



IAS PARLIAMENT

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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

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01-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements

1. Its name is derived from Pampa which is the old name of the Tungabhadra River on whose banks the city is built.
2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
3. It was the last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar.

Identify the heritage site based on the above description:

- a. Hampi
- b. Mahabalipuram
- c. Gangaikonda Cholapuram
- d. None of the above

2) Kanni and Combai are dog breeds from which of the following states?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Himachal Pradesh

3) 'MEDBOT', sometimes seen in the news recently, is a remote-controlled medical trolley to deliver food, medicines to COVID-19 patients. It was developed by?

- a. Indian Railways
- b. All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- c. Indian Council of Medical Research
- d. Defence Research & Development Organisation

4) Consider the following statements with respect to AstroSat

1. It is India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory.
2. It has detected one of the earliest galaxies, AUDFs01, in extreme ultraviolet light.

Which of 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) World's Largest Solar Tree was recently installed at which of the following states?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. West Bengal

6) Consider the following statements with respect to East Asia Summit (EAS)

1. India, China, the US, Japan and Russia are the members of EAS.
2. It is an ASEAN-centred forum and can only be chaired by an ASEAN member.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the National Register of Citizens (NRC)

1. The non-included people in the list of NRC have the option to present their case before foreigners' tribunals, the tribunals decision is final and binding and the person cannot move to any other court.
2. NRC is a part of the the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

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

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



d. Neither 1 nor 2

8) Consider the following statements with respect to Colorectal Cancer

1. It is cancer of the colon or rectum, located at the digestive tract.
2. It affects men, and is most often found in young people.

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

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

9) Togo recently seen in news is?

- a. A country located in West Africa
- b. Bordered by Benin and Ghana
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Pangong Lake

1. It is the world's highest saltwater lake.
2. It is a part of the Indus river basin 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

Answers

1. a

- The Ministry of Tourism organised their latest webinar titled Hampi- Inspired by the past; Going into the future under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series.

- The webinar was focused on an integrated approach that addresses the needs of Hampi as both heritage site and tourist destination, and addresses social, economic and ecological concerns.
- Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme.

Hampi

- It was the last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage site,
- Hampi's spectacular setting is dominated by river Tungabhadra, craggy hill ranges and open plains with widespread physical remains.
- Its name is derived from Pampa which is the old name of the Tungabhadra River on whose banks the city is built.
- The Vijayanagara rulers fostered developments in intellectual pursuits and the arts, maintained a strong military and fought many wars with sultanates to its north and east.
- They invested in roads, waterworks, agriculture, religious buildings and public infrastructure.
- The site used to be multi-religious and multi-ethnic; it included Hindu and Jain monuments next to each other.
- The buildings predominantly followed South Indian Hindu arts and architecture dating to the Aihole-Pattadakal styles, but the Hampi builders also used elements of Indo-Islamic architecture in the Lotus Mahal, the public bath and the elephant stables.

2. b

- Indian Prime Minister discussed about the Indian breed of dogs during his recent Maan ki Baat speech.
- He said that they cost less to raise and are better adapted to the Indian environment and surroundings and said that our security agencies are also inducting these Indian breed dogs as part of their security squad.
- Research on the Indian breed dogs is also being done by the Indian Council of



Agriculture Research with the aim to make them better and more beneficial, he noted.

- He exhorted the listeners, who are planning to raise a pet dog, to adopt one of Indian breed.

3. a

- During Corona crisis, apart from providing transport facilities and essential items like foodgrains to people, **Indian Railways** has also provided facilities for COVID-19 patients.
- It has developed a remote-controlled medical trolley named 'MEDBOT' to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients.
- It is providing service in the Central Hospital of the Diesel Rail Engine Factory of Indian Railways.

4. c

- In a landmark achievement, Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe.
- It is a matter of pride that India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

5. d

- **CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CMERI) has developed the World's Largest Solar Tree, which is installed at CSIR-CMERI Residential Colony, Durgapur, West Bengal.**
- The installed capacity of the Solar Tree is above 11.5 kWp.
- It has the annual capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power.

6. c

- The 8th East Asia Summit (EAS), the Economic Ministers' Meeting was held recently.
- The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promote trade and investment, minimise disruptions to trade and global supply chains and facilitate supply chain connectivity.

- The EAS has 18 members, the 10 ASEAN countries along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Russia.

- It is an ASEAN-centred forum and can only be chaired by an ASEAN member.

7. d

- Assam govt seeks to re-verify 20% of final NRC list in districts bordering Bangladesh.
- The NRC in Assam is basically a list of Indian citizens living in the state.
- The non-included people in the list of NRC have the option to present their case before foreigners' tribunals.
- The tribunals decision can be challenged in the high court and, then, the Supreme Court.
- The CAA is a separate law and NRC is a separate process.

8. a

- Recently, a Hollywood actor died of Colon Cancer.
- When cancer starts in the colon or rectum, at the digestive tract, it is called colorectal cancer or colon cancer.
- It affects men and women of all racial and ethnic groups, and is most often found in people who are 50 years old or older.

9. c

- Recently, Togo becomes the first African country to end sleeping sickness.
- The Togolese Republic, also known as Togo is a country of western Africa.
- It lies between Ghana to the west and Benin to the east, bordered in north by Burkina Faso, it has a short coastline.

10. a

- The Indian Army thwarted an attempt by China to change the status quo near the LAC by deploying its troops on the southern bank of the Pangong Tso Lake in eastern Ladakh.
- The Pangong Lake has been among the most contentious sectors in the ongoing military standoff in eastern Ladakh.



- It is an *endorheic lake* (landlocked) that is partly in India's Ladakh region and partly in Tibet.
- It is *the world's highest saltwater lake*.
- It is *not a part of the Indus river basin area*.

02-09-2020

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

1. It is an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.
2. It was initiated by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with U.S. and Canada.
3. It gathers data from North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and others available in the public domain.

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 *Renati Cholas*, consider the following statements

1. They ruled over Renadu region which is located in present day Kerala.
2. They were the first to use Telugu in administration and inscriptions instead of Sanskrit.

Which of 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

Recent Exercises – Countries

1. Indra – India & Russia
2. Kavkaz – India & UAE
3. PASSEX – India & USA

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

- 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 *Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY)*

1. It is a central sector scheme that aims for the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
2. The scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

Which of 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 *Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)*

1. It is a trilateral approach to trade, mooted by United States of America with India and Japan as key-partners.
2. The initiative aims to attract foreign direct investment to turn the Indo-Pacific into an economic powerhouse and reduce dependency on a single nation.

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



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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Official Development Assistance (ODA)*

1. It is the government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries.
2. The key focus of ODA is on poverty, military and infrastructure development.
3. The OECD maintains a list of developing countries and territories, only aid to these countries are count as ODA.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Roll On – Roll Off Services (RORO)*

1. In RO-RO, loaded trucks are directly carried by railway wagons to their destination.
2. It reduces pollution and saves fuel.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Earth Observation Satellites*

1. They are placed only in Sun-synchronous orbit.

2. HysIS is an Indian Earth Observation Satellite.

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

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

9) The famous Agricultural Festival in Arunachal Pradesh, which involves the sacrifice of fowls, eggs and animals to the gods and celebrated by the Apatani tribal people, is known as?

- a. Lossar
- b. Boori-boot
- c. Dree
- d. Nyokum

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Smart Grid*

1. These are digitally augmented electricity grids which automate and manage the increasing intricacies on the supply as well as the demand side.
2. It incentivize consumers to alter usage during different times of day based on pricing signals.

Which of 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

- The *Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)* has recently initiated 'Project NETRA'.

Network for space object Tracking and Analysis (NETRA)

- It is an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.
- The project estimated to cost Rs.400 crore, when in place, will **give India its own capability in space situational awareness (SSA)** like the other space powers — which is used to ‘predict’ threats from debris to Indian satellites.
- Experts says that it also goes so far as to serve as an unstated warning against missile or space attack for the country.
- The space agency says our SSA will first be for low-earth orbits or LEO which have remote-sensing spacecraft.
- Under NETRA, or Network for space object Tracking and Analysis, the ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities: connected radars, telescopes; data processing units and a control centre.
- They can, among others, spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.
- NETRA’s eventual goal is to capture the GEO, or geostationary orbit, scene at 36,000 km where communication satellites operate.

Space debris

- It could be floating particles from dead satellites or rocket parts that stay in orbit for many years.
- Satellite agencies agonise over even a speck of paint or fragment floating towards their spacecraft: it disables on board electronics and cripples the satellite worth several hundred crore rupees besides many services that run on it.
- Agencies constantly look for debris at the time of a launch and through the life of a satellite.

Currently what we are doing?

- Even now we do collision avoidance manoeuvres on our satellites.
- To do that we **depend on data from NORAD and others available in the**

public domain but we don’t get accurate [or comprehensive] information.

- By establishing an observation system of our own, we become part of the global network and can access precise data.
- **NORAD, or the North American Aerospace Defense Command**, is an initiative of the **U.S. and Canada** that shares selective debris data with many countries.

2. b

- In a landmark discovery, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) experts claim they have found the exact location of Renati Cholas’ capital and debunked decades-old theory that the capital was in Karnataka.
- They claim the capital of Renati Cholas, who had ruled Renadu region in Rayalaseema and were the **first to use Telugu in administration and inscriptions instead of Sanskrit**, may be in modern-day Kamalapuram region in Kadapa district in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) ruled over Renadu region, the present day **Cuddapah district, Andhra Pradesh**.
- In another incident, a rare inscription dating back to the Renati Chola era has been unearthed in a remote village of Kadapa district recently.
- Going by the language and characters, the inscription was written in archaic Telugu.
- It was assigned to the 8th Century A.D., when the region was under the rule of Chola Maharaja of Renadu.

3. b

- **India and Russia** are scheduled to hold the bilateral naval exercise, **Indra 2020**, in the Andaman Sea, close to the strategic Strait of Malacca later this week.
- The situation arises amid high operational alert by the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) due to the ongoing standoff with China in Ladakh.
- The decision comes just after **India withdrew from the Kavkaz-2020**

multinational exercise in Russia scheduled for later this month.

- While the stated reason for the withdrawal was the COVID-19 pandemic, defence sources had said that it due to the participation of Chinese troops.
- In July, frontline warships of the **Indian Navy conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the U.S. aircraft carrier** with USS Nimitz strike group in the same area near the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) islands as it was transiting the Indian Ocean.
- The USS Nimitz was returning from the South China Sea through the Malacca Strait where it undertook freedom of navigation operations.

4. c

- *Government gave its nod to 27 projects recently under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana for development of integrated cold chains and value addition infrastructure in the country.*

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

- Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA) is a Central Sector Scheme.
- The scheme will be implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- It is a comprehensive package which will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- It will not only provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country but also help in providing better returns to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers income, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

The following schemes will be implemented under PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana:

1. Mega Food Parks
2. Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure

3. Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/ Preservation Capacities (Unit Scheme)
4. Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
5. Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
6. Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure
7. Human Resources and Institutions

5. b

Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)

- Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) is a trilateral approach to trade, mooted by Japan with India and Australia as the key-partners.
- The initiative aims to reduce the dependency on a single nation (at present China).
- SCRI is a direct response to individual companies and economies concerned about Chinese political behavior and the disruption that could lead to the supply chain.
- The initiative, first proposed by Japan with India and Australia as partners, potentially see other Asian and Pacific Rim nations later.
- SCRI aims to attract foreign direct investment to turn the Indo-Pacific into an “economic powerhouse”.

6. b

- *Japan to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 50 billion Japanese Yen to India.*
- JICA signed with the Indian government to provide the aid, as the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan.
- *ODA is the government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries.*
- *Loans and credits for military purposes are excluded from ODA.*
- *OECD maintains a list of developing countries and territories, only aid to these countries are count as ODA.*

7. c

- Recently, the *Roll On – Roll Off (RO-RO)* train service was flagged off between Bengaluru and Solapur.

- In RO-RO, loaded trucks are directly carried by railway wagons to their destination.
- It reduces pollution and saves fuel as trucks are not plying on the roads.

8. b

- Recently, SpaceX launches Earth-observation satellite.
- They are placed mostly in Sun-synchronous orbit and sometimes also in Geostationary orbit.
- HysIS is an Indian Earth Observation Satellite.
- The primary goal of HysIS is to study the earth's surface in the visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

9. c

- The Dree Festival is an Apatani agricultural rite.
- It involves the sacrifice of fowls, eggs and animals to the gods – Tamu, Metii and Danyi Pilo (Sun and Moon God).
- The purpose of the festival is to appease these gods so that famine could be avoided.
- This rite is observed by the Apatanis in Arunachal Pradesh, India.
- UNESCO has proposed the Apatani valley for inclusion as a World Heritage Site for its "extremely high productivity" and "unique" way of preserving the ecology.

10. c

- Smart Metering infrastructure can help distressed power sector.
- The smart-grids are digitally augmented electricity grids which automate and manage the increasing intricacies on the supply as well as the demand side.
- They are entrusted to both integrate renewable energy and reduce AT&C losses.
- It enhances quality management of distribution and transmission in terms of voltage control, rerouting, reliability, and control.

- It incentivize consumers to alter usage during different times of day based on pricing signals.
- It also facilitate distributed generation, especially for the roof top solar generation.

03-09-2020

1) Global Innovation Index 2020, was released recently by which of the following?

- UNESCO
- World Economic Forum
- World Intellectual Property Organization
- None of the above

2) With respect to Mission Karmayogi, which was launched recently, consider the following statements

- It is a new capacity building scheme for civil servants aimed at upgrading the post-recruitment training mechanism of the officers and employees at all levels.
- The programme will be delivered by setting up a digital platform called iGOTKarmayogi.

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 Sree Narayana Guru

- He coined the slogan no religion, no caste, no God for mankind.
- He held all religions to be the same and condemned animal sacrifices.
- He started the Sree Narayana Guru Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Movement.

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



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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit*

- 1. It is an annual summit organized by USISPF, a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the U.S.
- 2. The theme for the 3rd edition of the summit is US-India Navigating New Challenges.

Which of 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 regarding the Ecological Succession

- 1. Primary Succession occurs when an ecological community first enters into a new form of habitat that it has not been present in before.
- 2. Secondary Succession occurs in already established habitat.
- 3. In Climax stage, an ecosystem becomes balanced and there is a little risk of an interfering event to influence the environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Question Hour*

- 1. It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.
- 2. The questions can not be asked to the private members during the Question Hour.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)*

- 1. It is a revenue-sharing fee model between government and the telecom operators.
- 2. AGR comprise of income only from the core telecom operations.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Press Trust of India (PTI)*

- 1. It is the India's premier news agency under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- 2. It acts as a conduit of information between the Government of India and its citizens and it periodically releases information and only gives coverage to government plans, policies, programme initiatives, achievements.

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

- a. 1 only



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

9) Novichok recently seen in news is?

