, Vanaspati (partially hydrogenated oils), margarine, bakery shortenings, and other mediums of cooking such as vegetable fat spreads and mixed fat spreads.

**06-01-2021**

1) With respect to *Earth Quakes*, consider the following statements:

1. An earthquake having a magnitude (M) less than 2.0 is termed as Micro Earthquake.
2. After Shock are a relatively small tremor that commonly precedes a relatively large magnitude earthquake.
3. Isoseismal is a line joining points on the Earth's surface, along which the intensity due to an earthquake is the same and it is usually a closed curve around the epicenter.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) *National Center for Seismology (NCS)*, the nodal agency for monitoring earthquake activity in India works under?

- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
- b. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- c. Ministry of Science & Technology
- d. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

3) **Assertion (A): Ammoniacal Nitrogen content is high in River Yamuna.**

**Reason (R): Untreated waste water from industries in the region are discharged into River Yamuna.**

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

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

4) *Shoolpaneshwar Wild Life Sanctuary* is located in?

- a. Assam
- b. Odisha
- c. Gujarat
- d. Maharashtra

5) *Vienna Accord of 2015* refers to which of the following?

- a. Convention on Road Traffic

- b. Convention on Consular Relations
- c. Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
- d. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Nuclear Program of Iran

6) Which of the following statements are *incorrect* with respect to *Lithium Metal*

1. It is highly reactive and flammable and must be stored in mineral oil.
2. Argentina is the leading producer of lithium, where Chile has the largest reserve of Lithium metal.

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 *Edible Mushrooms*

1. Edible Mushrooms are rich in Vitamin B and D2.
2. The anti-oxidant compounds provides cancer fighting abilities.
3. Union government has advised state governments to include Mushroom in mid-day meals scheme

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

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

8) *Grand Renaissance Dam* is located across which of the following river?

- a. Yarlung Zangbo, Tibet
- b. Mekong River, China
- c. Xingu River, Brazil

- d. Blue Nile, Ethiopia

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Uranium Enrichment*

1. It is done by increasing the percentage of uranium-235 to create an effective nuclear fuel.
2. The enrichment process requires the uranium to be in gaseous form.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*

1. Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) was established under this act.
2. It provides a time period of 3 months for prosecution for any offences, beyond which there will be no prosecution.

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

- The National Capital Region of Delhi experienced 4 small earthquakes during April – August 2020, with the first event of magnitude 3.5 on 12 April 2020 in the northeastern boundary of NCT Delhi, during the prevailing lockdown time.

- These earthquakes were followed by a dozen of micro-events including, a few aftershocks.

### Earthquakes

- These are the manifestations of sudden release of strain energy accumulated in the rocks over extensive periods of time in the upper part of the Earth.
- Earthquakes are classified as, Slight ( $M < 5.0$ ), Moderate ( $5.07.0$ ) depending upon the magnitude on Richter's scale.
- An earthquake having a magnitude,  $M < 2.0$  is termed as Micro Earthquake.

### Foreshock

- A relatively small tremor (or an earthquake) that commonly precedes a relatively large magnitude earthquake (called the "main shock"), by seconds to weeks or months and originates in or near the rupture zone of the main shock.

### Aftershock

- An earthquake that follows a large magnitude earthquake called, "main shock" and originates in or around the rupture zone of the main shock. Generally, major earthquakes are followed by a number of aftershocks, which show a decreasing trend in magnitude and frequency with time.

### Isoseismal

- A line connecting points on the Earth's surface, along which the intensity due to an earthquake is the same. It is usually a closed curve around the epicenter.

2. b

- *The National Capital Region of Delhi experienced 4 small earthquakes during April – August 2020, with the first event of magnitude 3.5 on 12 April 2020 in the northeastern boundary of NCT Delhi, during the prevailing lockdown time.*
- All these events were located by the National Seismological Network (NSN), being operated and maintained by National Seismological Centre (NCS).

### National Center for Seismology (NCS)

- It is the nodal agency of the Government of India for monitoring of earthquake activity in the country.

- It works under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, Government of India.
- NCS maintains National Seismological Network of 115 stations each having state of art equipment and spreading all across the country.
- NCS also monitors earthquake swarm and aftershock through deploying temporary observatory close to the affected region.
- Apart from earthquake monitoring, NCS is also actively involved in the Seismic Hazard Microzonation and seismological research.

3. a

- *The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has constituted a study group to suggest solutions for increase in ammoniacal nitrogen in the Yamuna.*
- The study group will comprise of Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Irrigation and Water Resources departments of Haryana and Delhi.
- The study group has been asked to submit its report within a month.

### Ammonia

- It is one of several forms of nitrogen that exist in aquatic environments.
- Unlike other forms of nitrogen, which can cause nutrient over-enrichment of a water body at elevated concentrations and indirect effects on aquatic life, **ammonia causes direct toxic effects on aquatic life** according to the US Environment Protection Agency.
- Ammonia is mainly produced for commercial fertilizers and other industrial applications.

### Causes

- The possible reasons for high Ammoniacal Nitrogen could be discharge of untreated sewage from upstream towns in Haryana, discharge from industrial units, common effluent treatment plants (CETPs), sewage treatment plants (STPs), illegal discharge of sewage from unsewered colonies in outer Delhi through tankers, lean flow in the Yamuna and anaerobic decomposition of accumulated sludge on the riverbed.

4. c

- Tribals in Gujarat have been protesting against a notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- This notification had classified 121 villages around the Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Narmada district, Gujarat as eco-sensitive zones.

### **Shoolpaneshwar Wild Life Sanctuary**

- It was created in 1982 as 'Dumkhal Sanctuary' - home for sloth bears.
- It is found at the congregation of Vindhyan-Satpura hill ranges.
- The sanctuary derives its name "Shoolpaneshwar" from a temple of Lord Shiva, which once existed in this region on the banks of river Narmada.
- The area is predominantly tribal with 'Vasavas' as the main tribe.

5. d

- Iran had recently confirmed that it was now enriching uranium to 20 percent purity, well beyond the threshold set by its 2015 Vienna Accord.

### **Iran Nuclear Deal**

- The Iran nuclear deal, officially the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was signed between **Iran and the P5 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council)**—the US, UK, France, China and Russia) plus Germany and the European Union in Vienna in July 2015.
- It has also been referred as Vienna Accord, 2015.
- Under the agreement, which came into force in January 2016, Tehran agreed to limit its nuclear program in return for relief from crippling economic sanctions imposed by the UN, US and the EU.

6. b

### **Lithium Metal**

- It is a soft, silvery-white alkali metal. Under standard conditions, it is the lightest metal and the lightest solid element.

- Lithium metal is isolated electrolytically from a mixture of lithium chloride and potassium chloride.
- Recently India has inked a pact with an Argentine firm to jointly prospect lithium in the South American country.
- Australia and Chile are world's leading lithium-producing country over the past decade.
- At the same time both the nations are top 2 countries that hold abundant lithium resources, where Chile has 55.5% of world's lithium reserves and Australia has 18.1%, where Argentina (11%) has 3rd largest reserves of the metal.

7. d

### **Edible Mushroom**

- Union government has advised state governments to include mushrooms in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meals (MDM) schemes.
- These suggestions were on the inclusion of pre-primary classes in the MDM scheme and the provision of a simple and energetic breakfast under the scheme.
- Edible Mushroom contains mineral like potassium, copper, iron and phosphorus.
- It is rich in Vitamins B and they are exposed to sunlight, making them a natural source of D2.
- Choline in Mushroom helps in muscle movement, maintaining structure of cellular membranes and memory.
- The antioxidant compounds such as polyphenols, polysaccharides, ergothioneine, glutathione, and selenium are known to be behind the mushrooms' cancer-fighting ability.

8. d

### **Grand Renaissance Dam**

- Its construction was initiated in 2011 on the Blue Nile tributary of the river that runs across one part of Ethiopia.
- The dam will full fill Ethiopia's goal to secure electricity for its population and to sustain and develop its growing manufacturing industry.

- The dam has created dispute among Ethiopia and Egypt, with Sudan having found itself dragged into the issue.

9. c

### Uranium Enrichment

- It is a process that is necessary to create an effective nuclear fuel out of mined uranium by increasing the percentage of uranium-235 which undergoes fission with thermal neutrons.
- Nuclear fuel is mined from naturally occurring uranium ore deposits and then isolated through chemical reactions and separation processes.
- These chemical processes used to separate the uranium from the ore are not to be confused with the physical and chemical processes used to enrich the uranium.
- The enrichment process requires the uranium to be in a gaseous form.
- This is achieved through a process called conversion, where uranium oxide is converted to a different compound (uranium hexafluoride) which is a gas at relatively low temperatures.

10. c

### Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act

- This Act provides for punishment for causing unnecessary cruelty and suffering to animals.
- The Act defines animals and different forms of animals.
- Discusses different forms of cruelty, exceptions, and killing of a suffering animal in case any cruelty has been committed against it, so as to relieve it from further suffering.
- This Act provides for the limitation period of 3 months beyond which no prosecution shall lie for any offences under this Act.

**07-01-2021**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *India Report on Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI)*

- It is a full-scale national survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, and social determinants and consequences of population ageing in India.
- The study was undertaken by the National Programme for Health Care of Elderly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

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

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

2) With respect to *Census: 2011*, consider the following statements:

- According to 2011 census, 60+ population accounted for 8.6% of India's population.
- The number of elderly age population in India is declining at a rate of 1.5%.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Goldilocks Zone*

- It refers to a habitable zone around a star, where it is not too hot and not too cold for liquid water to exist on the surface of surrounding planets.
- Earth is in the Sun's Goldilocks zone.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2



d. Neither 1 nor 2

**4) Consider the following statements**

1. Netaji Subhas Bose hoisted the Tricolour National Flag at Port Blair in 1943.
2. The Constituent Assembly of India adopted the India's National Flag in 1950.

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

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

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

1. It is a medium size wild cat found in some parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The standing committee of National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has recently approved the inclusion of caracal into the list of critically endangered species.

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

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

**6) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Whale Shark**

1. Whale Sharks are 'Critically Endangered' species under IUCN Red list.
2. In India largest whale shark aggregation is in Gujarat and the only aggregation along east coast is in Andhra Pradesh.

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 Community Forest Rights (CFR)**

1. Under Forest Rights Act 2006, a village can get its traditionally held forest land legally recognised as CFR.
2. District Collector will make rules and issue appropriate directions for governance and conservation of CFR.

Which of 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 confers Awards for Excellence in Drug Research?**

- a. World Health Organization (WHO)
- b. Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI)
- c. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)
- d. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

**9) Consider the following statements with respect to Vertical and Horizontal Reservations**

1. Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as horizontal reservation.
2. Vertical reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, PWD, transgender, etc.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Magneto-Telluric (MT) method*

- It is an electromagnetic geophysical method for inferring the earth's subsurface electrical conductivity.
- It will ascertain the presence of fluid, which generally enhances the possibility of triggering of earthquakes.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. c

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare has released the India Report on Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1 recently.

### Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI)

- It is a full-scale national survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, and social determinants and consequences of population ageing in India.
- The **National Programme for Health Care of Elderly**, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has undertaken the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India, through International Institute for Population Sciences, (IIPS), Mumbai.
- The study was conducted in collaboration with Harvard School of Public Health, University of Southern California, USA, Dte.GHS, United

Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and National Institute on Ageing.

- The LASI, Wave 1 covered a baseline sample of individuals aged 45 and above and their spouses including elderly persons aged 60 and above and oldest-old persons aged 75 and above from all States and Union Territories (UTs) of India (excluding Sikkim).
- It is India's first and the world's largest ever survey that provides a longitudinal database for designing policies and programmes for the older population in the broad domains of social, health, and economic well-being.
- The evidence from LASI will be used to further strengthen and broaden the scope of National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly and also help in establishing a range of preventive and health care programmes for older population and most vulnerable among them.

2. a

- In 2011 census, the 60+ population accounted for 8.6% of India's population, accounting for 103 million elderly people.
- Growing at around 3% annually, the number of elderly age population will rise to 319 million in 2050.
- 75% of the elderly people suffer from one or the other chronic disease.
- 40% of the elderly people have one or the other disability and 20% have issues related to mental health.

3. c

- Astronomers running the world's largest initiative to look for alien life have recently picked up an "intriguing" radio wave emission from the direction of Proxima Centauri, the closest star to our Sun.

### Proxima Centauri

- It is 4.2 light-years away from the Sun – considered a close distance in cosmic terms.
- Its mass is about an eighth of the Sun's, and it is too dim to be seen with the naked eye from Earth.
- Proxima b, one of the two planets that revolve around the star, is the subject of significant curiosity.

- Sized 1.2 times larger than Earth, and orbiting its star every 11 days, Proxima b lies in Proxima Centauri's "Goldilocks zone".

### **Goldilocks Zone**

- A habitable zone, also called the "Goldilocks zone", is the area around a star where it is not too hot and not too cold for liquid water to exist on the surface of surrounding planets.
- Our Earth is in the Sun's Goldilocks zone.
- If Earth were where the dwarf planet Pluto is, all its water would freeze; on the other hand, if Earth were where Mercury is, all its water would boil off.

4. a

- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remembered Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 75th Anniversary of tricolor hoisting at Port Blair.*
- 1943, a day etched in the memory of every Indian, when the brave Netaji Subhas Bose hoisted the Tricolour at Port Blair.
- On July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly adopted it as independent India's National Flag.

5. b

- *The Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL) in its 60th meeting held recently has approved the advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in the country.*
- During the meeting, SC-NBWL has approved the inclusion of Caracal into the list of critically endangered species.

### **Caracal**

- It is a medium size wild cat found in some parts of **Rajasthan and Gujarat**.
- It will help in taking up conservation efforts with financial support under Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitat.
- Now, there are 22 wildlife species under recovery programme for critically endangered species.

6. b

### **Whale Shark**

- It is an 'endangered' species under IUCN, and are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act.
- It was also a slow-moving, and the largest known extant fish species.
- The whale shark is a filter-feeder shark, which means it does not eat meat like other sharks.
- In India largest whale shark aggregation is in Gujarat and the only aggregation along east coast is in Andhra Pradesh.

7. a

### **Community Forest Rights**

- Gram Sabhas will have more power in the management of community forest rights (CFR) and habitat rights.
- FRA give Gram Sabhas "right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.
- Recent guidelines on CFR by Tribal affairs ministry, is aimed at creating community forests resource management committee as an executive arm of the Gram Sabha in managing CFR areas.
- According to the draft, the Gram Sabhas will be empowered to carry out the powers and authority as laid down under section 5 of FRA, 2006 and also make rules or issue directions for management of fund generated from various sources.

8. b

### **Awards for Excellence in Drug Research**

- Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), instituted the award in 2004 to promote the discovery, development and research of drugs and scientific excellence in India.
- The annual awards are for Indian citizens below 45 who have carried out outstanding research in areas with a direct bearing on drug research and development.
- There are two separate individual awards each in the area of Chemical and Life Sciences.

- They carry a cash prize of Rs 20,000 and a citation.

9. d

### **Vertical and Horizontal Reservations**

- Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as vertical reservation.
- It applies separately for each of the groups specified under the law.
- Horizontal reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories.
- The horizontal quota is applied separately to each vertical category, and not across the board.
- For example, if women have 50% horizontal quota, then half of the selected candidates will have to necessarily be women in each vertical quota category – i.e., half of all selected SC candidates will have to be women, half of the unreserved or general category will have to be women, and so on.

10. c

### **Magneto-Telluric (MT)**

- Magneto-telluric (MT) is a geophysical method which uses natural time variation of the Earth's magnetic and electric fields to understand geological (underground) structure and processes.
- It uses measurements of natural geomagnetic and geoelectric field variation at the Earth's surface.
- Recently MT measurements are conducted across three major seismic sources, namely
  1. Mahendragarh-Dehradun Fault (MDF),
  2. Sohna Fault (SF),
  3. Mathura Fault (MF),
- The results of MT survey will be useful in accurate assessment of seismic hazard.

