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Shankar IAS Academy™

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02-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **AYUSH Entrepreneurship Development program**

1. It aims to promote the AYUSH sector in the country under different Schemes of the Ministry of MSME.
2. It was jointly organized by the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Which of 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 **Chak-Hao**

1. It is a scented glutinous rice variety popularly known as Black Rice, cultivated widely in Manipur.
2. For the first time in India, the rice variety has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag jointly for the seven North-Eastern states of India including Manipur.

Which of 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 **MSME Bank of Ideas, Innovation and Research' portal**

1. The portal launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises gives access to all Schemes of Union, State and UT Governments.
2. The portal has unique features of not only crowd sourcing of Ideas, but also

evaluation and rating the ideas by crowd sourcing.

Which of 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) "**Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID), 2020**" was published recently by?

- a. Amnesty International
- b. Institute for Economics & Peace
- c. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- d. International Organization for Migration

5) "**Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai**", which was recently granted Geographical Indication (GI) Tag, belongs to which of the following states?

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

Answers

1. c

- Recently, **AYUSH Entrepreneurship Development programme** was jointly organized by the **Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.
- It aims to **promote the AYUSH sector in the country under different Schemes of the Ministry of MSME**.
- The two Ministries have drawn up an action plan for promoting AYUSH Sector.
- The Roadmap ahead for promotion include: need assessment & Identify AYUSH Clusters by field offices and roping them in Schemes of Ministry of MSME such as:



1. Zero Defect Zero Effect / Lean – Good Manufacturing Practice.
2. Procurement & Marketing Support Scheme – National/International Trade fair, Exhibition, GeM, Packaging, E-Marketing, Export.
3. ATI – Capacity Building & Skill Development.
4. ESDP, Incubation – Start-Up / Enterprise Development.
5. Cluster Development (SFURTI / CDP) – Technology Upgradation.
6. CLCS, PMEGP – Financial support
7. CART (Centre for Agro Rural Technology) Division – AYUSH in rural areas.
8. Technology Centres (Hub & Spoke) – AYUSH focused Technology support.
9. Testing Centres – Quality Improvement / Standardization.
- Major AYUSH clusters include: Ahmedabad, Hubli, Thrissur, Solan, Indore, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kannur, Karnal, Kolkata and Nagpur.

2. a

Manipur Black rice Chak-Hao gets GI tag

- Incredible India Chak-Hao, scented glutinous rice popularly known as Black Rice which is cultivated in Manipur since centuries and popular to people apart from the State has got GI (Geographical Indications) registration after almost a yearlong battle for registration competing with other States of India.

GI Tag

- GI status is an indication that identifies goods as produced from a particular area, which has special quality or reputation attributable to its geographical origin and GI branded goods possess a recall value amongst consumers.
- Also GIs are covered as an element of IPRs under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property.
- **Geographical Indications Registry of Ministry of Commerce and Industries** will grant the GI tag for a product.

3. c

- Ministry of MSME has recently launched the **Bank of Schemes, Ideas, Innovation and Research portal** on MSMEs.
- The Portal gives access to all Schemes of Union, State and UT Governments.
- It has the provision for uploading Ideas, Innovations & Researches in the sector.
- The portal has unique features of not only crowd sourcing of Ideas, but also evaluation and rating the ideas by crowd sourcing.
- It can also facilitate inflow of venture capital, foreign collaboration etc.
- The portal has the facility to indicate the stage of Idea (Concept, Prototype or Commercialized) to make more user friendly.
- The portal will benefit the potential entrepreneurs as one stop compendium of Ideas, innovation and research ready for commercialization.
- The Rating of Ideas can be seen publicly which will help in decision making.
- Venture capitalists can interact with Person and MSME having Idea or innovation.
- Similarly options are available for adding Banks, Government Labs, Incubators, Accelerators, Foreign collaboration in future.

4. c

- Nearly five million people were displaced in India in 2019 – the highest in the world so far – according to a recent report from the **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)**, titled **'The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2020)'**.
- The centre is a part of the Norwegian Refugee Council. Globally, around 33.4 million people faced new internal displacements because of conflicts and disasters in about 145 countries in 2019.
- The displacements in India were prompted by increased hazard intensity, high population and social and economic vulnerability, the report stated.



5. c

- The famous **Kovilpatti kadalai mittai** has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is manufactured in Kovilpatti and adjacent towns and villages in Thoothukudi district, **Tamil Nadu**.
- Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is a candy made of peanuts held together with glistening syrup, and topped with wisps of grated coconut dyed pink, green and yellow.
- Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is produced by using both groundnuts and jaggery (organic jaggery), in carefully selected quantities from selected specific locations in Tamil Nadu.
- The groundnuts are grown in the native black soil in and around Kovilpatti.
- After sourcing, the groundnuts are shelled and roasted, this gives it an unique traditional flavour.
- In Kovilpatti, it is sold as single rectangular chunks, or rather cuboids, sealed in packets.
- This product has a long shelf life and has a huge export potential.
- The tag will now help this brand reach an international audience.

04-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Kisan Sabha App**

1. It aims to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management system.
2. It was developed by CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Maharashtra.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements

1. It is located in the Aravalli Hills and is the first tiger reserve to have successfully relocated Royal Bengal tigers in India.
2. It is known for populations of tigers, leopards, Nilgai, Sambar, chital etc. and shelters a large population of Indian peafowl, crested serpent eagles.
3. The Reserve is strewn with ruins of ancient temples dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries including the ruins of the Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples.

Identify the Reserve that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Sariska Tiger Reserve
- b. Satkosia Tiger Reserve
- c. Amrabad Tiger Reserve
- d. Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

3) Consider the following statements

1. He was one of the earliest and most significant modernists of twentieth century Indian art.
2. He was trained in the British academic style of painting in the early decades of the twentieth century and became well-known as a skilful portraitist.
3. From the end 1920s, He rejected the European oil medium and began to use the traditional pigments from vegetable and mineral sources.

Identify the character who correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Jamini Roy
- b. Nandalal Bose
- c. Amrita Sher-Gil
- d. Abanindranath Tagore



4) Consider the following statements with respect to *State Legislative Councils*

1. Like the Rajya Sabha, the State Legislative Council is also a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution.
2. When an ordinary bill, which has originated in the council and was sent to the assembly, is rejected by the assembly, the bill ends and becomes dead.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)*

1. It organizes theoretical and theme based academic programmes on Indian art and culture for teachers and students.
2. It is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture.
3. It also implements the Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme, aimed at promotion of social values and community engagement amongst the youth of the Country.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- In present situation of COVID 19, farmers are looking for help in their harvest reaching the market, seed/ fertilizer procurement, etc.
- **Kisan Sabha App** was developed by **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi**.
- **It aims to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management system was remotely launched recently.**
- This portal acts as a one stop solution for farmers, transporters and other entities engaged in the agriculture Industry and offered that ICAR can work together with CSIR and use the Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVK) networks for implementation.

2. a

Sariska Tiger Reserve

- It is located in the Aravalli Hills, 35 km from Alwar, 250 km SW of Delhi and 110 km NE of Jaipur.
- The former hunting reserve of the Maharaja of Alwar, the Sariska valley is home to a variety of flora and fauna.
- The park has populations of tigers, leopards, Nilgai, Sambar, chital etc.
- The place is a paradise for bird lovers as it shelters a large population of Indian peafowl, crested serpent eagles, sand grouse, golden backed woodpeckers, great Indian horned owls, tree pies, vultures and many others.
- The sanctuary is strewn with ruins of ancient temples dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries.
- Some of the highlights are the ruins of the Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples.

3. a

Jamini Roy

- He was one of the earliest and most significant modernists of twentieth century Indian art.

- His works collectively speak of the nature of his modernism and the prominent role he played in breaking away from the art practices of his time.

British style of Painting

- Trained in the British academic style of painting in the early decades of the twentieth century, Jamini Roy became well-known as a skilful portraitist.
- He received regular commissions after he graduated from the Government Art School in what is now Kolkata, in 1916.
- The first three decades of the twentieth century saw a sea-change in cultural expressions in Bengal.
- The growing surge of the nationalist movement was prompting all kinds of experiments in literature and the visual arts.
- The Bengal School, founded by Abanindranath Tagore and Kala Bhavana in Santiniketan under Nandalal Bose rejected European naturalism and the use of oil as a medium and were exploring new ways of representation.
- Jamini Roy, too, consciously rejected the style he had mastered during his academic training and from the early 1920s searched for forms that stirred the innermost recesses of his being.
- He sought inspiration from sources as diverse as East Asian calligraphy, terracotta temple friezes, objects from folk arts and crafts traditions and the like.
- From the end 1920s, Jamini Roy rejected the European oil medium and began to use the traditional pigments from vegetable and mineral sources. The imagery was often drawn from village life.
- Jamini Roy invested in the portrayal of peasants, artisans, followers of religious cults, village women and adivasis with immense dignity.
- He represented in his paintings what they held sacred with references from folk tales and narratives that permeated the rural consciousness.
- In this particular painting titled 'Woman' the artist has painted the figure of a woman

against a red background with thick, black contouring lines.

- The simplification of form suggests a sculptural quality, especially the structured drapery with an ornate border.

1924 Onwards

- From 1924 onwards, Jamini Roy experimented with a new idiom as he was looking for ways to simplify form.
- During this time his images for the most part became either monochromatic or the palette was limited to the use of one or two colours.
- He created contours of the form with fluid, calligraphic lines and during this phase, he painted seated female forms, mother and child figures, bauls, leaping deer, crawling infant.

4. c

5. b

- **National Gallery of Modern Art** is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Department of Culture, **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
- The foremost responsibility of the National Gallery of Modern Art is **to ensure quality and to set and maintain standards of excellence**.
- **Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)** organizes theoretical and theme based academic programmes on Indian art and culture for teachers and students.
- CCRT also implements the Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme, aimed at promotion of social values and community engagement amongst the youth of the Country.

05-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to the Empowered Group 6 (EG 6)

1. It is providing a unified platform for mobilising all the key stakeholders in synergising their sector specific efforts in COVID19 response
2. It has been set up under the Disaster Management Act and chaired by CEO of NITI Aayog.

Which of 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 *Sardar Patel National Unity Award*

- 1. It shall not be conferred posthumously except in very rare and highly deserving cases.
- 2. Not more than three Awards shall be given in a year.
- 3. Only individuals would be eligible to apply for this Award.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Global Press Freedom Index, 2020*

- 1. It was released by France based NGO Reporters without Borders.
- 2. Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka ranked above India in the index.

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

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

4) Consider the following pairs

- 1. Etalin Hydropower Project – Andhra Pradesh

2. Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary – Telangana

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

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

5) The Directive Principles of State Policy are directed towards which of the following?

- 1. Parliament of India
- 2. Municipalities
- 3. ONGC
- 4. District Boards

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answers

1. c

The Empowered Group 6 (EG 6)

- It is providing a unified platform for mobilising all the key stakeholders in synergising their sector specific efforts in COVID19 response with not only the State and district administration where the action lies but also at a **macro level by linking the UN agencies**, CSOs, NGOs, start-ups and the industry partners for a coordinated and effective response.
- The EG-6 is headed by the **CEO of NITI Aayog**.
- The EG 6 has shared with all stakeholders the Government's response so far- procurement of PPEs and ventilators, role of MEA, communication to CSs of all States, engagement with 92,000 CSOs, putting the stakeholders in touch with each other,



immediate solutions to the bottlenecks being faced by the private sector in coordinating response.

- Further, collaborations have been created by linking the specific issues raised by connecting the industry to other Empowered Groups dealing with procurement (EG 3), logistics (EG 5) and several other EGs.

Empowered Groups

- The government had recently constituted **11 empowered groups** under the **Disaster Management Act** to suggest measures to ramp up healthcare, put the economy back on track and reduce misery of people as quickly as possible post the 21-day lockdown imposed to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

2. b

Sardar Patel National Unity Award

Objective

- The Award seeks to recognize notable and inspiring contributions to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India.
- The award will be announced on the occasion of the National Unity Day, i.e. the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31st October.

About the award

- The Award shall consist of a medal and a citation. No monetary grant or cash award shall be attached to this Award.
- Not more than three Awards shall be given in a year.
- It shall not be conferred posthumously except in very rare and highly deserving cases.

Eligibility

- Any citizen of India without distinction of religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, age or occupation and any institution/organization shall be eligible for the Award.
- Only individuals/institutions/organizations would be eligible to apply for this Award.

3. c

- The Global Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking of countries compiled and published by Paris based **Reporters without**

Borders based upon the organization's own assessment of the countries' press freedom records in the previous year.

- It intends to reflect the degree of freedom that journalists, news organizations, and netizens have in each country, and the efforts made by authorities to respect this freedom.
- Reporters without Borders is careful to note that the index only deals with press freedom and does not measure the quality of journalism nor does it look at human rights violations in general.
- It also includes violations of the free flow of information on the Internet.
- A smaller score on the report corresponds to greater freedom of the press as reported by the organization.
- According to recent report findings India dropped two places on the global press freedom index ranking to **142nd place** in the list of 180 countries.
- **India's neighbors Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka are ranked higher in the list.**
- Norway is ranked first in the Index for the fourth year running and China at 177, is just three places above North Korea, which is at 180.

4. d

- **Etalin Hydropower Project** is a planned project in **Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley**.
- Yet to be cleared by the environment ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), the project will require the felling of over 250,000 trees.
- The project's foundation stone was laid by Manmohan Singh in 2008.
- **Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park** is a protected area located in the Western Ghats of South India, in Sanguem taluk of **Goa State**.

5. d

- The phrase 'Directive Principles of State Policy' denotes the ideals that the State should keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws.



- These are the constitutional instructions or recommendations to the State in legislative, executive and administrative matters.
- According to Article 36, the term 'State' in Part IV has the same meaning as in Part III dealing with Fundamental Rights.
- Article 12 has defined the term for the purposes of Part III.

According to it, the State includes the following:

1. Government and Parliament of India, that is, executive and legislative organs of the Union government.
 2. Government and legislature of states, that is, executive and legislative organs of state government.
 3. All local authorities, that is, **municipalities, panchayats, district boards**, improvement trusts, et
 4. All other authorities, that is, **statutory or non-statutory authorities** like LIC, ONGC, SAIL, etc.
- Thus, State has been defined in a wider sense so as to include all its agencies.
 - According to the Supreme Court, even a private body or an agency working as an instrument of the State falls within the meaning of the 'State' under Article 12.

06-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF) scheme*

1. It is a two-week window in which the RBI will lend money to banks at the repo rate for 90 days.
2. The funds that banks borrow under this window can be used only for meeting the liquidity needs of mutual funds.
3. Loans by banks to mutual funds under this facility would not be considered as part of their capital market exposure and adjusted non-bank food credit.

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

- a. 1 only

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

2) Operation Samudra Setu, sometimes seen in the news recently was launched recently by?

- a. Indian Navy
- b. Border Roads Organisation
- c. National Highways Authority of India
- d. None of the above

3) With respect to *GARUD portal*, which was launched recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a grievances redressal interactive platform that aims to bring a smooth flow in air travel after the end of COVID-19 lockdown.
2. The portal was designed, developed, and beta-tested jointly by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

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

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

4) Which of the following is true regarding *Happy Hypoxia*, sometimes seen in the news recently?