- a. Russia's new COVID 19 vaccine
- b. A spy satellite of Russia
- c. A chemical nerve agent
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Lebanon

1. It is located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea.
2. It shares its border with Syria and Israel.

Which of 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

- India has climbed 4 spots and has been ranked 48th by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in the *Global Innovation Index 2020* rankings.
- India was at the 52nd position in 2019 and was ranked 81st in the year 2015.
- The WIPO had also accepted India as one of the leading innovation achievers of 2019 in the central and southern Asian region, as it has shown a consistent improvement in its innovation ranking for the last 5 years.

Global Innovation Index (GII)

- The GI by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) ranks global economies according to their innovation capabilities,

including roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs.

2. c

- The Union Cabinet recently approved Mission Karmayogi or National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).

Mission Karmayogi

- The aim of Mission Karmayogi is to provide a mechanism to continuously build capacity, update the talent pool, and provide equal opportunities for personal and professional growth and esteem of government officials at all levels.
- Karmayogi seeks to shift the focus from '**rule-specific**' to '**role-specific**'.
- It will be steered by four new bodies, and will be available for civil servants from the rank of assistant section officer to Secretary, across services.
- NPCSCB will be governed by the **Prime Minister's Human Resource Council**, which will also include state Chief Ministers, Union Cabinet ministers and experts.
- This council will approve and review civil service capacity building programmes.
- Besides this, there will be a **Cabinet Secretary Coordination Unit** comprising of select secretaries and cadre controlling authorities.
- Also, there will be a **Capacity Building Commission**, which will include experts in related fields and global professionals.
- This commission will prepare and monitor annual capacity building plans and audit human resources available in the government.
- Additionally, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that will own and operate the digital assets and technological platform for online training
- An Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT)-Karmayogi platform will be developed for the project.

3. b

- The Sree Narayana Guru Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Movement was an example of a regional movement born out of conflict

between the depressed classes and upper castes.

- It was started by Sree Narayana Guru Swamy (1856-1928) among the Ezhavas of Kerala, who were a backward caste of toddy-tappers and were considered to be untouchables, denied education and entry into temples.
- Narayana Guru, himself from the Ezhava caste, took a stone from the Neyyar river and installed it as a Sivalinga at Aruvippuram on Sivaratri in 1888.
- It was intended to show that consecration of an idol was not the monopoly of the higher castes.
- With this he began a revolution that soon led to the removal of many discriminations in Kerala's society.
- Sree Narayana Guru held all religions to be the same and *condemned animal sacrifice* besides speaking against divisiveness on the basis of caste, race or creed.
- He coined the slogan *one religion, one caste, one God for mankind*, which his disciple Sahadaran Ayyapan changed into "no religion, no caste, no God for mankind."

4. c

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently deliver the Special Key Note Address at the USISPF 3rd Annual Leadership Summit through video conference.
- The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the U.S.
- The Theme of the 5 day Summit that began on the 31st of August is "US-India Navigating New Challenges".
- The theme covers various subjects such as India's potential in becoming a Global Manufacturing Hub, Opportunities in India's Gas Market, Ease of Doing Business to attract FDI in India, Common Opportunities & Challenges in Tech Space, Indo-Pacific Economic issues, Innovation in Public Health and others.

5. d

6. a

- In view of the pandemic, Parliament has said *no to Question Hour and curtailed Zero Hour*.
- *Question Hour*, is usually the first hour of every sitting of house.
- During this time, *the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers*.
- In addition to the ministers, *the questions can also be asked to the private members*.
- Thus, *a question may be addressed to a private member if the subject matter of the question relates to some Bill, resolution or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that member is responsible*.
- The procedure in regard to such question is the same as that followed in the case of questions addressed to a minister.

7. a

- The Supreme Court gave telecom firms 10 years to clear *Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)* related dues.
- AGR is a *revenue-sharing fee model between government and the telecom operators*.
- The dispute between DoT and the mobile operators was mainly on the definition of AGR.
- The DoT argued that AGR includes all revenues (before discounts) from both telecom and non-telecom services.
- The companies claimed that AGR should comprise just the revenue accrued from core services and not dividend, interest income or profit on sale of any investment or fixed assets.
- The Supreme Court upheld Department of Telecommunications' (DoT) definition of adjusted gross revenue (AGR).

8. d

- Recently, Aveek Sarkar, has been elected Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).
- PTI is a is the India's premier, independent news agency.
- It is a non-profit cooperative.



- The released information, includes the mainstream media, the specialized presses, research groups, companies, and government and non-governmental organisations.
- PTI is run by a Board of Directors with the Chairmanship going by rotation at the Annual General Meeting.
- PIB is the government news agency under under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

9. c

- The Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, was poisoned With Chemical Nerve Agent, according to Germany.
- He was poisoned by *Novichok*, a chemical nerve agent.
- *Novichok* nerve agents banned by chemical-weapons treaty.
- In 2017, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) confirmed the full destruction of of chemical weapons possessed by Russia.
- The OPCW has the power to send inspectors to any signatory country to search for evidence of production of banned chemicals.
- It also can send experts to help countries to investigate crime scenes where chemical agents may have been used.

10. c

- Beirut, the capital of *Lebanon*, marked the 100th anniversary of its creation September 1, 2020.
- It is on a verge of a solid-waste crisis, said a top expert of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Nearly 2,750 tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate exploded in a warehouse at the port and wiped out parts of the city.
- Lebanon was under a French military administration.
- It is located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea.
- It is bounded to the north and east by *Syria*, to the south by *Israel*.

04-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI)

1. One RSETI is established in every State and UTs in the country to impart training and skill upgradation of rural youth geared towards entrepreneurship development.
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
3. They are managed by Banks with active co-operation from the Government of India and State Government.

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) Sonamura - Daukandi Inland Waterway connects India with which of the following country?

- a. Sri Lanka
- b. Myanmar
- c. Bangladesh
- d. None of the above

3) With respect to Sangolli Rayanna, consider the following statements

1. He was a trusted lieutenant in the army of Tipu Sultan, who ruled the Kingdom of Mysore.
2. He fought against the British East India Company and was captured and hanged from a banyan tree.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only



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

4) With respect to Pripyat River, often seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is an east flowing river that passes through Ukraine, Belarus and drains into the Dnieper River.
2. The River passes through the exclusion zone established around the site of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Which of 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) E40, often seen in the news recently, is a transnational project aimed at establishing inland waterway that connects which of the following?

- a. Caspian Sea and Aral Sea
b. Black Sea and Baltic Sea
c. Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
d. South China Sea and Sea of Japan

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)*

1. It is the world's largest gravitational wave observatory.
2. The LIGO-India project is piloted by Department of Atomic Energy and ISRO.

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

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

- d. Neither 1 nor 2

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Coral Reefs*

1. They are confined only to tropical waters.
2. They live mostly in areas where fresh water from rivers drain into the ocean.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)*

1. It is a mission for Sustainable Agriculture to double the farmers income.
2. It seeks to transform Indian agriculture into a climate resilient production system.

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

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

9) *Leo Pargil Peak* recently seen in news is located in?

- a. Sikkim
b. Ladakh
c. Arunachal Pradesh
d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *UNSC Resolution 1267 Sanctions Committee*

1. It oversees sanctions measures related to individuals, entities and groups, imposed by the Security Council.
2. It comprises all 15 members of the Security Council and makes its decision by consensus.

Which of 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

- Foundation stone laying ceremony of the new training Institute building of National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR) was held recently.
- The NAR undertakes monitoring, mentoring and capacity building of the Rural Self Employment Training Institutes staff (**585 RSETIs are spread across 566 districts of the country**), State/UT Rural Livelihood Mission staff and the concerned Bank officials on behalf of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI)

- It is an initiative of **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- These are dedicated institutions designed to ensure necessary skill training and skill up gradation of the rural BPL youth to mitigate the unemployment problem.
- RSETIs are managed by Banks with active co-operation from the Government of India and State Government.
- RSETI concept is based on RUDSETI (Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute), a society established jointly by three agencies i.e. Syndicate Bank, Canara Bank and Sri Manjunatheswara Trust based at Ujire in Karnataka.

- **One RSETI is established in every district in the country.**
- Concerned bank is the lead bank in the district takes responsibility for creating and managing it. Government of India will provide one - time grant assistance, upto a maximum of Rs. 1 crore for meeting the expenditure on construction of building and other infrastructure.
- After successful completion of the training, they will be provided with credit linkage assistance by the banks to start their own entrepreneurial ventures.

2. c

- The Sonamura - Daukandi inland waterways route connecting **Tripura to Bangladesh** is set to become operational soon.
- External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the route connects Tripura to the National Waterways of India through Bangladesh for the first time.
- It is another recent connectivity initiative with Bangladesh and will greatly boost connectivity with north East region and bilateral trade with Bangladesh.

3. b

- Sangolli Rayanna, born on August 15, 1798, was a trusted lieutenant in **Kittur Rani Chennamma's army**.
- He was captured by the British army and later hanged from a banyan tree outside Nandgad village on January 26, 1831.
- Along with Rani Chennamma, Rayanna's glory and bravery are reflected in the 'gee gee padas' (native folk songs) and dramas.

4. c

- The dredging of the Pripyat river that flows near the site of the infamous nuclear accident at Chernobyl, could wreak havoc on an estimated 28 million people in Ukraine, the World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature has warned recently.
- The Pripyat river flows from northwestern Ukraine to its confluence with the Dnieper river, Ukraine's most important river, on which its capital city of Kiev is located.

- The Pripyat river passes through the exclusion zone established around the site.
- The river rises in north-western Ukraine near the Polish border and flows eastward in Ukraine and then Belarus through a flat, forested, and swampy basin known as the Pripyet Marshes to Mazyr; there it turns south-eastward, re-enters Ukraine, and joins the Dnieper in the Kiev Reservoir.
- The Pripyat river is being dredged as part of the restoration of a bilateral waterway between Ukraine and Belarus and is being seen as the first step of the much larger **E40 project**.

5. b

- The Pripyat river is being dredged as part of the restoration of a bilateral waterway between Ukraine and Belarus and is being seen as the first step of the much larger **E40 project**.

E40 Project

- The E40 Inland Waterway (E40 IWW) is a transnational project aimed at establishing inland waterway through Poland, Belarus and Ukraine.
- The E40 project envisions connecting the **Black and Baltic Seas** for ocean-going ships to ply.
- It seeks to connect the ports of Gdansk in Poland on the Baltic, with that of Kherson in Ukraine on the Black Sea.

6. a

- Recently, Astronomers detect biggest collision of impossible black holes.
- The collision was observed by the National Science Foundation's *Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)*.
- It is the world's largest gravitational wave observatory.
- It's mission is to open the field of gravitational-wave astrophysics through the *direct detection of Gravitational Waves*.
- It exploits the physical properties of light and of space itself to detect and understand the origins of Gravitational Waves (GW).
- The *LIGO-India project* is piloted by Department of Atomic Energy and

Department of Science and Technology (DST).

7. d

- The dead *Coral Reefs* as important as live ones, shows new study.
- The dead coral reefs support cryptic animals including fishes, snails, tiny crabs and worms who hide under this rubble to save themselves from predation.
- Coral reefs are some of the *most diverse ecosystems in the world*.
- They are *generally confined to tropical and semi-tropical waters*.
- They are *found all over the world's oceans, from the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska to the warm tropical waters*.
- They *need salt water to survive* and they *cannot live mostly in areas where fresh water from rivers drain into the ocean*.

8. d

- Recently, Centre launched *Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)*.
- It is for *Renewable Energy (RE) Sector* in electricity, as a first step towards *greening the Indian short term power market*.
- It *will benefit buyers of RE through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement*.
- It will also benefit RE sellers by *providing access to the pan-India market*.

9. d

- Recently, Indo-Tibetan Border Police team scales *Leo Pargil peak*.
- It is a mountain peak at the southern end of the Zaskar Range in the Himalayas.
- It is *snow-covered peak is located in Lahaul-Spiti in Himachal Pradesh*.

10. c

- Recently, UNSC members block Pakistan's move to list four Indians as global terrorists.
- *UNSC Resolution 1267 Sanctions Committee* oversees sanctions measures related to



individuals, entities and groups, imposed by the Security Council.

- It comprises all 15 members of the Security Council and makes its decision by consensus.
- The States are required to take the measures above with respect to ISIL, Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them, as designated on the *ISIL and Al-Qaida Sanctions List*.

05-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)

1. It is the research body of Ministry of Tribal Affairs at state level, which functions under the administrative control of respective State Governments.
2. These institutes activity cost and infrastructure are fully funded by the Central Government through Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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

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

2) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will launch the 24x7 Toll-Free helpline facility "KIRAN". It aims to provide support for?

- a. Persons with Mental Illness
- b. Senior Citizens in Difficult Situation
- c. Backward class students about Career guidance
- d. Differently abled about various Government schemes

3) With respect to AcryloSorb, sometimes seen in the news recently, which of the following is incorrect?

- a. It is an artificial intelligence program to diagnose Covid-19 through non-invasive voice testing
- b. It is a tracking app that uses GPS and Bluetooth to inform people when they are at risk of exposure to COVID-19
- c. It is a microcontroller-based non-invasive BiPAP Ventilator developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- d. It is a highly efficient superabsorbent material for liquid respiratory and other body fluid solidification and disinfection

4) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently released the revised Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines. With respect to the guidelines, which of the following categories is/are eligible for finance under the PSL?

1. Bank finance for start-ups
2. Loans for setting up Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants
3. Loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid connected agriculture pumps

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to NIDHI-Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) Programme

1. It aims to encourage graduating students to take to entrepreneurship by providing support as a fellowship.
2. The programme was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only



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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*

1. It works for the complete prohibition of nuclear technology, contributing to international peace and security.
2. All the members of United Nations are the members of IAEA.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)*

1. It is a permanent, independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Prime Minister.
2. The NITI Aayog serves as the Nodal Agency for the EAC-PM.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)*

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
2. One of its main goal is to move towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new

international political and economic order.

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

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

9) The *Kris Gopalakrishnan Committee* sometimes seen in news is for?

- a. The Clause 6 of the Assam Accord
- b. Safety manual for COVID 19 treatment
- c. Non-Personal Data
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kaziranga National Park*

1. It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses.
2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an recognized Important Bird Area (IBA).

Which of 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

- An agreement was signed recently between Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) for setting up of *National Institute of Tribal Research (NITR)* at the IIPA campus, New Delhi.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs is funding to 26 TRIs for research under Grant to TRIs and it is engaged in quality research in collaboration

with reputed Government and Non-Government Organizations spread over country.

- These partner organizations are designated as Centre of Excellences (CoEs).

Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)

- It is the research body of the Ministry of Tribal affairs at state level.
- It is envisaged that TRIs should focus on their core responsibilities as body of knowledge & research more or less as a think tank for tribal development, preservation of tribal cultural heritage, providing inputs to States for evidence based planning and appropriate legislations, capacity building of tribals and persons / institutions associated with tribal affairs, dissemination of information and creation of awareness.
- Currently, 26 such Institutes are functioning across the Country, under the administrative control of the respective State Governments.
- These institutes activity cost and infrastructure including buildings are fully funded by the Central Government through Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Expenditure on salary of staff is met by the State Governments.