**1) Under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure, financial assistance will be provided to states that carry out three out of four reforms. Which of the following reforms are mentioned under the scheme?**

1. Power sector
2. Urban Local Body
3. Ease of Doing Business
4. One Nation One Ration Card

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to Liberalized MSME Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Package**

1. It is a voluntary compliance programme which enables swifter Customs clearance for accredited stakeholders in the global supply chain.
2. It is an initiative of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).

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

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**

1. BIS is the National Standard Body of India, established through an Act of Parliament.
2. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the President of Governing Council of BIS.

**08-01-2021**

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

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

4) Consider the following pairs

- Mihir – India
- Summit – USA
- Fugaku – Japan
- Tianhe 2A – China

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

- All except 1
- All except 2
- All except 3
- All of the above

5) Merapi Volcano, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in?

- Italy
- Japan
- Indonesia
- Philippines

6) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Basaveshwara

- He is the founder of Lingayatism, a shaivite hindu religious tradition.
- He established the religious parliament called Anubhava Mantapa.
- The followers of Basavanna led a reform movement through Vachana literature.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 only
- 2&3 only

- 1&3 only
- All of the above

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog*

- It is an agency under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.
- It is a high-powered permanent body to formulate policies related to cattle.

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

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

8) Which of the following Ministries has launched *Freight Business Development Portal*?

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Ministry of Railways
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Blue economy*

- It consists of economic activities dependent on marine resources, which comprises 35% of India's GDP.
- PM-Mastya Sampada Yojana aims at enhancing fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Payment Infrastructure Development Fund*

1. The fund will be managed by an expert council with Finance secretary as its head.
2. It will be utilised to develop payment acceptance infrastructure, with a special focus on the north-eastern states of the country.

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

- *Telangana has become the 3rd State in the country to successfully undertake “Urban Local Bodies (ULB)” reform stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.*
- Thus, the State has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of Rs.2,508 crore through Open Market Borrowings.
- Telangana has now joined the two other States namely, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, who have completed this reform.
- On completion of urban local bodies reform, these three States have been granted additional borrowing permission of Rs.7,406 crore.

### **Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure**

- The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister on 12th October, 2020 as a part of the AatmaNirbhar Bharat package.
- The Scheme is aimed at boosting capital expenditure of the State Governments who are facing difficult financial environment this year due to the shortfall in tax revenue arising from the COVID 19 pandemic.

- The Scheme has three parts.

#### **Part –I**

- It covers the north-eastern region.
- Under this part, Rs.200 crores is allocated to 7 north-eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura).
- In view of higher population and geographical area, Assam has been allocated Rs.450 crores under the scheme.

#### **Part-II**

- It is for all other States not included in Part-I.
- An amount of Rs.7,500 crores is earmarked for this part.
- This amount has been allocated amongst these States in proportion to their share of central tax as per the interim award of the 15th Finance Commission for the year 2020-21.

#### **Part-III**

- It is aimed at pushing various citizen-centric reforms in the States.
- Under this Part, an amount of Rs.2000 crores is earmarked.
- This amount will be **available only to those States who carry out at least 3 out of the 4 reforms specified by the Ministry of Finance.**
- The 4 reforms are:
  1. Power Sector Reform
  2. One Nation One Ration Card
  3. Ease of doing Business Reform
  4. Urban Local Body/ Utility Reform

2. c

- *Recognizing the critical contribution of MSMEs in supporting the economy especially during the present difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has taken a new initiative to introduce its flagship “Liberalised MSME AEO Package” for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).*

#### **Liberalised MSME AEO Package scheme**

- It is a flagship scheme of **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)**.
- It is a voluntary compliance programme which enables swifter Customs clearance for accredited stakeholders in the global supply chain viz. importers, exporters, logistic service providers, custodians etc.

#### **Benefits of the Scheme**

- Direct Port Delivery (DPD) of imported containers
- Direct Port Entry (DPE) of their Export Containers
- High level of facilitation in customs clearance of their consignments thereby ensuring
  1. shorter cargo release time
  2. exemption from Bank guarantees
  3. priority for refund/ rebate/ duty Drawback
  4. a Client Relationship Manager at the customs port as a single point of interaction
- Their payment of Customs duty is deferred and need not to be paid before the clearance of the imported goods by Customs.
- An added advantage for Tier 2 AEOs is that their exports to certain countries are accorded facilitation by the foreign Customs administration with whom India enters into a Mutual Recognition Agreement/Arrangement.

3. c

- *Bureau of Indian Standards celebrates the 74th foundation day on 6th January 2021.*

#### **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**

- BIS is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016.
- It was established for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith.
- The Bureau is a Body Corporate consisting of 25 members representing both Central and State governments, Members of Parliament, industry, scientific and research institutions, consumer organizations and professional bodies.

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the President and Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the Vice-President of the Governing Council of BIS.

4. d

- The descending order of the world's eight fastest supercomputers, measured in number of operations per second, or TeraFLOPS.
  1. Fugaku – Japan
  2. Summit – USA
  3. Sierra – USA
  4. Sunway Taihu- Light – China
  5. Selene - USA
  6. Tianhe 2A – China
  7. Juwels Booster Module – Germany
  8. HPC5 – Italy
- In the Top500 list of world's most powerful supercomputers, PARAM Siddhi-AI and Mihir managed to cut.
- They are ranked 63rd and 146th, respectively.

5. c

- *Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano spewed avalanches of hot clouds recently.*

#### **Mount Merapi Volcano**

- Merapi, a steep strato volcano north of Central Java's capital Yogyakarta, is Indonesia's most active volcano.
- Indonesia, an archipelago sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire and is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

6. d

#### **Basaveshwara**

- Basaveshwara (1134-1168) was an Indian philosopher, social reformer and statesman who attempted to create a casteless society and fought against caste and religious discrimination.
- He gave two very important socio-economic principles, They are
  1. **Kayaka (Divine work)** - According to this, every individual of the society should take up

the job of his choice and perform it with all sincerity.

2. **Dasoha (Equal distribution)** - There must be an equal income for equal work.

- The worker (Kayakajeevi) may lead his day-to-day life by his hard earned income.
- But he should not preserve the money or property for tomorrow.
- He must utilise the surplus money for the society and poors.

7. b

### **Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog**

- Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog is an agency under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying) established for the protection of cows.
- It functions as an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.
- It has been constituted to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and to take steps for preserving and improving breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.
- It is a high-powered permanent body to formulate policies and to provide directions for the implementation of schemes related to cattle so as to lay more emphasis on livelihood generation for small & marginal farmers, women and youth entrepreneurs.

8. c

### **Freight Business Development Portal**

- The Ministry of Railways has launched an exclusive portal to promote and develop the railways' freight business - Freight Business Development Portal.
- This first of its kind dedicated Freight portal will ensure that all operations stay customer centric, reduce the costs for logistics providers, provide online tracking facility for suppliers and also simplify the process of goods transportation.
- The aim is to replace physical processes with online ones to minimize the need of human to human interaction.

- The portal has a focus on ease of doing business and to bring more transparency and to provide professional support.

9. a

### **Blue economy**

- Blue economy in India is the sum total of economic activities sourced from marine resources.
  - Fisheries, deep sea mining, and offshore oil and gas make up a large section of India's blue economy.
  - It comprises 4.1% of India's economy.
  - India's Blue economy Initiatives are as follows
1. **Sagarmala project** - It is the strategic initiative for port-led development through the extensive use of IT enabled services for modernization of ports.
  2. **Polymetallic nodules** - these are rock concretions on the sea bottom formed of concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a core, exploration of the polymetallic nodules is being carried out in central Indian Ocean across a 75,000 square kilometre area.
  3. **PM- Matsya Sampada Yojana** - It aims to bring about the Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.

10. b

### **Payment Infrastructure Development Fund**

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the operationalisation of the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme.
- An Advisory Council, under the chairmanship of RBI Deputy Governor BP Kanungo, has been constituted for managing the PIDF.
- The fund is to increase payments acceptance infrastructure by adding 30 lakh touch points every year in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres.
- There would be special focus on the north-eastern states.
- The types of acceptance devices to be covered under the scheme are physical PoS, mPoS, GPRS, PSTN, and QR code-based payments.

- PIDF scheme is on a reimbursement basis and accordingly, the claim has to be submitted only after making payment to the vendor.
- The fund will be operational for three years effective from 1st January, 2021 and may be extended for two more years.

d. 1, 2 and 3

**09-01-2021**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)*

1. It was established in 1998 under the Charitable Endowments Act 1890.
2. The Fund is managed by a Council chaired by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports.
3. TOP (Target Olympic Podium) Scheme has been formulated within the overall ambit of NSDF.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) With respect to *NCAVES Project*, consider the following statements:

1. The project is being funded by the European Union (EU).
2. It has been jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).
3. India is one of the five countries taking part in this project.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Framework* is an accepted international standard for environmental-economic accounting. It provides information on which of the following areas?

1. Land Accounts
2. Energy Accounts
3. Material Flow Accounts
4. Air Emissions Accounts
5. Agriculture, Forests, and Fisheries Accounts

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) With respect to *Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an important mechanism under the World Trade Organization's (WTOs) monitoring function.
2. The review facilitates smooth functioning of the multilateral trading system by enhancing transparency of Members' trade policies.
3. All WTO Members are subject to review under the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM).

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)*

1. It is a not for profit Organization under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.
2. It is not an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and will not provide Internet connections or Transit services.

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

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

6) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to *Ozone Depleting Substances (OSD)*.

1. Chlorofluorocarbons is a type of OSD used in production of plastic foams and tubeless tyres
2. The Montreal Protocol Prohibits the production and consumption of nearly 100 chemicals referred as OSD.
3. India has completely phased out of HCFC-141 b, which is used in production of rigid polyurethane (PU) foams.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Digital Services Tax*

1. It is a Value Added Tax on digital services where the consumer bears the entire tax burden on the value of the final product.
2. It is adopted by India, Italy and Turkey which discriminate against U.S. companies.

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

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

8) *Committee headed by G Kishan Reddy* is formed for which of the following tasks?

- a. Formulating Data Protection Bill.
- b. Protecting the language, culture and land of Ladakh.
- c. Drafting Science, Technology and Innovation Policy.
- d. Recommendations on Inner Line Permit System

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Blackbucks or Indian Antelope*

1. Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 give the blackbucks as much protection as the Tiger in Schedule I of the act.
2. Kalbelia community of Rajasthan is known worldwide for their conservation efforts to blackbuck.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Judicial Review in India*

1. There is no separate provision for judicial review in the Indian Constitution but it is an integral part of it.
2. Article 13 provides for Judicial Review of pre-constitutional as well as post-constitutional laws.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. d

### **National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)**

- It was established in 1998 under the **Charitable Endowments Act 1890**.
- It was notified by Government of India in November, 1998.
- The purpose of creation of the fund is to impart momentum and flexibility to assisting the cause of sports.
- Role of the Fund is supplementary to the overall policy and activities of the Department of Sports in achieving excellence in sports.
- The Fund is managed by a Council constituted by the Central Government.
- Union Minister in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports is the Chairperson of the Council.

### **TOP (Target Olympic Podium) Scheme**

- It has been formulated within the overall ambit of NSDF with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2020 Olympic Games.
- The selected athletes are provided financial assistance for their customized training at Institutes having world class facilities and other necessary support.

2. d

- NCAVES India Forum 2021 is being organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) recently.*

### **Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) Project**

- The main objective of the project is **to mainstream natural capital accounting and the valuation of ecosystem services**

**in data-driven decision and policy-making** at the national, regional and local levels.

- It was funded by the European Union (EU).
  - It has been jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).
  - India is one of the five countries taking part in this project - the other countries being Brazil, China, South Africa and Mexico.
  - In India, the NCAVES project is being implemented by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).
3. d
- India's participation in the NCAVES project helped Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to commence the compilation of the Environment Accounts as per the UN-SEEA framework and release environmental accounts in its publication "EnviStats India" on an annual basis since 2018.*
  - Several of these accounts are closely related to the social and economic attributes, making them a useful tool for the Policy.

### **System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)**

- It is the accepted international standard for environmental-economic accounting, providing a framework for organizing and presenting statistics on the environment and its relationship with the economy.
- It brings together economic and environmental information in an internationally agreed set of standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables to produce internationally comparable statistics.
- The SEEA is produced and released under the auspices of the United Nations, the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group.

- The SEEA provides frameworks for producing accounts in several thematic areas, including:
  1. Land Accounts
  2. Water Accounts
  3. Ecosystems Accounts
  4. Material Flow Accounts
  5. Air Emissions Accounts
  6. Energy Environmental Activity Accounts
  7. Agriculture, Forests, and Fisheries Accounts

4. d

- *The second and final Session of India's seventh Trade Policy Review (TPR) concluded recently at the World Trade Organization in Geneva.*

#### **Trade Policy Review (TPR)**

- It is an important mechanism under the WTO's monitoring function.
- It was an early result of the **Uruguay Round**.
- The objectives of the TPRM, as expressed in Annex 3 of the Marrakesh Agreement, include facilitating the smooth functioning of the multilateral trading system by enhancing the transparency of Members' trade policies.
- **All WTO Members are subject to review under the TPRM.**
- The Annex mandates that the four Members with the largest shares of world trade (currently the European Union, the United States, Japan and China) be reviewed each three years, the next 16 be reviewed each five years, and others be reviewed each seven years.
- A longer period may be fixed for least-developed country Members.
- Reviews are conducted by the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) on the basis of a policy statement by the Member under review and a report prepared by economists in the Secretariat's Trade Policy Review Division.

5. c

- *The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has recently announced that it will offer a free IDN (Internationalized Domain Name) in any of their preferred 22 official Indian language along with every IN domain booked by the registrant.*
- Applicant will also get a free email in local language.

#### **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)**

- It is a **not for profit Organization** under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, and was registered on 19th June, 2003.
- NIXI was set up for peering of ISPs among themselves for the purpose of routing the domestic traffic within the country, instead of taking it all the way to US/Abroad, thereby resulting in better quality of service (reduced latency) and reduced bandwidth charges for ISPs by saving on International Bandwidth.
- NIXI is managed and operated on a Neutral basis, in line with the best practices for such initiatives globally.
- Any ISP can join NIXI.
- **NIXI is not an ISP** and will not provide Internet connections or Transit services.

#### **Functions**

- It is working since 2003 for spreading the internet technology to the citizens of India through the following activities: -
  1. Internet Exchanges through which the internet data is exchanged amongst ISPs and between ISPs and CDNs.
  2. IN Registry, managing and operation of IN country code domain and IDN domain for India.
  3. IRINN, managing and operating Internet protocol (IPv4/IPv6).

6. c

#### **Ozone Depleting Substances (OSD)**

- ODS compound contributes to stratospheric ozone depletion, they include
  1. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) – used in production of plastic foams and tubeless tyres, and as pressurizing agents in aerosol cans.

2. Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and Halon - Used in fire extinguishers
3. Hydro bromo fluorocarbons,
4. Chloro bromo methane,
5. Methyl chloroform - used in degreasing, as a solvent and spot cleaner, and in making other chemicals.
6. Methyl bromide - Used for fumigation of soil, structures and goods to be imported or exported.
7. Carbon Tetrachloride
  - Production and import of these chemicals are controlled by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol).

7. b

**Digital Services Tax**

- It is a levy on the overall revenues earned by the supplier of specific digital services.
- It is different from Netflix tax, which is essentially a “value-added tax” on digital services where the consumer bears the entire tax burden on the value of the final product.
- GAFA tax named after Google, Apple, Facebook, and Amazon is a French proposed digital tax that is to be levied on large technology and internet companies.
- Recently India has expanded the scope of the Equalization Levy, or digital tax, to the sale of goods and services in the country by overseas e-commerce firms.
- The transactions were to be taxed at 2 per cent if businesses earned more than Rs 2 crore.
- The Equalization Levy was introduced for the first time in 2016 as 6% tax on revenues earned by non-residents from online advertising and related services.