- a. It is a form of oxygen deprivation that is harder to detect than regular hypoxia
- b. Under the condition, patients will have oxygen levels below 80 or 70% and appear extremely ill
- c. At acutely low oxygen levels, there was a high risk of acute respiratory distress (ARDS) and organ failure
- d. None of the above

5) The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently gave emergency approval to use the drug Remdesivir for critical COVID-19 patients. Remdesivir was originally developed to treat for?

- Malaria
- Tuberculosis
- Haemophilus Influenza
- None of the above

Answers

1. d

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently announced a Rs.50,000-crore **Special Liquidity Facility For Mutual Funds** to calm investor sentiment in the aftermath of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund winding up six debt funds.

Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF) scheme

- It is a two-week window in which the RBI will lend money to banks at the repo rate for 90 days.
- The funds that banks borrow under this window can be used only for meeting the liquidity needs of mutual funds.
- This could be either through outright purchase of certain debt instruments held by them, or lending to them using their bonds as collateral.
- The debt instruments so acquired can only be investment-grade corporate bonds, commercial papers, debentures and certificate of deposit.
- The total amount that the RBI promised to lend through the SLF-MF is Rs.50,000 crore, but this is subject to change in the future.
- The RBI has allowed banks to categorise the money borrowed using this facility as part of their held-to-maturity portfolio.
- Loans by banks to mutual funds under this facility would also not be considered as part of their capital market exposure and adjusted non-bank food credit.

- The latter is used to calculate banks' achievement of priority lending targets.

Recent Developments

- The Reserve Bank of India has recently decided to **extend the** regulatory benefits announced under the Standing Liquidity **Facility**-Mutual Fund (SLF-MF) scheme **to all banks**, irrespective of whether they avail funding from it or deploy their own resources under this scheme.

2. a

- Indian Navy** has recently launched **Operation "Samudra Setu"** - meaning "Sea Bridge", as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
- Indian Naval Ships *Jalashwa* and *Magar* are presently enroute to the port of Male, **Republic of Maldives** to commence evacuation operations from 08 May 2020 as part of Phase-1.

3. d

Government Authorisation for Relief Using Drones (GARUD)

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have launched the GARUD portal.
- It **aims for providing fast track conditional exemptions to government agencies for COVID-19 related RPAS** (Remotely Piloted Aircraft System)/drone operations.
- In a short period of eight days after getting the go-ahead, the portal was **designed, developed, beta-tested, and launched** by **National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi**.

4. b

- Many medical practitioners have reported a condition called '**Silent**' or '**Happy**' **Hypoxia** during Covid-19 treatment, in which **patients have extremely low blood oxygen levels, yet do not show signs of breathlessness**.
- The condition has puzzled medical practitioners, and many are now advocating



for its early detection as a means to avoid a fatal illness called **Covid Pneumonia**.

Hypoxia

- Hypoxia is a condition wherein there is not enough oxygen available to the blood and body tissues.
- Hypoxia can either be generalised, affecting the whole body, or local, affecting a region of the body.
- Normal arterial oxygen is approximately 75 to 100 millimetres of mercury (mm Hg), and normal pulse oximeter readings usually range from **95 to 100 per cent. Values under 90 per cent are considered low.**
- **When levels fall below 90 per cent, patients could begin experiencing lethargy, confusion, or mental disruptions** because of insufficient quantities of oxygen reaching the brain.
- Levels below 80 per cent can result in damage to vital organs.

Covid pneumonia

- It is a serious medical condition found in severe Covid-19 patients preceded by 'silent hypoxia'.

Silent/Happy Hypoxia

- **It is a form of oxygen deprivation that is harder to detect than regular hypoxia.**
- In 'silent' or 'happy' hypoxia, patients appear to be less in distress.
- Many Covid-19 patients, **despite having oxygen levels below 80 per cent, look fairly at ease** and alert, according to multiple reports.
- In emergency wards, doctors have reported patients having oxygen levels below 80 or 70 per cent, in some cases even lower than 50 per cent.
- Those with such low levels of oxygen would ordinarily appear extremely ill, but not in silent hypoxia cases; patients have been reported sitting up in bed talking or operating mobile phones.

- In many cases, Covid-19 patients with silent hypoxia did not exhibit symptoms such as shortness of breath or coughing until their oxygen fell to **acutely low levels, at which point there was a risk of acute respiratory distress (ARDS) and organ failure.**

5. d

Remdesivir

- It was manufactured in 2014 to treat for **Ebola Virus Disease**, by US-based biotechnology firm Gilead Sciences.
- It has since been used to treat for MERS and SERS, both caused by members of the coronavirus family. This was, however, not with much success.

07-05-2020

1) Dekho Apna Desh, sometimes seen in the news recently is an initiative of which of the following ministries?

- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of External Affairs
- Ministry of Human Resources Development

2) With respect to the Northern part of the Western Ghats, consider the following statements:

- The northern part of the Western Ghats along with the Konkan region, is characterized as well precipitated and having an extended rainy season compared to its southern and central counter parts.**
- A notable geographical feature of the Northern Western Ghats is the presence of forests that display maximum endemic species unlike plateaus and cliffs which are not endemic.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

3) Exercise 'Vande Bharat Mission', often seen in the news recently is?

- a. A mission to double up the production of India's first semi-high speed train
b. A military exercise that aims to demonstrate the operating capability of Indian tri-services
c. A massive evacuation operation to bring back Indians stranded in different parts of the world due to the coronavirus pandemic
d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pulse Oximetry*, sometimes seen in the news recently

1. It is a test used to measure the oxygen level (oxygen saturation) in Red Blood Cells (RBCs).
2. The pulse oximeter can be attached to a person's fingers, toes, nose, feet and also ears.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements

1. He was popularly known as 'Gurudev'.
2. Between 1928 and 1940, he painted more than 2000 images.
3. He was the founder of a unique educational institution - Visva- Bharati.

Identify the character who correctly matches with the above description

- a. Jatin Das
b. Narayana Guru
c. Rabindranath Tagore

- d. None of the above

Answers

1. b

DekhoApnaDesh

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Tourism**
- This initiative of the Ministry of Tourism is in line with the appeal of the Honorable Prime Minister made from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August 2019 in his speech asking every citizen to visit at least 15 destinations by the year 2022, to promote domestic tourism in India which is intended to enhance tourist footfalls in places of tourist interest so as to help develop the local economy.
- During the lockdown period, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India as part of its ongoing engagement with industry and its audiences is organising webinars on the overall theme of 'DekhoApnaDesh'.
- The objective of this webinar series is to create awareness about and promote various tourism destinations of India – including the lesser known destinations and lesser known facets of popular destinations.

2. d

- *Scientists at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology have come up with plant data of the Northern Western Ghats which indicates that plateaus, in addition to the forests, should be prioritized for conservation of the Northern Western Ghats.*
- It is the **plateaus and the cliffs that harbour most of the endemic species**, thus increasing their importance in conservation plans.

Western Ghats

- The Western Ghats of India is one of the global biodiversity hotspots owing to the endemism that is sheltered by a chain of mountains.
- The northern part of this biodiversity hotspot, along with the Konkan region, is considerably different from its southern and central



counterparts on account of **lesser precipitation and extended dry season**.

- A notable geographical feature of the Northern Western Ghats is the presence of plateaus and cliffs that display maximum endemic species, unlike forests.
- Forests of the Northern Western Ghats harbour many species which are not endemic.

3. c

- In an effort to bring back its stranded citizens abroad due to the spread of the novel coronavirus and the resulting lockdown thereof, India has rolled out massive evacuation plans called '**Vande Bharat Mission**' and '**Samudra Setu**' – perhaps one of the largest evacuation drills since the Kuwait airlift in 1990, will take place from May 7 to May 13, 2020.
- 'Vande Bharat Mission' will see 64 flights being operated from May 7 to May 13 to bring back around 15,000 Indian nationals stranded abroad. Approximately, 2,000 people from abroad will fly back to India daily.

4. c

- It is said that a medical device called **Pulse Oximeter** – used to detect oxygen level in the blood – could help in the early detection of **Silent Hypoxia**.
- Using the device, those who have Covid-19 or those suspected of having it, can check their oxygen levels early on.

Pulse Oximetry

- It is a test used to measure the oxygen level (oxygen saturation) of the blood.
- It is an easy, painless measure of how well oxygen is being sent to parts of your body furthest from your heart, such as the arms and legs.
- The device is generally used to check the health of patients who have known conditions that affect blood oxygen levels, such as heart and lung conditions, and for those who show symptoms such as shortness of breath.
- The device measures the saturation of oxygen in red blood cells, and can be attached to a person's fingers, toes, nose, feet, ears, or

forehead. It can be reused or disposed of after use.

- Based on the information from the blood oximeter, a healthcare provider can take a decision about whether a person needs extra oxygen.



5. c

- **Rabindranath Tagore** (1861-1941), popularly known as '**Gurudev**', was born in an affluent Family.
- The maestro was fascinated by the worlds of literature, art, music and dance at an early age.
- In 1913, he became the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel 'Geetanjali'.
- He also wrote the National Anthems of India and Bangladesh.
- He left his imprint on art and played a role in transforming its practices and ushering into modernism.
- Rabindranath Tagore was primarily known as a writer, poet, playwright, philosopher and aesthetician, music composer and choreographer, **founder of a unique educational institution - Visva-Bharati** and a painter.
- **Tagore's emergence as a painter began in 1928 when he was 67 years old.**
- For him, it was as an extension to his poetic consciousness. Beginning with scratching and erasures on the pages of his manuscripts during the mid-20s of the 20th Century, he slowly moved to portraying independent images.



- Between 1928 and 1940, Rabindranath painted more than 2000 images.
- He never gave any title to his paintings. Fed by memories and the subconscious, Rabindranath's art was spontaneous and dramatic.
- His images did not represent the phenomenal world but an interior reality.
- His work of art were first exhibited in Paris in 1930 and then across Europe and America. Henceforth they gained international recognition.

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

08-05-2020

1) With respect to *Styrene gas*, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is an organic compound with the formula C_8H_8 and is a derivative of benzene (C_6H_6).
2. It is stored in factories as a liquid and it evaporates easily.
3. Exposure to styrene gas will affect the Central Nervous System.

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

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

2) With respect to *Darbar Move* in Jammu and Kashmir, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual event, introduced by the Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872.
2. During the Darbar Move, civil secretariat would be shifted in summers from Srinagar to Jammu and in winters from Jammu to Srinagar.

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

- a. 1 only

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *African Swine Fever*

1. It is a severe viral disease that affects wild and domestic pigs typically resulting in an acute haemorrhagic fever.
2. It is not a threat to human beings since it only spreads from animals to other animals.
3. At present, there is no approved vaccine for this disease.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *AYUSH Sanjivani App*

1. It will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19.
2. It is developed by Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Which of 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) *Rial, Toman*, sometimes seen in the news recently are currencies associated with which of the following countries?



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

Answers

1. d

- The gas that leaked from a chemical factory in Visakhapatnam recently is called **Styrene**.

Styrene

- Styrene is an organic compound with the formula C_8H_8 .
- It is a **derivative of benzene (C_6H_6)**.
- It is stored in factories as a liquid, **but evaporates easily**, and has to be kept at temperatures under $20^\circ C$.

Application of Styrene

- Styrene is the main raw material for synthesis of polystyrene, or $(C_8H_8)_n$.
- Polystyrene, in turn, is a versatile plastic that is used to make parts of various appliances such as refrigerators or micro-ovens; automotive parts; and parts of electronics such as computers; and also to manufacture disposable cups and in food packaging.
- Styrene is also used as an intermediate to produce copolymers — which are polymers derived from one or more species of monomers such as styrene.

Impacts of exposure

- Exposure to styrene gas affects the central nervous system.
- Breathlessness, respiratory problems, irritation in eyes, indigestion, nausea, transient loss of consciousness, unsteady gait, giddiness are caused by exposure to it.
- It is the mucous membrane that is mainly affected by exposure to styrene gas.
- Experts say that if people are exposed to the gas for a long period, there is a chance of their developing leukaemia and headaches.

- Studies on the effects on health due to occupational exposure to styrene have, however, been inconclusive.

2. a

- **First time in 144 years**, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has decided to **halt the annual shifting of capital, called 'Darbar Move'**, from Jammu to Srinagar due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Darbar Move

- It was introduced by **Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872**.
- The Darbar Move would see shifting of the Civil Secretariat **in summers from Jammu to Srinagar and in winters from Srinagar to Jammu**.
- In January 1987, the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had asked the then Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah to stop the practice.
- However, the Darbar Move was continued to allow it to act as a bridge between two diverse cultures of the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region.

3. d

African Swine Flu (ASF)

- ASF is a highly contagious and fatal animal disease that infects domestic and wild pigs, typically resulting in an acute form of hemorrhagic fever.
- It was first detected in Africa in the 1920s.
- The mortality is close to 100 per cent, and since the fever has no cure, the only way to stop it spreading is by culling the animals.
- ASF is not a threat to human beings since it only spreads from animals to other animals.
- According to the FAO, its extremely high potential for transboundary spread has placed all the countries in the region in danger and has raised the spectre of ASF once more escaping from Africa.
- It is a disease of growing strategic importance for global food security and household income.
- Around 2,800 pigs have died in Assam since February due to African Swine Fever virus, making the state the epicenter of ASF in India.

4. c

- Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has recently launched the 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation.

AYUSH Sanjivani App

- The app will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19.
- It is developed by **Ministry of AYUSH and MEITY** and shall reach out to a target of 50 lakh people."

5. a

- Iran's parliament has recently passed a bill allowing the government to slash four zeros from the rial after a sharp fall in the value of the currency as a result of crippling U.S. sanctions.
- **Iran's national currency** will be changed from **the Rial to the Toman**, which is equal to 10,000 rials, under the bill.
- The bill to remove four zeros from the national currency was approved by lawmakers and the bill needs to be approved by the clerical body that vets legislation before it takes effect.

Background

- The idea of removing four zeros has been floated since 2008, but gained strength after 2018, when U.S. President Donald Trump exited Iran's 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions, as the rial lost more than 60% of its value.
- Iran's weak currency and high inflation have led to sporadic street protests since late 2017.

09-05-2020

1) The "Principle of Absolute Liability", sometimes seen in the news recently is a part of which of the following?

- Article 13
- Article 19
- Article 21
- Article 32

2) With respect to the "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project" sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. The project will be implemented by the National Health Mission (NHM), the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
2. The project will be jointly finance by the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with contribution of \$1 billion and \$500 million respectively.

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 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit

1. India is one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which was established in 1961 with 29 members.
2. Non-Aligned Movement Summit is the main meeting and are held every two years.
3. India had not participated in the last two summits held in 2017 and 2019.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Project CARD (Consortium for Affordable & Rapid Diagnostics)



1. The project uses Artificial Intelligence to trawl through data and identify existing drugs and food molecules that could benefit those with the infectious disease.
2. The project was launched jointly by the NITI Aayog and the Department of Biotechnology.