2. a

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment will launch the 24x7 Toll-Free **Mental Health Rehabilitation** Helpline “KIRAN” (1800-500-0019) through virtual mode Webcast on 07th September 09, 2020.
- This Helpline has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to provide relief and support to **persons with Mental Illness**.
- This helpline will offer mental health rehabilitation services with the objective of early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental well-being, promoting positive behaviors, psychological crisis management etc.
- It will function as a lifeline to provide 1st stage advice, counseling and reference to

individuals, families, NGOs, Parent Associations, Professional Associations, Rehabilitation Institutes, Hospitals or anyone in need of support across the country.

3. d

- Infectious secretions from contagious diseases such as COVID 19, tuberculosis (TB), and influenza poses high risk for healthcare workers.
- For the safe management of infected respiratory secretions, the researchers at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, have come up with a method for safe handling and disposal of respiratory secretions in hospitals for ICU patients or those with copious respiratory secretions treated in the wards.
- They have developed canister bags lined with super-absorbent material containing an effective disinfectant, named “AcryloSorb”.
- Solidification and immediate disinfection that occurs inside these bags eliminate risk of secondary infections by avoiding spilling and aerosol formation, and thereby protect healthcare workers and promote safe workplace management.
- Canister bags are enclosed in a customizable sealer bag which can pack it as spill-proof decontaminated biomedical waste disposable through incineration.

Other Innovations related to COVID-19

- The Indian government launched a COVID-19 tracking app called **Aarogya Setu** which uses GPS and Bluetooth to inform people when they are at risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- 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.
- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has developed an artificial intelligence program to diagnose Covid-19 in the people of Mumbai, through the medium of voice testing. (**Non-invasive vocal band sampling procedure**)

4. c

- *The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently released revised priority sector lending guidelines to augment funding to segments including start-ups and agriculture.*
- The revised guidelines will enable better credit penetration to credit deficient areas, increase lending to small and marginal farmers and weaker sections, boost credit to renewable energy, and health infrastructure

Fresh categories that are eligible for finance under the revised PSL guidelines:

1. Bank finance of up to Rs. 50 crore to start-ups
 2. Loans to farmers both for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid-connected agriculture pumps
 3. Loans for setting up compressed biogas (CBG) plants
- Higher weightage has been assigned to incremental priority sector credit in 'identified districts' where priority sector credit flow is comparatively low.
 - The targets prescribed for 'small and marginal farmers' and 'weaker sections' are being increased in a phased manner and higher credit limit has been specified for farmer producer organisations (FPOs)/farmers producers companies (FPCs) undertaking farming with assured marketing of their produce at a pre-determined price.
 - Besides, loan limits for renewable energy have been doubled.

5. a

- **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** launched National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) as an umbrella programme for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.
- **Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR)** Programme is one of the programs introduced under NIDHI to inspire the best talents to be entrepreneurs, to minimise the risk involved in pursuing start-ups, and to partially set off their opportunity costs of high paying jobs.

- The Programme aims to encourage graduating student to take to entrepreneurship by providing support as a fellowship.
- The programme is powered by Department of Science & Technology and Venture Centre, Pune.
- The NIDHI-EIR Programme would provide subsistence grant to an aspiring or budding entrepreneur of considerable potential for pursuing a promising technology business idea.

6. d

- Recently, *IAEA inspects Iran site*, to check the stockpile of enriched uranium.
- *The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field.*
- *It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.*
- It has a total membership of 171 States (as of 5 February 2019).
- Saint Lucia was the latest to join IAEA in 2019.
- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which joined the IAEA in 1974, withdrew its membership of the IAEA in 1994.

7. b

- The Economic growth will turn positive by Q1FY22, *Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)* member.
- EAC-PM is a *non-permanent, independent body* constituted to give economic advice to the Prime Minister.
- The *NITI Aayog* serves as the *Nodal Agency for the EAC-PM*.
- It advises the Prime Minister on economic issues like inflation, microfinance, and industrial output.

8. c



- Recently, at SCO meet, Indian Defence Minsitre tells China to restore status quo at LAC.
- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- One of it's main goal is to move towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.
- It comprises of 8 member states, 4 observer states and 6 dialogue partners.

9. c

- The Legal experts oppose Kris Gopalakrishnan Committee report.
- It is on a governance framework for Non-Personal Data (NPD).
- It has suggested to set up a new committee to monitor and utilize the Non-Personal Data of the individuals.

10. c

- Recently, the ASSAM government approves addition of 3,053 hectares to the Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve.
- It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an recognized Important Bird Area (IBA).
- It is also a large breeding ground for elephants, swamp deer, and wild water buffaloes.

07-09-2020

1) The archaeological site and remains at Sadikpur Sinauli have been declared to be of "national importance" by the Archaeological Survey of India recently. Sadikpur Sinauli is a heritage site located in?

- a. Odisha
- b. Gujarat
- c. Rajasthan
- d. Uttar Pradesh

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)*

- It is a sub component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- It aims to implement the Government's efforts to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty and unemployment in the villages by helping start and support rural enterprises.
- It was implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *Parliamentary committees*

- They draw their authority from Article 105 and Article 118.
- Parliament is not bound by the recommendations of Parliamentary committees.

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

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

4) With respect to *International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, 2020* consider the following statements

- It is the first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies celebrated.
- It was celebrated based on a resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to

emphasize the need of sustainable development and ill-effects of air pollution.

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

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

5) Which of the following is *incorrect* with respect to 13th Amendment of the Sri Lankan Constitution?

- a. It is an outcome of the Indo-Lanka Accord of July 1987, signed by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayawardene
- b. It is an attempt to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict that had aggravated into a full-fledged civil war, between the armed forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
- c. The amendment assured a power sharing arrangement to enable all nine provinces in the country, including Sinhala majority areas, to self-govern
- d. Under the amendment, subjects such as education, health, agriculture, were devolved to the provincial administrations, land and police were kept under the direct control of the President

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution*

- 1. The word 'Basic Structure' is not mentioned in the constitution of India but the court has defined the term 'Basic Structure' clearly and listed all the principles which are under it.
- 2. The Indian judiciary has the power to review or strike down amendments to the Constitution by Parliament, which are in conflict with or seek to alter the basic structure.

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

- a. 1 only

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Assam Rifles*

- 1. It conducts counter insurgency operations in the North-East, under control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- 2. It is the only paramilitary force with a dual control structure.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)*

- 1. It is the apex co-ordinating agency for drug law enforcement, functions under Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- 2. India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

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

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

9) *The Little Book of Green Nudges* recently seen in news is released by?

- a. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- b. World Economic Forum

- c. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Pang Lhabsol

1. It is a festival of cultural heritage of Sikkim.
2. It is to commemorate the consecration of Mt. Khangchendzonga as the guardian deity of the state.

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

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

Answers

1. d

- The archaeological site and remains at **Sadikpur Sinauli in Uttar Pradesh's** Baghpat district, where evidence of the existence of a warrior class around 2,000 BCE was discovered in 2018, have been declared to be of "**national importance**" by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) recently.
- The ASI's notification under provisions of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958** brings the 28.67-hectare-site under Central protection.
- The site would now be maintained by the ASI and development works around it would be subject to Central rules.
- The ASI unearthed remains of chariots, shields, swords and other items indicating the presence of a warrior class at the site.

2. b

- The Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP) is a sub component of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission**

(DAY-NRLM) of the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

- SVEP aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set up local enterprises.
- The overall objective of SVEP is to implement the Government's efforts to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty and unemployment in the villages by helping start and support rural enterprises.
- The long term vision of the SVEP is to provide support for start-up to 1 crore village enterprises and provide direct employment to 2 crore people.
- The SVEP shall help the rural poor come out of poverty by helping them set up enterprises and provide support till the enterprises stabilize.
- The programmatic intervention will address all three missing ecosystems – Knowledge, advisory and finance ecosystems.
- The NRLM Self Help Group's and federations are a critical pre-requisite for the implementation of the SVEP project.

3. c

- The Rajya Sabha Secretariat is mulling over changing the rules governing the standing committees' tenure to make it to two years from the present one year so that the panels have enough time to work on the subjects selected by them.
- The tenure of all the standing committees end on September 11, 2020 and they can't hold deliberations till new panels are formed.
- Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, sources said, was keen on amending the rules to give a fixed two-year tenure for all the committees.
- However, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has to agree to it.

Parliamentary Committees

- In a parliamentary democracy, Parliament has broadly two functions, which are law-making and oversight of the executive branch of the government.
- Parliament is the embodiment of the people's will. Committees are an instrument of Parliament for its own effective functioning.

- Committees are platforms for threadbare discussion on a proposed law.
- Committee meetings are 'closed door' and members are not bound by party whips, which allows them the latitude for a more meaningful exchange of views as against discussions in full and open Houses where grandstanding and party positions invariably take precedence.

Various Committees

- Most committees are 'standing' as their existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an annual basis.
- Some are 'select' committees formed for a specific purpose, for instance, to deliberate on a particular bill.
- Once the Bill is disposed of, that select committee ceases to exist.
- Some standing committees are departmentally related, an example being the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development.
- Financial control is a critical tool for Parliament's authority over the executive; hence finance committees are considered to be particularly powerful.
- The three financial committees are the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Powers

- Parliamentary committees draw their **authority from Article 105 (on privileges of Parliament members) and Article 118 (on Parliament's authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business)**.
- Committee reports are usually exhaustive and provide authentic information on matters related to governance. Bills that are referred to committees are returned to the House with significant value addition.
- **Parliament is not bound by the recommendations of committees.**

4. a

- The world celebrated its **first-ever** International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7, 2020.

- The **United Nations General Assembly** adopted the resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on December 19, 2019, during its 74th session.
- The day intends to emphasize on the ill-effects of air pollution and is a call to action against the environmental evil.

5. d

- *From the influential Cabinet ministers in the current government to state ministers have openly called for the abolition of provincial councils established under the 13th amendment of Sri Lankan Constitution, after the new government took charge in Sri Lanka.*

13th Amendment

- It is an outcome of the Indo-Lanka Accord of July 1987, signed by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayawardene.
- It is an attempt to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict that had aggravated into a full-fledged civil war, between the armed forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which led the struggle for Tamils' self-determination and sought a separate state.
- The 13th Amendment, which led to the creation of Provincial Councils, assured a power sharing arrangement to enable all nine provinces in the country, **including Sinhala majority areas**, to self-govern.
- Subjects such as **education, health, agriculture, housing, land and police are devolved to the provincial administrations**, but because of restrictions on financial powers and overriding powers given to the President, the provincial administrations have not made much headway.
- In particular, the provisions relating to police and land have never been implemented.
- Initially, the north and eastern provinces were merged and had a North-Eastern Provincial Council, but the two were de-merged in 2007 following a Supreme Court verdict.

6. b

- Recently, *Kesavananda Bharati*, seer behind 1973 Supreme Court judgment on 'Basic Structure' of Constitution, died.

- In 1973, after a petition was filed by Kesavananda Bharati, SC ruled that Parliament cannot alter the 'Basic Structure' of Constitution.
- The word 'Basic Structure' is not mentioned in the constitution.
- The court did not define the 'basic structure', and only listed a few principles, federalism, secularism, democracy, as being its part.
- Since then, the court has been adding new features to this concept.
- The Indian judiciary has the power to review or strike down amendments to the Constitution by Parliament, which are in conflict with or seek to alter the basic structure.

7. b

- The Delhi High Court has granted 12 weeks to the Union government to decide on whether to scrap or retain the dual control structure for Assam Rifles.
- Assam Rifles is one of the 6 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- It conducts counter insurgency operations in the North-East, under control of the Indian Army, Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- It is the only paramilitary force with a dual control structure.
- The administrative control of the force is with the MHA, its operational control is with Indian Army, which is under the MoD.
- Its recruitment, perks, promotion and retirement policies are governed according to the rules framed by the MHA for CAPFs.

8. a

- Recently, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) questioned an actress in connection with drug probe.
- The NCB was set up as apex drug law enforcement agency with view to coordinate actions of various central/state agencies in the matters related with drug law in the country.
- It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

- India is a signatory to the, single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Conventions on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

9. c

- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a new publication, 'The Little Book of Green Nudges'.
- It aims to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- The book is UNEP's first on behavioural science and nudge theory, which focuses on human actions and how to change them.
- It contains evidence-based guidance on implementing nudges.

10. c

- Recently, Sikkim celebrated Pang Lhabso, a festival of cultural heritage and historical importance.
- It commemorates the consecration of Mount Khangchendzonga as the guardian deity of Sikkim.
- It is believed that the mountain god played an active role in introducing Buddhism into this former kingdom.
- The festival also marks the commemoration of blood brotherhood sworn between the Lepchas and the Bhutias at Kabi in 15th century.

08-09-2020

1) With respect to Swabhiman Anchal, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements

- 1. The zone, which comprises 151 villages, is located along the Assam-Meghalaya Border.**
- 2. The region, formerly known as the cut-off area, was covered by water from three sides and another side by inhospitable terrain.**

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

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

2) Which of the following best describes the term *Bio-bubble*, sometimes seen in the news recently?

- a. It's a method of artificially inducing or increasing precipitation through clouds by adding external agents
- b. It is a drug treatment, most often used to treat cancer, which uses powerful chemicals to kill fast-growing cells in your body
- c. It's a tightly controlled environment sealed off from the outside world, and can only be accessed by a limited number of people
- d. It is a device that would allow for extracorporeal pregnancy by growing a fetus outside the body of an organism that would normally carry the fetus to term

3) Consider the following statements with respect to the *legislative procedure in the State Legislature*

- 1. There is a system of joint sitting in state legislature to resolve the deadlock between the two Houses on passing the Bills.
- 2. A State Legislative Council can hold an ordinary bill for a maximum period of 4 months.

Which of 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) *State of the Young Child in India Report* was released recently by?

- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
- b. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- c. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Poshan Maah*

- 1. Poshan Maah is celebrated every year under the National Health Mission by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- 2. The objective of the programme is to address malnutrition amongst young children and women and to ensure health and nutrition for everyone.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV)*

- 1. It is an unmanned ramjet vehicle with the ability to travel at six times the speed of sound.
- 2. It is a dual-use technology that will have multiple civilian applications, including the launch of small satellites.
- 3. It was developed indigenously by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Back to Village (B2V) programme*

1. It is to provide employment to migrant workers who returned during the lockdown near their villages.
2. It plans to provide training, employment to both skilled and unskilled workers.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Republic of Kosovo*

1. It is a land locked country of western Africa.
2. It is a self-declared independent country, achieved full member status at the United Nations.

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

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

9) *Chushul* sometimes seen in news is located in?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)*

1. An FCRA license is a mandatory requirement for any non-profit

organisation operating in India to receive foreign funds.

2. The editor, owner, printer or publisher of a registered newspaper cannot accept foreign money under FCRA.

Which of 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

- Thousands of villagers in Odisha's Malkangiri district are set to enjoy **uninterrupted cellular service for the first time** in their lives.
- Due to threats from left wing extremists, mobile towers could not be installed until now in Swabhiman Anchal.