8. b

**Committee headed by G Kishan Reddy**

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has decided to form a committee to protect language, culture & land of Ladakh.
- The committee is aimed at protecting the language, culture and land of Ladakh and

ensuring citizen's participation in the Union Territory's development.

- The Committee will be headed by the Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy.
- The Committee will include elected representatives from Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, central government, and the Ladakh administration.

9. a

**Blackbucks or Indian Antelope**

- It is found widely in grassy plains and slightly forest areas of found Central- Western India (MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra and Odisha) and Southern India (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu).
- IUCN altered the status of blackbucks from “Vulnerable to Near Threatened”.
- In India, hunting of blackbuck is prohibited under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972
- The strong cultural connect with the species dates back to the Harappan era.
- In mythology, the blackbuck is variously described as the vehicle (vahana) of Vayu (the wind god) and Chandrama (the Moon god).
- Bishnoi community of Rajasthan is known worldwide for their conservation efforts to blackbuck and Chinkara.
- Kalbelia is a dance from Rajasthan, performed by the tribe of the same name.

10. c

**Judicial Review in India**

- Judicial review is the power of the judiciary to examine the constitutionality of legislative enactments and executive orders of both the Central and State governments.
  - Few constitutional provisions that may be related with judicial review are
1. Article 13 declares that all laws that are inconsistent with or in derogation of the Fundamental Rights shall be null and void.

2. Article 32 guarantees the right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights and empowers the Supreme Court to issue directions or orders or writs for that purpose.
3. Article 226 empowers the High Courts to issue directions or orders or writs for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights and for any other purpose.
4. Article 227 vests in the High Courts the power of superintendence over all courts and tribunals within their respective territorial jurisdictions (except military courts or tribunals).

**11-01-2021**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pravasi Bharatiya Divas*

1. It is celebrated once in every two years.
2. "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat" is the theme for the event, 2021.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award*

1. It is the highest honour conferred on a Non-Resident Indian, Person of Indian Origin (PIO), and institutions run by NRIs or PIOs.
2. The award will be conferred by the Prime Minister of India.

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

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

3) *Tapas* and *SWiFT*, refers to which of the following?

- a. Anti-tank guided missile
- b. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- c. Ballistic Missile Submarine
- d. Underground missile silo

4) *Sitamma Sagar*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is a multi-purpose project built across which of the following rivers?

- a. R. Hoogly
- b. R. Cauvery
- c. R. Ghaggar
- d. R. Godavari

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

1. It is a high-value metal used in the manufacture of partially hydrogenated oils or Trans fats.
2. India is a significant consumer of vanadium, but is not a primary producer of the strategic metal.
3. It is recovered as a by-product from the slag collected from the processing of vanadiferous magnetite ores.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

6) Which of the following statements are *incorrect* with respect to *Gross Domestic Product Estimates*

1. India has registered an average annual GDP growth rate of 6.8 per cent since the start of economic liberalisation in 1992-93.

2. India's real GDP, i.e. GDP without the influence of inflation in 2020-21 will be higher than the 2018-19 level.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Culling of Infected Birds*

- In India, culling is done in a radius of one kilometre from the site of infection, which is called the 'infected zone'.
- World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) recommends quick twisting of the neck (cervical dislocation) to cull small number of infected birds.

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

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

8) Which of the following organization prepares and releases *Food Price Index*?

- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO)
- Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *K-Shape Curve in Economy*

- It occurs after a recession, following uniform recovery across sectors, industries, or groups of people.
- K shape recovery in India reflects that upper-income households have benefitted from higher savings.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are *incorrect* with respect to *India's Silk production*

- North India is leading silk producing area of the country and is also known for its famous silk weaving enclaves like Bhagalpur, Varanasi (Banaras).
- Eri silk from Assam is known as "Ahimsa Silk", as it is processed without killing the silkworm.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. c

- The Prime Minister has recently inaugurated the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas Convention.

### Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- It is celebrated **once in every two years** to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
- The 16th PBD Convention is being held virtually on 9 January, 2021 in New Delhi.
- The theme of 16th PBD Convention 2021 is "**Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat**".

2. c

- Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi, Curacao Prime Minister Eugene Rhuggenaath and New Zealand minister



*Priyanka Radhakrishnan were among 30 NRIs, and Indian-origin people and organisations who were conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award recently.*

### **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award**

- The award is the highest honour conferred by the President of India as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Conventions.
- The award will be conferred on a Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Person of Indian Origin (PIO), and organisation or institution established and run by NRIs or PIOs.

3. b

- *The handing over ceremony of Retractable Landing Gear Systems for Tapas and SWiFT UAVs and 18 types of filters for P-75 Submarine took place recently at DRDO laboratory, Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai.*

### **Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance-Beyond Horizon-201 (TAPAS BH-201)**

- It is a long endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) which used to be previously referred as Rustom-II.
- It is being developed by India on the lines of the American Predator drones.

### **Stealth Wing Flying Testbed (SWiFT)**

- SWiFT is a precursor to India's stealthy Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) Ghatak.
- It is a scaled-down version of Ghatak UCAV.
- The main intent of SWiFT UAV is to demonstrate and prove the stealth technology and high-speed landing technology in autonomous mode.

4. d

- *The State government of Telangana has fixed September 2022 as deadline to complete construction of the proposed Sitammasagar multi-purpose project.*

### **Sitammasagar multi-purpose project**

- The Rs. 2,700-crore Sitammasagar multi-purpose project envisages construction of a

barrage across River Godavari with a storage capacity of 36.57 tmcft and a hydel power unit of 320 MW capacity.

- It aims to optimally harness the surplus waters of the Godavari for both irrigation and hydel power generation purposes.

5. c

- *Arunachal Pradesh is likely to become India's prime producer of vanadium.*
- Exploration being carried out by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has placed the eastern Himalayan State on the vanadium map of the country.

### **Vanadium**

- It is a high-value metal used in **strengthening steel and titanium**.
- India is a significant consumer of vanadium, but is not a primary producer of the strategic metal.
- It is recovered as a by-product from the slag collected from the processing of vanadiferous magnetite ores (iron ore).
- India consumed 4% of about 84,000 tonnes of vanadium produced across the globe in 2017.
- China, which produces 57% of the world's vanadium, consumed 44% of the metal.

6. d

### **Gross Domestic Product Estimates**

- Gross domestic product (GDP) is the monetary value of all finished goods and services made within a country during a specific period.
- India has registered an average annual GDP growth rate of 6.8 per cent since the start of economic liberalisation in 1992-93.
- According to recent estimates real GDP will fall by 7.7 per cent.
- A big reason for the contraction this year has been the disruption caused by Covid-induced lockdowns, as a result, the domestic economy had entered a technical recession.
- India's real GDP that is, GDP without the influence of inflation in 2020-21 will be lower than the 2018-19 level.

- In other words, from the start of the next financial year, India would first have to raise its GDP back to the level it was at in 2019-20.

7. c

### **Culling of Infected Birds**

- During culling operations, all domestic birds in an infected area, i.e., an area in which a case of bird flu has been detected, are slaughtered and their remains buried.
- In India, culling is done in a radius of one kilometre from the site of infection, which is called the 'infected zone'.
- This means all domestic birds present in commercial farms, backyard farms or live bird markets in the infected zone are culled.
- Normally, the World Organization for Animal Health OIE says, the cervical dislocation or neck-wrangling method may be used by first making the poultry unconscious.
- The OIE manual says cervical dislocation is non-invasive killing method and can be performed manually on small birds, but it is difficult in larger birds and results in operator fatigue.

8. b

### **Food Price Index**

- It is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.
- It is prepared by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- It consists of the average of five commodity group price indices weighted by the average export shares of each of the groups over 2014-2016.
- The five indices are
  1. Cereal Price Index,
  2. Vegetable Oil Price Index,
  3. Dairy Price Index,
  4. Meat Price Index,
  5. Sugar price index.

9. b

### **K-Shape Curve in Economy**

- A K-shaped recovery occurs when, following a recession, different parts of the economy recover at different rates, times, or magnitudes.
- It describes the path of different disaggregated economic variables, such as income across different segments of society or employment in different industries, relative to one another.
- In India, households at the top of the pyramid are likely to have seen their incomes largely protected, and savings rates forced up during the lockdown.
- Meanwhile, households at the bottom are likely to have witnessed permanent hits to jobs and incomes.
- COVID has triggered an effective income transfer from the poor to the rich, this will be demand-impeding because the poor have a higher marginal propensity to consume (i.e) they tend to spend (instead of saving) a much higher proportion of their income.

10. a

### **India's Silk production**

- There are five major types of silk of commercial importance, obtained from different species of silkworms.
- These are Mulberry, Oak Tasar & Tropical Tasar, Muga and Eri.
- India has the unique distinction of producing all these commercial varieties of silk.
- South India is the leading silk producing area of the country and is also known for its famous silk weaving enclaves like Kancheepuram, Dharmavaram, Arni, etc.
- In India, about 97% of the raw mulberry silk is produced in the five Indian states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Apart from this all four commercially exploited varieties of silk mulberry, Muga, Eri and Tasar are produced in the North East.
- This region contributes about 21 per cent of the total silk production in the country.



**12-01-2021**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)*

1. It is expenditure incurred by the resident households on final consumption of goods and services, made only within the economic territory.
2. It constitutes over 56% of the total GDP.

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

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

2) Which of the following statements are *incorrect* with respect to *TROPEX Exercise*

1. It is a trilateral exercise between India, Singapore and Thailand.
2. National Security Guard, the Border Security Force, oil handling agencies and airports will participate in the exercise along with defence forces.

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

3) Which of the following Indian State celebrates *Cherry Blossom Mao Festival*?

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *V Shaped Recovery in Economics*

1. It is characterized by a quick and sustained recovery in measures of economic performance after a sharp economic decline.
2. It suggests that economic spending and employment will rapidly decline, but quickly pick back up.

Which of 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 *Magnetotail*

1. It is elongated extension of the Earth's magnetosphere on the side facing away from the Sun.
2. Earth's magneto tail extends well beyond the orbit of the moon and, once a month, the moon orbits through it.

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Khadi Prakritik Paint*

1. The paint uses heavy metals like lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium to make it eco-friendly and non-toxic.
2. It is a first of its kind paint developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
3. The paint is based on cow dung and has been certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

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

- a. 2 only

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) Survey*

1. India has a network of 903 Protected Areas covering about 5% of its total geographic area of the country.
2. Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary in Jammu & Kashmir is the best and Mathikettan Shola National Park in Tamil Nadu is the worst performers among the surveyed protected areas.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *North East Venture Fund (NEVF)*

1. It is the first and the only dedicated Venture Fund for the North Eastern Region (NER).
2. The Venture Fund Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Finance in cooperation with North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi).

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *SEA VIGIL 21*

1. It is a biennial pan-India coastal defence exercise coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
2. The exercise will involve all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories of India.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Antarctic Ozone Hole*

1. It is a large area of high pressure and cold air surrounding the Earth's North and South poles.
2. During winters, the polar vortex at the North Pole expands, sending cold air southward.

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

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

### Answers

1. b

*Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)*

- The Private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) is defined as the expenditure incurred by the resident households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) on final consumption of goods and services, whether made within or outside the economic territory.
- It is a measure of national consumer spending, it constitutes over 56 per cent of the total GDP.

- It includes the value of goods and services produced for own use on current account i.e., the value of gross output reduced by the sum of the value of their commodity and non-commodity sales.

2. c

**TROPEX Exercise**

- The major Theatre-level exercise TROPEX (Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise) is conducted by the Navy every two years.
- It is an inter-service military exercise involving the participation of the Indian Army, Air Force, Navy and the Coast Guard.
- It seeks to strengthen interoperability and joint operations in a complex environment.
- TROPEX and Sea Vigil 2021 will be conducted together this year which would cover the entire spectrum of maritime security challenges.
- In the Sea Vigil 2021 exercise apart from the Navy, the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, National Security Guard, the Border Security Force, oil handling agencies and airports will also participate.
- SITMEX is the trilateral naval exercise between India, Singapore and Thailand.

3. a

**Cherry Blossom Mao Festival**

- The Manipur government and Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), started organizing the festival since 2017.
- The Mao area of Senapati district in Manipur is known for Cherry Blossom, a plant which is popularly known as Sakura in Japan.
- The festival features the picturesque landscape of Mao town adorned with beautiful Cherry Blossom flowers.
- It is the world's only autumn cherry blossom festival.
- A cherry blossom is a flower of many trees of genus Prunus (Prunus cerasoides, called wild Himalayan cherry).

4. c

**V Shaped Recovery in Economics**

- V-shaped recovery is a type of economic recession and recovery that resembles a "V" shape in charting.
- V-shaped recovery represents the shape of a chart of economic measures economists create when examining recessions and recoveries.
- V-shaped recovery involves a sharp rise back to a previous peak after a sharp decline in these metrics.

5. d

**Magnetotail**

- The interaction of the magnetosphere and the solar wind compresses the Sun-facing side of the magnetosphere and drags out the night-time side of the magnetosphere into what is called a "magnetotail."
- Auroral electrojets are generated by changes in the structure of the magnetotail.
- The same space weather phenomena that power the beautiful aurora can cause interference with radio and communication signals and utility grids on Earth's surface, and damage to spacecraft in orbit.
- NASA's Electrojet Zeeman Imaging Explorer (EZIE) will study electric currents in Earth's atmosphere linking aurora to the Earth's magnetosphere.

6. c

- Union Minister for MSME Sh. Nitin Gadkari will be launching an innovative new paint "**Khadi Prakritik Paint**".

**Khadi Prakritik Paint**

- It is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties.
- It is an eco-friendly and non-toxic paint.
- It is based on cow dung as its main ingredient.
- The paint is cost-effective and odorless.
- It was developed by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**.
- It has been certified by **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.
- The paint is free from heavy metals like lead, mercury, chromium, arsenic, cadmium and others.

- It will be a boost to local manufacturing and will create sustainable local employment through technology transfer.
7. b
- *Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri. Prakash Javadekar has recently released **Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE)** of 146 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the country.*
  - He also announced that this year onwards, 10 best national parks, 5 coastal and marine parks and 5 zoos in the country will be ranked and awarded every year.
  - He also launched the Framework for Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Indian Zoos (MEE-ZOO) and of Marine Protected Areas.
  - Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Protected Areas has emerged as a key tool that is increasingly being used by governments and international bodies to understand strengths and weaknesses of the protected area management systems.

#### **Highlights of the survey**

- India has a network of 903 Protected Areas covering about 5% of its total geographic area of the country.
  - According to the survey, Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary and Great Himalayan National Park in Himachal Pradesh have performed the best among the surveyed protected areas.
  - The Turtle Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh was the worst performer in the survey.
  - India is home to 70% of the global tiger population, 70% of Asiatic lions and more than 60% of leopard population.
  - It is a certificate of India's thriving biodiversity as these big cats sit at the top of food chain and their growing numbers shows the well-being of the whole ecosystem.
8. a
- *North East Venture Fund (NEVF) is gaining popularity among Start-Ups and young entrepreneurs.*

#### **North East Venture Fund (NEVF)**

- It is the first and the only dedicated Venture Fund for the North Eastern Region (NER).
- The Venture Fund Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) in co-operation with North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi).
- It was intended to promote growth of business ventures and skill development in the region.
- It was setup with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 crores.
- The fund targets to invest in Start-Ups and unique business opportunities to provide resources for new entrepreneurs.

9. b

- *The second edition of the coastal defence exercise "Sea Vigil-21" will be conducted on 12-13 January 2021.*

#### **SEA VIGIL - 21**

- It is a **biennial pan-Indian** coastal defence exercise.
- It will be undertaken along the entire 7516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India.
- It will involve **all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories** along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.
- The exercise is being coordinated by the Indian Navy.
- The inaugural edition of the exercise was conducted in January 2019.
- The Sea Vigil is a build up towards the major Theatre level exercise TROPEX [Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise] which Indian Navy conducts every two years.
- SEA VIGIL and TROPEX together will cover the entire spectrum of maritime security challenges, including transition from peace to conflict.