Which of 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 *Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme*

1. It has been designed for improving the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in India.
2. All Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs) offer the scheme.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- The **National Green Tribunal's** order in the Visakhapatnam gas tragedy has found LG Polymers prima facie liable under the 19th century English law **Principle of "Strict Liability"** and directed the company to deposit an initial amount of Rs. 50 crore and formed a fact-finding committee.

- But, the Principle of Strict Liability was made redundant in India by the Supreme Court in 1986.
- Lawyers say the term "**Absolute Liability**" should have been used instead.

The Principle of Strict Liability

- Under the "Strict Liability Principle", a party is not liable and need not pay compensation if a hazardous substance escapes his premises by accident or by an "act of God" among other circumstances.

The Principle of Absolute Liability

- In 1986, the Supreme Court, while deciding the **Oleum gas leak case** of Delhi, found strict liability woefully inadequate to protect citizens' rights in an industrialised economy like India and **replaced it with the 'Absolute Liability Principle'**.
- The court said a hazardous enterprise has an "absolute non-delegable duty to the community" to ensure that no harm results to anyone on account of hazardous or inherently dangerous nature of the activity which it has undertaken and therefore, **such corporations would be subjected to the limitations of right to life under Article 21 of the Indian constitution.**
- The **principle of absolute liability is a part of Article 21 (right to life).**

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

- The country was then reeling under the shock of the **1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.**
- The court under then Chief Justice P.N. Bhagwati stated that "If any harm results on account of such activity, the enterprise must be absolutely liable to compensate for such harm irrespective of the fact that the enterprise had taken all reasonable care and that the harm occurred without any negligence on its part.
- So, under the absolute liability principle, the apex court held that **a company in a hazardous industry cannot claim any exemption.**
- It has to mandatorily pay compensation, whether or not the disaster was caused by its negligence.

Strict Liability Vs Absolute Liability

- The court found that strict liability, evolved in an 1868 English case called **Rylands versus Fletcher**, provided companies with several exemptions from assuming liability.
- Absolute liability, on the other hand, provided them with no defence or exemptions.

2. c

- *The Union government and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) had recently signed a \$500 million "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project" to help India to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.*
- This is the first ever health sector support from the Bank to India.

COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project

- It aims to address the needs of infected people, at-risk populations, medical and emergency personnel and service providers, medical and testing facilities, and national and animal health agencies.
- It will be jointly finance by the World Bank and AIIB with contribution of \$1 billion and \$500 million respectively.
- The project which will be implemented by the National Health Mission (NHM), the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- The project will cover all states and union territories across India.
- World Bank has already approved \$1 billion funding for the project recently.
- The Asian Development Bank also recently approved \$1.5 billion loan for India to support the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

3. a

- *PM Modi has for the first time addressed the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit since assuming office in 2014.*

- *He skipped the last two NAM summits held in 2016 and 2019.*

Non Alignment Movement (NAM)

- India is one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which was established in 1961 with 29 members.
- The conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, often referred to as Non-Aligned Movement Summit is the main meeting within the movement and are held every few years. (**No specific time interval between two summits**)
- India had participated in both the summits held in 2017 and 2019 with delegations headed by the Vice-President Mr. Hamid Ansari and Venkaiah Naidu.

4. b

Project CARD (Consortium for Affordable & Rapid Diagnostics)

- It was launched jointly by the NITI Aayog and the Department of Biotechnology.
- It aims to scale up India's capacity to make coronavirus testing kits.
- The move comes after India faced quality issues with Chinese-made antibody testing kits, which are used for disease surveillance and to find out how many people have developed immunity to a disease.
- Project CARD's first goal is to roll out at least 10 million rapid antibody tests for Covid-19 by July.
- Additionally, capacity will be expanded to make reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and other paper-based tests for Covid-19 in the country.

5. c

- *Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has recently announced that, to boost research in the country various amendments have been carried out in Prime Minister's Research Fellowship Scheme.*
- After the amendments, now for the students from any recognised institute/ university (other than IISc/ IITs/NITs/IISERs/IIEST/CF



IIITs), the requirement of GATE Score is reduced to 650 from 750 apart from minimum CGPA of 8 or equivalent.

- It is also informed that now there will be two channels of entries, one direct entry and lateral entry.
- It is also highlighted that NITs, which appear in top 25 institutions as per NIRF Ranking (overall) can also become PMRF Granting institution.

The Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme

- It has been designed for improving the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country.
- With attractive fellowships, the scheme seeks to attract the best talent into research thereby realizing the vision of development through innovation.
- The scheme was announced in the Budget 2018-19.
- The institutes which can offer PMRF include **all the IITs, all the IISERs**, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and some of the top Central Universities/NITs that offer science and/or technology degrees.

11-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pratap Singh I*

1. He was the 13th king of Mewar, Rajasthan, popularly known as Maharana Pratap.
2. He ascended to the throne in 1572, with the help of Mughal Emperor Akbar.
3. He fought with Jahangir in the famous Battle of Haldighati in 1610.

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

2) Consider the following statements

1. He toured the whole India, mobilising public opinion in support of the Indians in South Africa.
2. He presided over the Benaras session of the Indian National Congress in 1905.
3. He was a part of Sudharak, a periodical which spoke against untouchability and the caste system.
4. He also proposed the Lightning conductor Theory.

Identify the personality, who correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Lala Lajpat Rai
- b. Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- c. Rajani Palme Dutt
- d. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar

3) River Nila, sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following states?

- a. Goa
- b. Kerala
- c. Jharkhand
- d. Himachal Pradesh

4) Consider the following pairs

1. Nathu La – Sikkim
2. Jelep La – Arunachal Pradesh
3. Lipulekh Pass – Himachal Pradesh

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

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

5) DB Shekatkar Committee sometimes seen in the news recently was constituted for which of the following purposes?



- a. To review the implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord
- b. To enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces
- c. To review levies, including Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC), and promote ease of doing business
- d. To review the regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework of Core Investment Companies (CIC)

Answers

1. a

- **Maharana Pratap Jayanti** is observed on May 9 every year to celebrate the birth of the 13th Rajput king of Mewar, Rajasthan - **Pratap Singh I**.

Pratap Singh I

- Pratap Singh I, who was popularly known as Maharana Pratap, was born to King Uday Singh II and Queen Jaiwanta Bai.
- In 1572, he ascended to the throne after the demise of his father.

Battle of Haldighati

- Soon after his coronation, Mughal emperor Akbar came to Mewar to establish a safe route to Gujarat through Rajasthan.
- Akbar offered him a chance to become a vassal but Maharana Pratap refused to surrender to him.
- The disagreement between the two rulers led to the famous **Battle of Haldighati**.
- Maharana Pratap's army was outnumbered and after a gruelling fight in a narrow mountain pass, the Mughals won the battle.
- Despite the victory, the Mughals failed to capture Maharana Pratap or any other member of the royal family, and it remained a fruitless battle for the Muslim king.
- Maharana Pratap went on to reclaim his lost territories later in life and was succeeded by his eldest son Amar Singh I.

2. b

Lightning Conductory Theory – G.K.Gokhale

- The theory states that, If A.O.Hume and other English liberals hoped to use Congress as a Safety Valve, the Congress leaders hoped to use Hume as a Lightning Conductor.

Sudharak

- Gopal Ganesh Agarkar (1856-1895) was an educationist and social reformer from Maharashtra.
- He was also the first editor of *Kesari*, the journal started by Lokmanya Tilak.
- Later, he started his own periodical, *Sudharak*, which spoke against untouchability and the caste system.

3. b

- Ministry of Tourism has released the 17th session of *Dekho Apna Desh* webinar recently, titled ‘**Exploring River Nila**’.

River Nila

- The Bharathappuzha (Indian River), also known as Nila, & the Nile of Kerala.
- It is the second-longest river in Kerala, after the Periyar River.
- It originates in the Aaainimalai hills.

4. a

- Union Ministry of Defence has recently inaugurated the Link Road to Kailash Mansarovar recently.
- The link road connects Dharchula to Lipulekh, China Border which is known as Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route.

Mount Kailash

- It is a 6,638 m (21,778 ft) high peak in the Kailash Range, which forms part of the Trans Himalaya in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
- The mountain is located near Lake Manasarovar and Lake Rakshastal.

Routes for Yatra

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is undertaken by two routes:

1. **Lipulekh Pass** in **Uttarakhand** – This route passes through a very mountainous area.

2. **Nathu La** in **Sikkim**– This route opened a few years ago in Sikkim is fully motorable.

5. b

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has recently approved the abolition of 9,304 posts in the Military Engineering Service.
- An official statement said that there was a proposal of Engineer-in-Chief of Military Engineering Services (MES) for optimisation of more than 9,300 posts in the basic and industrial workforce.
- It is in line with the recommendations of the **DB Shekatkar Committee**.
- The Committee of Experts (CoE) constituted by the Ministry of Defence under the chairmanship of **Lt. Gen (Retd) DB Shekatkar** was mandated to recommend measures **to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure** of the armed forces.
- It submitted its report in December 2016.

12-05-2020

1) “**SwasthVayu**”, often seen in the news recently, is a **BiPAP Non-Invasive ventilator** developed by?

- CSIR-National Physical Laboratory
- CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories
- CSIR-Centre for Cellular Molecular Biology
- CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation

2) With respect to **Mission Sagar**, which was launched recently, consider the following statements:

- The mission aims at providing food items, Ayurvedic medicines related to COVID-19, HCQ tablets to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros.
- The operation is being conducted under close cooperation of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs.

3. It is inspired by India’s Visionary programme **Sagar Mala** of Ministry of Shipping.

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

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

3) Which of the following is **not true** regarding the **Moon**?

- A blue moon is the second full moon to occur in a month
- A black moon is the second new moon in a single month
- A blood moon happens during a total lunar eclipse when the earth passes in between the sun and the moon
- None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to **Gandhi Peace Prize**

- There shall be one Award each year and it shall carry an amount of Rupees One Crore and a Citation.
- Personal applications for the Award shall not be considered.
- Only recent work achieved within ten years immediately preceding the nomination shall be considered for the Award.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to **COVID Kavach Elisa**

1. It is India's first indigenous antibody-based ELISA test kit.
2. It was developed by the National Institute of Virology, Pune.

Which of 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

- **CSIR–National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore**, a constituent of lab of CSIR has developed a Non Invasive BiPAP Ventilator, “**Swasth Vayu**” in a record time of 36 days to treat COVID-19 patients.
- BiPAP Non-Invasive ventilator is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with a built-in biocompatible “3D printed manifold & coupler” with HEPA filter (Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter).
- These unique features help to alleviate the fear of the virus spread.
- The major advantage of this machine is that it is simple to use without any specialized nursing, cost effective, compact and configured with majority of indigenous components.
- This is ideal for treating COVID -19 patients in Wards, Make shift Hospitals, dispensaries and home in current Indian COVID 19 scenario.

2. b

Mission SAGAR

- India has recently launched “**Mission Sagar**” recently as part of the government's outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) in a statement said, Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed

for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams embarked.

- The operation is being progressed in close coordination with the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs, and other agencies of the Government of India.
- The deployment is in consonance with the Prime Ministers' vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region ‘SAGAR’ promulgated in March 2015.
- SAGAR highlights the importance accorded by India to relations with her neighbouring countries and further strengthens the existing bond.

3. d

- **Flower Moon** – The full moon of the month of May is known as the Flower Moon. At this time of the year, in most areas, flowers are abundant everywhere. It is also known as Full Corn Planting Moon as well as the Milk Moon.
- **Pink Moon** – The Full Moon in the April month is called the Pink Moon.
- **Blood Moon** – It happens during a total lunar eclipse when the earth passes in between the sun and the moon which blocks the sun's light from falling directly onto the moon
- **Blue Moon** – It is the second full moon to occur in a month and sometimes, it is the third full moon in a season.
- **Black Moon** – It is the second new moon in a single month

4. d

5. c

- The National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune has recently developed and validated the indigenous IgG Elisa test “COVID Kavach Elisa” for antibody detection for COVID-19.
- The kit has displayed high sensitivity and accuracy in the validation tests at different sites. It can test around 90 samples in approximately two and half hours.

13-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *CHAMPIONS Portal*

1. The portal aimed at assisting Indian MSMEs march into big league as National and Global CHAMPIONS.
2. The portal was launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Which of 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 *Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)*

1. It has been established by comprising all the Pharma CPSUs under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
2. It is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

Which of 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) The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the year 2020 as?

- a. The Year for Disabled Persons
- b. The Year of Family and Social Welfare
- c. The Year of the Nurse and the Midwife
- d. The Year for Health and Medical Research

4) With respect to *Global Nutrition Report*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual report released by Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).
2. The report was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013.

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

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

5) Recently, Hyderabad based, Research Centre Imarat (RCI) has developed an automated contactless UVC sanitisation cabinet, DRUVS and an automated UVC currency sanitising device, called NOTESCLEAN. Research Centre Imarat (RCI) is a premier laboratory of which of the following?

- a. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- b. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- c. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- d. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Answers

1. c

- *Union Ministry of MSME* has recently launched the *CHAMPIONS Portal*.

CHAMPIONS Portal

- The *CHAMPIONS (Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength)* is a Technology driven Control Room-Cum-Management Information System.
- The system utilising modern ICT tools is aimed at *assisting Indian MSMEs march into big league as National and Global CHAMPIONS*.
- The portal is basically for making the smaller units big by solving their grievances,

encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding.

- It is a real one-stop-shop solution of MSME Ministry.
- It is also fully integrated on real time basis with GOI's main grievances portal CPGRAMS and MSME Ministry's own other web based mechanisms.

Hub & Spoke Model

- As part of the system a network of control rooms is created in a Hub & Spoke Model.
- The Hub is situated in New Delhi in the Secretary MSME's office. The spokes will be in the States in various offices and institutions of Ministry.

2. c

- *To support government in its fight against COVID-19, Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) has recently contributed Rs. 25 Lakh to PMCARES fund.*

Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)

- BPPI is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- It was established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- It has been registered as an independent society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a separate independent legal entity.

3. c

- The World Health Assembly, a forum through which the World Health Organization is governed, has designated 2020 the **International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife**.
- Nurses and midwives play a vital role in providing health services.
- These are the people who devote their lives to caring for mothers and children; giving lifesaving immunizations and health advice; looking after older people and generally meeting everyday essential health needs.
- The world needs 9 million more nurses and midwives if it is to achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

4. b

- *India is among 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025, according to the **Global Nutrition Report 2020** released recently.*

Global Nutrition Report

- It is the world's leading independent assessment of the state of global nutrition.
- It is data-led and **produced independently each year** to cast a light on where progress has been made and identify where challenges remain.
- The report aims to inspire governments, civil society and private stakeholders to act to end malnutrition in all its forms.
- The Global Nutrition Report was conceived following the first **Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G)** in 2013 as a mechanism for tracking the commitments made by 100 stakeholders spanning governments, aid donors, civil society, the UN and businesses.
- The following year, the first of these annual reports was published.
- The Global Nutrition Report is a **multi-stakeholder initiative**, consisting of a Stakeholder Group, Independent Expert Group and Report Secretariat.