Swabhiman Anchal

- The region was formerly known as the cut-off area.
- Located along the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border, Swabhiman Anchal comprises 151 villages.
- It had long been a stronghold of left-wing extremists.
- It was covered by water from three sides and another side by inhospitable terrain.
- Motor launches and boats used to be the only mode of communication to reach ferry points and from there people were taking country boat to reach villages.
- People were even using horses to travel in the remote parts of Swabhiman Anchal.

Recent Developments

- It lost its remoteness after construction of **the Gurupriya Bridge** which connected it with the rest of the State.

- In July 2020, Chitrakonda MLA flagged off the **first passenger bus** of the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation from Chitrakonda to Jodambo, where a new police station started functioning recently.

2. c

- With IPL 2020 all set to be conducted in the UAE between September 19 and November 8, the focus is slowly but steadily shifting to just how safe playing conditions will be for players participating in the tournament.
- The IPL Governing Council, for one, will decide on the conditions surrounding the setting up of a “bio-secure environment” for IPL franchises including players, match officials, and team officials.
- The coming-together of these conditions forms what has come to be known as a bio-bubble, which hopes to secure players from contracting the novel Coronavirus.

Bio-bubble

- It is a safe and secure environment that is isolated from the outside world to minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection.
- A bio-bubble permits only authorised sports persons, support staff and match officials to enter the protected area after testing negative for COVID-19.
- Naturally, individuals must be regularly tested, temperature checked with respective health reports filed accordingly.
- The bio-bubble does not just limit itself to the pitch or field; it is, of course, mandatory that all entities partake in this new form of quarantine.

3. b

- When a bill is passed by the legislative assembly and transmitted to the legislative council, the latter has four alternatives before it:
 1. It may pass the bill as sent by the assembly (i.e., without amendments)
 2. It may pass the bill with amendments and return it to the assembly for reconsideration
 3. It may reject the bill altogether

4. It may not take any action and thus keep the bill pending

1. If the council passes the bill without amendments or the assembly accepts the amendments suggested by the council, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both the houses and the same is sent to the governor for his assent.

2. On the other hand, if the assembly rejects the amendments suggested by the council or the council rejects the bill altogether or the council does not take any action for three months, then the assembly may pass the bill again and transmit the same to the council.

3. If the council rejects the bill again or passes the bill with amendments not acceptable to the assembly or does not pass the bill within one month, then the bill is deemed to have been passed by both the houses in the form in which it was passed by the assembly for the second time. Therefore, the ultimate power of passing an ordinary bill is vested in the assembly.

4. At the most, the council can detain or delay the bill for a period of four months—three months in the first instance and one month in the second instance.

- The Constitution does not provide for the mechanism of joint sitting of both the Houses to resolve the disagreement between the two Houses over a bill.

4. d

- The State of the Young Child in India report has been released recently by **Mobile Creches**, a 50-year-old non-governmental organisation (NGO).
- The Young Child Outcomes Index (YCOI) and the Young Child Environment Index (YCEI) are parts of the report.
- The young child outcomes index measures health, nutrition and cognitive growth with the help of indicators such as infant mortality rate, stunting and net attendance at the primary school level.

Highlights of the report

Young Child Outcomes Index

- Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five States for well-being of children.

- Eight States that have scores below the country's average: they are Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- The index has been constructed for two time periods (2005–2006 and 2015–2016) to enable inter-State comparisons as well as provide an idea of change over time.

Young Child Environment Index (YCEI)

- According to the environment index, Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh secured the top five positions.
- The environment index was constructed for 2015–2016 only due to limitations of data availability.
- The eight States that have a below average score on the outcomes index also fared poorly on this one.

Mobile Creches

- It is a pioneering organisation working for the right of marginalised children to Early Childhood Development.
- Their work spans from grassroot level interventions to policy advocacy at the national level.

5. b

- The 3rd **Rashtriya Poshan Maah** is being celebrated during the month of September 2020.
- Every year the *Poshan Maah* is celebrated under POSHAN Abhiyaan (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment), which was launched in 2018.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development, being the nodal Ministry for POSHAN Abhiyaan, is celebrating the *Poshan Maah* in convergence with partner Ministries and departments, at National, States/UTs, Districts, and grass root level.
- The objective of the *Poshan Maah* is to encourage *Jan Bhagidaari*, in order to create

a *Jan Andolan*, for addressing malnutrition amongst young children, and women and to ensure health and nutrition for everyone.

6. c

- The *DRDO* successfully flight tested the *Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV)*.
- It is an *unmanned scramjet vehicle* with a capability to travel at six times the speed of sound.
- It was *developed indigenously* by *Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)*.
- It is a *dual-use technology* that will have *multiple civilian applications*, including the *launch of small satellites at low cost*.
- With this, *India became the 4th country* after the US, Russia and China to *develop and successfully test the HSTDV technology*.

7. d

- The *Jammu and Kashmir administration* announced that *Phase-III of its Back to Village (B2V) programme* will begin on Oct 2.
- The *programme to focus on grievance redressal in villages* across Jammu and Kashmir.
- Phase-I of the B2V was an introductory and interactive programme to understand the people's grievances and demands.
- Phase-II focused on the devolution of powers to panchayats and tried to understand how these panchayats are functioning.
- Phase-III has been designed on the format for grievance redressal.

8. d

- Recently, *Serbia and Kosovo agree to closer economic ties in US-brokered deal*.
- The deal includes moving *Serbia and Kosovo* embassy to Jerusalem, and *mutual recognition between Israel and Kosovo*.
- The European Union warns Serbia, Kosovo over Israel embassy move to Jerusalem.
- *Kosovo*, also called as *Republic of Kosovo* is a *self-declared independent country in the Balkans region of Europe*.
- It unilaterally declared independence, backed by the United States and United Kingdom, among others.

- But Serbia, backed diplomatically by Russia, has never accepted the split.
- Kosovo has *not achieved full member status at the United Nations*.

9. c

- There is an ongoing standoff between India and China at *Chushul in Ladakh*.
- *Chushul is critical because it has an airstrip, and its connectivity by road to Leh gives it a unique operational vantage.*
- Indian troops have now secured the ridgeline in this sub-sector that allows them to dominate the Chushul bowl on the Indian side.
- The *Chushul sub-sector lies south of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh*.
- It comprises high, broken mountains and heights of Thatung, Black Top, Helmet Top, Gurung Hill, and Magger Hill besides passes such as Rezag La and Rezin La, the Spangur Gap, and the Chushul valley.

10. c

- Recently, the *Government suspends FCRA clearance of four Christian groups*.
- *An FCRA license is a mandatory requirement for any non-profit organisation operating in India to receive foreign funds.*
- *The correspondent, columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner, printer or publisher of a registered newspaper cannot accept foreign money under FCRA.*
- The *FCRA falls into the purview of Home Ministry* and not the Reserve Bank of India.

09-09-2020

1) Real Mango, sometimes seen in the news recently, is?

- It is one of the most expensive varieties of mango found in the western parts of Western Ghats
- It is an illegal software used for cornering confirmed Railway Reservation Tickets

c. It is a new system introduced by the Government of India to reduce export of low quality and illegal mangoes

d. It is a Government of India sponsored anti-virus project which safeguards all government websites and portals from cyber attack

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- The award was instituted by the government in 1992 on the 75th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has won the award for the year 2019.

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

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

3) Yanomami Tribes are the largest relatively isolated tribe in?

- Brazil
- Nigeria
- Australia
- Indonesia

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) Ranking of States

- Ranking of States based on the implementation of BRAP started in the year 2015.
- It was developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Andhra Pradesh emerged as top performer in terms of reforms, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Telangana.



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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Solar Technology Summit*

- 1. It is the first World Solar Technology Summit, organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- 2. The objective of the event is to bring the spotlight on state-of-the-art technologies which will provide impetus to the efforts towards harnessing solar energy more efficiently.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Security Categories extended by the Government in India*

- 1. Only Central Government can extend security to individuals.
- 2. The Special Protection Group members hold office during the pleasure of the President.

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

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

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

- 1. They are the class of natural or synthetic organic compounds.
- 2. They are used as anti-inflammatory medicines, designed to act like hormones used to treat a range of conditions.

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

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

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

- 1. It is the world's largest provider of vaccines, to support child health and nutrition.
- 2. It aims to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.

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

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

9) *K.V. Kamath committee* recently seen in news was constituted for?

- a. Restructuring of loans impacted by the pandemic
- b. To spell out revival plans for Telecom sector
- c. To study cryptocurrencies in India
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWH)*

1. These are areas identified within national parks and sanctuaries on the basis of scientific and objective criteria.
2. The CWH are to be declared by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
3. The CWH are defined under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

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

Answers

1. b

- In a nationwide operation, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) apprehended 50 men including the kingpin and key managers involved in using an **illegal software for ticket booking** called "**Rare Mango**" (later changed its name to "**Real Mango**").
- Live tickets worth Rs 5 lakh have been blocked and the system admin receives payment in Bitcoins.
- There was an apprehension of increase in ticket touting activity after passenger services restarted.
- Investigations revealed that the 'Rare Mango' or 'Real Mango' software logs in to the IRCTC website through multiple IDs.
- It auto-fills the passenger details and payment details in the forms.
- It also synchronises bank OTPs with help of a mobile app and feeds it to the requisite form automatically. It bypasses captcha.

2. d

- *Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh recently conferred the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, 2019 on British broadcaster **David Attenborough** at a virtual event.*

- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has won the award for the year 2018.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

- It is an award conferred by Indira Gandhi Trust each year on the late Prime Minister's birth anniversary.
- It was instituted in 1986 and consists of a monetary award of Rs. 25 lakh along with a citation.
- The award is given to individuals or organisations who work towards ensuring international peace and development, ensuring that scientific discoveries are used to further the scope of freedom and better humanity, and creating new international economic order.

3. a

- *Recently Yanomami tribe has launched a global campaign to expel 20,000 gold miners from their land.*

Yanomami Tribe

- The Yanomamis lives in the rainforests and mountains of **northern Brazil and southern Venezuela**.
- Yanomami's are the largest relatively isolated tribe in **South America**.
- They live in large, circular houses called yanos or shabonos, some of which can hold up to 400 people.
- The Yanomami consider all people to be equal, and do not have a chief.
- Instead, all decisions are based on consensus after long discussions and debates.
- They are speakers of a Xiriana language.
- A Brazilian indigenous leader Davi Kopenawa who secured the land rights of the Yanomami people was awarded the Right Livelihood Award-2019, also known as Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize.

4. c

Business Reforms Action Plan-2019

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has developed Business

Reforms Action Plan for State Reforms since 2015.

- It has started an ambitious program for reforms in partnership with State Governments to make it easier, simpler and quicker for businesses to operate.
- The Plan is designed keeping in mind 2 factors viz. Measurability and Comparability across States.
- To support this initiative, an online portal (www.eodb.dipp.gov.in) showcasing rankings was developed and launched in April 2016.
- Recently Andhra Pradesh has bagged the first rank among all the states in the country in the state business reforms action plan-2019 (BRAP-2019).
- Andhra Pradesh has achieved 100 percent compliance to the 187 reform action points by DPIIT-World Bank as a part of BRAP 2019.
- The ReSTART package announced by Andhra Pradesh government found a special mention in the BRAP 2019.
- While Uttar Pradesh stood in the second position, Telangana bagged the third spot in the overall ranking of the state business process reforms undertaken during 2019.

5. c

- The first World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) is being organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on 8th September, 2020.
 - The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), as the convener of ISA Global Leadership Task Force on Innovation, is working with ISA in organizing the summit.
 - The objective of the event is to bring the spotlight on state-of-the-art technologies as well as next-generation technologies which will provide impetus to the efforts towards harnessing solar energy more efficiently.
 - The summit will witness the announcement of agreements between ISA and following institutions
1. International Institute of Refrigeration,
 2. Global Green Growth Institute

3. National Thermal Power Corporation.

- A tripartite agreement between India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the World Bank and the International Solar Alliance is also set to be inked.
- ISA's technology journal, Solar Compass 360 will also be launched during the summit.

6. b

- Recently, Kangana Ranaut gets Y+ category Security protection.
- The provision of security cover to individuals falls under the purview of Union Home Ministry.
- There could be others who face threats at a local level and such people are extended security by the State governments.
- The Special Protection Group (SPG) provides security to the Prime Minister of India and the former Prime Ministers of India and members of their immediate families.
- The SPG members hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- Depending on the threat perception to the person, the security is categorized into, Z+ (highest level), Z, Y and X.

7. c

- The WHO issued new guidelines on the use of Corticosteroids for the treatment of novel coronavirus infection.
- Steroid are any of a class of natural or synthetic organic compounds characterized by a molecular structure of 17 carbon atoms arranged in four rings.
- They are used as anti-inflammatory medicines, designed to act like hormones used to treat a range of conditions.
- They're different from anabolic steroids, which are often used illegally by some people to increase their muscle mass.

8. c

- UNICEF to lead global procurement, supply of COVID vaccines.



- The *UNICEF* is the world's largest single vaccine buyer, to support child health and nutrition.
- It aims, through its country programmes, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.
- It works with all its partners towards the attainment of the sustainable human development goals.

9. a

- K.V. Kamath committee was constituted for restructuring of loans impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic.
- The committee recommended a graded approach to restructuring of stressed accounts based on severity of the impact on borrowers.
- The committee has allowed banks to classify the accounts into mild, moderate and severe as recommended by the committee.

10. d

- Report flags violations in creation of India's first *Critical Wildlife Habitats (CWH)*.
- The process of notifying CWH in Maharashtra contained several violations of the *Forest Rights Act (FRA)*, 2006, found a report released by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and non-profit Kalpavriksh.
- CWH are areas identified within national parks and sanctuaries on the basis of scientific and objective criteria.
- These are to be declared by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- The *FRA* contains the provision to notify CWHs and it defines the CWH, as areas required to be kept inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation.

10-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRG)*

1. It is a three-member body, set up in 2016, mandated by the *Government of India Advertising (Regulation) Act, 2015*.
2. The committee is not allowed to take suo-moto cognizance of any violation of the Supreme Court guidelines.

Which of 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 *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index*

1. It is an international measure of multidimensional poverty released every year by scoring each surveyed household on 10 parameters.
2. It was launched in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
3. NITI Aayog is the nodal agency for leveraging the monitoring mechanism of the Global MPI to drive reforms in India.

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

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

3) *Shikshak Parv Initiative*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an initiative of?

- a. Ministry of Culture

- b. Ministry of Tourism
- c. Ministry of Education
- d. None of the above

4) Which of the following is/are associated with the state of Punjab?

- 1. Lohri festival
- 2. Giddha dance
- 3. Cheraw dance
- 4. Bhangra dance
- 5. Ambubashi Mela

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)*

- 1. They work on the pattern of mutual funds are very much similar to the Real Estate investment Trusts (REITs) in structure and operations.
- 2. In India, InvITs are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Gaganyaan Mission*

- 1. The objectives of the mission include Inspiring youth and Improvement of Industrial growth.