10. b

- *The Antarctic ozone hole — one of the deepest, largest gap in the ozone layer in the last 40 years — has closed, according to World Meteorological Organization (WMO).*

### Ozone Hole

- An ozone hole is the thinning of the ozone layer boosted in size by colder temperatures.
- The Antarctic ozone hole is a naturally occurring phenomenon, first discovered in 1985, that typically **opens up each year from August to December**.
- By the end of December, ozone levels return to normal.

### Causes

- The formation of ozone hole in the Antarctic has been an annual occurrence and has been recorded for the last 40 years.
- The expansion of the hole was driven by a strong, stable and cold polar vortex and very cold temperatures in the stratosphere.
- Human-made chemicals migrate into the stratosphere and accumulate inside the polar vortex.

### Polar Vortex

- It is a large area of low pressure and cold air surrounding the Earth's North and South poles.
- The term vortex refers to the counter-clockwise flow of air that helps keep the colder air close to the poles.
- It weakens in summer and strengthens in winter.
- Often during winter in the Northern Hemisphere, the polar vortex will become less stable and expand, sending cold Arctic air southward over the United States with the jet stream.

### Weakening of Polar Vortex

- As the temperatures high up in the stratosphere starts to rise, ozone depletion slows, the polar vortex weakens and breaks down.
- By the end of December, ozone levels return to normal.

### Montreal Protocol

- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer regulates production and consumption of nearly 100 chemicals

referred as Ozone Depleting Substances (OSD).

- Since the ban on halocarbons, the ozone layer has slowly been recovering, according to WMO.

**19-01-2021**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to India Innovation Index 2020**

- 1. The index seeks to rank states and Union Territories based on their relative performance of supporting innovation.**
- 2. It will be released by NITI Aayog.**

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

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

**2) Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was celebrated in which of the following states?**

- Odisha
- Manipur
- Nagaland
- Jharkhand

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Jiadhal River**

- 1. It is a northern sub-tributary of the river Brahmaputra originates in the sub-Himalayan Mountains of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- 2. The river Jiadhal carries heavy silt load and follows a braided pattern.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

**4) Desert Knight-21 is a bilateral Air exercise between India and?**

- Russia
- France
- Mangolia
- Saudi Arabia

**5) The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities. Which of the following is/are not the part of the basket?**

- Meat
- Sugar
- Cereals
- Vegetable Oil
- Dairy Products

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

- All except 4
- All except 1 and 5
- All except 2 and 4
- None of the above

**6) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to National Innovation Portal**

- It is developed by National Innovation Foundation (NIF).
- It will help institutionalise new ideas by common people towards finding solutions to local problems.

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

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

**7) Consider the following statements with respect to Lithium Extraction**

- Lithium can be extracted from its ore through solar evaporation of large brine pools and through hard rock mining.
- Reserves of lithium has been recently found in the igneous rock regions of Jharkhand.

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

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

**8) Virunga National Park is famous for which of the following endangered animal habitation?**

- Asian Elephants
- African Cheetahs
- Mountain Gorilla
- African Penguin

**9) Consider the following statements with respect to CAFE-2 Regulations**

- It aims at improving fuel efficiency of vehicles by lowering Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) Emissions.
- It is calculated based on data from actual on-road performance of vehicles.

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

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

**10) Which of the following statement(s) is/are incorrect with respect to Asmi Weapon**

- It is a missile launcher indigenously developed by Bharat Dynamics.

2. **3D Printing process has been used in designing and prototyping of various parts of the weapon.**

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Answers

1. c

- NITI Aayog will release the second edition of its India Innovation Index 2020.

### India Innovation Index 2020

- The index ranks the states and union territories based on their relative performance of supporting innovation.
- This competitive measure will empower them to improve their innovation policies by highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.
- The first edition of the index was launched in October 2019.
- The states and union territories have been ranked on two broad categories: outcome and governance.
- Overall, the framework of India Innovation Index 2020 consists of 36 indicators, which include hard data (32 indicators) and four composite indicators.

2. b

### Cherry Blossom Mao Festival

- In Manipur, this Festival was held at Mao area of Senapati district marking the beginning of pink season in the district.
- The Mao area is known for Cherry Blossom, a plant which is popularly known as Sakura in Japan.
- Manipur government started organizing the festival from 2017 onward.

- The festival featured the picturesque landscape of Mao town adorned with Cherry Blossom flowers.

3. c

- Jiadhal River flooded repeatedly in 2020 and overflowed often.
- When it overflowed, it resulted in damage of flood plains, houses.
- Huge swathes of sand deposited on croplands.
- The river traverses a peculiar topography – from the Abor Hills of Arunachal Pradesh through the Dhemaji district of Assam.
- It naturally changes its course frequently and flows through several channels.
- However, changes in rainfall patterns, especially heavy rainfall events upstream, have made it more volatile.

### Jiadhal River

- It is a Northern Sub-tributary of the river Brahmaputra originates in the sub-Himalayan mountains of Arunachal Pradesh.
- After passing through a narrow gorge in Arunachal Pradesh, the river enters the plains of Assam in Dhemaji district where it **flows in braided channels**.
- The river is known as ‘Kumotiya’ from the Railway line to the Gogamukh – Ghilamara P.W.D. road wherefrom it is known as the river ‘Sampara’.
- The river finally debouches into the river Brahmaputra near Selamukh.
- But after construction of the embankment over the Kherkutiya Suti of the Brahmaputra, the river falls into the Subansiri River.

### Heavy siltation

- The river Jiadhal carries heavy silt load from the catchment area during the flood season and deposits the silt on its bed in the plains.
- Due to this fact, the riverbed has risen up considerably.
- As a result the river follows a braided pattern and its width is more than 3 km. in some of the reaches.

- The river is very much aggrading in nature. This is why the river has a tendency to shift its course towards the left bank.

4. b

- *Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force will conduct a bilateral Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21 at Air Force Station Jodhpur.*
- The exercise marks an important milestone in the series of engagements between the two Air forces.

#### **Indo-France Co-operation**

- As part of Indo-French defence cooperation, Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force have held six editions of Air Exercises named 'Garuda', the latest being in 2019 at Air Force Base Mont-de-Marsan, France.
- As measures to further the existing cooperation, the two forces have been gainfully utilising available opportunities to conduct 'hop-exercises'.
- The French Air and Space Force deployment while ferrying to Australia for Ex Pitchblack in 2018 was hosted by IAF at Air Force Stations Agra and Gwalior for exercise with fighters and MRTT aircraft.
- Presently, the French detachment for Ex Desert Knight-21 is deployed in Asia as part of their 'Skyros Deployment' and will ferry in forces to Air Force Station Jodhpur.

5. d

- *World food prices rose for a seventh consecutive month in December, with all the major categories, barring sugar, posting gains last month, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agency (FAO) said recently.*

#### **FAO Food Price Index (FFPI)**

- It is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.
- It consists of the average of five commodity group price indices weighted by the average export shares of each of the groups over 2014-2016.

- The basket of commodities includes Meat, Sugar, Cereals, Vegetable Oil, and Dairy Products.

6. c

#### **National Innovation Portal**

- It is developed by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) which is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- It can be an important vehicle for initiatives like "Vocal for Local" where country require a right application of knowledge.
- It is a step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat and an excellent resource for students, entrepreneurs, MSME's, Technology Business Incubators (TBI's) and common people engaged in a variety of occupations.

7. b

#### **Lithium Extraction**

- Under standard conditions, Lithium is the lightest metal and the lightest solid element.
  - It is an alkali metal and a rare metal.
  - Recently a survey found presence of 1,600 tonnes of lithium resources in the igneous rocks of the Marlagalla-Allapatna region of Karnataka's Mandya district.
  - Lithium can be extracted in different ways, depending on the type of the deposit, few examples are
1. **Solar evaporation of large brine pools** - A brine pool is a volume of brine collected in a seafloor depression.
  2. **Hard-rock extraction of the ore** (a metal-bearing mineral) - Lithium is extracted through rock mining at Mandya, Karnataka.

8. c

#### **Virunga National Park**

- It is located in the Albertine Rift Valley in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- It was established in 1925 as Africa's first national park and is a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site since 1979.

- It largely shares international borders with Uganda and Rwanda.
- It is listed in the List of World Heritage in Danger since 1994.
- The national park is known for Mountain Gorillas, which are endangered by the IUCN as of 2018.

9. d

#### **CAFE-2 Regulations**

- CAFE or Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency/Economy regulations are in force in many advanced as well as developing nations, including India.
- They aim at lowering fuel consumption (or improving fuel efficiency) of vehicles by lowering Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, thus serving the twin purposes of reducing dependence on oil for fuel and controlling pollution.
- Corporate Average refers to sales-volume weighted average for every auto manufacturer.
- CAFE standards are calculated by a production-weighted average of mileage ratings across a manufacturer's fleet; they are not based on data from actual on-road performance.

10. a

#### **Asmi Weapon**

- Recently, the Ministry of Defence has launched India's first indigenous Machine Pistol, named Asmi.
- It has been jointly developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army.
- It is designed by Infantry School, and DRDO's Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE).
- 3D Printing process has been used in designing and prototyping of various parts of the weapon including trigger components made by metal 3D printing.
- It is likely to find huge employability with the central and state police organizations as well as VIP protection duties and Policing.

**20-01-2021**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Startup Advisory Council***

- 1. It was constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to advise the Centre on nurturing innovation and startups in the country.**
- 2. The term of the Non-official members of the Council shall be for a period of two years.**
- 3. The council is chaired by the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry.**

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

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

**2) With respect to *Unmanned Aircraft* regulation in India, consider the following statements:**

- 1. Foreigners are currently not allowed to fly drones in India.**
- 2. All drones except those in the Nano category, which are less than 250 grams, must be registered and issued a Unique Identification Number (UIN) in India.**

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

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

**3) Which of the following is correct regarding *Question Hour* in Indian Parliamentary System?**

- Question Hour is the first hour of a parliamentary sitting



- b. A starred question requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions cannot follow
- c. An unstarred question requires a written answer and hence supplementary questions can follow
- d. A short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days and it is answered orally

**4) Online Fantasy Sports, which are based on skill-based engagement platform, was accorded protection by various High Courts and Supreme Court under which of the following?**

- a. Protection of life and personal liberty
- b. Right to freedom of speech and expression
- c. Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment
- d. Right to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business

**5) Darfur Province, often seen in the news recently for clashes between members of the Arab Rizeigat tribe and the non-Arab Massalit tribe, is located in?**

- a. Israel
- b. Sudan
- c. Yemen
- d. Saudi Arabia

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Houbara Bustard**

1. It is a large terrestrial bird found in parts of Middle East Asia.
2. It is related to Great Indian Bustard native to India.
3. It is a critically endangered species under IUCN red list.

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

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

**7) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to Doppler Weather Radars**

1. Doppler radar systems can provide information regarding the movement of targets as well as their position.
2. The DWR provides detailed information on storm's internal wind flow and structure.

**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

**8) Consider the following statements with respect to Lumpy Skin Disease**

1. It is a fungal disease of cattle that is spread by biting insects.
2. Humans are not at risk of developing lumpy skin disease, even if they are in contact with the infected animal.

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

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

**9) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to Open Skies Treaty (OST)**

1. Under the treaty, a member state can "spy" on any part of the host nation, with the latter's consent.
2. Recently India and UAE signed an OST agreement which will enhance airline connectivity between both nations.

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



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

**10) First wildlife sanctuary exclusively for wolves is to be setup in the State of?**

- a. Gujarat
- b. Karnataka
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Jharkhand

## Answers

1. d

- The government has nominated 28 non-official members for the National Startup Advisory Council recently.

### National Startup Advisory Council

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had set up the National Startup Advisory Council last year.
- It seeks to advise the government on measures needed to build an ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.
- The term of the Non-official members of the Startup Advisory Council shall be for a period of two years.
- The council is chaired by the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry.

2. c

- Drone is a layman terminology for Unmanned Aircraft (UA).
- There are three subsets of Unmanned Aircraft,
  1. Remotely Piloted Aircraft
  2. Autonomous Aircraft
  3. Model Aircraft
- An aircraft and its associated elements, which are operated with no pilot on board is called as Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS).

- Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) is one subset of UAS.
- Civil Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) is categorized as follows:
  1. Nano : Less than or equal to 250 grams.
  2. Micro : Greater than 250 grams and less than or equal to 2 kg.
  3. Small : Greater than 2 kg and less than or equal to 25 kg.
  4. Medium : Greater than 25 kg and less than or equal to 150 kg.
  5. Large : Greater than 150 kg.
- UIN is unique identification number issued by DGCA for a particular RPA.
- Nano RPA (less than 250 gm) is exempted from obtaining UIN and UAOP.
- Foreigners are currently not allowed to fly drones in India. For commercial purpose, they need to lease RPAS to an Indian entity who in turn will obtain Unique Identification Number (UIN) and UAOP from DGCA.

3. d

- The Question Hour, which had been suspended by the government during the monsoon session, will resume when Parliament meets for the Budget session.

### Question Hour

- During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.
- The questions are of three kinds, namely, starred, unstarred and short notice.
  1. A starred question (distinguished by an asterisk) requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.
  2. An unstarred question, on the other hand, requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.
  3. A short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days. It is answered orally.
- Parliament has comprehensive rules for dealing with every aspect of Question Hour and the presiding officers of the two houses are

the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour.

- Usually Question Hour is the first hour of a parliamentary sitting.
- In 2014, Rajya Sabha Chairman Hamid Ansari shifted Question Hour in the House from 11 am to 12 noon.
- The move was to prevent the disruption of Question Hour.

4. d

- In December 2020, NITI Aayog released the first-of-its-kind draft guidelines, titled 'Guiding Principles for the Uniform National-Level Regulation of Online Fantasy Sports Platforms in India'.
- These guidelines emphasise the need to differentiate between fantasy sports and online gaming, create an independent identity of the fantasy sports industry, and appoint a single-purpose self-regulatory industry body for governance.
- Since 2017, multiple High Courts and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India have adjudged Fantasy Sports as a skill-based engagement platform and has accorded protection as a legitimate business under Article 19(1)(g) of the constitution of India.
- Article 19 (1) (g) states that, all citizens shall have the right to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

5. b

- *Violent clashes erupted between Arab and non-Arab tribes in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur killing at least 100 people and wounding more than 130.*
- Darfur province in Sudan remains scarred by war after a rebellion in the early 2000s was brutally suppressed.
- The clashes, between members of the Arab Rizeigat tribe and the non-Arab Massalit tribe, displaced at least 50,000 people, according to the United Nations.
- The country is on a fragile path to democracy after a popular uprising led the military to overthrow longtime autocratic Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

- A military-civilian government is now in power.
- The clashes pose a significant challenge to efforts by Sudan's transitional government to end decades-long rebellions in some areas.
- The bout of violence came two weeks after the U.N. Security Council ended the joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping forces mandate in the region.

6. a

#### ***Asian Houbara Bustard***

- It is a large terrestrial bird found in parts of Asia, the Middle East and Africa.
- The North African houbara (*Chlamydotis undulata*) and the Asian houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) are separate species.
- The Asian houbara is related to the critically endangered great Indian bustard native to India.
- The IUCN lists the birds as vulnerable, and the CITES has placed them on the most sensitive listing i.e. Appendix I which prohibits any commercial trade of these birds.

7. d

#### ***Doppler Weather Radars***

- Recently, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has commissioned two of the ten indigenously built Doppler weather radars.
- The DWR provides detailed information on storm's internal wind flow and structure.
- Modern weather radars are mostly pulse-Doppler radars, capable of detecting the motion of rain droplets in addition to the intensity of the precipitation.
- Both types of data can be analysed to determine the structure of storms and their potential to cause severe weather.
- The DWR, can detect Weather phenomenon up to 500 km.
- The system installed at a place that receives the highest rainfall in Planet Earth, shall open up tremendous research opportunities in the areas of monsoon dynamics, precipitation characterisation, thunderstorm and hailstorm genesis and evolution, etc.