Global Nutrition Report 2020

- In 2012, the World Health Assembly identified six nutrition targets for maternal, infant and young child nutrition to be met by 2025.
- These require governments to reduce stunting by 40% in children under five and prevalence of anaemia by 50% among women in the age group of 19-49, ensure 30% reduction in low-birth weight and no increase in childhood overweight, increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months up to at least 50% and reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.
- According to the Global Nutrition Report 2020, India will miss targets for all four nutritional indicators for which there is data available — stunting among under-five children, anaemia among women of

reproductive age, childhood overweight and exclusive breastfeeding.

- It also identified the country as one with the highest rates of domestic inequalities in malnutrition.

5. d

- Hyderabad based **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) premier lab, Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, has developed an automated contactless UVC sanitisation cabinet, called **Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS)**.

DRUVS

- It has been designed to sanitise mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, cheque leaves, challans, passbooks, paper, envelopes, etc.

NOTESCLEAN

- The RCI has also developed an automated UVC currency sanitising device, called NOTESCLEAN.
- Bundles of currency notes can be sanitised using DRUVS, however disinfection of each currency notes using it will be a time consuming process.
- For that purpose, a sanitising technique has been developed, where one has to just place the loose currency notes at the input slot of the device. It picks the notes one by one and makes them pass through a series of UVC lamps for complete disinfection.

14-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements

1. Madhya Pradesh has the worst infant mortality rate in India while Nagaland has the best.
2. Chhattisgarh has the highest death rate, while Delhi has the lowest.
3. Bihar remains at the top of list in birth rate while Andaman and Nicobar is at the bottom.

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) Article 142 of the Indian Constitution, often seen in the news recently, dealt with which of the following?

- a. Seat of Supreme Court
- b. Ancillary powers of Supreme Court
- c. Special leave to appeal by the Supreme Court
- d. Enforcement of decrees and orders of Supreme Court

3) Mastcam-Z, often seen in the news recently, is?

- a. A camera device used to identify the corona patients in a crowd using thermal imaging technology
- b. A State of the art indigenous drone technology used by India to supply medicines to the needy
- c. A mast-mounted camera system that is equipped with a zoom function on the Perseverance rover
- d. None of the above

4) Consider the following with respect to Sohrai Khovar Painting

1. It is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women in the area of Mahbubnagar district of Telangana.
2. The paintings were practised during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area.

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

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

5) **Telia Rumal cloth, which was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently by the Geographical Indications Registry belongs to which of the following states?**

- a. Odisha
- b. Telangana
- c. Jharkhand
- d. West Bengal

Answers

1. d

- *Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin was released recently by the Registrar General of India.*

According to the bulletin based on data collected **for 2018**:

- Against the National Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 32, Madhya Pradesh has an IMR of 48 and Nagaland 4.
- Chhattisgarh has the highest death rate at 8 and Delhi, an almost entirely urban state, has a rate of 3.3, indicating better healthcare facilities.
- Bihar has the highest birth rate at 26.2 and Andaman and Nicobar Islands has a birth rate of 11.2.
- The National Birth rate in 2018 stood at 20, and Death and Infant Mortality rates stood at 6.2 and 32, respectively.
- The rates are calculated per one thousand of the population.

Sample Registration System (SRS)

- The SRS is a demographic survey for providing reliable annual estimates of infant mortality rate, birth rate, death rate and other fertility and mortality indicators at the national and sub-national levels.
- Initiated on a pilot basis by the Registrar General of India in a few states in 1964-65, it became fully operational during 1969-70.
- The field investigation consists of continuous enumeration of births and deaths in selected

sample units by resident part-time enumerators, generally anganwadi workers and teachers; and an independent retrospective survey every six months by SRS supervisors.

- The data obtained by these two independent functionaries are matched.

2. d

- *Recently, the Supreme Court has stated that, 'Sabarimala case review Bench had the power to frame questions on religious freedom'.*

Background

- In 2019, a five-judge Bench led by then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi did not complete its assigned task of reviewing the apex court's original Sabarimala judgment of 2018, which allowed women of every age to enter and worship at the temple.
- Instead, it had framed "larger issues" concerning essential religious practices of various religions and clubbed other pending cases on subjects as varied as female genital mutilation among Dawoodi Bohras to entry of Parsi women who married inter-faith into the fire temple and Muslim women into mosques and referred them all to a larger Bench.
- Chief Justice Bobde, who succeeded Justice Gogoi as top judge, set up a nine-judge Bench to hear the reference.
- In February 2020, it decided to go ahead and examine "larger issues" of religious freedom across multiple faiths in connection with the Sabarimala review.

Recent Developments

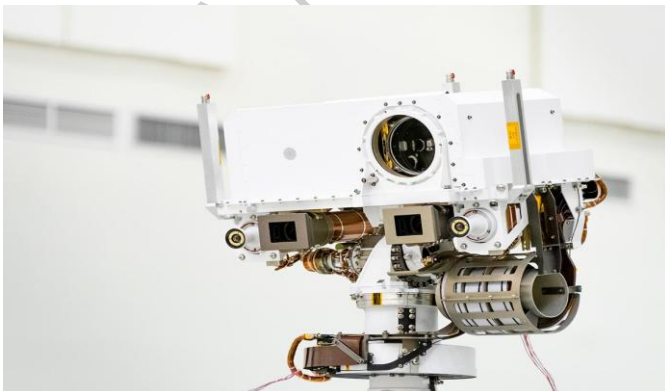
- A nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has recently declared that **superior courts enjoy untrammelled power to take up any cause to do complete justice.**
- Being a superior court of record, it is for this court to consider whether any matter falls within its jurisdiction or not.
- Unlike a court of limited jurisdiction, the superior court of record is entitled to determine for itself questions about its own jurisdiction.
- The nine member bench also invoked Article 142 of the Constitution.

Article 142

- **Article 142 of the Constitution allows the Supreme Court to pass any order necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.**
- This is not the first time that the Supreme Court has invoked Article 142.
- The apex court has in the past used this constitutional provision in cases between jaypee and homebuyers, in a marriage case, Bhopal gas tragedy, Ayodhya case and others.

3. c

- **Mastcam-Z** is a mast-mounted **camera system** that is equipped with a zoom function on the **Mars 2020 Rover: Perseverance**.
- It is the most advanced pair of “eyes” ever sent to Mars.
- Its Mastcam-Z instrument packs a next-gen zoom capability that will help the mission make 3D imagery more easily.
- The Mastcam-Z is located on Perseverance’s head, it is a more advanced version of the Mastcam that helped the Curiosity Mars rover to produce panoramas of the Martian surface.
- The Mastcam-Z will not only produce images that enable the public to follow the rover’s daily discoveries, but it will also provide key data to help engineers navigate and scientists choose interesting rocks to study.
- The Z in Mastcam-Z stands for ‘zoom’.
- Mastcam-Z will provide ‘superhuman vision’ to view the landscape in a variety of colours (wavelengths of light), including some that can’t be detected by the human eye.



4. b

- *Jharkhand’s Sohrai Khovar Painting was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently by the Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai.*

Sohrai Khovar Painting

- The Sohrai Khovar painting is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.
- The Sohrai Khovar painting is primarily being practised only in the district of Hazaribagh.
- However, in recent years, for promotional purposes, it has been seen in other parts of Jharkhand.
- Traditionally painted on the walls of mud houses, they are now seen on other surfaces, too.
- The style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography.
- In recent years, the walls of important public places in Jharkhand, such as the Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi, and the Hazaribagh and Tatanagar Railway Stations, among others, have been decorated with Sohrai-Khovar paintings.



5. b

- *Telangana's Telia Rumal was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently by the Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai.*

Telia Rumal

- Telia Rumal cloth involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours – red, black and white.
- Telia Rumal can only be created using the traditional handloom process and not by any other mechanical means as otherwise, the very quality of the Rumal would be lost.
- During the Nizam's dynasty, Puttapaka, a small, backward village of the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh had about 20 families engaged in handloom weaving, who were patronised by rich Muslim families and the Nizam rulers.
- The officers working in the court of the Nizam would wear the Chituki Telia Rumal as a symbolic representation of status.
- Telia Rumals are offered at the dargah of Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan, with some devotees offering 50 or even 100 cloths.
- Telia Rumals were worn as a veil by princesses at the erstwhile court of the Nizam of Hyderabad; and as a turban cloth by Arabs in the Middle East.



15-05-2020

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

1. It is an Open Standard Open Source Architecture, Secure, Scalable and Evolutionary Process Automation Engine for Universities and Higher Educational Institutions.
2. It is a project under the National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme (NMEICT) of Ministry of Human Resources Development.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *COBAS 6800*

1. It is a fully automated, high end machine for performing real time PCR testing COVID-19.
2. It can also detect other pathogens like Viral Hepatitis B & C, HIV, Papilloma, Chlamydia, Neisseria etc.

Which of 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 *One Nation, One Ration Card System*

1. Under the scheme, eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled food grains under the National Food Security

Act (NFSA) from any fair-price shop in India.

2. The scheme intends primarily to benefit migrant workers and it will also help to cut down corruption in public distribution systems.

Which of 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 *Sahel Region*

1. It is a region running across the breadth of the African continent, between the Sahara in the north and the Sudanian Savanna in the south.
2. It stretches across the south-central latitudes of Northern Africa between the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea.

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

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

5) *Pangong Tso* is located in which of the following regions?

- a. Ladakh
- b. Uttarkhand
- c. Himachal Pradesh
- d. Arunachal Pradesh

Answers

1. c

- The ERP, SAMARTH, has been implemented at National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, a participating unit under the

World Bank supported Technical Education Quality Improvement Program (TEQIP).

Project SAMARTH

- **Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD)** has developed an e-Governance platform, **SAMARTH (Enterprises Resource Planning) ERP**, under **National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme (NMEICT)**.
- ERP, SAMARTH, is an Open Standard Open Source Architecture, Secure, Scalable and Evolutionary Process Automation Engine for Universities and Higher Educational Institutions.
- It caters to faculty, students and staff at a University/Higher Educational Institutions.
- The objective of this initiative is to automate the processes of the Institute.
- 2. c
- **Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** has recently dedicated the **COBAS 6800 testing machine to the nation**.
- This is the first such testing machine that has been procured by the Government for testing of COVID-19 cases and is installed at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

COBAS 6800

- It is a fully automated, high end machine for performing real time PCR testing COVID-19 in the service of nation.
- COBAS 6800 will provide quality, high-volume testing with a high throughput of test around 1200 samples in 24 hours.
- It will largely increase the testing capacity with reduction in pendency.
- It is a sophisticated machine enabled with robotics that minimizes the chance of contamination as well as the risk of infection to the health care workers since it can be operated remotely with limited human intervention.

- As the machine requires a minimum BSL2+ containment level for testing, it cannot be placed at just any facility.
- COBAS 6800 can also detect other pathogens like Viral Hepatitis B & C, HIV, MTb (both rifampicin and isoniazide resistance), Papilloma, CMV, Chlamydia, Neisseria etc.

3. c

National Food Security Act, 2013

- Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, about 81 crore persons are entitled to buy subsidized foodgrain — rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg, and coarse grains at Re 1/kg — from their designated Fair Price Shops (FPS) of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- In the present system, a ration cardholder can buy foodgrains only from an FPS that has been assigned to her in the locality in which she lives.
- However, this will change once the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system becomes operational nationally.

One Nation, One Ration Card

- Under the existing condition, if a beneficiary lives in the district of Basti in Uttar Pradesh and migrates to Mumbai for work, she is no longer able to purchase subsidised foodgrains from a PDS shop in her new locality in Mumbai.
- However, under the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system, the beneficiary will be able to buy subsidised foodgrains from any FPS across the country.
- The new system, based on a technological solution, will identify a beneficiary through biometric authentication on electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices installed at the FPSs, and enable that person to purchase the quantity of foodgrains to which she is entitled under the NFSA.
- The measure, intended **primarily to benefit migrant workers**, will also help to **cut down on corruption** in public distribution by reducing beneficiaries' dependence on particular shops in particular areas and also eliminating the practice of people holding

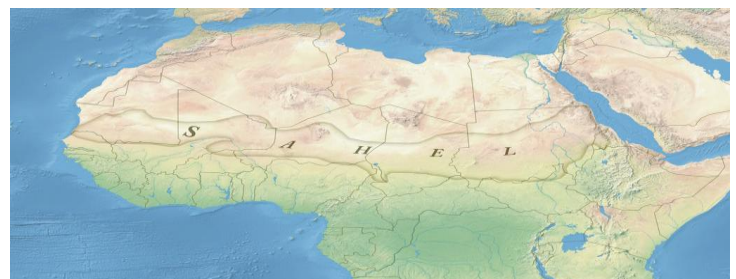
more than one ration card so as to be able to draw rations from multiple shop or state.

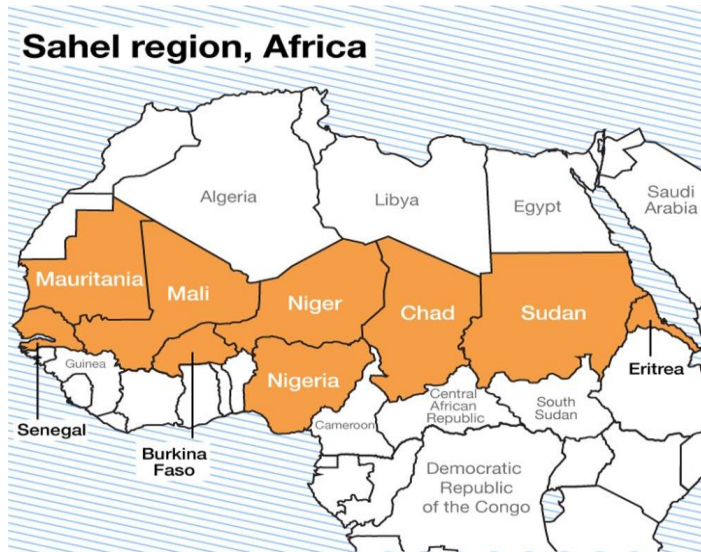
4. c

- ***Africa's Sahel***, a region running across the breadth of the continent, between the Sahara in the north and the Sudanian Savanna in the south, has become the latest battleground in the ongoing war between the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.
- Just like the other conflicts that the two terrorist groups have been engaged in over the past few years, this latest battle is also for more influence, access to resources and potential recruits.

Sahel Region

- The Sahel region of Africa is a 3,860-kilometre arc-like land mass lying to the immediate south of the Sahara Desert and stretching east-west across the breadth of the African continent.
- A largely semi-arid belt of barren, sandy and rock-strewn land, the Sahel marks the physical and cultural transition between the continent's more fertile tropical regions to the south and its desert in the north.
- Geographic definitions of the Sahel region vary.
- Commonly, the Sahel stretches from Senegal on the Atlantic coast, through parts of Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Sudan to Eritrea on the Red Sea coast.
- Culturally and historically, the Sahel is a shoreline between the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.
- This means it is the site of interaction between Arabic, Islamic and nomadic cultures from the north, and indigenous and traditional cultures from the south.