- 2. It is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft that is intended to send astronauts to space and it will be placed in a low earth orbit.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *e-Kisan Mandis*

- 1. It seeks to bring farmers, agri-producers, traders and buyers on a common platform for trading agricultural commodities.
- 2. It is an initiative of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)*

- 1. The National Codex Contact Point of India (NCCP) has been constituted by the FSSAI for keeping liaison with the Codex Alimentarius and to coordinate Codex activities in India.
- 2. Only FSSAI has the responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of the Food Safety & Standards Act 2006.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

9) Consider the following

1. Zambia
2. The Democratic Republic of Congo
3. Namibia

Which of the Countries given above shares border with Angola?

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Living Planet Report 2020*

1. It is released by World Wide Fund for Nature.
2. The Living Planet Index (LPI) is a measure of the state of the world's biological diversity based on population trends of vertebrate species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats.

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

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

Answers

1. d

Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRG)

- As per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2015, the Government of India, in 2016, had set up a three member body: **Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRG)**.
- It consist of "persons with unimpeachable neutrality and impartiality and who have

excelled in their respective fields", **to look into content regulation of government funded advertisements of all media platforms.**

- The committee is empowered to address complaints from the general public and can also take suo-moto cognizance of any violation of the Supreme Court guidelines and recommend corrective actions.
- Also, states are mandated to set up their respective three member committees on Content Regulation of Government Advertisements.
- Karnataka, Goa, Mizoram and Nagaland States have already constituted state-level Three Member Committees.

Supreme Court Guidelines

- The content of Government Advertisement should be relevant to the government's constitutional and legal obligations as well as the citizen's right and entitlements.
- Advertisement materials should be presented in an objective, fair and accessible manner and designed to meet the objectives of the campaign.
- Advertisement materials should be objective and not directed at promoting political interests of ruling party.
- Advertisement Campaigns be justified and undertaken in an efficient and cost-effective manner and Government advertising must comply with legal requirement and financial regulations and procedures.

2. d

- NITI Aayog has recently said that, it is at an advanced stage for preparation of a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) parameter dashboard to rank states and Union Territories, along with a State Reform Action Plan (SRAP).
- The Aayog, which is the nodal agency for leveraging the monitoring mechanism of the Global MPI to drive reforms, has set up a coordination committee comprising members from different ministries and departments in this regard. The committee held its first meeting on September 2.

- The objective of the “**Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG)**” exercise is to fulfil the need to measure and monitor India’s performance on various important social and economic parameters and enable the utilisation of these Indices as tools for self-improvement, bring about reforms in policies, while improving last-mile implementation of government schemes.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

- Global MPI is an international measure of multidimensional poverty covering 107 developing countries.
- It was first developed in 2010 by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for UNDP’s Human Development Reports.
- The Global MPI is released at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development of the United Nations in July, every year.
- Global MPI is computed by scoring each surveyed household on 10 parameters based on -nutrition, child mortality, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing and household assets.
- It utilises the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) which is conducted under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS).
- According to Global MPI 2020, India is 62nd among 107 countries with an MPI score of 0.123 and 27.91% headcount ratio, based on the NFHS 4 (2015/16) data.
- Neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka (25th), Bhutan (68th), Nepal (65th), Bangladesh (58th), China (30th), Myanmar (69th) and Pakistan (73rd) are also ranked in this index.

3. c

- The **Ministry of Education** is organizing **Shikshak Parv** on the theme of **National Education Policy, 2020** for Principals, Teachers, parents, students, schools, HEIs, TEIs, government school

education functionaries, educationists, CSOs, etc.

- Aiming at the dissemination of NEP, 2020 perspectives into the teacher fraternity and other stakeholders, this teachers’ fest is being conducted from 5th September-25th September, 2020.
- In this fest, renowned scholars, experts from the NCERT and National Awardee Teachers will speak from online forum while presenting infographics in simple manner about the recommendations of the policy.
- They will seek suggestions and the opinions of teachers on various recommendations of the policy for their smooth implementation.

4. c

- Teej, Lohri, Basant Panchami, Baisakhi and Hola Mahalla are Punjab’s famous festivals.
- Popular dance forms of Punjab includes Bhangra and Giddha.
- Cheraw dance is a traditional cultural dance performed in Mizoram.
- Ambubachi Mela is an annual Hindu mela held at Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam.

5. a

- *The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Indian Prime Minister, in a path breaking reform, has approved monetisation of assets of POWERGRID, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under Ministry of Power, through Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) model.*
- This is the first time any PSU in Power Sector will undertake asset recycling by monetising its assets through the InvIT model and using the proceeds to fund the new and under-construction capital projects.

Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)

- They are mutual fund like institutions and are very much similar to the Real Estate investment Trusts (REITs) in structure and operations.
- InvITs are modified REITs designed to suit the specific circumstances in India.

- They enable investments into the infrastructure sector by pooling small sums of money from multitude of individual investors for directly investing in infrastructure so as to return a portion of the income (after deducting expenditures) to unit holders of InvITs, who pooled in the money.
 - InvITs can invest in infrastructure projects, **either directly or through a special purpose vehicle (SPV)**.
 - **In case of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects, such investments can only be through SPV.**
 - InvITs are regulated in India by the securities market regulator - **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
6. c
- Glavkosmos, a subsidiary of the Roscosmos, announced that Zvezda, a R&D enterprise, has started manufacturing space suits for Indian astronauts, who are to be part of *Gaganyaan Mission*.
 - Gaganyaan is India's maiden manned spaceflight.
 - The objectives of the mission includes Inspiring youth and Improvement of Industrial growth.
 - It is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft that is intended to send astronauts to space and it will be placed in a low earth orbit of 300-400km.
 - GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle, will be used to launch the mission.
 - If India does launch the Gaganyaan mission, it will be the fourth nation to do so after the United States, Russia and China.
7. d
- Recently, the country's first e-Kisan Mandi became operational in Pune.
 - It is an initiative of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).
 - It seeks to bring farmers, agri-producers, traders and small buyers on a common platform for trading agricultural commodities.
- The traders or retail market chains will be registered on the mandi for making online purchases from farmers.
8. a
- Recently, FSSAI bans sales, junk foods ads in school canteens, within 50 m of campus.
 - The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and State Food Authorities are jointly responsible for implementation and enforcement of FSSA, 2006.
 - The enforcement is primarily undertaken by all Food Safety Commissioners of State/UT along with Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers.
 - The National Codex Contact Point of India (NCCP) has been constituted by the FSSAI for keeping liaison with the Codex Alimentarius and to coordinate Codex activities in India.
9. d
- Recently, India and Angola hold 1st joint commission meet.
 - Both the Countries agreed to diversify their trade relationship and discussed cooperation in health, pharmaceuticals, defence, agriculture, food processing, digitization and telecom.
 - Angola is located in southwestern Africa.
 - It is among Africa's largest nations, shares its land border with Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of the Congo, and Namibia.
10. c
- World lost 68% vertebrates in 1970-2016, according to the report.
 - The Living Planet Report 2020 released by international non-profit World Wide Fund for Nature.
 - The Living Planet Index (LPI), a measure of the state of the world's biological diversity based on population trends of vertebrate species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats, was used by the report to calculate this decline.
 - The land-use change and the use and trade of wildlife were believed to have increased the

planet's vulnerability to pandemics, according to the report.

11-09-2020

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

1. It is a doctor to doctor telemedicine system offered nationally at Health and Wellness Centres from Medical Colleges and District hospitals.
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the Ayushman Bharat 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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC programme*

1. It is a national initiative to promote research & innovation and increase competitiveness of Indian startups and MSMEs.
2. The programme is driven by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Science and Technology.
3. It will support deserving applied research-based innovations by providing funding support of up to Rs 50 lakh.

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

3) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the iconic *Patrika Gate*. It was built in which of the following?

- a. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- b. Kozhikode, Kerala
- c. Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- d. Durgapur, West Bengal

4) Which of the following regarding *e-Gopala App*, which was launched recently, is *incorrect*?

- a. It is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- b. It provides platform to farmers for managing livestock and guiding them for treatment of animals using appropriate medicine
- c. It send alerts on due date for vaccination, pregnancy diagnosis and calving and inform farmers about various government schemes and campaigns
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Jigyasa Programme*

1. It is a student - scientist connect programme that aims extend the classroom leaning and focuses on a well-planned research laboratory based learning.
2. The programme is being implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).

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

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



6) Consider the following statements with respect to *different Track Diplomacy in International relations*

1. 'Track 1' diplomacy refers to the official governmental diplomacy, conducted by official representatives of a state.
2. 'Track 1.5' diplomacy refers to unofficial dialogue by individuals and private groups, without government officials.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nobel Peace Prize*

1. Only the current and former members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee can nominate a person for the Nobel Peace Prize.
2. The names of the nominees and other information about the nominations cannot be revealed until 50 years later.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Bio Compressed Natural Gas (Bio-CNG)*

1. It has high methane content and high calorific value combined with low impurities makes it an ideal fuel for automobiles.
2. The low emission levels of Bio-CNG makes it a more environment-friendly fuel than biogas.

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

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

9) *Aichi Targets* sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a. The Renewable Energy adoption
- b. Combat desertification
- c. Conserve the biodiversity
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana*

1. It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country.
2. It aims at doubling of incomes of farmers.

Which of 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

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare had presided over a meet to commemorate the platform's completion of 3 lakh tele-consultation.

eSanjeevani Telemedicine Service

- It is a platform of **Health and Family Welfare Ministry** providing tele-consultations.

eSanjeevani platform supports two types of telemedicine services viz.

1. eSanjeevani (Doctor-to-Doctor)
2. eSanjeevani OPD (Patient-to-Doctor)

eSanjeevani

- It is an important pillar of the **Ayushman Bharat** Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme.
- This was rolled out in November 2019 under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme of Government of India.
- It aims to implement tele-consultation in all the 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres in a 'Hub and Spoke' model, by December 2022.
- States need to identify and set up dedicated 'Hubs' in Medical Colleges and District hospitals to provide tele-consultation services to 'Spokes', i.e Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs).

eSanjeevaniOPD

- The Health Ministry rolled out the second tele-consultation service '**eSanjeevaniOPD**' enabling patient-to-doctor telemedicine on 13th April of this year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It is first of its kind online OPD service offered by a country government to its citizens.
- It aims to provide healthcare services to patients in their homes.
- Safe & structured video based clinical consultations between a doctor in a hospital and a patient in the confines of his home are being enabled.
- eSanjeevaniOPD – Stay Home OPD has been developed by **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** in Mohali.

2. b

- *Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has recently launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges (ANIC) Initiative, to spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups.*

Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC program

- It is a national initiative to promote research & innovation and increase competitiveness of Indian startups and MSMEs.
- The programme will be driven by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), four ministries—Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs—and associated industries to facilitate innovative solutions to sectoral problems.
- The objective is to proactively collaborate with esteemed Ministries and the associated industries to catalyse research, innovation and facilitate innovative solutions to sectoral problems.
- The objective is also to provide a steady stream of innovative products & solutions where the Central Government Ministries / Departments will become the potential first buyers.
- The programme will support deserving applied research-based innovations by providing funding support of up to Rs 50 lakh for speedy development of the proposed technology solution and/or product.

3. a

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur through video conference.
- The Iconic Gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- It is an attempt to bring together the art, craft, and cultural heritage of the state and will boost tourism.

4. d

- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi digitally inaugurated the e-Gopala app that will provide farmers marketplace for livestock.*

e-Gopala App

- The e-Gopala app is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- e-GOPALA provides platform to farmers in the country for managing livestock including

1. buying and selling of disease free germplasm in all forms (semen, embryos, etc)
2. availability of quality breeding services (Artificial Insemination, veterinary first aid, vaccination, treatment etc)
3. guiding farmers for animal nutrition, treatment of animals using appropriate ayurvedic medicine/ethno veterinary medicine.
- There is a mechanism to send alert (on due date for vaccination, pregnancy diagnosis, calving etc) and inform farmers about various government schemes.

5. c

- A Webinar was recently hosted by CSIR-CMERI, in association with Samagra Siksha, Department of School Education, Jammu & Kashmir on Scientific & Technological Interventions by CSIR-CMERI combating COVID-19 as a part of the "Jigyasa Programme".

Jigyasa Programme

- It is a student - scientist connect programme launched by the Government of India in 2017.
- The focus of this scheme is on connecting school students and scientists so as to **extend student's classroom learning with well-planned research laboratory based learning.**
- The programme would be implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).
- It is one of the major initiatives taken up by CSIR at national level for further widening and deepening its Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR).
- On the one hand, this programme would explain the culture of curiousness and scientific nature on the other.
- Student Residential Programmes, scientists as teachers and teachers as scientists, lab specific activities/Onsite Experiments, visits of scientists to Schools/Outreach Programmes, science and maths Clubs, projects of National Children's Science Congress and tinkering

laboratories are some of the activities included under the programme.

6. a

- Recently, First India-Australia-France trilateral dialogue held virtually.
- The dialogue was shaped by a think-tank, illustrating the influence of *Track 2 diplomacy* and *Track 1.5 diplomacy* in the region.
- The *Track 1 diplomacy* refers to official governmental diplomacy, which is essentially a process whereby communications from one government go directly to decision-making apparatus of another.
- *Track 1* is conducted by official representatives of a state.
- *Track 1.5 diplomacy* refers to the presence of government officials and non-official actors work together in an unofficial capacity.
- *Track 2 diplomacy* is between the non-governmental, informal and unofficial representatives.

7. b

- Recently, Donald Trump gets nominated for Nobel Peace Prize.
- He was nominated by a Norwegian lawmaker.
- A nomination is considered valid if it is submitted by a person who falls within any one of the categories listed in the statutes of the Nobel Foundation.
- It includes Members of national assemblies and national governments (cabinet members/ministers) of sovereign states as well as current heads of states, Members of The International Court of Justice in The Hague and The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague etc.
- The current and former members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee can also nominate a person for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Nobel organization doesn't formally announce the list of nominees until 50 years, the Norwegian Nobel Committee just decides on the winner.

8. c



- The Punjab government is executing a Biomass power plants, *Bio-CNG*, bioethanol projects to solve the problem of stubble burning.
- *Bio-CNG* contains about 92-98 % of methane and only 2-8% carbon dioxide.
- The calorific value of *Bio-CNG* is about 52,000 kilojoules (kJ) per kg, which is 167 % higher than that of biogas.
- The high methane content and calorific value combined with the low quantity of hydrogen sulphide and impurities makes *Bio-CNG* an ideal fuel for automobiles and power generation.
- The low emission levels of *Bio-CNG* also make it a more environment-friendly fuel than biogas.
- The *Bio-CNG* process also produces enriched organic manure which can be used as fertiliser.

9. c

- The world hasn't met a single *Aichi biodiversity target*, according to the leaked CBD's Global Biodiversity Outlook 5, UN Report.
- There are 20 *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* agreed on by national governments through the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- These 20 time-bound, measurable targets have to be met by the year 2020.
- At the global level, none of the 20 targets have been fully achieved, though six targets have been partially achieved.