- The Doppler weather radars will closely monitor the weather changes over the Himalayas.

8. b

**Lumpy Skin Disease**

- It is primarily spread between animals by biting insects (vector), such as mosquitoes and biting flies.
- The virus, which is closely related to the pox viruses of sheep and goats, and causes nodular skin lesions on the animal's body.
- It has remained confined to Africa, where it was first discovered in 1929, and parts of West Asia, so far the disease has not occurred in North America.
- The most apparent sign of the disease will be multiple nodules on the body, including the muzzle, nostrils, head, neck, back, legs, scrotum, perineum, udder, eyelids, nasal and oral mucosa, and tail.
- The humans are not at risk of developing lumpy skin disease.

9. b

**Open Skies Treaty (OST)**

- It is an accord between over 30 countries that allows participants to fly unarmed reconnaissance flights over any part of their fellow member states.
- It went into effect in 2002 and had 35 signatories, including key players US and Russia, along with one non-ratifying member (Kyrgyzstan), recently both Russia and USA as opted out of the treaty.
- The OST aims at building confidence among members through mutual openness and thus reducing the chances of accidental war.
- The information gathered, such as on troop movements, military exercises and missile deployments, has to be shared with all member states.
- Under the treaty, only approved imaging equipment is permitted on the surveillance flights, and officials from the host state can also stay on board throughout the planned journey.

**Open Sky Agreements**

- These are bilateral agreements that the two countries negotiate to provide rights for airlines to offer international passenger and cargo services.
- It expands international passenger and cargo flights.
- UAE has expressed interest to have an Open Sky Agreement with India, it will allow unlimited number of flights to the selected cities of each other's countries.

10. b

- The Karnataka State Wildlife Board is planning to build a wolf sanctuary for the conservation of Indian Grey Wolves.
- It is proposed in the drylands of Bankapur in Koppal district of the Kalyana Karnataka region.
- The proposed sanctuary is good for the conservation of not only wolves but also striped hyena, Indian fox, gold fox and other animals.

**21-01-2021****1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Road Safety Council (NRSC)**

1. It is an advisory body established under section 215 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
2. The Council is chaired by the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH).

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**

1. It was constituted in 2006 for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.
2. The personnel of NDRF can also be deployed for routine law and order duties.

Which of 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) *Ratle Hydro Electric (HE) Project* is located on which of the following rivers?

- a. River Kosi
- b. River Chenab
- c. River Hooghly
- d. River Subansiri

4) *Project Sea Bird*, often seen in the news recently, refers to?

- a. Oil drilling in Indian Ocean
- b. Naval Infrastructure Project in Karnataka
- c. Conservation of sea gulls in Gulf of Mannar
- d. Translocation of Great Indian Bustard to Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

5) Consider the following pairs

1. S-400 Air Defence Missile – Russia
2. Shaheen-III Missile – Iran
3. Rudram Anti-Radiation Missile – India

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

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

6) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Bank Investment Company*

1. Its setup is recommended by Urjit Patel Committee in “Governance of Boards of Banks in India” report.
2. It will have the power to appoint the board of directors and make other policy decisions about subsidiaries.

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 *Nubra valley*

1. The Shyok River and The Nubra River confluences at the Nubra valley.
2. Thikse Monastery a gompa affiliated with the Gelug sect of Tibetan Buddhism is located in Nubra Valley.

Which of 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 Indian State has launched “*MICE*” Tourism policy 2021-25?

- a. Assam
- b. Meghalaya
- c. Gujarat
- d. Bihar

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *EBITA Metric*

1. It is helpful for comparison of one company to another in the same line of business.
2. It ignores the quality of a company's earnings and can make it look cheaper than it really is.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Iron Ore Policy 2021*

1. It is drafted and released by Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. It gives higher priority to movement of iron-ore traffic for export purposes.

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

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari had addressed the 19th Meeting of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and called for reducing road accidents by half by the year 2025.

### National Road Safety Council (NRSC)

- It is an advisory body.
- It was established under section 215 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- Its main objective is to improve road safety aspects in road transport sector.

- The Council is chaired by the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH).

2. a

- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrated its 16th Foundation Day.

### National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

- The Disaster Management Act has statutory provisions for constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.
- Accordingly, in 2006 NDRF was constituted with 8 Battalions.
- At present, NDRF has a strength of 12 Battalions.
- In the beginning, the personnel of NDRF were deployed for routine law and order duties also.
- Later, NDRF Rules notified in 2008, makes NDRF a dedicated force for disaster response related duties, under the unified command of DG NDRF.

3. b

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the investment of Rs. 5281 Crore for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric (HE) Project.

### Ratle Hydro Electric Project

- It is located on river Chenab, in Kishtwar district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Power generated from the Project will help in providing balancing of Grid and will improve the power supply position.

4. b

- Project Sea bird is the largest naval infrastructure project for India in Karwar, Karnataka.
- It involves creation of a naval base at Karwar on the west coast of India.
- Upon completion, the program will provide Indian Navy with its largest naval base on the

west coast and also the largest naval base east of the Suez Canal.

5. b

### **S-400**

- A group of Indian military personnel is leaving for Russia to undergo training on key operational aspects of the S-400 air defence systems as Moscow looks at supplying the first batch of the missile to India later this year.

### **Rudram Anti-Radiation Missile**

- Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, one of the first women fighter pilots in IAF, will be a part of the air force's tableau in the Republic Day Parade that will showcase mock-ups of the light combat aircraft (LCA), light combat helicopter and the Sukhoi-30 fighter plane.
- The LCA model would be equipped with indigenous Rudram Next Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGRAM) and LCH model would be equipped with Dhruvastra, indigenous helicopter fired anti-tank guided missile both of which are under development.
- The SU-30MKI would be equipped with the indigenous Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air to Air missile.
- The recently inducted Rafale fighter jet will also fly over the Rajpath during the Republic Day parade.

### **Shaheen-III Missile**

- Pakistan has successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile recently.
- The missile can strike targets up to 2,750 km.

6. b

### **Bank Investment Company**

- The P.J. Nayak Committee in its report on 'Governance of Boards of Banks in India' has recommended the setting up a BIC as a holding company or a core investment company
- The report recommended transferring shares of the government in the banks to the BIC which would become the parent holding company of all these banks and all the PSBs would become 'limited' banks.

- The Bank Investment Company (BIC) would be constituted as a core investment company under RBI registration and regulation.
- It is also vital that the CEO of BIC is a professional banker or a private equity investment professional who has substantial experience of working in financial environments.
- The BIC will be autonomous and will help to ensure that government's stake in these banks is strategically reduced to up to 51%.
- It will borrow funds from market to raise capital, which will then be infused into individual banks as per need.

7. a

### **Nubra valley**

- Nubra valley separates the Ladakh and Karakoram Ranges.
- The 32 metre Maitreya Buddha statue is the landmark of Nubra and is maintained by the Diskit Monastery.
- The Diskit Monastery on the Shayok river was built in 1420 AD.
- Hundar was the capital of the erstwhile Nubra kingdom in the 17th century, and is home to the Chamba Gompa.
- Thikse Monastery is located in Leh district of Ladhak.
- Recently the first ever Ice climbing festival was celebrated in Nubra valley.

8. c

### **"MICE" Tourism Policy 2021-25**

- The acronym "MICE" stands for "Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions", and is essentially a version of business tourism that draws domestic and international tourists to a destination.
- Gujarat government has announced the tourism policy for 2021-25, it aims to make Gujarat one of the top five MICE tourism destinations in the country.
- To incentivise international events, the government has announced an assistance of Rs 5,000 to the event organiser per foreign

participant staying overnight, subject to an upper limit of Rs 5 lakh.

9. c

**EBITA Metric**

- Earnings before interest, taxes, and amortization (EBITA) is a measure of company profitability used by investors.
- EBITDA is now commonly used to compare the financial health of companies and to evaluate firms with different tax rates and depreciation policies.
- EBITDA is not a substitute for analysing a company's cash flow and can make a company look like it has more money to make interest payments than it really does.

10. d

**Iron Ore Policy 2021**

- Recently, the Ministry of Railways has rolled out Iron-ore Policy 2021.
- Under the policy Categorization of Priority of movement of Iron Ore has now been based on the availability of Railway infrastructure developed by the customer for loading/unloading and the nature of movement between various types of sidings with a view to maximize iron-ore movement by rail.
- Higher priority given to movement of iron-ore traffic for domestic manufacturing activity.
- Higher priority given to movement of iron-ore traffic for domestic manufacturing activity.
- It aims to provide total logistics support to steel industry to meet the competitive challenges domestically and globally.

**22-01-2021**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Shram Shakti Portal***

1. It is a National Migration Support Portal to help migrant workers.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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

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

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to *India Science***

1. It is an Internet-based science Over-The-Top (OTT) TV channel initiated by the Department of Science and Technology.
2. It has been implemented and managed by Prasar Bharati, an autonomous organization of the Department of Information and Broadcasting.

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

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

**3) With respect to *Exercise Kavach 2021*, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a joint military exercise between India and Thailand.
2. The exercise is being conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).

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

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

**4) *Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020 Report* was jointly published by?**

1. UN Children's Fund
2. World Food Programme

**3. World Health Organization**

**4. Food and Agriculture Organisation**

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**5) Which of the following is the objective of TESS Mission of NASA?**

- a. To orbit earth and study aurora
- b. To study the upper atmosphere of Mars
- c. To discover transiting exo-planets
- d. To map the boundary of our solar system

**6) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Risk Based Internal Audit (RBIA) Framework**

- 1. It is launched by RBI for Strengthening Governance arrangements of banks.
- 2. Under the framework Head of Internal Audit (HIA) shall have the ability to exercise independent judgement.

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 Zaskar River**

- 1. It is a distributary of River Shyok which originates from greater Himalayan range.
- 2. The River joins Indus River near Nimo (or) Nimmu in Ladakh.

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

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

**8) Which of the following Indian State has launched Adaptation Gap Report 2020?**

- a. UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- c. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- d. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**9) Consider the following statements with respect to Kayakalp Awards**

- 1. It is conferred to health warriors who performed dedicatedly during Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 2. It is instituted by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to facilitate both Private and Public sector health care workers.

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

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

**10) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to Indian Star Tortoise**

- 1. They are found in dry lowlands of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- 2. It is an endangered species 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

- In a move that would effectively help in the smooth formulation of State and National level programs for migrant workers, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is launching Shram Shakti and Shram Saathi.
- **ShramShakti** – It is a **National Migration Support Portal**.
- **Shram Saathi** – It is a training manual for migrant workers at Goa.
- To facilitate and support approximately 4 lakhs migrants who come from different States to Goa, Chief Minister of Goa will also launch dedicated Migration cell in Goa.
- MoTA has also sanctioned Tribal research Institute, Tribal Museum, Van Dhan Kendras and Tribal Lok Utsav in Goa.

2. a

- India Science, Nation's Science & Technology OTT (Over-the-top) channel has completed its second year of existence.

### India Science

- It is an Internet-based science Over-The-Top (OTT) TV channel.
- It is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt of India.
- It has been implemented and managed by Vigyan Prasar (VP), an autonomous organisation of the Department of Science and Technology.
- This 24x7 video platform is dedicated to science and technology knowledge dissemination, with a strong commitment to spreading scientific awareness especially with Indian perspectives, ethos and cultural milieu.
- The initiative is supported by the National Council of Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), DST.

3. b

### Exercise Kavach

- It is a large scale joint military exercise involving assets of Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard.
- It is being conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), the only Joint Forces Command of the country.
- The joint force would execute multi domain, high intensity offensive and defensive manoeuvres in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and carry out amphibious landing operations, air landed operation, helicopters-borne insertion of Special Forces from sea culminating in tactical follow-on operations on land.
- The tri-services exercise aims to fine tune joint war-fighting capabilities and SOPs towards enhancing operational synergy.

4. d

- A report titled *Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020: Maternal and Child Diets at the Heart of Improving Nutrition* was released recently.
- Around 3 billion people across the world cannot afford a healthy diet and 1.9 billion of them are in the Asia-Pacific region, according to the report.
- Of the 1.9 billion people, 1.3 billion live in southern Asia, 230 million in eastern Asia, 325.5 million in south-east Asia and 0.5 million in Oceania.
- The region's poor have been the worst-affected by the onslaught of crises in 2020 and have been forced to choose cheaper and less nutritious foods, the report said.

5. c

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has discovered an exoplanet in the Milky Way galaxy.
- Researchers believe it is 10 billion years old, more than twice as old as our Sun.
- The planet named TOI-561b orbiting outside our solar system is 1.5 times the size of the Earth, has more mass than Earth, but almost the same density.

- The planet orbits around its sun, which is located in the galactic thick disk, very quickly and completes it in about 12 hours.

### ***Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)***

- It is an MIT-led NASA mission to spend two years discovering transiting exoplanets by an all-sky survey.
- TESS has four identical, highly optimized, red-sensitive, wide-field cameras that together can monitor a 24 degree by 90 degree strip of the sky.

6. c

### ***Risk Based Internal Audit (RBIA) Framework***

- It aims to bring uniformity in approach followed by the banks, as also to align the expectations on Internal Audit Function with the best practices.
- The Head of Internal Audit (HIA) shall be a senior executive of the bank, who shall be appointed for a reasonably long period, preferably for a minimum of three years.
- The HIA shall directly report to either the Audit Committee of the Board (ACB) / MD & CEO or Whole Time Director (WTD).
- The internal audit function shall not be outsourced.
- However, where required, experts, including former employees, could be hired on contractual basis subject to the ACB being assured that such expertise does not exist within the audit function of the bank

7. b

### ***Zaskar River***

- The Zaskar Range is a mountain range in the union territory of Ladakh that separates Zaskar from Ladakh.
- Geologically, the Zaskar Range is part of the Tethys Himalaya, It is formed by strongly folded and imbricated, weakly metamorphosed sedimentary series.
- The Lungnak unites with the Doda river to form the main Zaskar river.
- The Zaskar River is the first major tributary of the Indus River, equal or greater in volume than the main river.

- Recently Zaskar Winter Sports has been organized under the Khelo India banner in collaboration with the Ladakh Tourism Department.

8. a

### ***Adaptation Gap Report 2020***

- UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has managed the production of UN Environment's Adaptation Gap Report series since its first edition in 2014.
- The aim of the reports is to inform national and international efforts to advance climate change adaptation.
- It highlights the Adaptation Cost, which includes costs of planning, preparing for, facilitating and implementing the climate change adaptation measures.
- It thus derives benefits as the avoided damage costs or the accrued benefits following the adoption and implementation of adaptation measures.
- Adaptation costs, in actual terms, are higher in developed countries but the burden of adaptation is greater for developing countries in relation to their gross domestic product.
- These countries, especially in Africa and Asia, which are least equipped to tackle climate change will also, be the most impacted by it.

9. d

### ***Kayakalp Award Scheme***

- Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has launched 'Kayakalp Award Scheme' in 2015 as an extension of 'Swachh Bharat Mission'.
- The scheme is intended to encourage and incentivize Public Health Facilities (PHFs) in the country to demonstrate their commitment for cleanliness, hygiene and infection control practices.
- Both Public and Private Health Facilities will be felicitated with Kayakalp award for high standards of Sanitation and Hygiene.

10. b

### ***Indian Star Tortoise***

- Star Tortoises, with their distinct star-like markings on the shell.

- In India, they are found in six states Gujarat, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and parts of Odisha.
- According to the IUCN Red List, the Indian Star Tortoise is a vulnerable species.
- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listed it under Appendix I, the list of most endangered species.
- India has started creating a genetic database of the Indian Star Tortoise.
- Prior to this, similar genetic databases have been created and effectively used to protect tigers and rhinos in India.
- The database will help us alert enforcement authorities and forest officials.