5. a

16-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *GOAL Programme*, which was launched recently

1. The program aims to enable Scheduled Tribe (ST) youth in remote areas to use digital platforms for sharing their aspirations, dreams and talent with their mentors.
2. The programme was launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in partnership with Google India.

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

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

2) *Rosewood Inlay* and *Channapatna Toys* are crafts that have been thriving for centuries, belongs to which of the following states?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. West Bengal

d. Andhra Pradesh

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)*

1. The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to 75 percent government funding in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid'.
2. The scheme is limited to setting up Test facilities in the Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs) only.

Which of 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) *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020)* was released recently by?

- a. Global Forest Watch
- b. Global Forest Coalition
- c. UN Environment Programme
- d. Food and Agriculture Organization

5) Consider the following statements

1. It is a trans-boundary perennial river that originates on the Tibetan plateau near Lake Manasarovar.
2. The river acts as an important aquatic corridor for gharials in Uttar Pradesh.
3. The river is a major left bank tributary of the Ganges.

Identify the River that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. R. Son
- b. R. Gandaki
- c. R. Chambal
- d. R. Ghaghara



Answers

1. a

GOAL (Going Online As Leaders)

- It is a joint initiative of **Facebook India with Ministry of Tribal affairs**.
- The GOAL programme is designed to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.
- The digitally enabled program envisages to act as a catalyst to explore hidden talents of the tribal youth, which will help in their personal development as well as contribute to all-round upliftment of their society.
- In this program, 5000 scheduled tribe youth (to be called as 'Mentees') will get an excellent opportunity to get training by experts from different disciplines and fields (to be called as 'Mentors'). There will be 1 mentor for 2 mentees.
- The program aims to enable Scheduled Tribe (ST) youth in remote areas to use digital platforms for sharing their aspirations, dreams and talent with their mentors.
- 5,000 young tribal entrepreneurs, professionals, artisans and artists will be trained on digital skills under digital entrepreneurship program

2. a

Channapatna toys

- These are a particular form of wooden toys (dolls) that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna in the Ramanagara district of Karnataka state, India.
- This traditional craft is protected under the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Rosewood inlay

- Rosewood Inlay is unique to Mysuru, Karnataka.
- It is a GI-tagged craft that uses rose wood as the base and inserts different-coloured wood, ivory or mother of pearl to produce a picture.

3. a

- *In order to give a boost to domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing, Union Defence*

*Minister has recently approved the launch of **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)** with an outlay of Rs 400 crore for creating state of the art testing infrastructure for this sector.*

Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)

Objective

- It envisages to setup six to eight new test facilities in partnership with private industry.
- The Scheme would run for the duration of five years.

Features

- The scheme will facilitate indigenous defence production, consequently reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant.
- The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to 75 percent government funding in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid'.
- The remaining 25 per cent of the project cost will have to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) whose constituents will be Indian private entities and State Governments.
- The SPVs under the Scheme will be registered under Companies Act 2013 and shall also operate and maintain all assets under the Scheme, in a self-sustainable manner by collecting user charges.
- While majority of test facilities are expected to come up in the two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs), **the Scheme is not limited to setting up Test Facilities in the DICs only.**

4. d

- The **Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020)** was released recently by the United Nations **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
- According to the report, while forest area has declined all across the world in the past three decades, the rate of forest loss has decline due to the growth of sustainable management.
- The rate of forest loss in 2015-2020 declined to an estimated 10 million hectares (mha), down from 12 million hectares (mha) in 2010-2015.

- The world lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya, according to the report.
- However, the rate of net forest loss decreased substantially during 1990–2020 due to a reduction in deforestation in some countries, plus increases in forest area in others through afforestation and the natural expansion of forests, it added.
- The FRA 2020 has examined the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990–2020.

5. d

- *40 gharials (Gavialis gangeticus) were recently released in the Ghaghara river by the Bahraich forest division of Uttar Pradesh amid the nationwide lockdown due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).*
- The animals were brought from the Kukrail Gharial Rehabilitation Centre in Lucknow after being tagged.

River Ghagara

- It is a trans-boundary perennial river that originates on the Tibetan plateau near Lake Manasarovar.
- The Ghaghara acts as an important aquatic corridor for gharials in Uttar Pradesh.
- The river is a major left bank tributary of the Ganges.
- The Ghaghara is one of the cleanest rivers of India as there is hardly any pollution.

Gharials

- Gharials are a good indicator of clean river water.
- These are critically endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Species.
- The species is also listed under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- About 250 gharials have been released in the Ghaghara since 2014 barring 2017-2018.

18-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Migrant Information System (NMIS)*

1. It is an online portal that would maintain a central repository on migrant workers.
2. It was developed by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to the state of *Sikkim*

1. After Indian Independence, Sikkim became a 'protectorate' of India, whereby the Indian Government assumed responsibility for the defence, external affairs and communications of Sikkim.
2. In 1975, Sikkim became an integral part of India through a referendum.

Which of 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/are *not* the five pillars mentioned for an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*?

1. System
2. Demand
3. Production
4. Infrastructure
5. Foreign Exchange

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 3 only
- b. 1 and 5 only
- c. 3 and 5 only
- d. None of the above

4) Which of the following species has been recently discovered on a social media platform and named after it?

- a. Siemaszkoa Weibo
- b. Troglomyces Twitteri
- c. Googlean Zygomycota
- d. Nycteromyces Youtubu

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Day of Light (IDL)*

1. It is an annual initiative held globally to raise awareness on the critical role played by light-based technologies in everyday life.
2. The IDL is administered from the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO.
3. The day marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answers

1. c

- Government of India has allowed the movement of migrant workers by buses and 'Shramik' special trains to enable them to travel to their native places.

- In order to capture the information regarding movement of migrants and facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States, **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has developed an online Dashboard - **National Migrant Information System (NMIS)**.

National Migrant Information System (NMIS)

- It is an online portal that would maintain a central repository on migrant workers and help in speedy inter-State communication/co-ordination to facilitate their smooth movement to native places.
- It has additional advantages like contact tracing, which may be useful in overall COVID-19 response work.

Highlights of the portal

- The key data pertaining to the persons migrating has been standardized for uploading such as name, age, mobile no., originating and destination district, date of travel etc., which States are already collecting.
- States will be able to visualize how many people are going out from where and how many are reaching destination States.
- The mobile numbers of people can be used for contact tracing and movement monitoring during COVID-19.

2. c

- Sikkim has recently celebrated its Statehood day.

SIKKIM

- Till 1947, Sikkim was an Indian princely state ruled by Chogyal.
- In 1947, after the lapse of British paramountcy, Sikkim became a 'protectorate' of India, whereby the Indian Government assumed responsibility for the defence, external affairs and communications of Sikkim.
- In 1974, Sikkim expressed its desire for greater association with India.
- Accordingly, the 35th Constitutional Amendment Act (1974) was enacted by the parliament.

- This amendment introduced a new class of statehood under the constitution by conferring on Sikkim the status of an 'associate state' of the Indian Union.
- For this purpose, a new Article 2-A and a new schedule (10th Schedule containing the terms and conditions of association) were inserted in the Constitution.
- This experiment, however, did not last long as it could not fully satisfy the aspirations of the people of Sikkim.
- In a referendum held in 1975, they voted for the abolition of the institution of Chogyal and Sikkim becoming an integral part of India.
- Consequently, the 36th Constitutional Amendment Act (1975) was enacted to make Sikkim a full-fledged state of the Indian Union (the 22nd state).
- This amendment amended the First and the Fourth Schedules to the Constitution and added a new Article 371-F to provide for certain special provisions with respect to the administration of Sikkim.
- It also repealed Article 2-A and the 10th Schedule that were added by the 35th Amendment Act of 1974.

3. c

- *Indian Prime Minister has recently announced a special economic and comprehensive package of Rs 20 lakh crore - equivalent to 10% of India's GDP and gave a clarion call for Atmanirbhar Bharat.*

Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)

A self-reliant India will stand on five pillars:

1. **Economy**, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change
2. **Infrastructure**, which should become the identity of India
3. **System**, based on 21st century technology driven arrangements
4. **Vibrant Demography**, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India
5. **Demand**, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity.

4. b

- A new species of fungus has been discovered recently in an image of Millipede on Twitter post and named after it as ***Troglomyces twitteri***.

Troglomyces twitteri

- It belongs to an order called Laboulbeniales — tiny fungal parasites that attack insects and millipedes.
- Look like tiny larvae, these fungi live on the outside of host organisms.



5. c

- The United Nations marks the International Day of Light (IDL) — an annual initiative held globally to raise awareness on the critical role played by light-based technologies in everyday life — on May 16.
- The IDL highlights the contribution of such technologies in various avenues such as science, technology, art, and culture, thus helping achieve the UNESCO goals of education, equality, and peace.
- The day selected, May 16, marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman.
- The laser is a perfect example of how a scientific discovery can yield revolutionary benefits to society in communications, healthcare and many other fields.
- The IDL is administered from the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP)



of UNESCO, and its Secretariat is located at the Abdus Salam International Centre of Theoretical Physics (ICTP) at Trieste, Italy.

19-05-2020

1) Often referred as Dev Bhoomi (The Land of Gods), it is a multi-faceted destination ranging from religious Hemkhund Sahib to natural site of Valley of Flowers National Park and adventurous river rafting at Pittoragarh and innumerable options for trekking available at Chopta and Pindari Glacier.

The above paragraph describes about which of the following States?

- a. Punjab
- b. Uttarakhand
- c. Himachal Pradesh
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *AMPHAN Cyclone*

- 1. Amphan is a tropical cyclone originated during the pre-monsoon period which is most favourable for the formation of tropical cyclones.
- 2. It is designated as a super cyclonic storm for which the wind speed on surface level should be 220 Knots and above.

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

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

3) Consider the following pairs

Schemes

–

Objectives

- 1. *National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission* – To unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air

education and enable multi-mode access to education.

- 2. *Manodarpan Initiative* – To provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- 3. *PM eVidya* – To provide students a single window electronic platform for Scholarships and Educational Loans.

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

4) With respect to *Pinanga Andamanensis*, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- 1. It resembles the areca palm to which it is closely related.
- 2. It is a critically endangered species and one of the least known among the endemic palms of the Andaman Islands.

Which of 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) *Mount Harriet National Park* is located in which of the following?

- a. Goa
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Lakshadweep
- d. None of the above

Answers

- 1. b



- The 20th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series titled “**Uttarakhand Simply Heaven**” highlighted the potential of tourism in Uttarakhand’s two regions namely Kedar Khand (Garhwal Region) and Manu Khand (Kumaon Region).

Highlight of Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand is often referred as ‘Dev Bhoomi’ ,the Land of Gods.
- It is a mesmerizing destination for tourists of all tastes.
- It is a multi-faceted destination, i.e. from being a **sacred and religious** site to be an **adventure land** with **rich biodiversity in its purest form**.
- The popular destination in Uttarakhand are **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Hemkhund Sahib** and the UNESCO World Heritage **Site of Valley of Flowers**.
- It is also known for its Adventure Tourism Potential such as river rafting at **Rishikesh and Pithoragarh**, winter sports and skiing in Auli, Paragliding at Tehri Dam and Kaushani, innumerable options for trekking available such as **Chopta and Pindari Glacier** and India’s highest bungee jumping facility in Rishikesh.
- Besides adventure activities, it is also renowned for its oldest national park of the country- **Jim Corbett National Park, Rajaji Tiger Reserve** and UNESCO site of **Nanda Devi National Park**.

2. d

Amphan

- It is a tropical cyclone originated over the Bay of Bengal.
- It is recently designated as **Super Cyclonic Storm**.
- It is the second pre-monsoon cyclone to form in the Bay of Bengal in two years.
- The **pre-monsoon period is generally considered to be unsupportive for the formation of tropical cyclones**.

Classification of Cyclonic Storm

- **Cyclonic Storm** – In which the wind speed on surface level is in between 34 – 47 Knots.
- **Severe Cyclonic Storm** – In which the wind speed on surface level is in between 48 – 63 Knots.
- **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm** – In which the wind speed on surface level is in between 64 – 119 Knots.
- **Super cyclonic storm** – In which the wind speed on surface level is **120 Knots** and above (**Over 220 kmph**)

3. a

- National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission – To ensure every child achieves learning levels and outcomes by the time they pass grade 5 in 2025.
- Manodarpan Initiative – To provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- PM eVidya – To unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education and enable multi-mode access to education.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Technology Driven Education with Equity post-COVID

- **PM eVIDYA**- A programme for multi-mode access to digital/online education to be launched immediately; consisting of:
 - DIKSHA for school education in states/UTs: e-content and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform)
 - One earmarked TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel)
 - Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and Podcasts
 - Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired.
 - Top 100 universities will be permitted to automatically start online courses by 30th May, 2020.
- **Manodarpan**-An initiative for psychosocial support of students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing to be launched immediately.
- **New National Curriculum and Pedagogical framework** for school, early childhood and teachers will be launched: integrated with global and 21st century skill requirements
- **National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission** for ensuring that every child attains Learning levels and outcomes in grade 5 by 2025 will be launched by December 2020

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4. c

- A rare palm endemic to the South Andaman Island is finding a second home at Palode by the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI).

Pinanga Andamanensis

- It resembles the areca palm to which it is closely related.
- At one point it was written off as extinct, but its entire population of some 600 specimens naturally occurs only in a tiny, evergreen forest pocket in South Andaman's **Mount Harriet National Park**.
- It is a critically endangered species and one of the least known among the endemic palms of the Andaman Islands.
- The name is derived from 'Penang', the modern-day Malaysian state.
- "Penang itself has its origins in 'Pulau Pinang', which means "Island of the Areca Nut Palm".



5. d

- Mount Harriet National Park is located in **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.

20-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities Ranking

1. It aims to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.
2. The Star Rating Protocol was launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in 2018.

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

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

2) With respect to eCovSens, often seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Bio-sensor used to detect the presence of novel coronavirus antigens in human saliva samples.
2. It was developed by the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad, which was established by the Department of Biotechnology.

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

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

3) Which one of the following best describes the term "Syndemic"?

- a. It is a situation when two or more epidemics interact to produce an increased burden of disease in a population
- b. It is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations

c. It is a situation in which a disease affects 90% of the region's population and the people in the region learn to live with the disease

d. It is declared when the presence or usual prevalence of its infectious agent is constant within a given geographical area or population group

4) "Operation Greens" is run by which of the following Ministries?

- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- Ministry of Agricultural and Farmers Welfare

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)*

- It will be launched for integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries.
- It will be launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- The results of the **Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities** was released recently.
- According to the results, during the assessment year 2019-2020, a total of six cities have been certified as 5-Star (Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysuru, Indore and Navi Mumbai), 65 cities as 3-Star and 70 cities as 1-Star.
- The Ministry also launched the revised protocol for the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities Initiative.

Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities Initiative

- The Star Rating Protocol was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** in January 2018 to **institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.**

Background

- Swachh Survekshan (SS)** is an annual cleanliness survey for urban India.
- It has been proven immensely successful when it comes to improving urban cleanliness through a spirit of healthy competition.
- However, since it is a ranking system, several of India's cities, despite doing exceptionally well, were not being recognized appropriately.
- The Ministry, therefore, devised the Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities - a comprehensive framework where each ward in every city must achieve a certain standard **across 24 different components of solid waste management (SWM)** and is graded based on overall marks received.
- The performance of cities under the Star Rating Protocol is crucial as **it carries significant weightage when it comes to their final assessment in Swachh Survekshan.**

2. c

- Researchers from the **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad**, have developed a biosensor eCovSens.
- NIAB was established by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

eCovSens

- The new portable device named **eCovSens**, can be used to detect the presence of novel coronavirus antigens in human saliva within 30 seconds using just 20 microlitres of the sample.
- The in-house built biosensor consists of a carbon electrode and the coronavirus antibody.

- The antibody is capable of binding with the spike protein found on the outer layer of the virus.
- An electrical signal is generated when the antigen and antibody binds.

3. a

- World Health Organization (WHO) has recently announced that the Covid-19 would less likely to be eliminated (i.e. may become endemic).
- The possibilities of Covid-19 being **syndemic** have been raised in the backdrop of the announcement.

Classification of Diseases based on spread and occurrence

- **Epidemic** - An epidemic is a large outbreak, one that spreads among a population or region. It is less severe than pandemic due to a limited area of spread.
- **Endemic** - A disease is called endemic when the presence or usual prevalence of its infectious agent is constant within a given geographical area or population group.
- **Pandemic** - A pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations.
- **Syndemic** - A Syndemic is a situation when two or more epidemics interact synergistically to produce an increased burden of disease in a population.
- The least possibility of elimination of Covid-19 pandemic and warning about the second wave of Covid-19 infections worldwide have reinforced the presence of Covid-19 for the long term.
- Meanwhile, the alarm is being raised about **diseases like dengue and malaria emerging with the upcoming monsoon season in tropical South Asia**.
- Thus, there is a possibility that the world will face increased burden of the diseases and thus the situation of syndemic.
- The second wave of infection due to Covid-19 is suspected to be seen in those with weakened immunity.

- At the same time, the world already faces antibiotic resistance and if Covid-19 deepens as a syndemic in populations with antibiotic resistance, the world will face **comorbidities** (**Co-morbidity is the presence of one or more additional conditions co-occurring with a primary condition**)

4. c

- Union finance minister has recently announced that **Operation Greens** will be expanded with an additional fund of Rs 500 crore and extended from tomatoes, onions and potatoes to all fruits and vegetables.
- Operation Greens is run by **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI)**.
- The Scheme would provide 50% subsidy on transportation from surplus to deficient markets, 50% subsidy on storage, including cold storages and will be launched as pilot for the next 6 months and will be extended and expanded.
- This will lead to better price realization to farmers, reduced wastages, and affordability of products for consumers.

5. a

- Under the Special economic and comprehensive package of Rs 20 lakh crores, the central government will launch the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.
- It will be launched by the **Ministry of Fisheries**.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- It will be launched for integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries.
- Rs 11,000 crore for activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and Rs. 9000 crore for Infrastructure - Fishing Harbors, Cold chain, Markets etc shall be provided.
- Cage Culture, Seaweed farming, Ornamental Fisheries as well as New Fishing Vessels, Traceability, Laboratory Network etc. will be key activities.



- There will be provisions of Ban Period Support to fishermen (during the period fishing is not permitted), Personal & Boat Insurance.
- The focus will be on Islands, Himalayan States, North-east and Aspirational Districts.

21-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade*

1. Under this Protocol, Inland vessels of the signing countries can ply on the designated protocol route and dock at Ports of Call in each country.
2. It was first signed between India and Sri Lanka in 2009, immediately after the end of the Sri Lankan Civil War.

Which of 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 *Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)*

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the expenditure will be shared between Centre and States in the ratio of 60:40.
2. The scheme focuses on unorganized sector on an all India basis and aims for transition to formal sector.
3. The Scheme will be implemented over a 5 year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

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 *Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)*

1. The Scheme will provide Farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with funding up to Rs. 3 lakh crore in the form of a fully guaranteed emergency credit line.
2. The entire funding provided under Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line facility shall be provided with a 100% credit guarantee by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).

Which of 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) *Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana* is an income support programme for farmers by which of the following States/UT?

- a. Punjab
- b. Jharkhand
- c. Puducherry
- d. Chhattisgarh

5) Consider the following pairs

1. Naku La – Sikkim
2. River Galwan – Ladakh

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

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

Answers

1. a

- Bangladesh and India have recently extended the Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol by signing the second addendum on Protocol.
- The decision to add new protocol routes and inclusion of new routes and addition of new ports of call to facilitate trade between the two countries was taken in October 2018 which has now been operationalized.

Protocol on Transit and Trade through Inland Waterways

- It is a protocol between People's Republic of **Bangladesh** and the Republic of **India**.
- The Protocol was **first signed in 1972 (immediately after independence of Bangladesh)**.
- It was last renewed in 2015 for five years with a provision for its **automatic renewal for a further period of five years** giving long term assurance to various stakeholders.
- The agreement will allow Inland vessels of both the countries to ply on the designated protocol route and dock at Ports of Call in each country, notified for loading and unloading of cargo.
- It will help boost bilateral trade and connectivity between the two countries.

Recent Developments

- **Routes** - The second addendum on protocol states that the number of Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) routes are being increased from **eight to ten**.
- **Ports of Call** - Currently, there are six Ports of Call each in India and Bangladesh under the Protocol.
- Five more Ports of Call and two more extended Ports of Call have been added, increasing the number to eleven Ports of Call and two extended Ports of Call in each country.
- **Shallow draft mechanized vessels** - As a path-breaking development, both sides have agreed to introduce trade between Chilmari (Bangladesh) and Dhubri (India) through the use of shallow draft mechanized vessels.
- This initiative will allow export of stone chips and other Bhutanese and North East cargo to

Bangladesh and easy access for the traders to the hinterland of Bangladesh, enhancing the local economy in Bangladesh and the lower Assam region of India.

2. d

- The Union Cabinet had recently gave its approval to the **"Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)"**.
- It is a scheme for the **Unorganized Sector on All India basis** with an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore.

Salient features:

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- Expenditure to be shared by **Government of India and States at 60:40**.
- 2,00,000 micro-enterprises are to be assisted with credit linked subsidy.
- Scheme will be implemented over a **5 year period** from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- Cluster approach.
- Focus on perishables.

Objectives of the Scheme:

- **Increase in access to finance by micro food processing units.**
- Increase in revenues of target enterprises.
- Enhanced compliance with food quality and safety standards.
- Strengthening capacities of support systems.
- **Transition from the unorganized sector to the formal sector.**
- Special focus on women entrepreneurs and Aspirational districts.
- Encourage Waste to Wealth activities.
- Focus on minor forest produce in Tribal Districts.

3. b

- The Union Cabinet had recently approved additional funding of up to Rupees three lakh crore to MSMEs through introduction of **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

- It has been formulated as a specific response to the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19 and the consequent lockdown, which has severely impacted manufacturing and other activities in the **MSME sector**.
- The Scheme aims at **mitigating the economic distress being faced by MSMEs** by providing them **additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore** in the form of a fully guaranteed emergency credit line.
- The main objective of the Scheme is to provide an incentive to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), i.e., Banks, Financial Institutions (FIs) and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to increase access to, and enable availability of additional funding facility to MSME borrowers.
- The entire funding provided under Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) shall be provided with a 100% credit guarantee by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) under ECLGS.
- No Guarantee Fee shall be charged by NCGTC from the Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) under the Scheme.

4. d

- **Chhattisgarh government** will launch a new income support programme: **Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana**, during 19th death anniversary of the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

The Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana

- The scheme would cover rice, maize and sugarcane farmers and would expand to other crops later.
- Rice and maize farmers would get Rs.10,000 an acre while sugarcane farmers would get Rs.13,000. The money would be distributed in four instalments.
- The first instalment of Rs.1,500 crore would be distributed among 18 lakh farmers, more than 80% of them small and marginal.

- The annual cost of the scheme would be Rs.5,700 crore.

5. c

- China has recently accused the Indian Army of crossing into its territory and of “blocking” its patrols and “attempting to unilaterally change the status” on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries in Sikkim and Ladakh.
- Both sides has increased troop strength at points of conflict along the LAC.
- **Sikkim’s Naku La** is one of four areas that had seen aggressive action between the Chinese and Indian troops (including the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel) since mid-April 2020.
- Similar skirmishes, including jostling, and fisticuffs between the soldiers had been reported along a stretch in **eastern Ladakh at the Pangong Tso lake, Demchok** and the the **Galwan river nalah**.

22-05-2020

1) When a sound producing source moves with a speed higher than that of sound, it produces shock waves in air. The sharp and loud sound produced by these shock waves is called?

- Sonic Boom
- Doppler Waves
- Super Mach Quakes
- None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Pangong Tso Lake

- It is a long, narrow, deep, exorheic Lake through which the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which divides India and China, passes through.**
- It is the world’s highest saltwater lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas.**

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

- 1 only

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to WHO Executive Board

1. It is composed of 194 members, represented by one person from each member country, technically qualified in the field of health.
2. The members of the WHO Executive Board will be elected for a five-year term.
3. The Board's Chairman Post is held by rotation for one year by each of the WHO's six regional groups.

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

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

4) Which one of the following statements is incorrect with respect to SpaceX Demo-2 Mission, sometimes seen in the news recently?

- a. It is a part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program
- b. It is the first crewed flight to launch from the American soil since the conclusion of the space shuttle era in 2011
- c. The mission's main objective is to encourage private companies to provide crew transportation services to and from low-Earth orbit
- d. None of the above

5) Which one of the following statements is incorrect with respect to Sound Waves?

- a. Sound is a mechanical wave and needs a material medium like air, water, steel etc. for its propagation

b. In sound propagation, it is the energy of the sound that travels and not the particles of the medium

c. The speed of sound waves depends on number of factors such as temperature of the air and altitude, etc.

d. None of the above

Answers

1. a

Sonic boom

- Sound travels in the form of waves which are emitted outwards from its source.
- In air, the speed of these waves depends on a number of factors, such as the temperature of the air and altitude.
- From a stationary source, such as a television set, sound waves travel outwards in concentric spheres of growing radii.
- When the source of sound is moving – e.g. a truck – the successive waves in front of the truck get closer together, and the ones behind it spread out.
- This is also the cause of the **Doppler effect – in which bunched waves at the front appear at a higher frequency to a stationary observer, and spread out waves that are behind are observed at a lower frequency.**
- As long as the source of the sound keeps moving slower than the speed of sound itself, this source – say a truck or a plane – remains nested within the sound waves that are travelling in all directions.
- When an aircraft travels at supersonic speed – meaning faster than sound (>1225 kmph at sea level) – the field of sound waves moves to the rear of the craft.
- A stationary observer thus hears no sound when a supersonic flight approaches, since the sound waves are at the rear of the latter.
- At such speeds, both newly created as well as old waves, are forced into a region at the aircraft's rear called a 'Mach cone', which extends from the craft and intercepts the Earth

in a hyperbola-shaped curve, and leaves a trail called the 'boom carpet'.

- The loud sound that is heard on the Earth when this happens is called a 'sonic boom'.
- When such aircraft fly at a low altitude, the sonic boom can become intense enough to cause glass to crack or cause health hazards.
- Overland supersonic flights have thus been banned in many countries.

2. b

- *Most of the clashes between the Indian and Chinese armies occur in the disputed portion of the Pangong Tso lake.*

Pangong Tso Lake

- In the Ladakhi language, Pangong means extensive concavity, and Tso is lake in Tibetan.
- Pangong Tso is a long narrow, deep, **endorheic (landlocked) lake** situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas.
- The brackish water lake freezes over in winter, and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.
- The legendary 19th century Dogra general Zorawar Singh is said to have trained his soldiers and horses on the frozen Pangong lake before invading Tibet.
- The Line of Actual Control (LAC) mostly passes on the land, but Pangong Tso is a unique case where it passes through the water as well.
- The points in the water at which the Indian claim ends and Chinese claim begins are not agreed upon mutually.

3. a

- *Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan is set to take charge as Chairman of the WHO Executive Board at its 147th session.*
- Vardhan would succeed Dr Hiroki Nakatani of Japan, currently the Chairman of the 34-member WHO Executive Board.
- With this, India would now be playing a more prominent role at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

World Health Organisation (WHO)

- It is a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.
- It is governed by two decision-making bodies — the **World Health Assembly** and the **Executive Board**.
- The agency's headquarters are located at Geneva in Switzerland.
- **India is a member state of the South East Asia Region at the WHO.**
- Last year, the bloc had unanimously decided that India's nominee would be elected to the executive board for a three-year term.

WHO Executive Board

- The Board is composed of **34 members** technically qualified in the field of health, with members being elected **for three-year terms**.
- The Health Assembly is the WHO's decision-making body, and consists of 194 Member States.
- The **Board chairman's post is held by rotation for one year** by each of the WHO's six regional groups.
 1. African Region
 2. Region of the Americas
 3. South-East Asia Region
 4. European Region
 5. Eastern Mediterranean Region
 6. Western Pacific Region

4. c

- **NASA's SpaceX Demo-2** test flight Mission will lift off for International Space Station (ISS) on May 27, 2020, becoming the **first crewed flight to launch from American soil** since the conclusion of the space shuttle era in 2011.
- The Demo-2 mission is **part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program**.

Commercial Crew Program

Objectives

- The main objective of this program is to make access to space easier in terms of its cost, so that cargo and crew can be easily transported

to and from the ISS, enabling greater scientific research.

- Secondly, by encouraging private companies such as Boeing and SpaceX to provide crew transportation services to and from low-Earth orbit, NASA can focus on building spacecraft and rockets meant for deep space exploration missions.

Background

- Boeing and SpaceX were selected by NASA in September 2014 to develop transportation systems meant to transfer crew from the US to the ISS.
- These integrated spacecraft, rockets and associated systems will carry up to four astronauts on NASA missions, maintaining a space station crew of seven to maximize time dedicated to scientific research on the orbiting laboratory.

5. d

23-05-2020

1) A scheme was launched recently for the Solarisation of Konark sun temple in Odisha. Consider the following statements with respect to that scheme:

1. The project will be supported by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy through 100% Central Financial Assistance (CFA).
2. The Project will be implemented jointly by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of culture.

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

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

2) Which of the following is the theme for the *International Day for Biological Diversity, 2020*?

- a. Our solutions are in nature

b. Biodiversity and Climate Change

c. Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism

d. Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health

3) The United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has recently listed "*Khudol Initiative*" as one among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Consider the following statements with respect to *Khudol Initiative*:

1. It is a crowd-funded initiative launched by the American India Foundation (AIF) – a non-profit body.
2. The initiative entails ensuring food supplies and health services for the LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents.