10. c

- The Prime Minister launched *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana*.
- It is a *flagship scheme* for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country.
- It aims at enhancing fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25, increasing fisheries export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore by 2024-25, doubling of incomes of fishers and fish farmers.
- It is designed to address critical gaps in fish production, quality, technology, post-harvest

infrastructure, management, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare.

12-09-2020

1) EASE 2.0 Index, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following sector?

- Banking
- Logistics
- Governance
- None of the above

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Sustainability Summit

- It is an annual flagship event to raise the bar of dialogue, practice and performance of sustainable business.
- The summit is being organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), since 2006.

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

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

3) With respect to SAROD-Ports, launched recently, consider the following statements:

- It is a dispute redressal mechanism to facilitate affordable and timely resolution of disputes for the maritime sector.
- It has been established under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It consists of members from the Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) Rajiv Mehrishi Committee, sometimes seen in the news recently, was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- a. To assess the suitability of the Indian insurance industry to offer Surety Bonds for road contracts
- b. To assess the impact of waiving of interest and waiving of interest on interest on the Covid-19-related moratorium on the economy
- c. To review the regulatory framework on micro-insurance and recommend measures to increase the demand for such products
- d. None of the above

5) Which of the following regarding Five Star Villages Scheme is incorrect?

- a. It was launched by the Department of Posts and implemented by a team of five Gramin Dak Sevaks
- b. Under the scheme, if a village attains universal coverage for four postal schemes, then that village will get four-star status
- c. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana is one of the five postal schemes listed under the Five Star Villages Scheme
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Defence sector in India

- 1. The FDI limit in defence sector under automatic route is 74%.
- 2. In value terms, India imports most of its high-tech defence hardware such as aircraft, ships, submarines and missiles.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana

- 1. The Ramayana Kalpavruksham, was one of his famous work.
- 2. He was the first Telugu writer to receive Jnanpith Award.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- 1. It assist its members and partners, by providing technical assistance, equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- 2. It admits only the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as its members.

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

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

9) Bahrain recently seen in news is?

- a. An archipelago in the Persian Gulf
- b. It is the India's second biggest oil supplier after Iran
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

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

1. It is a premier technical organization in the field of water resources functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It provides flood forecasting services to all major flood prone inter-state river basins of India.

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

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

Answers

1. a

- Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce were felicitated for being the top three (in that order) in the 'Top Performing Banks' category according to the EASE 2.0 Index Results released recently.
- Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India & erstwhile Corporation Bank were awarded in the 'Top Improvers' category basis EASE 2.0.
- Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, and Canara Bank were also recognized for outstanding performance in select themes.

EASE Index

- A common reform agenda for Public Sector Banks (PSBs), EASE Agenda is aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking.
- It was launched in 2018, and the subsequent edition of the program, EASE 2.0 built on the foundation laid in EASE 1.0 and furthered the progress on reforms.

2. d

- 15th edition of Sustainability Summit was held recently in New Delhi.

Sustainability Summit

- It is the annual flagship event of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in sustainability, launched in 2006 to raise the bar of dialogue, practice and performance of sustainable business.
- The '15th Sustainability Summit – Action Agenda for the Next Decade' is designed to focus on shaping up of the coming decade, incorporating learning from COVID-19 and reflecting how the drivers of innovation, technology and systems thinking can help us build a more sustainable next decade.

3. d

- In January, 2018, the Union Cabinet has approved amendments in the Model Concession Agreement (MCA) which envisaged constitution of SAROD-PORTS as dispute resolution mechanism for PPP Projects in the Major Ports.
- Ministry of Shipping has recently launched 'SAROD-Ports' (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports) through virtual ceremony.

'SAROD-Ports'

- SAROD-Ports is established under **Societies Registration Act, 1860** with the following objectives:
 1. Affordable and timely resolution of disputes in fair manner
 2. Enrichment of Dispute Resolution Mechanism with the panel of technical experts as arbitrators.
- SAROD-Ports consists members from Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA).
- SAROD-Ports will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours.
- It will also cover disputes between granting authority and Licensee/Concessionaire /Contractor and also disputes between Licensee/Concessionaire and their contractors arising out of and during the course of execution of various contracts.

- 'SAROD-Ports' is similar to provision available in Highway Sector in the form of SAROD-Roads constituted by NHAI.

4. b

- Various concerns have been raised during the proceedings of the ongoing hearing in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in the matter of Gajendra Sharma Vs. UoI and Others, of the matter regarding the relief sought in terms of waiver of interest and waiver of interest on interest and other related issues.
- Government has accordingly constituted an Expert Committee for making an overall assessment so that its decisions in this regard are better informed.
- The Expert Committee will be chaired by **Shri Rajiv Mehrishi**, former CAG of India.

The terms of reference of the committee shall be as under:

1. Measuring the impact on the national economy and financial stability of **waiving of interest and waiving of interest on interest on the COVID-19 related moratorium**
 2. Suggestions to mitigate financial constraints of various sections of society in this respect and measures to be adopted in this regard
 3. Any other suggestions/observations that may be necessary given the current situation.
- The committee will submit its report within one week. State Bank of India will provide secretarial support to the committee.
 - The Committee may consult banks or other stakeholders, as deemed necessary, for the purpose.

5. d

Five Star Villages Scheme

- The **Department of Posts** has recently launched a scheme called Five Star Villages, to **ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes** in rural areas of the country.
- The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages.
- All postal products and services will be made available and marketed and publicized at

village level, under the Five Star Villages scheme.

- Branch offices will function as one-stop shop to cater all post office - related needs of villagers.
- The schemes covered under the Five Star scheme include:
 1. Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates
 2. Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts
 3. Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts
 4. Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy
 5. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana** Account.
- If a village attains **universal coverage for four schemes** from the above list, then that village gets **four-star status**; if a village completes three schemes, then that village get three-star status and so on.

Implementation Team

- The scheme will be implemented by a team of five Gramin Dak Sevaks who will be assigned a village for marketing of all products, savings and insurance schemes of the Department of Posts.
- This team will be headed by the Branch Post Master of the concerned Branch Office.

Campaign

- The team of Gramin Dak Sevaks will conduct door-to-door awareness campaign on all schemes, covering all eligible villagers.
- Wide publicity will be given by displaying the information on notice board of Branch Office.
- Prominent places of targeted villages like Panchayat Offices, schools, village dispensaries, bus depots, markets will also be used for advertising and pamphlets will be distributed.

6. c

- The Government raises FDI limit in defence sector to 74% through automatic route with 'national security' clause.

- The Government reserves the right to scrutinise any investment proposal, which it thinks may impact India's national security.
- The move was aimed at giving a push to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in defence manufacturing.
- In value terms, India imports around 70% of its high-tech defence hardware such as aircraft, ships, submarines and missiles.

7. c

- It was the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana (1895 – 1976).
- He was a 20th century Telugu writer.
- His popular works includes, Ramayana Kalpa Vrukshamu, Kinnarsani Patalu and the novel Veyipadagalu.
- He was awarded with 'Jnanpith Award' for his book 'Ramayana Kalpavriksham'.
- He was the first Telugu writer to receive Jnanpith Award.

8. a

- Recently, India, Asian Development Bank (ADB) sign \$500 million loan for Delhi-Meerut high-speed rail corridor.
- ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- It admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and other non-regional developed countries, as it's members.

9. a

- In the US brokered Peace Deal, Bahrain, Israel agree to establish full Diplomatic relations.
- Bahrain is an archipelago in the Persian Gulf.
- Saudi Arabia lies to the west across the Gulf of Bahrain, while the Qatar peninsula lies to the east.
- Iran and Saudi Arabia are the India's biggest oil suppliers.

- Last month the United Arab Emirates (UAE) agreed to normalise its relationship with Israel.
- Earlier Egypt and Jordan normalise relationship with Israel.

10. c

- At least 24 reservoirs out of the 123 monitored by the Central Water Commission (CWC) were 100% full.
- The CWC is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources.
- It is functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- It provides flood forecasting services to all major flood prone inter-state river basins of India through a network of 175 flood forecasting stations.

14-09-2020

1) iRAD App, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an initiative of which of the following?

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

2) Consider the following statements with respect to National School of Drama

- It is an independent entity registered as an autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.**
- It was fully financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2



d. Neither 1 nor 2

3) The Ecological Threat Register (ETR) Report, sometimes seen in the news recently, was released by?

- Economist Intelligence Unit
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- Institute for Economics and Peace
- International Union for Conservation of Nature

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0

- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The main objective of the framework is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning their actions, including investments.
- The Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is supporting MoHUA in implementation of CSCAF.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

5) Project 17A, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- Indian Navy
- Indian Army
- Indian Air Force
- None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the Net Present Value (NPV)

- It is a monetary approximation of the value that is lost when a piece of forest land has been razed.
- The NPV amount goes to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) that are used for afforestation and reforestation.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Punnapra-Vayalar uprising

- It was a uprising led by the Communist Party in the princely State of Travancore.
- It was the result of the uproar created by the labor class and laborers from coir industry against the brutality of landlords.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the Intra-Afghan peace talks in Doha

- It is the peace negotiations between the Taliban and the US.
- The Bonn Agreement was the initial series of agreements intended to recreate the State of Afghanistan following the US invasion of Afghanistan.

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Global Economic Freedom Index 2020*

1. India shows drastic improvement on the index of global economic freedom rankings.
2. It was released by the World Economic Forum.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Insecticides Act, 1968*

1. It governs the registration, manufacturing, export, sale and use of pesticides in India.
2. Under this Act, Insecticide includes fungicides and weedicides.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways will be implementing 'Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD)' which will be applicable across the country.

iRAD

- In the first instance, it has been decided to implement the proposal in six States, viz.

1. Maharashtra
2. Karnataka
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Rajasthan
5. Uttar Pradesh
6. Tamil Nadu

- The development and implementation of iRAD has been entrusted to IIT Madras and National Informatics Centre Services Inc.

- iRAD Mobile app will be customized/integrated as per the requirements of concerned States/UTs.

- The App when developed and functional, will enable the stakeholders such as the Police, Transport, Health, etc to use their mobile phones to collect accident data on the spot.

2. c

- Veteran Actor Paresh Rawal has been appointed as Chairman of National School of Drama Society by President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

National School of Drama

- It is one of the foremost theatre training institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India.
- It was set up by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as one of its constituent units in 1959.
- In 1975, it became an independent entity and was registered as an autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
- It was fully financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

3. c

- **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)** launched the inaugural edition of **Ecological Threat Register (ETR)** which covers 157 independent states and territories.

- The study uses United Nations and other data to assess 157 countries' exposure to eight

ecological threats, then assesses their capacity to withstand them.

- According to the analysis, more than 1 billion people face being displaced within 30 years as the climate crisis and rapid population growth drive an increase in migration with “huge impacts” for both the developing and developed worlds.
- It found that 141 countries faced at least one ecological threat by 2050, with sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa the regions facing the largest number.
- Some countries, such as India and China, are most threatened by water scarcity, while others such as Pakistan, Iran, Kenya, Mozambique and Madagascar face a combination of threats and a growing incapacity to deal with them.
- Lack of resilience will lead to worsening food insecurity and competition over resources, increasing civil unrest and mass displacement.
- IEP also produces indexes such as the **Global Peace Index** and **Global Terrorism Index**.

4. d

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has recently launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0.

Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0

- The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.
- CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.
- The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely

1. Energy and Green Buildings,
2. Urban Planning,
3. Green Cover & Biodiversity,
4. Mobility and Air Quality,
5. Water Management and Waste Management.

- The Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is supporting MoHUA in implementation of CSCAF.

5. a

Project 17A

- Recently, Indian Navy had laid the keel of the third ship (Yard- 12653) of the prestigious P17A class stealth frigates.
- The P17A class frigates are being built using indigenously developed steel and fitted with weapons and sensors along with Integrated Platform Management System.
- These ships are having stealth features.
- Construction of P17A ships differ in the very concept of warship building by way of adoption of the modern technology ‘Integrated Construction (IC)’ where the blocks are pre-outfitted before joining to reduce the build period of warships.
- When commissioned the platforms will enhance the combat capability of the Indian Naval fleet.

6. c

- Recently, Environment Ministry rejects plea for exemption from forest penalty.
- The Mines Ministry had requested that prospecting and exploring in forests be exempted from Forest Conservation Act.
- The *Net Present Value (NPV)*, is a monetary approximation of the value that is lost when a piece of forest land has been razed.
- This is on the basis of the services and ecological value and there are prescribed formulae for calculating this amount.
- It depends on the location and nature of the forest and the type of industrial enterprise that will replace a particular parcel of forest.
- The *calculated NPV goes to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF)* and are used for afforestation and reforestation.

7. d

- A report to the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) has suggested dropping the Communist martyrs of Punnappara-Vayalar, Karivelloor and Kavumbayi

agitations from the list of martyrs of India's Independence struggle.

- The *Punnapra-Vayalar uprising* (October 1946) was led by the Communist Party in the princely State of Travancore.
- It was the result of the uproar created by the labor class and labourers from coir industry against the brutality of landlords.
- The trade unions under the aegis of the Communist Party organized a series of riots.

8. b

- The *Intra-Afghan peace talk between the Taliban and the Afghan government, begins in Doha.*
- The two parties are meeting face-to-face for the first time to end nearly two decades of conflict.
- The *Bonn Agreement* was the initial series of agreements intended to re-create the State of Afghanistan following the US invasion of Afghanistan.

9. d

- *India slipped 26 places to 105 among 162 countries and territories on the Index Of Global Economic Freedom.*
- The report was prepared by Canada's Fraser Institute, has been released in India in
- conjunction with New Delhi-based think tank *Centre For Civil Society.*
- India performed worse in terms of size of government, regulations and the freedom to trade internationally.

10. c

- The *Pesticides Management Bill, 2020* was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on March to replace the *Insecticides Act, 1968.*
- The *Insecticides Act, 1968* currently governs the registration, manufacturing, export, sale and use of pesticides in India.
- Under this Act, *Insecticide* includes fungicides and weedicides.
- The PMB, 2020 would not allow the manufacture and export of pesticides not

registered for use in India even if these are approved in other countries.

15-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *States' Startup Ranking 2019*

1. It aims to encourage States and UTs to take proactive steps towards strengthening the Start-up ecosystems in their states.
2. It was launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in 2018.
3. Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have emerged as the best performers in the ranking.

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 with respect to *Methane Hydrate*

1. It is a crystalline solid that consists of methane molecule surrounded by a cage of interlocking water molecules.
2. They are formed at a combination of low temperatures and high pressure.

Which of 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 *Aero India 2021*

1. It is the 13th edition of Aero India exhibition being organised at Bengaluru, Karnataka.



2. It is one of the major exhibition for aerospace and defence industries with a public air show organized every year.

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

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

4) With respect to the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India recently for the appointment of *Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) in banks*, consider the following statements:

- 1. The CCO should be appointed for a fixed tenure of not less than three years.
- 2. Only executives of the respected bank should be recruited as CCO and he/she should not be recruited from outside.