**23-01-2021**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW)*

1. It is a 125 Kg class smart weapon, capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets up to a range of 1000 kms.
2. It is indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

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

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

2) Consider the following statements

1. He took a stone from a river and installed it as a Sivalinga to show that consecration of an idol was not the monopoly of the higher castes.
2. He held all religions to be the same and condemned animal sacrifice.
3. He also wrote a poem Anukampa Dashakam

Identify the personality who correctly matches with the above description:

- a. B R Ambedkar
- b. Sri Narayana Guru
- c. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar
- d. Periyar E. V. Ramasamy

3) With respect to *Arctic Expedition* by India, consider the following statements

1. India established its first Arctic research station, Maitri in 2008.
2. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is the nodal agency for the Indian Arctic Programme.

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

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

4) With respect to *Project Long Ops*, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. The project aimed at manufacturing nuclear powered ships and aircrafts for cargo supply.
2. It is a collaboration between Japan and United Kingdom (UK).

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972*

1. There is no revision of scientific names of species mentioned under the Act, since it came into force in 1972.
2. Schedule V of the act listed plant species that are forbidden from cultivation.

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

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

6) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Radio Access Network (RAN)*

1. It is a telecommunications system that connects individual devices to other parts of a network through radio connections.
2. Open RAN is a new technology which will be used to develop new software that enables single vendor proprietary architecture.

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 *Risa Clothing*

1. It is a customary hand-woven cloth used by Manipur's indigenous tribal communities.
2. Risa is one of the three parts of customary Tripuri female attire, the other two being the Rignai and Rikutu.

Which of 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) Section 32 of *Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code* Provides protection to which of the following entities?

- a. Protection to Public sector banking companies only
- b. Protection to third party asset management companies
- c. Protection to Arbitration Agencies involved in financial process
- d. Protection to successful bidders and the assets of a corporate debtor

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nitrogen-Use Efficiency*

1. It is the fraction of applied nitrogen that is absorbed and used by the plant.
2. Cereal crops consume more nitrogen fertilizers than Pulses.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Indian Telecom Services and Performance Index*

1. It is released by Niti Ayog along with India Innovation Index 2020.
2. It presents growth trends of the Telecom Services as well as Cable TV, DTH & Radio Broadcasting services in 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. b

- DRDO has successfully conducted captive and release trial of Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from Hawk-I of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) off the Odisha coast recently.

### Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)

- It is indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) Hyderabad.
- This is 125 Kg class smart weapon, capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, taxi tracks, and runways etc. up to a range of 100 kms.
- The high precision guided bomb is light weight as compared to weapon system of the same class.
- The weapon was earlier successfully test fired from Jaguar aircraft.
- The smart weapon was now successfully test fired from Indian Hawk-Mk132 of HAL.
- This was the 9th successful mission of SAAW conducted by DRDO till now.
- It was a text book launch, which met all mission objectives.

2. b

- Vice President of India has recently launched a book, "Not Many, But One", an English translation of poems of Sree Narayana Guru by G.K. Sasidharan.

### Sree Narayana Guru (1854-1928)

- Shree Narayana Guru was born into the Ezhava caste of Kerala.
- He was a Scholar in Malayalam, Tamil and Sanskrit.
- In 1902, he founded Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) – an Organization for the uplift of the "depressed classes".

### Aruvipuram movement

- As a response to the prohibition on Ezhavas into temples, he established a grand temple at Aruvipuram and dedicated it to all.
- He took a stone from a Neyyar river and installed it as a Sivalinga to show that consecration of an idol was not the monopoly of the higher castes.
- He opened the temple to all communities and installed mirror in temple for self-respect.
- Kumaran Asan and Dr. Palpu were influenced by his ideas and carried forward the movement.
- Anukampa Dashakam (Ten verses on Compassion) is a poem written by Sree Narayana Guru in Malayalam language.

3. d

- India has unveiled a new draft 'Arctic' policy that, among other things, commits to expanding scientific research, "sustainable tourism" and mineral oil and gas exploration in the Arctic region.
- Arctic research will help India's scientific community to study melting rates of the third pole – the Himalayan glaciers, which are endowed with the largest freshwater reserves in the world outside the geographic poles.

### India's Arctic Expedition

- The Indian scientific endeavours in the Arctic realm commenced in 2007, when a five-member scientific team visited Ny-Alesund on the Svalbard archipelago of Norway.
- India leased a station building at Ny-Alesund from Kings Bay AS which owns and manages the facilities at the International Research Base.
- The Indian station **Himadri** was inaugurated in 2008.
- **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)** (erstwhile **NCAOR**) is India's premier R&D institution responsible for the country's research activities in the Polar and Southern Ocean realms.

4. b

- Scientists from the United Kingdom and Japan have come together to develop new, safer technologies to dismantle old nuclear

facilities like the Fukushima Daiichi reactors, which were severely damaged by an earthquake and a tsunami in March 2011.

- Long-reach robot arms used in this research collaboration called 'Project LongOps' will diminish risks to human health and also speed up decommissioning of legacy sites.
- Apart from Fukushima, these robots will also be deployed at Sellafield in northwest England's Cumbria where nuclear fuel is reprocessed and stored.
- The project costs approximately Rs. 120 crore will focus on innovation for fast decommissioning of legacy nuclear sites and automating parts of the nuclear fusion power generation process.

5. d

#### **Wild life Protection Act, 1972**

- This Act provides for the protection of a listed species of animals, birds, and plants, and also for the establishment of a network of ecologically-important protected areas in the country.
- Under the act, Schedule V contains animals that can be hunted and Schedule VI contains plants that are forbidden from cultivation.

#### **Confusion over Scientific Names**

##### **Background**

- In recent times, confusion over names of species listed in the schedules of WLPA hinders fight against wildlife crime in India.
- For example, in 2016, forest department of Kerala's Pathanamthitta district seized a turtle from George Kurian.
- Investigations identified the species as the Indian Flapshell, whose scientific name is *Lissemys punctata*.
- The district court ordered that the turtle be freed the next day and Kurian was charged under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, (WLPA).
- But the law incorrectly lists *Lissemys punctata*'s common name as the Indian Softshell turtle.

- Kurian challenged the charges in the Kerala High Court on the grounds that since the Indian Flapshell turtle does not find a mention in the schedules of WLPA and the court quashed the charges against Kurian.

##### **Issues**

- Confusion over names of species listed in the schedules of WLPA occurs because scientific and common names have never been updated in the Act.
- Scientific names are revised whenever a new understanding of the species emerges.
- However, there has been **no revision in names under WLPA since it came into force in 1972**.
- In fact, **progress made by science in terms of both naming a species as well as identifying new species within a genus is not reflected in WLPA**.

6. a

##### **Radio Access Network (RAN)**

- A RAN resides between user equipment, such as a mobile phone, a computer or any remotely controlled machine, and provides the connection with its core network.
- Open-RAN is not a technology, but rather an ongoing shift in mobile network architecture that allows networks to be built using subcomponents from a variety of vendors.
- O-RAN has an open, multi-vendor architecture for deploying mobile networks, as opposed to the single-vendor proprietary architecture.
- O-RAN uses software to make hardware manufactured by different companies work together.
- The key concept of Open RAN is "opening" the protocols and interfaces between the various subcomponents (radios, hardware and software) in the RAN.

7. b

##### **Risa Clothing**

- It is a customary hand-woven cloth used by Tripura's indigenous tribal communities.

- Risa is one of the three parts of customary Tripuri female attire, the other two being the Rignai and Rikutu.
- The Risa is used as a head gear, stole, and female upper cloth or presented to honour a distinguished recipient.
- The Rignai is primarily used to cover lower part of the body and literally translates into 'to wear'.
- The Rituku covers the upper half of the body, wrapping it all around.
- Risa is primarily used as a breast cloth and is woven in different colourful designs.

8. d

### **Section 32 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**

- Recently, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment Act 2020.
- The Supreme Court held that the successful bidders for a corporate debtor under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) would be immune from any investigations being conducted either by any investigating agencies.
- The court said that it was important for the IBC to attract bidders who would offer reasonable and fair value for the corporate debtor to ensure the timely completion of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP).
- The court said that the protection must also extend to the assets of a corporate debtor, which form a crucial attraction for potential bidders and helps them in assessing and placing a fair bid for the company.
- The apex court has said that such immunity would be applicable only if there is an approved resolution plan, and a change in the management control of the corporate debtor.

9. c

### **Nitrogen-Use Efficiency**

- NUE is calculated as a ratio between nitrogen used and harvest, a higher number denotes low wastage.

- With the efficiency on the decline, farmers use more fertiliser in the hope of raising yield, this in turn worsens NUE.
- Crops generally use up 30% of nitrogen fertilizer applied, the rest seeps into the environment, harming health and adding to climate change.
- Researchers were able to identify phenotypes or visibly identifiable features that determine the efficiency with which cultivated rice varieties use nitrogen.
- This efficiency is known as nitrogen-use efficiency (NUE).
- Cereals consume over 69% of nitrogen fertilizers. Rice consumes 37%, followed by wheat (24%).

10. b

### **Indian Telecom Services and Performance Index**

- Recently, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released the "Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report".
- Parameters used for calculating the index are as follows
  1. Telecom subscribers (Wireless + Wireline)
  2. Internet/Broadband Subscribers
  3. Broad casting & Cable Services
  4. Revenue and Usage Parameters
  5. Wireless Data usage
- According to the Index number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,160.52 million at the end of Jun-20 to 1,168.66 million at the end of Sep-20, registering a growth rate of 0.70% over the previous quarter.
- It reflects Year-On-Year (Y-O-Y) decline rate of 2.22% over the same quarter of the last year.
- Key Findings of the report are as follows
  1. The overall Tele-density in India also increased from 85.85% as in QE Jun-20 to 86.22% as in QE Sep-20.
  2. The Urban Tele density also increased from 137.35% to 138.25% during the same period.

3. The Rural Tele density remained same i.e. 58.96%, as it was during last quarter June, 2020.

- c. India Meteorological Department  
d. National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

**25-01-2021**

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

1. It is short-term storage of carbon in plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean.
2. It occurs both naturally and as a result of anthropogenic activities.
3. Iron fertilization, and injecting CO<sub>2</sub> are prominent techniques of ocean carbon sequestration

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Guru Gobind Singh*

1. He is the son of sixth Sikh guru Hargobind, a prominent religious philosopher.
2. He named Guru Granth Sahib, the religious text of the Khalsas and the Sikhs

Which of 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 nodal agency for implementing "*India's Arctic Policy*"?

- a. National Centre for Earth Science Studies
- b. National Institute of Ocean Technology

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

1. These are antibody fragments, they can be produced by bacteria or yeast, which is less expensive.
2. They are used in clinical therapeutics, immunodiagnostics, and more for environmental monitoring applications.

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

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

5) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to *Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Scheme*

1. It aims to achieve a cumulative capacity of 40,000 MW from Rooftop Solar Projects by the year 2022.
2. Any rooftop solar firm or vendor is authorised to implement rooftop solar scheme.

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

#### *Carbon sequestration*

- Carbon sequestration is the long-term storage of carbon in plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean.
- Carbon sequestration types are as follows

1. **Terrestrial Carbon Sequestration** - It is the process through which CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere is absorbed by trees and plants through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in soils and biomass (tree trunks, branches, foliage, and roots)
2. **Geologic Carbon Sequestration** - CO<sub>2</sub> can be stored, including oil reservoirs, gas reservoirs, unmineable coal seams, saline formations and shale formations with high organic content.
3. **Ocean Carbon Sequestration** - Oceans absorb, release and store large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.
  - This can be done in two ways enhancing productivity of ocean biological systems through Iron fertilization, and injecting CO<sub>2</sub> into the deep ocean.
  - The dumping of iron stimulates phytoplankton production, which in turn leads to enhanced photosynthesis from these microorganisms, helping in CO<sub>2</sub> absorption.

2. b

### **Guru Gobind Singh**

- He is tenth Sikh Gurus, his birth anniversary is commemorated based on the Nanakshahi calendar.
- He became the Sikh guru at the age of nine, following the demise of his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru.
- He fought against the Mughals in the battle of Muktsar in 1705.
- He also founded the principles of Khalsa or the Five 'K's'.
  1. Kesh (uncut hair),
  2. Kanga (wooden comb),
  3. Kara (iron or steel bracelet),
  4. Kirpan (dagger)
  5. Kachera (short breeches).
- These were the five articles of faith that a Khalsa must always adorn.

3. d

### **India's Arctic Policy**

- India has unveiled a new draft 'Arctic' policy that and is committed to expanding scientific research, "sustainable tourism" and mineral oil and gas exploration in the Arctic region.
- The draft policy discusses the importance of understanding the impact of climate change in the Arctic region and its connection with India's monsoon, which is crucial for its economy.
- India also proposes to focus on vast resources of the Arctic region including hydrocarbons, minerals and renewable power to ensure its energy security.
- The policy is cautious in framing its involvement in the Arctic as "common heritage of mankind" but its priorities are similar to that of other non-Arctic states.
- This policy roadmap draft rides on five pillars:
  1. Science and research activities,
  2. Economic and human development cooperation,
  3. Transportation and connectivity,
  4. Governance and international cooperation, and
  5. National capacity building.

4. c

### **Nanobodies**

- Conventional antibodies have two variable domains, called VH and VL, which offer each other stability and binding specificity.
- Nanobodies have VHH domains and lack VL domains, but are still highly stable.
- Thus these are antibodies with a single variable domain located on a heavy chain, also known as VHH antibodies
- Lacking the VL domain also means nanobodies have a hydrophilic (they do not have issues with solubility) side.
- Nanobody production has distinct advantages not available with traditional antibodies, such as improved screening, improved isolation techniques, and no animal sacrifice.

- They are also used as immunoreagent for the analysis of small molecular weight environmental chemicals.
- Recently researchers has developed novel antibody fragments (nanobodies) against SARS-CoV-2.

5. a

### **Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Scheme**

- It aims to promote the grid-connected Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) rooftop and small SPV power generating plants among the residential, community, institutional, industrial and commercial establishments.
- In a grid-connected rooftop or small Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) system wherein the DC power generated from the SPV panel is converted to AC power using the power conditioning unit and is fed to the grid.
- This scheme is being implemented in the state by distribution companies (DISCOMs) and no other agency is authorised by the Ministry to implement the scheme.
- Under this scheme the Ministry is providing a 40% subsidy for the first 3 kW and 20% subsidy beyond 3 kW and up to 10 kW of solar panel capacity.
- The residential consumer has to pay the cost of rooftop solar plant by reducing the subsidy amount given by the Ministry as per the prescribed rate to the vendor.

**27-01-2021**

### **1) Consider the following statements with respect to Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Agreement**

1. It is a tripartite agreement between the Central Government, State Government and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB).
2. The Accord signed in 2020 was the third peace deal signed with Bodo rebel groups.
3. Bodos are the single largest community among the notified Scheduled Tribes in Assam.

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

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

### **2) Consider the following statements with respect to Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

1. The treaty banned the ratifying countries to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons under any circumstances.
2. India is neither party to nor bound by any obligations of the treaty.
3. Japan, the world's only country to suffer nuclear attacks, does not support the treaty.

### **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

### **3) Consider the following statements with respect to AMPHEX – 21**

1. It is a joint amphibious exercise among Indian Navy, Army and Air Force.
2. Exercise KAVACH which aims for defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is a part of AMPHEX – 21.

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

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

4) **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted for hearing appeals against the orders passed by?**

1. National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)
2. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
3. Competition Commission of India (CCI)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Akash-NG Missile*

1. It is a new generation Surface to Air Missile meant for use by the Indian Air Force.
2. This new generation missile was powered by Ramjet Engine with a range up to 30 km.

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

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

6) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah*

1. He was a close associate of Hardayal Singh, who participated in great revolt of 1857.
2. He triggered many mutinies across the Awadh region against the British forces.

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 *Biochar*

1. It is a type of charcoal that is produced by pyrolysis of biomass in the high presence of oxygen.
2. It may increase soil fertility of acidic soils (low pH soils), increase agricultural productivity.

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

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

8) *Bharat Parv* an annual event happens in Delhi is organised by?