Which of 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 *Open Skies Treaty (OST)*

1. It is an agreement that allows countries to monitor signatories' arms development by conducting surveillance flights over each other's territories.
2. India is one among the 34 members of the Open Skies Treaty that came in to force on 200

Which of 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) *New START Treaty* is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between?

- a. U.S.A and China
- b. U.S.A and Russia
- c. Russia and North Korea
- d. None of the above

Answers

1. a

- Union government has recently launched a scheme for **100% solarisation of Konark sun temple and Konark town in Odisha**.
- The scheme will meet all energy requirements of Konark town with solar energy, which is made under PM-vision to develop the historical Sun temple town of Konark in Odisha as '**Surya Nagri**'.
- This aims to convey a message of synergy between the modern use of solar energy and the ancient Sun Temple and the importance of promoting solar energy.
- It envisages setting up of the 10-MW grid connected solar project and various solar off-grid applications such as solar trees, solar drinking water kiosks and off-grid solar power plants with battery storage.
- It will receive **100% Central Financial assistance (CFA) support** of around Rs. 25 crore through the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.
- **Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency will be the Implementation Agency of the project** (and not union Ministry of Renewable energy or Ministry of culture)

2. a

- *The United Nations dedicated May 22 of every year as International Day for Biological Diversity to develop awareness about biodiversity issues.*
- The first International Day for Biological Diversity, also known as World Biodiversity day, was created in a UN General Assembly in 1993.
- Since 2001, it is celebrated every year.

- This year's celebration is special as it will be the first ever online only campaign increasing awareness during a pandemic.
- The theme for this year is "Our Solutions are in nature" – which shows people are a part of nature.

3. b

- The United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has recently listed **Manipur's 'khudol' (gift)** among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Khudol

- It is a crowdfunded initiative of **Ya_All, an Imphal-based NGO**.
- The initiative entails ensuring food supplies and health services for the **LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents**.

4. a

- *The US will withdraw from the **Open Skies Treaty**, a major accord that permits unarmed aerial surveillance flights over 34 participating countries, citing repeated Russian violations of its terms.*
- President Donald Trump blamed Russia's non-compliance with the treaty for such a decision by the United States.
- Effective six months from tomorrow, the United States will no longer be a party to the Treaty.

Open Skies Treaty

- The treaty allows each state-party to carry out short-notice, unarmed, reconnaissance flights over the others' territories to collect data on military forces and activities.
- **India is not a member** of this treaty that came into force on 2002.
- Most of the participating countries are in North America and Europe and Central Asia.

5. b

- *The U.S.'s exit last year from arms deal it had signed with Russia – the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty – as well as its*

imminent departure from the Open Skies Treaty has raised the strong possibility that the Trump administration may not renew the New Start Treaty which is due to expire next February.

New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)

- It was signed on April 8, 2010, in Prague by the United States and Russia and entered into force on Feb. 5, 2011.
- The agreement caps Russian and U.S. nuclear arsenal.
- New START replaced the 1991 START I treaty, which expired December 2009, and superseded the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), which terminated when New START entered into force.
- New START continues the bipartisan process of verifiably reducing U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals begun by former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.
- New START is the first verifiable U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control treaty to take effect since START I in 1994.

Recent Developments

- The Trump administration has been worried that extending New Start would negatively impact an arms deal with China and Russia.
- The State Department told the U.S. Congress earlier this year that it is concerned that China's nuclear stockpile could be doubled if the New Start Treaty continued as is, without including China.

26-05-2020

1) Match the following with respect to the four pillars of Ayurveda – The ancient healing system of India

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. Aahar | – a. Lifestyle |
| 2. Vihar | – b. Mental health |
| 3. Vichar | – c. Diet |
| 4. Achar | – d. Conduct of individual with the external world |

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1-c; 2-a; 3-b; 4-d
- 1-a; 2-b; 3-c; 4-d
- 1-c; 2-d; 3-b; 4-a
- 1-c; 2-b; 3-a; 4-d

2) Scientists have recently claimed that the chemicals in the Kangra Tea could be effective in boosting immunity as they can block coronavirus activity better than anti-HIV drugs. Kangra Tea belongs to which of the following regions?

- Assam
- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu
- Himachal Pradesh

3) “The Grand Renaissance Dam hydropower project”, often seen in the news recently, is being constructed by?

- China
- France
- Ethiopia
- Pakistan

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Katkari Tribes

1. They are a tribal community inhabiting the state of Maharashtra.
2. They are one among the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), as per the classification by Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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



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

1. Turtles are cold-blooded species which belongs to one of the oldest reptile groups in the world.
2. Turtles can be herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in nature.
3. Like most of the sea creatures, turtles are also anamniotes, which means they lay their eggs on land.

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

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

Answers

1. a

The four pillars of Ayurvedha

1. Aahar – Diet
2. Vihar – Lifestyle
3. Vichar – Mental health
4. Achar – Conduct of individual with the external world

2. d

- Chemicals in **Kangra tea** could be effective in boosting immunity as they can block coronavirus activity better than anti-HIV drugs according to scientists at the **Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT)**, based in Palampur, **Himachal Pradesh**.

Kangra Tea

- The first flush of Kangra tea is known for quality, unique aroma and tinge of fruity flavor.
- A little milder than Darjeeling tea in terms of flavour, Kangra tea has more body and liquor.
- The climate, the characteristic terrain and soil conditions, and the coolness of the snow clad mountains in Himachal's famous Kangra

region; all play a role in crafting a delightfully distinct cup of quality tea.

Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT)

- It is a constituent of **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.
- It has also produced and supplied the alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing tea extract and natural aromatic oils through its technology partners.

3. c

- Africa's longest river, the Nile, has been at the center of a decade-long complex dispute involving several countries in the continent who are dependent on the river's waters.
- At the forefront of this dispute however, are **Ethiopia and Egypt**.
- Later this year, talks are set to begin between the two countries in Washington D.C. on the future of the hydropower project on the Nile that is at the center of these disputes.

The Grand Renaissance Dam hydropower project

- When completed, the Grand Renaissance Dam hydropower project **being constructed by Ethiopia**, will be Africa's largest.
- While the main waterways of the Nile run through Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt, its drainage basin runs through other countries in East Africa, including Ethiopia.
- Ethiopia began construction of the dam in 2011 on the Blue Nile tributary that runs across one part of the country.
- Egypt has objected to the construction of this dam and in Sudan has found itself caught in the midst of this conflict.
- Due to the importance of the Nile as a necessary water source in the region, observers are concerned that this dispute may evolve into a full-fledged conflict between the two nations. The US has stepped in to mediate.

4. c

- 75 tribal groups have been categorized by **Ministry of Home Affairs** as



Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s.

- They are the most marginalized communities of India within the Scheduled Tribes.
- PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands.
- Katkari Tribes are designated as PVTG in the state of **Maharashtra**.
- They are found in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

5. b

- *World Turtle Day is celebrated every year on May 23, with the purpose of increasing attention and knowledge about turtles and tortoises, and draw enough awareness from humans about the measures that should be taken to help them survive and thrive in their natural environment, without any human interruptions.*

Turtles

- Turtles belong to one of the oldest reptile groups in the world.
- Their origin dates back to the time of dinosaurs, which is nearly 200 million years back, which makes them significantly older than snakes, crocodiles and alligators.
- The shell of a turtle is actually a part of its skeleton, and is made up of nearly 50 bones.
- The shell makes up a part of the turtle's rib cage and spine.
- The shell of a turtle actually grows with its age, just like a human skeleton!
- Despite what most people believe, turtles can never come out of their shells.
- Their shells grow with them and it's impossible for them to outgrow their shells.
- Sea turtles, unlike other turtles, can't even retract their flippers and head back into their shells.
- Turtles are very fond of jellyfish, even though some species are poisonous.
- Their appetite for jellyfish can sometimes prove harmful for them, as many times they ingest plastic, thinking it's a floating jellyfish, which can choke them.

- Turtles can be herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in nature.
- Turtles breathe air and lay their eggs on land, which makes them **amniotes**. Even though they spend most of their lives underwater, they still lay their eggs on land.
- Most of the sea creatures are **anamniotes**, which means they lay their eggs underwater.
- Turtles are cold-blooded, which results to an incredibly long life span.
- Another reason for their long life span is that they have very slow metabolism and can survive without food and water for a long time.
- They can also survive in harsh conditions, which also adds to their life span.

27-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Chamba Tunnel

- 1. The tunnel was constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under the Char Dham Project.**
- 2. The tunnel will facilitate all-weather connectivity to Chardham Gangotri, Kedarnath, Haridwar and Badrinath.**

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Heat Waves

- 1. It is declared only when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degree Celsius for plains and at least 30 degree Celsius for Hilly regions.**
- 2. The Core Heat Wave Zone covers only the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Telangana and Maharashtra.**

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

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

3) *Puntius Sanctus* is a new freshwater fish found recently in which of the following regions?

- a. Goa
- b. Kerala
- c. Gujarat
- d. Tamil Nadu

4) Consider the following pairs

- 1. Tianwen-1 Mission – Japan
- 2. Long March 5B Rocket – China

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri VAN DHAN Yojana*

- 1. It is launched for the holistic development and welfare of tribal population in India by plugging the infrastructure gaps and lags in human development indices.
- 2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answers

1. a

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs Shri Nitin Gadkari has recently inaugurated the Chamba Tunnel under **Chardham Pariyojana** through video conference mode.

Chamba Tunnel

- It was constructed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.
- BRO achieved this major milestone by digging up a 440 m long Tunnel below the busy
- Chamba town on Rishikesh-Dharasu road Highway (NH 94).
- The construction of tunnel was a challenging task in terms of weak soil strata, continuous water seepage, heavy built up area on top thereby chances of sinking of houses, land acquisition issues, restrictions during COVID lockdown etc.
- The Tunnel will facilitate all-weather connectivity to **Chardham**.

Chardham

- It consist of **Gangotri, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Badrinath**
- **Haridwar is not a part of Chardham. It is a part of Sapta Puri.**

2. a

- Heatwaves occur over India between March and June.
- Meteorologists declare a heatwave event when the **maximum (day) temperature for a location in the plains crosses 40 degrees Celsius.**
- **Over the hills, the threshold temperature is 30 degrees Celsius.**
- When the day temperature jumps by 4 to 5 degrees above the normal maximum temperature of a location, it is declared as a heatwave.



- The core heat wave zone covers the states of **Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Telangana and parts of Maharashtra and coastal Andhra Pradesh.**

3. d

- Puntius Sanctus*** is a new freshwater fish which has been found recently in **Velankanni, Tamil Nadu.**
- The fish has been identified and named by the Department of Zoology, BJM Government College in Kollam.
- The new fish has been deposited in the Zoological Survey of India at Pune.
- It has also been registered with Zoo Bank of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature, the official authority for naming animals.

Puntius Sanctus

- It is a silver-hued fish found in a small water body.
- The species is small in size and grows to a length of 7 cm, it bears lateral line scales and pre-dorsal scales.
- It has a protractible (extended) mouth, a pair of maxillary barbels (a sensory organ near the snout).
- The lateral line scales are found within the dermis i.e. under the skin of a fish and usually have sense organs.
- The dorsal scale row in a fish consists of a series of deep scales devoid of spines.

4. b

Long March 5B

- China** has recently launched the Long March 5B rocket along with a prototype deep-space spacecraft.
- It is being reported that the launch has been successful, which will pave the way for the country's ambitions to operate a permanent space station and sending astronauts to Moon.

- The rocket is a massive vehicle with four strap-on boosters that provide extra thrust at liftoff.
- Aboard the Long March 5 was a special prototype spacecraft that is somewhat akin to the deep-space Orion capsule NASA has been developing to people to the Moon and beyond.

Tianwen-1 mission

- The **Tianwen-1 mission's** launch in July 2020 was confirmed recently by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), which has been working on the project since 2016.

About the Mission

- In July, China will launch its first Mars mission, the 'Tianwen-1', which is expected to land on the Red Planet's surface in the first quarter of 2021.
- The success of the mission will make China the third country to achieve a Mars landing after the USSR and the United States.
- Named after the ancient Chinese poem 'Questions to Heaven', the Tianwen-1, an all-in-one orbiter, lander and rover will search the Martian surface for water, ice, investigate soil characteristics, and study the atmosphere, among completing other objectives.
- The Tianwen-1 mission will lift off on a Long March 5 rocket, a launch system developed by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT), from the Wenchang launch centre, and will carry 13 payloads (seven orbiters and six rovers) that will explore the planet.

5. b

Pradhan Mantri VAN DHAN Yojana (PMVDY)

- Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) is a **Market Linked Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program** for forming clusters of tribal SHGs and strengthening them into Tribal Producer Companies.
- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.**
- Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana** is launched for the holistic development and welfare of tribal population in India by plugging the



infrastructure gaps and lags in human development indices.

28-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tejas Aircraft*

1. It is the smallest and lightest Multi-Role Supersonic Fighter Aircraft of its class.
2. It is designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.

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

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

2) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has recently made its application Aarogya Setu as *Open Source*. How is an Open Source Software different from the Closed Source Software?

1. Open source software has to be bought or licensed from the creator of the software whereas the Closed source software requires no licensing and need not be bought.
2. The examples of Open source software includes Microsoft Windows, Google Earth and Adobe Photoshop whereas the Closed Source softwares are WordPress, VLC Media Player and the Mozilla browser.

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) Assertion (A): Some parts of Goa has been uplifted from the sea due to geological tectonic plate movement.

Reason (R): The Coastal belt of the region has been found with the presence of marine fossils, buried seashells and other features of reclaimed topography.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4) *Cessna Caravan*, sometimes seen in the news recently is?

- a. A Provision in the Open Skies Treaty
- b. The World's largest all-electric aircraft
- c. A place near the Line of Actual Control between India and China
- d. None of the above

5) "*Operation Warp Speed*", an initiative aimed at developing, manufacturing and distributing a "proven" coronavirus vaccine, was launched by which of the following countries?

- a. India
- b. U.S.A
- c. China
- d. Russia

Answers

1. c

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently inducted **Tejas Mk-1 FOC** aircraft into the recently resurrected No 18 Sqn, the "*Flying Bullets*" at Air Force Station, Sulur.
- It is an important step towards enhancing the operational capability of the Air Force.

- This is also an important milestone in the country's indigenous fighter aircraft program and a significant boost to the 'Make In India' initiative.

LCA Tejas

- India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) together with its variants, is the smallest and lightest Multi-Role **Supersonic Fighter Aircraft** of its class.
- This single engine, Compound-Delta-Wing, Tailless Aircraft is designed and developed by **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** as the principal partner along with DRDO, CSIR, BEL, DGAQA, IAF & IN to meet diverse needs of the **Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy (IN)**.

Tejas Mk-1 FOC

- Tejas Mk-1 FOC (Final Operational Clearance) is one of the variant of LCA Tejas.
- It is a single engine, light weight, highly agile, all weather multi role fighter aircraft capable of air-to-air refueling thus making it a truly versatile platform.
- It is a much lethal aircraft than the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) block.
- Apart from all the capabilities of IOC aircraft, the FOC variant additionally comes with **air to air refuelling capability, close combat gun, additional drop tanks, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile capability, updated avionics and flight control software suite**.