Which of 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) *Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)*, sometimes seen in the news recently, was signed recently between India and?

- a. SCO
- b. BRICS
- c. ASEAN
- d. None of the above

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Supplementary Grants*

- 1. It is additional grant required to meet the required revenue of the government.

2. These grants are presented and passed by the Parliament before the end of the financial year.

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

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

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

- 1. It is a colourless, odourless gas.
- 2. It is known to be produced only through biological process, and not through any naturally occurring chemical process.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Act, 2006*

- 1. It defines the sizes of the Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises in India.
- 2. It mandate the payment of MSME receivables are made within 45 days.

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

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

9) *Singapore Convention* sometimes seen in news is?

- a. A Convention on Desertification

- b. To prepare and prevent possible future spread of the viral infection
- c. A Convention on Mediation
- d. None of the above

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

1. It is a mountain pass located in the eastern Ladakh.
2. It connects Ladakh with the Chumbi Valley of Tibet.

Which of 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

States' Startup Ranking Framework

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched the States' Startup Ranking Exercise in 2018.
- It was launched as the first of its kind initiative, across the world, to utilise the power of cooperative federalism in transforming a country into a startup nation.
- The exercise was launched with the objective of facilitating states to identify, learn and replicate good practices while fostering healthy competition and highlighting detailed policy interventions undertaken to embrace their states' startup ecosystem.

Highlights of the Ranking 2019

- States were ranked on five categories based on 7 areas of intervention with a total of 30 action points.
- **Gujarat and Andaman & Nicobar Islands** have emerged as the '**Best Performer**' states.

- **Kerala and Karnataka** has bagged the '**Top Performer**' honour for developing a strong start-up ecosystem for the second consecutive year in the States' Startup Ranking 2019.
- **Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh** were on the **Emerging States** category.

2. c

- The Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin holds a massive reserve of **Methane Hydrate** and a rich source of cleaner natural gas, claims a study by the Pune-based Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) of the Science & Technology Ministry.
- The ministry also said that "Even the lowest estimate of methane present in the methane hydrates in the KG basin is twice that of all fossil fuel reserves available worldwide."

Methane Hydrate

- Methane hydrate is a solid compound in which a large amount of methane gas molecules (CH₄) are caged within a crystalline structure of water forming a solid similar to ice.
- It is formed when hydrogen-bonded water and methane gas come into contact at high pressures and low temperatures in oceans.
- It looks like ice, but starts burning when an open flame is brought close to it.
- Methane hydrate is often called "**Fiery Ice**".
- They are found primarily on the edge of continental shelves where the seabed drops sharply away into the deep ocean floor.
- It is estimated that one cubic meter of methane hydrate contains 160-180 cubic meters of methane.
- The resultant Methane is a clean and economical fuel.

3. a

- Union Defence Minister has recently launched the Aero India 2021 website at New Delhi.
- The 13th edition of Aero India-21 will be held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka from 3rd to 07th February 2021.

Aero India



- It is one of the major exhibition for aerospace and defence industries with a public air show organized every alternate year.
- Aero India 2021 is the 13th edition of Aero India being organised at Bengaluru, Karnataka from 03-07 February 2021.
- It enables industry professional to gain market insights, announce new developments and gain media coverage.
- Aero India offers a unique platform to international aviation sector to bolster business.
- It provides opportunity to demonstrate products to the potential customer and investors.

4. a

- Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for appointment of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) in banks.

Chief Compliance Officer (CCO)

- This aims to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry.
- The CCO should be appointed for a fixed tenure of not less than three years.
- The CCO may be transferred or removed before completion of the tenure only in exceptional circumstances with the explicit prior approval of the board after following a well-defined and transparent internal administrative procedure.
- The CCO should be a senior executive of the bank, preferably in the rank of a general manager or an equivalent position (not below two levels from the CEO).
- The CCO **could also be recruited from market.**
- He must not be a member of any committee which brings his/her role in conflict with responsibility as member of the committee, including any committee dealing with purchases/sanctions

Few important conditions to CCO are:

- There shall not be any responsibility which brings elements of conflict of interest, especially the role relating to business.
- No vigilance case or adverse observation from the RBI should be pending against the candidate identified for appointment as the CCO.
- Selection of the candidate for the post of the CCO should be done on the basis of a well-defined selection process and recommendations made by the senior executive-level selection committee constituted by the board for the purpose.

5. d

- **Recently, India and Japan signed Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) agreement.**

Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)

- It is a logistics agreement that will allow armed forces of both sides to coordinate closely in services and supplies.
- India has similar agreements with the USA, Australia, France, Oman and Singapore.
- It is aimed at greater maritime cooperation and can upgrade India-Japan naval exercises as both countries are expected to share maritime facilities for mutual benefit.
- It establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the armed forces of both countries in reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in the following such as
 1. Bilateral training activities,
 2. United Nations Peacekeeping Operations,
 3. Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities.
- The supplies and services include food, water, transportation, airlift, petroleum, clothing, communications and medical services etc.
- It will remain in force for 10 years and will be automatically extended for periods of 10 years unless one of the parties decides to end it.

6. b

- Recently, Finance Minister presents first batch of *Supplementary Grants* in the parliament.
- The *additional grant required to meet the required expenditure of the government* is called *Supplementary Grants*.
- When grants, authorised by the Parliament, fall short of the required expenditure, an estimate is presented before the Parliament for *Supplementary or Additional grants*.
- These grants are *presented and passed by the Parliament before the end of the financial year*.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India bring such excesses to the notice of the Parliament.

7. b

- The international team of astronomers announced the discovery of *Phosphine* gas in the atmosphere of *Venus*.
- It triggered global excitement about the possibility of the presence of lifeforms on the neighbouring planet.
- *Phosphine* is a *colourless but smelly gas*.
- It is *known to be produced only through biological process, and not through any naturally occurring chemical process*.
- Apart from being produced in industrial processes, it is made only by some species of bacteria that survive in the absence of oxygen.
- It is also used as an agricultural fumigant and in semiconductor industry.

8. c

- Recently, the Government asks top 500 private companies to clear *MSME dues* on priority.
- The *MSME Development Act, 2006* mandate that the *payment of MSME receivables are made within 45 days*.
- This Act defines the sizes of the *Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises* in India.

9. c

- Recently, *Singapore Convention on Mediation* comes into force.

- It is also known as *the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation*.
- This is also the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.
- It will provide a more effective way for enforcing mediated settlements of corporate disputes involving businesses in India and other countries that are signatories to the Convention.

10. d

- Recent India-China standoff casts shadow on *Nathu La border trade*.
- Traders from Sikkim fear LAC tensions may affect their business.
- *Nathu La* is a mountain pass located in Sikkim.
- It connects Sikkim with Chumbi Valley of the Tibetan Plateau.
- It is one of the three open trading border posts between China and India.
- The other two being *Shipki la* in Himachal Pradesh and *Lipulekh* at Uttarakhand.

16-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to MANAK programme

- 1. It aims to motivate students in the age group of 5-10 years and studying in classes 1 to 5 to address societal needs through Science & Technology.**
- 2. Under the scheme, shortlisted students are rewarded with Rs. 10,000 through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme.**
- 3. The programme was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in partnership with the National Innovation Foundation in 2017.**

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

2) K N Dikshit Committee, sometimes seen in the news recently, was constituted for?

- a. To propose reform measures in criminal law
b. To conduct a holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture
c. To look into the restructuring needs of large borrowers directly hit by Covid-19
d. None of the above

3) Consider the following pairs associated with Buddhism

Places - States

1. Vulture Peak – Bihar
2. Deer Park – Madhya Pradesh
3. Jeta Grove – Uttar Pradesh

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme

1. It is a flagship programme of the Government of India to provide development assistance to developing countries across the globe.
2. ITEC is administered by the Ministry of External Affairs, India and is fully funded by the Government of India.

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

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

- d. Neither 1 nor 2

5) Consider the following statements with respect to UN's Commission on Status of Women (UNCSW)

1. It is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
2. India has been elected as the member of the Commission for four years from 2021 - 2025.
3. It was established by the UN Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) resolution.

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to Interest Rate Derivative

1. It is a financial contract with a value that is linked to the movements of an interest rates.
2. They are often used as hedges by the institutional investors to protect themselves against changes in market interest rates.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to Hilsa Fish



1. It is one of the most important and lucrative commercial food fish in the Indian Subcontinent.
2. It is generally found in the waters of Konkan coast and Malabar coast.

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

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

8) Recently, Indian government bans the export of Onion. Under which Act the government bans the export of Onion?

- a. Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- b. Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act, 2003
- c. Foreign Trade Act, 1992
- d. None of the above

9) Consider the following statements with respect to Homosexuality

1. The same-sex marriages are legally recognised in India.
2. All the provisions of Section 377 of IPC dealing with unnatural sex were decriminalised.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Biomedical Waste

1. It is any waste produced during the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human or animal research activities.

2. All the Biomedical waste are considered hazardous which are toxic.

Which of 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

- Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) scheme is one of the flagship programmes of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.

INSPIRE Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge) Programme

- Under the scheme Department of Science & Technology (DST) invites students from government and private schools to send original and innovative ideas having potential to solve common problems.
- It is being executed by the DST with National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF), an autonomous body of DST, since 2017.
- It aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10.
- The objective of the scheme is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children.
- Under this scheme, schools can nominate 5 best original ideas/innovations of students.
- Under the scheme meritorious ideas are rewarded with the award money of Rs 10,000 with option of showcasing it to district, state, and national level exhibition along with mentoring support.

2. b

- An expert committee under the chairman ship of K.N. Dikshit (Chairman, Indian

Archaeological Society) has been set up for conducting holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture to since 12000 years before present and its interface with other cultures of the world.

3. a

1. Vulture Peak – Bihar
2. Deer Park – Uttar Pradesh
3. Jeta Grove – Uttar Pradesh
- **Sarnath** – The **Deer Park** adjoining the Archaeological Complex at Sarnath that the Buddha is believed to have delivered his first sermon, Dharmachakrapravartana, after he attained enlightenment under a Bodhi tree in Bodhi Gaya.
- **Rajgir** – It was the capital of Magadh Kingdom. It was here that Gautama Buddha spent several months meditating, and preaching at Gridhra-kuta, (Vulture peak).
- He also delivered some of his famous sermons and initiated king Bimbisara of Magadha and countless others to Buddhism.
- It was here that Buddha delivered his famous Atanatiya Sutra.
- **Sravasti** – It was the capital of ancient Kosala kingdom and is sacred to the Buddhists because it is here that Lord Buddha performed the greatest of his miracles to confound the Tirthika heretics.
- These miracles include Buddha creating multiple images of himself, which has been a favourite theme of Buddhist art. Buddha showed his divine prowess to impress upon the non-believers.
- The Buddha passed the greater part of his monastic life in Sravasti.
- **Vulture peak** – One of the several sites frequented by the Buddha and his community of disciples for both training and retreat.
- **Kesariya** – Kesariya Stupa is a Buddhist stupa in Kesariya, located at a distance of 110 kilometres from Patna, in the Champaran (east) district of Bihar, India.
- The first construction of the Stupa is dated to the 3rd century BCE.

- Kesariya Stupa has a circumference of almost 400 feet (120 m) and raises to a height of about 104 feet.
- **Vaishali** – It is said that the Buddha visited this place thrice and spent quite a long time here.
- The Buddha also delivered his last sermon at Vaishali and announced his Nirvana here.
- **Kushinagar** – It is one of the four sacred places of Lord Buddha. Buddha delivered his last sermon, attained Mahaparinirvana (salvation) in 483 BC and was cremated at Rambhar Stupa.

4. c

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme

- It was instituted by a decision of the Indian Cabinet in 1964.
- It is a flagship programme of the Government of India to provide development assistance to developing countries across the globe.
- ITEC is administered by the Ministry of External Affairs, India and is fully funded by the Government of India.
- More than 10,000 training slots are offered every year to more than 160 partner countries for training courses in various areas like
 1. Accounts,
 2. Audit,
 3. Management,
 4. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME),
 5. Rural Development,
 6. Parliamentary Affairs etc.
- Under ITEC and its sister programme SCAAP (Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme) different countries across the globe are invited to share in the Indian developmental experience

5. d

UN's Commission on Status of Women (UNCSW)

- The CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated

to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

- It was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946.
- It promotes women's rights, highlights the reality of women's lives throughout the world and helps in shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- 45 member states of the United Nations serve as members of the Commission at any one time.
- Recently India has been elected as the member of the Commission for four years from 2021 - 2025.

6. c

- Recently, RBI proposes to launch exchange-traded, OTC *Interest Rate Derivative*.
- Interest Rate Derivatives is a *financial contract with a value that is linked to the movements of an interest rates*.
- Its value is based on some underlying interest rate or interest-bearing asset.
- They are *often used as hedges by institutional investors to protect themselves against changes in market interest rates*.
- These may include interest rate futures, options, swaps, swaptions, and FRA's.
- Entities with interest rate risk can use these derivatives to hedge or minimize potential losses that may accompany a change in interest rates.

7. a

- Recently, Bangladesh gives special permission for export of *Hilsa Fish* to India.
- Hilsa or Ilish is considered a delicacy in Bangladesh and West Bengal.
- *Bangladesh has a shore of close to 75% in the production of Hilsa fish in the world*.
- It is *generally found in the Northern Bay of Bengal*.
- It is the *national fish of Bangladesh* and state symbol of West Bengal and Tripura.

- Myanmar catches about 15-20% of all *Hilsa* globally, second only to neighbouring Bangladesh.
- As per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Hilsa has witnessed a decreasing trend in India and Bangladesh.
- They are listed as Least Concerned in IUCN Red list.

8. c

- *The Indian government banned the export of all varieties of onions* except those cut, sliced or broken in powder form, with immediate effect.
- *The power to ban the Onion export was conferred by Section 3 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.*
- India is one of the world's biggest exporter of onions.
- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Gujarat are major onion producing states.
- The ban also includes Bangalore rose onions and Krishnapuram onions, which were free for export till now.

9. d

- Recently, *Central government opposes* plea seeking recognition of *Same-Sex Marriages*.
- *Same-sex marriages are not legally recognised in India.*
- In 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court unanimously *decriminalised part of Section 377 of the IPC* which criminalises consensual unnatural sex.
- *The other aspects of Section 377 of IPC dealing with unnatural sex with animals and children shall remain in force.*

10. a

- COVID-19 related *Biomedical Waste* generated on an average was about 169 tonnes per day for the month of August 2020, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- *Biomedical Waste* is any waste produced during the diagnosis, treatment or



immunization of human or animal research activities.

- According to WHO, of the total amount of waste generated by health-care activities, about 85% is general, non-hazardous waste.
- The remaining 15% is considered hazardous material that may be infectious, toxic or radioactive.
- The Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) Management Rules, 2016 regulates the Biomedical waste in India.

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

3) Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform was launched recently by?