- a. Ministry of Human Resource and Development
- b. Ministry of Defence
- c. Ministry of External Affairs
- d. Ministry of Tourism

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Rules*

1. Under the rules, registration is compulsory for agencies implementing CSR activities on behalf of companies.
2. It has decriminalised Non-compliance with CSR provisions, by shifting such offences to penalty regime.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Two Dimensional Electron gas (2DEG)*

1. It is an electron gas that is free to move in two dimensions, but tightly confined in the third.
2. Most 2DEGs are found in transistor-like structures made from super-conductors.

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

- Union Home Minister has recently participated in an event commemorating one year of the signing of the Boda Accord, 2020.

### Bodo Accord

- It is the third peace deal with Bodo rebel groups that was signed in New Delhi on January 2020 by the Centre.
- It was signed with all four factions of National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) and United Bodo Peoples' Organisation (UBPO).
- The Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Accord has triggered the process of ending insurgency in the North-East and was able to bring peace to the troubled region in Assam.

### Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)

- It is an autonomous body under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
- There have been two Bodo Accords earlier, and the second one led to the formation of BTC.
- The area under the jurisdiction of BTC, formed under the 2003 Accord, was called the Bodo Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD).
- Later, BTAD was renamed as Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

- BTAD comprises Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri districts, accounting for 11% of Assam's area and 10% of its population.

### Bodo Tribes

- They are the single largest community among the notified Scheduled Tribes in Assam.
- Part of the larger umbrella of Bodo-Kachari, the Bodos constitute about 5-6% of Assam's population.

2. d

- The first-ever treaty to ban nuclear weapons has recently entered into force.
- It is an historic step marred by the lack of signatures from the world's major nuclear powers.

### Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

- In July 2017, the UN negotiating conference had adopted the legally binding Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
- As its name suggests, the treaty limits signatories to not "develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive device".
- When the treaty was approved, more than 120 approved it. But none of the nine countries known or believed to possess nuclear weapons — the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel — supported it, and neither did the 30-nation NATO alliance.
- Japan, the world's only country to suffer nuclear attacks, also does not support the treaty.
- Japan on its own renounces the use and possession of nuclear weapons, but the government has said pursuing a treaty ban is not realistic with nuclear and non-nuclear states so sharply divided over it.
- With the UN nuclear ban treaty entering into force, India also reiterated that ***it is neither party to nor bound by any obligations of the international pact.***

3. c

- A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise *AMPHEX – 21* was conducted in Andaman & Nicobar group of islands from 21 – 25 Jan 2021.

#### **AMPHEX – 21**

- It is a joint amphibious exercise among Indian Navy, Army and Air Force.
- It aimed at validating India's capabilities to safeguard the territorial integrity of its island territories.
- Ex KAVACH for the defense of Andaman & Nicobar Islands formed a part of AMPHEX – 21.

#### 4. d

- *Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Chennai Bench of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) through virtual mode recently.*
- The Chennai Bench of NCLAT shall have jurisdiction to hear the Appeals arising out of the orders passed by the benches of NCLT having jurisdiction of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Lakshwadeep and Puducherry.
- Two Members of NCLAT, New Delhi, Hon'ble Shri. Balvinder Singh, Member (Technical) and Hon'ble. Shri. Justice Venugopal M. have taken charge of the newly constituted Chennai Bench of the NCLAT.
- Five new Benches of NCLT have been announced at Jaipur, Cuttack, Kochi, Indore and Amaravati, bringing the total number of Benches to 16 (including the Principal Bench).
- The NCLAT now functions at a strength of 5 courts, 4 at the Principal Bench in New Delhi and the 5th at NCLAT, Chennai.

#### **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)**

- It was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT).
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

#### 5. a

- *DRDO has recently conducted the successful maiden launch of Akash-NG (New Generation) Missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha.*

#### **Akash-NG Missile**

- It is a new generation Surface to Air Missile meant for use by Indian Air Force with an aim of intercepting high maneuvering low Radar Cross Section (RCS) aerial threats.
- It weighs only half of the existing Akash missile and requires fewer ground systems.
- The existing Akash missile has a range of 25 km, while the upgraded variant (NG) can strike targets at a distance of 30 km.
- The missile, already in service in the Indian military, has an indigenous content of 96%.
- The missile was inducted into the Indian Air Force in 2014 and in the army a year later.

#### 6. b

#### **Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah**

- Ahmadullah Shah is known as 'Awadh's Lighthouse of Rebellion' during the first war of independence against the British in 1857.
- He had turned Ayodhya into a crucible of armed resistance against the British and triggered mutinies across the Awadh region.
- He turned Masjid Sarai in Faizabad's Chowk area into his headquarters and held meetings with freedom fighters.
- While being a practising Muslim, he was also the epitome of religious unity.
- During the 1857 revolt, royals like Nana Sahib of Kanpur and Kunwar Singh of Arrah fought alongside Ahmadullah Shah.

- His 22nd Infantry Regiment was commanded by Subedar Ghamandi Singh and Subedar Umrao Singh in the famous Battle of Chinhat.”
- The mosque in Ayodhya district which will be built on the land in lieu of Babri Masjid as mandated by the Supreme Court could be dedicated to Ahmadullah Shah.
- Jaidayal Singh and Hardayal Singh were two prominent leaders of Great Indian Revolt of 1857, who lead the Mutiny in Rajasthan Region.

7. a

**Biochar**

- It is a solid material obtained from the thermochemical conversion of biomass in an oxygen-limited environment or in absence of oxygen.
- It is used as a soil ameliorant for both carbon sequestration and soil health benefits.
- Biochar may increase soil fertility of acidic soils (low pH soils), increase agricultural productivity, and provide protection against some foliar and soil-borne diseases.

8. d

**Bharat Parv**

- It will be celebrated every year from 26th to 31st January, 2020 in New Delhi.
- It aims to encourage Indians to visit different tourist places of India and to inculcate the spirit of ‘Dekho Apna Desh’.
- It includes highlights of the Republic Day Parade Tableaux, performances by the Armed Forces Bands, theme pavilions of different States and Central Ministries and cultural performances from different regions of the country.

9. c

**Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Rules**

- The Corporate Affairs Ministry has amended the rules for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to allow companies to undertake multi-year projects.
- The amended CSR rules allow companies to set off CSR expenditure above the required 2 per cent expenditure in any fiscal year against

required expenditure for up to three financial years.

- The new amendment restricts companies from authorising either a Section 8 company or a registered public charitable trust to conduct CSR projects on their behalf.
- A Section 8 company is a company registered with the purpose of promoting charitable causes, applies profits to promoting its objectives and is prohibited from distributing dividends to shareholders.

10. a

**Two Dimensional Electron gas (2DEG)**

- Scientists at Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, Punjab have produced an ultra-high mobility Two dimensional (2D)-electron gas (2DEG)
- The tight confinement of electron gas leads to quantized energy levels for motion in the third direction.
- Thus the electrons appear to be a 2D sheet embedded in a 3D world.
- One of the most important recent developments in semiconductors, has been the achievement of structures in which the electronic behavior is essentially two-dimensional (2D).
- Most 2DEGs are found in transistor-like structures made from semiconductors.
- 2DEG is a valuable system for exploring the physics of superconductivity magnetism and their coexistence.

**28-01-2021****1) Which of the following is incorrect regarding the Adaptation Action Agenda (AAA), sometimes seen in the news recently?**

- a. It was launched during the Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS), 2021.
- b. It is an instrument to accelerate action on climate adaptation by promoting, and sharing experience on climate resilience, and building together.
- c. It offers an integral framework in which individual actions and coalitions are brought

together to reach the ambition of a climate-resilient future by 2030 (as stated in the SDGs).

d. None of the above

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to World Customs Organization (WCO)**

1. It was established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC).
2. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.
3. It is the only intergovernmental organization specialized in Customs matters.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to Govind Ballabh Pant**

1. He was the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, post-Independence.
2. He was awarded India's highest civilian honor, the Bharat Ratna, in 1957.
3. Together with Chandra Shekhar Azad, he started a weekly paper called 'Shakti'.

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) India and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have recently signed the framework for Strategic Partnership. Which of the following is/are not the benefits of the partnership?**

a. It will help in extensive exchange of knowledge and enhance global energy security, stability and sustainability

b. It will be a stepping stone towards India becoming a full member of the IEA

c. It will help India to surpass Japan to become the world's third largest crude oil importers

d. None of the above

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to Intergovernmental Negotiations framework (IGN)**

1. It is a group of nation-states working within the United Nations to further reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

2. Since its formation, IGN has made considerable inroads towards extending UNSC membership.

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

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

**6) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR)**

1. It is aimed at collation of all the geoscience data of the country involving Geological Survey of India and other national organizations.

2. ISRO will be developing such repository which will be the primary inputs for future exploration programs.

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 *Investment Trends Monitor Report*

1. It is jointly published every year by World Bank and World Trade Organization.
2. According to the report India has witnessed highest year on year rise in FDI inflows among key nations in 2020.

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

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

8) *The Inequality Virus Report* is released by which of the following organization?

- a. World Health Organization
- b. Doctors without Borders
- c. Oxfam International
- d. Oxford Health Alliance

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Silo Seismic Survey*

1. It will provide bathymetry of a structure by sending soundwaves signals to the given structure.
2. To date and understand the sub-surface structure of Ram Setu (Adam's bridge in Rameshwaram) this method will be used.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)*

1. In an LLP, each partner is not responsible or liable for another partner's misconduct or negligence.
2. Registrar of Companies (ROC) would have the authority to levy penalties for any contravention of provisions of the LLP Act 2008.

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

#### *Climate Adaptation Summit 2021*

- The summit was hosted online by the Netherlands government recently.
- It will have a focus on securing new investments to ensure that millions of smallholder farmers can adapt to the stresses of climate on food production.
- During the event, the **Adaptation Action Agenda (AAA)** was launched.

#### *Adaptation Action Agenda (AAA)*

- It is an instrument to accelerate action on climate adaptation by promoting, guiding, monitoring and sharing experience on climate resilience, and building together.
- It offers an integral framework in which individual actions and coalitions are brought together to reach the ambition of a climate-resilient future by 2030 (as stated in the SDGs).
- Therefore, it is an instrument at the interface of adaptation efforts, ensuring cross-cutting resilience initiatives and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. d

- *The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) observed the International Customs Day on 27 January, 2021.*

- The theme for this year as given by World Customs Organisation (WCO) is “**Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain**”.
- The WCO Certificate of Merit was awarded during the event.

### **World Customs Organization (WCO)**

- It was established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC).
- It is an independent intergovernmental organization whose primary mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations worldwide.
- It is the only intergovernmental organization specialized in Customs matters.
- The WCO established its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium in 1952.
- It currently represents 183 Members across the globe at all stages of social and economic development.
- The WCO provides an ideal forum for Customs administrations and their stakeholders to hold in-depth discussions, exchange experiences, and share best practices on a range of international Customs and trade issues.

3. a

- *Shri Hardeep S Puri, MoS, (I/C), Housing and Urban Affairs recently presided over the Garlanding ceremony of the statue of Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant at Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi.*

### **Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant**

- He was the Premier of United Provinces (1937 - 1939).
- He was also the First Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (1946 -1954) and Union Home Minister (1955 - 1961).
- He was a recipient of the highest civilian award for Public Service, the Bharat Ratna in 1957.
- Pandit Pant was born in Almora, Uttarakhand and graduated as BA(LLB) from Muir College, Allahabad University where he was awarded the Lumsden Medal for academic excellence.

- Together with Pandit Badri Durr Pande, he started a weekly paper called ‘Shakti’.
- Post-Independence, he became the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh with leading policy priorities like abolishing the zamindari system, forest conservation, women’s rights, economic stability, and safeguarding the livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups.
- He later on also shouldered the responsibilities as Union Home Minister, focusing on the democratic empowerment of Indian citizens.

4. c

- *The Framework for Strategic Partnership between the International Energy Agency (IEA) members and the Government of India was signed recently.*
- The development comes at a time when international energy markets have been volatile and amid rising tensions between China and India, the world’s second- and third-largest crude oil importers.

### **Strategic Partnership Framework**

- It will strengthen mutual trust and cooperation & enhance global energy security, stability and sustainability.
- This partnership will lead to an **extensive exchange of knowledge** and would be a stepping stone towards **India becoming a full member of the IEA**.
- The contents of the Strategic partnership will be jointly decided by IEA members and India.

5. a

- *India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti, has recently said that the UN Security Council is finding itself unable to act effectively to address issues of international peace and security due to its lack of inclusivity.*

### **Intergovernmental Negotiations framework (IGN)**

- It is a group of nation-states working within the United Nations to further reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- It has been nearly 13 years after the start of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) but it has made no progress.

- India, along with Brazil, Japan and Germany are pressing for urgent reform of the U.N. Security Council and for a permanent seat in the reformed 15-member top organ of the world body.

6. b

### **National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR)**

- It is a flagship initiative of Geological Survey of India.
- It aims at integrating the collected data by GSI and the similar organizations to build a repository on the digital medium entailing multiple user access.
- The planned Baseline Geoscience Data Collection campaign would also lead to a huge database, which will be the primary inputs for future exploration programs.
- GSI is in consultation with Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), a national institute under Ministry of Information & Technology for development of NGDR.

7. a

### **Investment Trends Monitor Report**

- It issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- According to the report global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) collapsed in 2020 by 42% to an estimated USD 859 billion from USD 1.5 trillion in 2019.
- India witnessed a 13% year-on-year rise, the highest among key nations, in FDI inflows in 2020, China's rose by 4%.
- In 2020, schemes like production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for electronics manufacturing, have been notified to attract foreign investments.
- Other Reports Published by UNCTAD are as follows,
  - Trade and Development Report
  - World Investment Report
  - The Least Developed Countries Report
  - Information and Economy Report
  - Technology and Innovation Report

6. Commodities and Development Report.

8. c

### **The Inequality Virus Report**

- Recently, Oxfam International has released a report titled 'The Inequality Virus'.
- The report has found that the Covid pandemic deeply exacerbated existing inequalities in India and around the world.
- The report highlighted that as the pandemic stalled the economy, forcing millions of poor Indians out of jobs, the richest billionaires in India increased their wealth by 35 per cent.
- The report stated that the wealth of Indian billionaires increased by 35 per cent during the lockdown and by 90 per cent since 2009 to \$422.9 billion ranking India sixth in the world after US, China, Germany, Russia and France.
- The Oxfam calculations found that the increase in wealth of the top 11 billionaires of India during the pandemic could sustain the NREGS scheme for 10 years or the health ministry for 10 years.

9. b

### **Silo Seismic Survey**

- Recently, a central advisory board on archaeology approved the project proposal submitted by CSIR – National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa to study the sediments and determine origin of Ram Setu.
- Broadly, the explorers will apply a number of scientific techniques while attempting to date the Ram Setu, they are as follows
- Side scan SONAR** – It will provide bathymetry which is similar to studying topography of a structure on land.
- Soundwaves signals will be sent to the structure which will provide an outline of the physical structure of the Ram Setu.
- Silo seismic survey** – Under this technique Mild earthquake-like tremor shocks will be sent at shallow depths close to the structure.
- These energised shockwaves are capable of penetrating into the structure.

- The reflected or refracted signals will be captured by instruments that will provide sub-surface structure.

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

10. c

*Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)*

- Under “traditional partnership firm”, every partner is liable, jointly with all the other partners and also severally for all acts of the firm done while he is a partner.
- Under LLP structure, liability of the partner is limited to his agreed contribution.
- Thus, individual partners are shielded from joint liability created by another partner’s wrongful acts or misconduct.
- Recently, the Company Law Committee (CLC) has recommended that 12 offences under the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act 2008 be decriminalised.
- LLPs which are currently not allowed to issue debt securities, now would be allowed to issue Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) to raise funds with the aim of improving ease of doing business for LLP firms.
- Registrar of Companies (ROC) appointed under Section 609 of the Companies Act covering the various States and Union Territories are vested with the primary duty of registering companies and LLPs floated in the respective states and the Union Territories.