2. d

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has recently announced that it has released the source code of Aarogya Setu app to promote transparency and collaboration with the software developer community.
- The IT Ministry's move came in the wake of demands from cyber law experts and critics who had said the app was too closed in nature and without adequate data protection measures.

What does an Open-Source Software mean?

- Software can be divided into two broad categories, proprietary and open source.

Proprietary or Closed Source Software

- Any software that has to be bought or licensed from the creator of the software is called a proprietary or closed-source software.
- Examples include **Microsoft Windows, Google Earth** and **Adobe Photoshop**.
- The intellectual property rights of the software, even if bought or licensed, remains with the creator.

Open-source software

- Open-source software requires no licensing and need not be bought.
- Its source code is open for everyone to download, examine, redistribute, and improve upon if they can, with an acknowledgment to the original software coder or the company.
- Examples of such software are **WordPress, VLC Media Player**, and the **Mozilla browser**.

3. b

- Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series titled, "Culture & Tourism - Two sides of Goan economy was released recently.
- It presented the Culture, history, heritage and architectural marvel of Goa.
- The webinar session allowed a peek into Goa's history, from the times of the **Kadamba kingdom** to **Vijayanagara Empire, Bahmani Sultanate** and **Bijapur Sultanate** during the medieval period and till the **Portuguese** invasion of Goa defeating the Bijapur Sultanate.
- The presence of **marine fossils, buried seashells and other features of reclaimed topography** in the Coastal belt **indicate that Goa has been uplifted from the sea** due to geological tectonic plate movement.

Deko Apna Desh Initiative

- It is a webinar series presented by the **Ministry of Tourism** with active technical support from **National e-**

Governance Division (NeGD) created by the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** for effective citizen engagement and communication with all stakeholders using the digital experience platform.

4. b

- The **world's largest all-electric aircraft "Cessna Caravan"** is about to take to the skies for the first time.
- This will be the largest aircraft ever to fly on electric power.

Cessna Caravan

- It is retrofitted with an electric engine, is expected to fly for 20-30 minutes over Washington state in the US.
- The plane can carry nine passengers but a test pilot will undertake the inaugural flight alone, cruising at a speed of 114mph (183km/h).
- A 750-horsepower electric engine was made by **MagniX**, an Australian electric motor manufacturer.
- The aircraft could enter commercial service by the end of 2021 and have a range of 100 miles.
- In December last year, an engine from the same company powered a seaplane in Vancouver, Canada, in what was described as the **"world's first" 100 per cent electric flight**.

5. b

- **U.S. President Donald Trump has recently announced a new initiative - Operation Warp Speed.**
- It is a public-private partnership meant to hurry the development, manufacturing and distribution of a coronavirus vaccine.

29-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)**

1. It is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament.

2. The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.

Which of 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 **Charru Mussel**

1. It is an invasive mussel native to the South and Central Arabian coasts.
2. It is much smaller in size and also edible.
3. It has been spread rapidly in the coasts of Gujarat and threatening the livelihoods of fishermen engaged in molluscan fisheries.

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

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

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

1. Dugongs are mammals which give birth to live young and then produce milk and nurse them.
2. Dugongs are widely found in the waters off the Odisha, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu coasts.
3. The loss of seagrass beds due to ocean floor trawling was the most important factor behind dwindling dugong populations.

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

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



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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Desert locusts*

1. As individuals, or in small isolated groups, locusts are not very dangerous.
2. They breed in Rajasthan but not in the Indo-Gangetic plains or Godavari and Cauvery delta.

Which of 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) “Locust Warning Organisation”, often seen in the news recently, is a unit under which of the following ministries?

- a. Ministry of Science and Technology
- b. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- c. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- d. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answers

1. b

Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

- It was set up by the Government as the apex level forum in December 2010.
- It is a **non-statutory body**.
- It was established with a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.
- The **Chairman of the Council** is the **Finance Minister** and its members include the heads of financial sector

Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC) Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and Chief Economic Adviser.

- The Council can invite experts to its meeting if required.

2. a

Charru mussel

- It is an invasive mussel native to the **South and Central American coasts**.
- Externally, the Charru mussel resembles the green and brown mussels (kallummekka in Malayalam), but **is much smaller in size**.
- Its colour varies **from black to brown, purple or dark green**.
- It is **spreading quickly in the backwaters of Kerala**, elbowing out other mussel and clam species and threatening the livelihoods of fishermen engaged in molluscan fisheries.
- Though this **smaller mussel is edible**, the overall economic loss and impact on biodiversity is much bigger.
- The rapid spread of the Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) may have been **triggered by Cyclone Ockhi** which struck the region in 2017.
- In all probability, the mussel reached the Indian shores attached to ship hulls or as larval forms in ballast water discharges.
- Surveys show the presence of the Charru mussel in the Kadinamkulam, Paravur, Edava-Nadayara, Ashtamudi, Kayamkulam, Vembanad, Chettuva and Ponnani estuaries/backwaters.

Ashtamudi Lake

- Ashtamudi Lake, a Ramsar site in Kollam district, remains the worst-hit.
- The short-necked clam fisheries in the lake had obtained an eco label from the Marine Stewardship Council and about 3,000 people are dependent on fisheries there.
- With a population as high as 11,384 per sq metre here, it has replaced the Asian green

mussel (*Perna viridis*) and the edible oyster *Magallana bilineata* (known locally as muringa).

3. c

- *World Dugong Day was celebrated recently on May 28, 2020.*

Dugongs

- Dugongs are an endangered marine species and an important part of the marine ecosystem and their depletion will have effects all the way up the food chain.
- **Dugongs are mammals**, which means they give birth to live young and then produce milk and nurse them.
- Once the female is pregnant, she will carry the unborn baby, called a foetus for 12-14 months before giving birth.
- Female dugongs give birth underwater to a single calf at three to seven-year intervals.
- **Dugongs graze on seagrass**, especially young shoots and roots in shallow coastal waters.
- They can consume up to 40 kilograms of seagrass in a day.
- They are protected in India under **Schedule I of the Wild (Life) Protection Act, 1972**.
- There were just 250 dugongs in the **Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat** according to the 2013 survey report of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- Hundreds of dugongs inhabited waters off the **Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra**
- **Pradesh coasts** two centuries back, but **they are extinct in these areas now**.
- Seagrass in Odisha's Chilika lake is a proper habitat for dugongs. However, there is not extant population in Chilika.
- Human activities such as the destruction and modification of habitat, pollution, rampant illegal fishing activities, vessel strikes, unsustainable hunting or poaching and unplanned tourism are the main threats to dugongs.

- The loss of seagrass beds due to ocean floor trawling was the most important factor behind dwindling dugong populations in many parts of the world.

4. c

- They normally live and breed in semi-arid or desert regions.
- For laying eggs, they require bare ground, which is rarely found in areas with dense vegetation.
- So, they can **breed in Rajasthan but not in the Indo-Gangetic plains or Godavari and Cauvery delta**.
- But green vegetation is required for hopper development.
- Hopper is the stage between the nymph that is hatched from the eggs, and the winged adult moth.
- Such cover isn't widespread enough in the deserts to allow growth of large populations of locusts.
- As individuals, or in small isolated groups, locusts are not very dangerous.
- But when they grow into large populations their behaviour changes, they transform from 'solitary phase' into 'gregarious phase', and start forming 'swarms'.
- A single swarm can contain 40 to 80 million adults in one square km, and these can travel up to 150 km a day.
- Large-scale breeding happens only when conditions turn very favourable in their natural habitat, desert or semi-arid regions.
- Good rains can sometimes generate just enough green vegetation that is conducive to egg-laying as well as hopper development.
- This is what seems to have happened this year.
- These locusts usually breed in the dry areas around Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea along the eastern coast of Africa, a region known as the Horn of Africa.
- Other breeding grounds are the adjoining Asian regions in Yemen, Oman, southern Iran, and in Pakistan's Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

- Many of these areas received unusually good rains in March and April, and that resulted in large-scale breeding and hopper development.
- These locusts started arriving in Rajasthan around the first fortnight of April, much ahead of the normal July-October normal.
- The Locust Warning Organisation, a unit under the Agriculture Ministry, had spotted these and warned of their presence at Jaisalmer and Suratgarh in Rajasthan, and Fazilka in Punjab near the India-Pakistan border.
- Subsequently, there has been arrival of several swarms from the breeding areas.

5. c

- In order to keep the menace of locust at bay **Locust Warning Organization** (LWO) has been established.
- Locust Warning Organisation (LWO), Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage, **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** is responsible for monitoring, survey and control of Desert Locust in Scheduled Desert Areas mainly in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- The Department has established 11 Nos. of Locust Control Offices (LCOs) established under LWO in Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- The LWO monitors, forewarns and controls locust in Scheduled Desert Area, conduct research on locust and grasshoppers, keep liaison and coordination with National and International Organizations and undertakes HRD through training and demonstration.

30-05-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to **National Career Service Mission**

1. It is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India.
2. It is a five year mission mode project being implemented by the Directorate General of Employment.

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

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

2) **Agneeprastha**, sometimes seen in the news recently, is a?

- a. Missile Park to be setup by the Ministry of Defence
- b. New laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation
- c. Fire and Rescue Operation held by the National Disaster Response Force
- d. Super Computer Complex established by the Ministry of Electronics and IT

3) Consider the following statements about **Kalapani**, a disputed territory between India and Nepal

1. The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.
2. The Treaty of Sugauli signed by the Kingdom of Nepal and British India (after Anglo-Nepalese War) in 1816 located the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India.

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

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

4) Major Suman Gawani, an Indian Army officer has been recently selected for the prestigious Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019). With respect to the award, consider the following statements:

1. The award was created in 2016 and will be awarded by the United Nations.

2. The award honours the dedication and effort of individual military peacekeepers in promoting the UN principles on Women, Peace and Security.
3. This is the first time that an Indian peacekeeper is being given the Military Gender Advocate award.

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) India's first dolphin observatory was planned to setup in which of the following states?

- a. Bihar
- b. Assam
- c. Uttar Pradesh
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Answers

1. d

- *The Ministry of Labour and Employment under its National Career Service (NCS) project has now started offering free online "Career Skills Training" in partnership with TCS ION for its registered job-seekers.*

National Career Service Mission

- It is a **five year mission mode project** launched in 2015.
- The project is being implemented by the **Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment.**
- National Career Service (NCS) is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India.
- It works towards bridging the gap between jobseekers and employers, candidates seeking

training and career guidance, agencies providing training and career counselling.

- The NCS project reaches out to the people of this country through its three essential pillars i.e. a well-designed ICT based portal which is NCS portal, Country wide set up of Model Career Centers and Inter-linkage with all the states through employment exchanges.

2. a

- Foundation Stone for a Missile Park "AGNEEPRASTHA" was recently laid at INS Kalinga.
- The Missile Park 'AGNEEPRASTHA' once completed will be dedicated to all the Officers, Sailors and Support Staff of INS Kalinga, who have served in this premier op-support Base of the ENC since its establishment in 1981.
- The Park also commemorates the award of the prestigious Unit Citation to INS Kalinga for the year 2018-19.

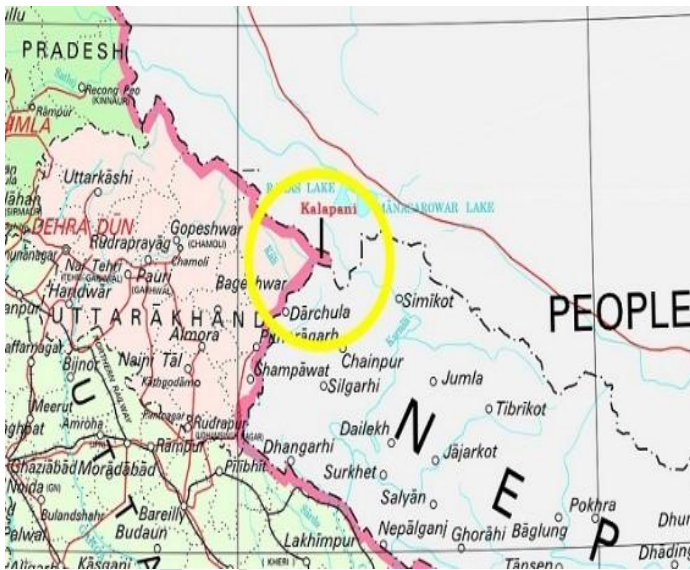
AGNEEPRASTHA

- It aims to capture glimpses of Missile History of INS Kalinga since 1981 till date.
- The Missile Park has been set up with a replica of missiles and Ground Support Equipment (GSE) that showcase the evolution of missiles handled by the unit.
- The exhibits have been created from scrap/obsolete inventory which have been reconditioned in-house.
- It will also provide a one-stop arena for motivation and stimulation of inquisitive minds regarding the missiles and related technologies, from school children to Naval personnel and their families.

3. c

- Kali River is also known as Sharda river or Kali Ganga in Uttarakhand. It joins Ghagra river in Uttar Pradesh, which is a tributary of Ganga.
- River Projects includes Tanakpur hydro-electric project, Chameliya hydro-electric project, Sharda Barrage.
- Kalapani is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

- It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.
- The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.
- The Treaty of Sugauli signed by the Kingdom of Nepal and British India (after Anglo-Nepalese War) in 1816 located the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India.
- The discrepancy in locating the source of the river led to boundary disputes between India and Nepal, with each country producing maps supporting their own claims.
- In the latest political map of India, India reiterated its claims on the region that Nepal considers its own territory in Darchula district.
- According to India, the historic Kalapani region forms part of the state of Uttarakhand.
- Recently India hit out at Nepal for releasing a new political map that includes Kalapani, a bone of contention between the two countries, as well as other disputed spots.



4. d

- **Major Suman Gawani** of the Indian Army, a Military Observer formerly deployed with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan** (UNMISS) and Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo, a **Brazilian Naval officer** have been chosen for the “Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award”.

United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

- It was created in 2016.
- It recognizes the dedication and effort of an individual military peacekeeper in promoting the principles of UN Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in a peace operation context.
- For the first time, two peacekeepers will receive **the award jointly** for their contribution to this important cause.
- This is the first time that an **Indian peacekeeper** is being given the Military Gender Advocate award.

5. a

- **Bihar government** is setting up India's first observatory for the mammals in Bhagalpur district at the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS).
- The structural design of the observatory is such that it will promote eco-tourism.
- The observatory is being built on the Sultanganj-Aguwani Ghat bridge over the Ganga, it will be in the middle of the river, where bridge's width will be nearly 100 feet.
- The four-storey observatory will be 40 feet high, with the bridge passing through its middle.
- The observatory building will be transparent, with glass from all sides to ensure people can watch the dolphins.
- It will give people an incentive to visit the place and see dolphins in the sanctuary without disturbing them.
- There would be no bad or adverse impact on the river's ecology as the observatory is being constructed on a bridge over the Ganga.
- There are also suggestions to build another dolphin observatory at the confluence of the Ganga and Punpun rivers near Fatuha in Patna, about 5-15 dolphins are visible at the site at all times of the year.