**29-01-2021**

1) With respect to *Indo-French Year of the Environment*, consider the following statements

- The year 2021 was designated as the **Indo-French Year of the Environment**.
- The main objective is to strengthen the position of **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and further improve the clean energy relationship between the two countries.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ayushman CAPF' scheme*

- The scheme will benefit the serving **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel and dependents of CAPF**.
- It is a joint initiative by the **Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Health Authority (NHA)**.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Leatherback Turtles*

- They are named for their shell, which is **leather-like rather than hard, like other turtles**.
- They are the **largest sea turtle species and also one of the most migratory, crossing both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans**.

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

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

4) *Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary* is located in?

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

5) Consider the following statements

1. In India, the practice of the President addressing Parliament was followed since the Government of India Act of 1919.
2. Article 87 of Indian Constitution provides for Joint sitting of both Houses in certain cases.

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

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

6) Which of the following statement(s) is/are incorrect with respect to *Climate Risk Index 2021*

1. It analyses quantified impacts of extreme weather events both in terms of the fatalities and economic losses.
2. It is released by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

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 *Sudden Stratospheric Warming (SSW)*

1. SSW events are anthropogenic atmospheric fluctuation, caused by climate change.
2. It is a rapid warming (up to about 50°C in just a couple of days), between 10 km and 50 km above the earth's surface.

Which of 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 site is not one of the selected spot for *Introduction of Cheetah in the Wild?*

- a. Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- b. Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh
- c. Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan
- d. Bhainsrogarh Sanctuary, Rajasthan

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Global Risks Report 2021*

1. It is released by World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. According to the report, Infectious diseases topped the global risks chart, displacing climate change.

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

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

10) Which of the following statements are correct with respect to *Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP)*

1. It is electromagnetically neutral subatomic particle that is hypothesized to make up most dark matter.
2. These particles are thought to be very light and fast moving in nature.

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

- *Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar and Ms Barbara Pompili, the French Minister for Ecological Transition jointly launched the Indo-French Year of the Environment in New Delhi recently.*

### Indo-French Year of the Environment

- 2021 was designated as the Indo-French Year of the Environment.
- The basic objective is to strengthen Indo-French cooperation in sustainable development, increase the effectiveness of actions in favor of global environment protection and give them greater visibility.
- The Indo-French Year of the Environment over the period 2021-2022 would be based on five main themes:
  1. Environmental protection
  2. Climate change
  3. Biodiversity conservation
  4. Sustainable urban development
  5. Development of renewable energies and energy efficiency
- It is also a platform for engaging in discussions on critical areas of collaboration relating to environment and allied areas.

2. d

- *Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recently launched the 'Ayushman CAPF' Scheme.*

### Ayushman CAPF Scheme

- It extends the healthcare benefits of the Central health insurance scheme to the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and their dependents.
- It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Health Authority (NHA).
- The scheme would provide cashless healthcare services to the serving CAPF personnel and their family members.

- It would be implemented across the country in a phased manner.
- The convergence between Ayushman Bharat and CAPF is a first of its kind initiative leveraging strengths of the existing robust IT framework, access to the network of various private hospitals and portability of services across the country.

3. c

- *The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has recently recommended the de-notification of Galathea Bay Sanctuary, after local authorities submitted a proposal for it to the Union environment ministry citing an international shipment project.*
- It has suggested the implementation of a mitigation plan to facilitate nesting of turtles as well as connectivity between the Galathea river and the Bay of Bengal.
- Great Nicobar Island and Little Andaman Island host the largest nesting population of leatherback turtles in the central or northern Indian Ocean.

### Leatherback Turtles

- They are named for their shell, which is leather-like rather than hard, like other turtles.
- They are extremely vulnerable to temperature extremes.
- It is the **only species without scales** and a hard shell.
- They are the largest sea turtle species and also one of the most migratory, crossing both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- Some of the turtles can swim over 10,000 miles a year between nesting and foraging grounds.
- Pacific leatherbacks migrate from nesting beaches in the Coral Triangle all the way to the California coast to feed on the abundant jellyfish every summer and fall.
- Although their distribution is wide, numbers of leatherback turtles have seriously declined during the last century as a result of intense egg collection and fisheries bycatch.
- Globally, leatherback status according to IUCN is listed as **Vulnerable**, but many

subpopulations (such as in the Pacific and Southwest Atlantic) are Critically Endangered.

4. d

#### ***Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary***

- It is an important nesting site of leatherback sea turtles in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Galathea National Park is located on the island of Great Nicobar in the Nicobar Islands, which lie in the eastern Indian Ocean (Bay of Bengal).
- Galathea National Park is a part of the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.
- Campbell Bay National Park is another park of the Biosphere Reserve.

5. a

- In India, the practice of the President addressing Parliament can be traced back to the Government of India Act of 1919.
- This law gave the Governor-General the right of addressing the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State.
- Article 87 of Indian Constitution provides for special address by the President at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.

6. b

#### ***Climate Risk Index 2021***

- Recently, an NGO based in Germany 'Germanwatch' has released the Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2021.
- The CRI analyses quantified impacts of extreme weather events both in terms of the fatalities and economic losses.
- The index is based on data from Munich Re's NatCatSERVICE.
- India ranks seventh among countries most affected in 2019 by climate change.

- Eight out of the ten countries most affected by the quantified impacts of extreme weather events in 2019 belong to the low- to lower-middle income category.
- Storms and their direct implications such as precipitation, floods and landslides were one major cause of losses and damages in 2019.
- UNDRR Releases Country specific Disaster Risk Reduction Report Annually.

7. b

#### ***Sudden Stratospheric Warming***

- The stratosphere is the layer of the atmosphere from around 10 km to 50 km above the Earth's surface.
- It is a rapid warming (up to about 50 °C in just a couple of days), between 10 km and 50 km above the earth's surface.
- SSW is related to the behaviour of the stratospheric polar vortex, a fast-blowing band of winds that forms over the Arctic region during the winter due to reduced solar radiation.
- During SSW the winds in the stratosphere can reverse from westerly to easterly.
- Thus, SSW are a natural atmospheric fluctuation, not caused by climate change.
- The weather in the atmospheric layers above the stratosphere mesosphere and thermosphere also get affected by SSW.
- This is a cause of concern for satellite navigation and other space-based human endeavours.
- SSW doesn't happen every year, and it doesn't always affect weather when it does.

8. c

#### ***Introduction of Cheetah in the Wild***

- The translocation of African Cheetah is a part of Government of India to reintroduce the fastest land animal in India after extinction of the Asiatic cheetah in the 1950s.
- A Supreme Court-appointed committee has found following sites for translocation of cheetahs because of an appropriate geophysical feature of forests.

1. Kuno National Park, Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Gandhi Sagar-Chittorgarh in Madhya Pradesh
2. Bhainsrogarh Sanctuary in Rajasthan.
  - The areas are well protected and have well-managed grassland.
  - The cheetah will be introduced on an experimental basis in the best suitable habitat to see whether it can adapt to Indian conditions.

9. d

### **Global Risks Report 2021**

- According to the report Infectious diseases topped the global risks chart, displacing climate change.
- COVID-19 has been the worst-ever health crisis faced by the world, it held back the economic development in some of the poorest parts of the world.
- As a result, the existing economic gap between the rich and poor in the world has widened.
- At the same time, all the countries diverted their resources from other health challenges.
- For example, vaccination programmes across the world were disrupted and postponed.
- The WEF report arrived at these results on the basis of a Global Risks Perception Survey completed by over 650 members of the forum's diverse leadership communities.

10. a

### **Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP)**

- Dark matter is a form of matter thought to account for approximately 85% of the matter in the universe.
- Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP) is hypothesized to make up some 22 percent of the universe, and is a candidate for non-baryonic dark matter.
- These particles are thought to be heavy and slow moving because if the dark matter particles were light and fast moving, they would not have clumped together in the density fluctuations from which galaxies and clusters of galaxies formed.

- The absence of light from these particles also indicates that they are electromagnetically neutral.
- The precise nature of these particles is not currently known, and they are not predicted by the standard model of particle physics.

**30-01-2021**

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

- 1. It is a project to improve the quality of school education in six Indian states.**
- 2. It would be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL).**
- 3. The project is fully funded by the World Bank over a period of 5 years.**

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

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

**2) With respect to Spices Production in India, consider the following statements:**

- 1. India is the world's largest exporter of chili and turmeric.**
- 2. Spices Board India, under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is the flagship organization for the development and worldwide promotion of Indian spices.**

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Prabuddha Bharata*

1. It is a monthly journal started by Ananda, one of the most important disciples of Buddha, in 1896.
2. It has been an important medium for spreading the message of India's ancient spiritual wisdom.
3. Its publication was started from Madras and later shifted to Advaita Ashrama.

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

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

4) With respect to *Kanthasth*, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Machine Translation (MT) system which is based on Translation Memory (TM) approach.
2. A translation memory is basically a database which stores the translated data in the form of aligned source-language and target-language segments.

Which of 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) *Department of Official Language* works under which of the following Ministries?

- a. Ministry of Culture
- b. Ministry of Home Affairs
- c. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- d. Under the direct control of Prime Minister

6) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to *Patharughat Uprising*

1. It is an armed tribal rebellion against the increase in land revenue levied by the colonial administration.
2. It is commemorated as Krishak Swahid Diwas in parts of Assam

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 *Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD)*

1. They are caused by a variety of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasitic worms (helminths).
2. Dengue, Rabies, Leprosy (Hansen disease) are few examples of NTD.

Which of 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 International organization has published "*World Economic Situation & Prospects 2021*"

- a. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- b. World Bank
- c. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- d. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *EDISON Alliance*

1. WTO and International Finance Corporation (IFC) has conceptualised this alliance.
2. It aims to work towards ensuring global and equitable access to the digital economy.

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

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

10) Which of the following statement(s) is/are incorrect with respect to *Corruption Perception Index (CPI)*

1. It is released by Reporters without borders.
2. It scores countries and territories based only on their perceived levels of public sector corruption.

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

- Agreement for the financial support of the implementation of STARS project was signed between Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and World Bank along with Ministry of Education.

### **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project**

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

- The project covers 6 States viz **Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.**
- The identified States will be supported for various interventions for improving the quality of education.

### **Funding**

- The total project cost of STARS project is Rs. 5718 crore with the financial support of World Bank amounting to US \$ 500 million (approximately Rs. 3700 crore) and rest coming as State share from the participating States, over a period of 5 years.

### **Implementing Agency**

- STARS will draw on existing structure under Samagra Shiksha with the DoSEL, MoE as the main implementing agency at the national level.
- At the State level, the project will be implemented through the integrated State Implementation Society (SIS) for Samagra Shiksha.

### **National Educational Policy 2020**

- STARS project will be instrumental in the implementation of various recommendations of National Education Policy 2020 like:
  1. Strengthening Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning
  2. Improving Learning Assessment System
  3. ICT-enabled approaches in education
  4. Teachers Development and Vocational education etc.

2. c

- **India is the world's largest exporter of chili and turmeric, the exports of which have recorded a steady progress, over the years.**
- During 2019-20, India exported 4,84,000 tonnes of chili and chili products valued at Rs.6211.70 crores which contributed to more than 40 per cent in volume and 29 per cent in value of India's total spice exports.
- Turmeric held a share of 11 per cent in volume and 6 per cent in value of the export basket,

with an export of 1,36,000 tonnes valued at Rs.1216.40 crores.

### **Spices Board India**

- It is the flagship organization for the development and worldwide promotion of Indian spices.
- It is one of the five Commodity Boards functioning under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- It is an autonomous body responsible for the export promotion of the 52 scheduled spices and development of Cardamom (Small & Large).
- The Board is an international link between the Indian exporters and the importers abroad.

3. d

- *Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address the 125th anniversary celebrations of Prabuddha Bharata.*
- The event is being organized by Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati.

### **Prabuddha Bharata**

- It is a monthly journal of the Ramakrishna Order, started by Swami Vivekananda in 1896.
- It has been an important medium for spreading the message of India's ancient spiritual wisdom.
- Its publication was started from Chennai (erstwhile Madras), where it continued to be published for two years, after which it was published from Almora.
- Later, in April 1899, the place of publication of the Journal was shifted to Advaita Ashrama and it has been continuously published from there since then.
- Luminaries like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Sister Nivedita, Sri Aurobindo, Former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, among others, have contributed to the Journal over the years.

4. c

- *Power Finance Corporation, one of India's leading NBFC in power sector and a PSU under Ministry of Power, organized a technical workshop on Kanthasth*

*(Translation software based on memory) and Hindi e-tools recently at Urjanidhi, headquarters of PFC.*

- The workshop was organised in association with **Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs**, Government of India.

### **Kanthasth**

- It is basically a name given to this Machine Translation (MT) system.
- This MT system is based on Translation Memory (TM) approach.

### **Translation memory**

- It is a feature of computer-aided translation system which helps in the translation process.
- A translation memory is basically a database which stores the translated data in the form of aligned source-language and target-language segments.
- The main characteristic of the Translation memory system is that it allows a translator to re-use the already translated segments while translating a new file, either through complete match or partial match in TM.

5. b

### **Department of Official Language**

- It was set up in June 1975 as an independent Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It was created with a view to ensuring compliance of the constitutional and legal provisions regarding official language and to promote the use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union.

6. b

### **Patharughat Uprising**

- In January 28, 1894 in Patharughat, a small village in Assam's Darrang district many local peasants gathered in a protest.
- The unarmed peasants were protesting against the increase in land revenue levied by the colonial administration, when the military opened fire.
- As a result, a rebellion brewed in the hearts of the peasants against the British.

- After much discussion amongst themselves, it was decided that no taxes would be paid to the British, until a proper solution was found to the problem.
- They were even willing to revolt against the British for the cause.
- While the protest meeting was going on, on the orders of Deputy Commissioner of Darrang district, Barrington, police opened fire on the gathering present there.
- Hundreds of people were injured and around 140 of them were killed on spot.

7. c

### ***Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD)***

- Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of tropical infections which are common in low-income populations in developing regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
- Dengue, Rabies, Leprosy (Hansen disease), Blinding trachoma, Buruli ulcer, Endemic treponematoses (yaws) are few examples of NTD.
- These diseases are contrasted with the big three infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria), which generally receive greater treatment and research funding.
- 1 in 5 people around the world are affected by NTDs.
- India is home to the world's largest absolute burden of at least 11 of major neglected tropical diseases.

8. a

### ***World Economic Situation & Prospects 2021***

- According to the report the world economy was hit by a once-in-a-century crisis i.e. a Great Disruption unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.
- The global economy shrank by 4.3 per cent last year, over two-and-a-half times more than during the global financial crisis of 2009.
- The report said economic growth in South Asia in 2021 will be insufficient, at 6.9 per cent.

- The report highlighted Indian economy, which grew at 4.7 per cent in 2019, will contract by 9.6 per cent in calendar year 2020.

9. b

### ***EDISON Alliance***

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the launch of an Essential Digital Infrastructure and Services Network (EDISON) Alliance.
- It is as an international organisation for public-private partnership, WEP will serve as the secretariat and platform for the EDISON Alliance.
- Its prime goal is to ensure an unprecedented level of cross-sectoral collaboration between the technology industry and other critical sectors of the economy, according to the WEF.

10 a

### ***Corruption Perception Index (CPI)***

- Transparency International releases the Corruption Perception Index (CPI).
- The CPI scores 180 countries and territories only based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and businesspeople.
- It uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- Each data source used to construct the CPI must fulfil the following criteria to qualify as a valid source:
  1. Quantifies risks or perceptions of corruption in the public sector
  2. Is based on a reliable and valid methodology
  3. Comes from a reputable Organisation
  4. Allows for sufficient variation of scores to distinguish between countries
  5. Ranks a substantial number of countries
  6. Considers only the assessments of country experts or businesspeople
  7. Is regularly updated
- For a country or territory to be included in the CPI, a minimum of three sources must assess that country.

- India's rank has slipped to 86th in CPI 2020 as compared to 80th position out of 180 countries in 2019.

SHANKAR IAS ACADEMY