- a. G20
- b. World Watch Institute
- c. World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- d. Both a and b

17-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

1. The Deputy Chairman is selected by the Chairman from the panel of Vice-Chairpersons of Rajya Sabha.
2. His/Her salary and allowance are fixed by the Parliament and are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to SWAMIH Investment Fund

1. It will provide last mile funding to the stressed affordable and middle-income housing projects in the country.
2. It also funds for projects that have been declared as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) or are pending proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

4) Sputnik V, sometimes seen in the news recently, is a/the?

- a. Vaccine against COVID-19
- b. First artificial Earth satellite
- c. Mission to prevent permafrost thawing
- d. None of the above

5) Which of the following are cold ocean currents?

1. Labrador current
2. Kuroshio current
3. Benguela current

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)

1. It is empowered to impose penalties for certain aviation safety violations in India.
2. It co-ordinates all regulatory functions with International Civil Aviation Organisation.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mission Shakti*

- 1. It is an anti-satellite missile test carried out by DRDO.
- 2. India is a signatory to Outer Space Treaty, and ratified it.
- 3. This treaty prohibits only weapons of mass destruction in outer space, not ordinary weapons.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Solar Cycle*

- 1. It is the cycle that the Sun's magnetic field goes through approximately every 11 years.
- 2. This activity does not have any effects on the Earth.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Vienna Convention*

- 1. It was the first convention of any kind to be signed by every country involved, reaching universal ratification.
- 2. It aimed to promote cooperation among nations by exchanging information on the effects of human activities on ozone layer.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*

- 1. It is to advance, three dimensions of sustainable development, the economic, social and environmental, providing overall guidance and coordination.
- 2. The Members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly and the presidency of ECOSOC changes annually.

Which of 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

- Harivansh Narayan Singh was recently re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

- The Deputy Chairman is **elected** by the **Rajya Sabha itself** from amongst its members.

- Whenever the office of the Deputy Chairman falls vacant, the Rajya Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy.
- The Deputy Chairman vacates his office in any of the following three cases:
 1. if he ceases to be a member of the Rajya Sabha;
 2. if he resigns by writing to the Chairman; and
 3. if he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Rajya Sabha. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.
- The Deputy Chairman performs the duties of the Chairman's office when it is vacant or when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President.
- He also acts as the Chairman when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House.
- In both the cases, he has all the powers of the Chairman.
- It should be emphasised here that the Deputy Chairman is not subordinate to the Chair-man.
- He is directly responsible to the Rajya Sabha.
- Like the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, while presiding over the House, cannot vote in the first instance; he can only exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie.
- Further, when a resolution for the removal of the Deputy Chairman is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside over a sitting of the House, though he may be present.
- When the Chairman presides over the House, the Deputy Chairman is like any other ordinary member of the House.
- He can speak in the House, participate in its proceedings and vote on any question before the House.
- Like the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman is also entitled to a regular salary and allowance.
- They are fixed by Parliament and are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

Panel of Vice-Chairpersons of Rajya Sabha

- Under the Rules of Rajya Sabha, the Chairman nominates from amongst the members a panel of vice-chairpersons.

- Any one of them can preside over the House in the absence of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.
- He has the same powers as the Chairman when so presiding. He holds office until a new panel of vice-chairpersons is nominated.
- When a member of the panel of vice-chairpersons is also not present, any other person as determined by the House acts as the Chairman.

2. c

- *In order to give relief to homebuyers of stalled projects, a Special Window for Completion of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) investment fund has been created.*

SWAMIH Investment Fund

- It will provide last mile funding to the stressed affordable and middle-income housing projects in the country.
- It aims for funding stalled projects that are net-worth positive, including those projects that have been declared as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) or are pending proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

3. a

- *The Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 countries took place recently under the Presidency of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.*
- Representing India, Union Environment, Climate Change and Forest Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar participated in the event.
- He also applauded the launch of Global Initiative to reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef program and two documents on climate change related to managing emissions and climate change adaptations under the G20 this year.

Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation

- It aims to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation within G20 member states and globally, taking into account possible implications on the achievement of other SDGs and adhering to the principle of doing no harm.

Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform

- It is an innovative action-oriented initiative aimed at creating a global research and development (R&D) program to advance research, innovation and capacity building in all facets of coral reef conservation, restoration, and adaptation, and strengthen ongoing efforts and commitments made to enhance coral reefs conservation and their further degradation.

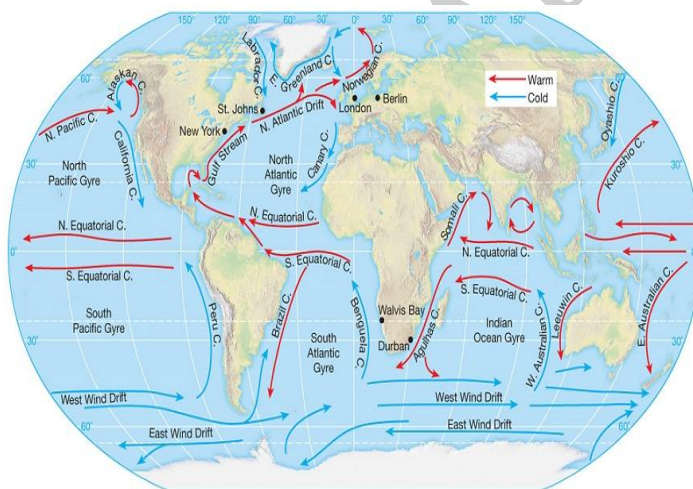
4. a

- Russia has recently inked a pact to test, supply Sputnik V vaccine to India.
- The Russia Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which is piloting Russia's Sputnik V candidate vaccine, currently in Phase 3 trials, has partnered with the Hyderabad-based Dr. Reddy's Laboratories to test, and subject to regulatory approvals in India, supply 100 million doses of the vaccine.

Sputnik V vaccine

- It was developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology.
- The vaccine was registered by the Ministry of Health of Russia and became the world's first registered vaccine against COVID-19 based on the human adenoviral vectors platform.

5. b



6. d

- The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill 2020, which seeks to provide statutory status to the DGCA,

the BCAS, and the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB) was passed in Rajya Sabha.

- The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is an independent department under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- The main responsibilities of BCAS include laying down standards and measures with respect to security of civil flights in India.
- It lay down the Aviation Security Standards in accordance with Chicago Convention of ICAO.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation.
- DGCA is empowered to impose penalties for safety violation and it co-ordinates with International Civil Aviation Organisation.

7. d

- Recently, Government launches Postage Stamp commemorating Mission Shakti's success.
- Mission Shakti is India's First Anti Satellite Missile (A-SAT).
- This technological mission was carried out by DRDO.
- The DRDO's Ballistic Missile Defence interceptor was used in the mission.
- India is a signatory to Outer Space Treaty, and ratified it in 1982.
- This treaty prohibits only weapons of mass destruction in outer space, not ordinary weapons.

8. a

- The scientists from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have predicted a new Solar Cycle.
- It is called Solar Cycle 25, which they believe has begun, will peak in 2025.
- Solar Cycle is the cycle that the Sun's magnetic field goes through approximately every 11 years.
- It has implications for life and technology on Earth as well as astronauts in space.

- It influences rainfall patterns, or impact radio communications and extreme eruptions can even affect electricity grids on Earth.

9. d

- September 16 is celebrated as *World Ozone Day* across the world.
- It is to aware people about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and its impact on life.
- The theme for World Ozone Day 2020 is "Ozone for life".
- The *Vienna Convention* for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention) aimed to promote cooperation on the effects of human activities on ozone layer.
- The *Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol* are the first and only global environmental treaties to achieve universal ratification, with 197 parties.

10. c

- Recently, India becomes member of UN's ECOSOC body.
- India has been elected as the member of the United Nations' Commission on Status of Women (CSW).
- The CSW is a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- The ECOSOC is to advance, three dimensions of sustainable development, the economic, social and environmental, providing overall guidance and coordination.
- The Members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly on the presidency of ECOSOC changes annually.
- Four of the five permanent members of the Security Council have been continuously reelected because they provide funding for most of ECOSOC's budget.

18-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Service Scheme (NSS)

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme of Government of India under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

2. It was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service.
3. The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

1. The bill seeks to allow barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of the markets notified under the various state APMC laws.
2. Farming produce under an agreement established through the bill will be exempted from any stock limit obligations applicable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Which of 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) Transport Bubbles, sometimes seen in the news recently, is?

- a. It is a system of transportation that uses two sets of magnets, one to repel and another to move the carrier in a glass bubble
- b. They are temporary arrangements between two countries aimed at restarting commercial passenger services during the COVID-19 pandemic



c. It is a state of art technology that eliminates destructive gas bubbles in fluid transportation pipes using pumpless transportation of subaqueous gas bubbles

d. None of the above

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020*

1. The Bill provides a framework for farmers to engage in Contract Farming.
2. The Bill provides for setting up of electronic trading platforms to facilitate direct and online buying and selling of farmers' produce, resulting in physical delivery of the produce.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)*

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
2. It was established to oversee working of Nehru Yuva Kendras which aims to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Coral Reefs*

1. All the corals build reefs, and are called reef-building corals.
2. In India Coral reefs are found only in Gulf of Mannar and in Andaman and Nicobar 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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC)*

1. It aimed at the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.
2. India is the member state to Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC).

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)*

1. An individual can be designated a terrorist under the UAPA.
2. Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged under UAPA.
3. It has the life imprisonment as the highest punishment.

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

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

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

9) Human Capital Index recently seen in news was released by?

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. The International Monetary Fund
- c. World Bank
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Medical Association (IMA)

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It's objective is to work for the abolition of compartmentalism in medical education, medical services and registration in the country.

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

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

Answers

1. b

National Service Scheme (NSS)

- It is a Central Sector Scheme of Government of India, **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**.
- It provides opportunity to the student youth of 11th & 12th Class of schools at +2 Board level and student youth of Technical Institution, Graduate & Post Graduate at colleges and University level of India to take part in various government led community service activities & programmes.
- It was introduced in 1969 and the sole aim of the NSS is to provide hands on experience to young students in delivering community service.

- The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- Very appropriately, the motto of NSS is "**NOT ME, BUT YOU**".

2. b

- Lok Sabha passes the **Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020**.

Background

- Indian Agriculture is characterized by fragmentation due to small holding sizes and has certain weaknesses such as weather dependence, production uncertainties and market unpredictability.
- This makes agriculture risky and inefficient in respect of both input & output management.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

- This Bill replaces the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020.
- **The Bill provides a framework for farmers to engage in contract farming**, i.e. farming as per an agreement with the buyer before sowing, under which farmer sells produce to the buyer at a pre-determined price.

Benefits

- The new legislation will empower farmers for engaging with processors, wholesalers, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers, exporters etc., on a level playing field without any fear of exploitation.
- It will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor and also enable the farmer to access modern technology and better inputs.
- It will reduce cost of marketing and improve income of farmers.
- This legislation will act as a catalyst to attract private sector investment for building supply chains for supply of Indian farm produce to national and global markets, and in agricultural infrastructure.

- Farmers will engage in direct marketing thereby eliminating intermediaries resulting in full realization of price.
- Sale, lease or mortgage of farmers' land is totally prohibited and farmers' land is also protected against any recovery.
- Effective dispute resolution mechanism has been provided for with clear time lines for redressal.

3. b

Transport Bubbles (or) Air Transport Bubbles

- These are temporary arrangements between two countries aimed at restarting commercial passenger services when regular international flights are suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- They are reciprocal in nature, meaning airlines from both countries enjoy similar benefits.
- India has entered into Air Bubble agreements with 10 countries viz. USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Maldives, UAE, Qatar, Afghanistan and Bahrain, till 13.09.2020.

4. b

- *Lok Sabha has recently passed the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020*

Background

- Farmers in India suffered from various restrictions in marketing their produce.
- There were restrictions for farmers in selling agri-produce outside the notified APMC market yards.
- The farmers were also restricted to sell the produce only to registered licensees of the State Governments.
- Further, barriers existed in free flow of agriculture produce between various States owing to the prevalence of various APMC legislations enacted by the State Governments.

Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020

- This Bill replaces the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020.

Benefits of the bill

- The new legislation will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce.
- It will also ***promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations.***
- The Bill will prevail over the APMC Acts in the area outside such markets.
- It will also help farmers of regions with surplus produce to get better prices and consumers of regions with shortages, lower prices.
- The Bill also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.
- The farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce under this Act.
- Further there will be a separate dispute resolution mechanism for the farmers.
- This will supplement the existing MSP procurement system which is providing stable income to farmers.
- It will certainly pave the way for creating ***One India, One Agriculture Market.***

5. c

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)

- In the year 1987-88, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) was set up as an autonomous organization under the Government of India, ***Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.***
- It was setup to oversee working of the Nehru Yuva Kendras.
- NYKS is the largest grassroots level youth organization; one of its kind in the world.
- NYKS has presence in 623 Districts through Nehru Yuva Kendras and channelizes the power of youth on the principles of voluntarism, self-help and community participation.

Nehru Yuva Kendras

- They were established in the year 1972 with the objective of providing rural youth avenues to take part in the process of nation building as well providing opportunities for the development of their personality and skills.

6. d

- Coral reefs are built by coral polyps as they secrete layers of calcium carbonate beneath their bodies.
- *The corals that build reefs are known as “hard” or “reef-building” corals.*
- *Soft corals*, such as sea fans and sea whips, *do not produce reefs*, they are flexible organisms that sometimes resemble plants.
- They do not have stony skeletons and do not always have zooxanthellae.
- *In India Coral reefs are found in Gulf of Mannar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Gulf of Kutch, Malvan, Lakshadweep*

7. a

- Recently, *India joins Djibouti Code Of Conduct (DCOC).*
- *India joins* Japan, Norway, the UK and the US to the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment, as “Observer”.
- *DCOC aimed at the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.*
- A revised Code of Conduct, is known as the *Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC/JA).*
- The *18 member states* are located in areas adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and the east coast of Africa and include island nations in the Indian Ocean.
- The member states cooperate in countering piracy and promoting the implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

8. a

- Recently, a former Jawaharlal Nehru University student, has been arrested under the *Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).*

- UAPA is an anti-terror law, aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.

- *Any individual or an organisation can be designated a terrorist under the UAPA.*
- *Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged under UAPA.*
- It is applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
- It has *death penalty as the highest punishment.*
- *An accused cannot seek anticipatory bail*, and the period of investigation can be extended to 180 days from 90 days on the public prosecutor's request.

9. c

- The *World Bank released its annual Human Capital Index.*
- *India has been ranked at the 116th position in the Index.*
- The Index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
- The pandemic puts at risk the decade's progress in building human capital, including the improvements in health, survival rates, school enrollment, and reduced stunting.

10. b

- Recently, *Indian Medical Association (IMA)* submits list of 382 doctors who died from Covid-19, wants them declared ‘martyrs’.
- *IMA is only representative, national voluntary organisation of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine.*
- It looks after the interest of doctors as well as the well being of the community at large.
- *One of its objectives is to work for the abolition of compartmentalism in medical education, medical services and registration in the country.*
- It aims to promote and advance medical and allied sciences in all their different branches and to promote the improvement of public health and medical education in India.

d. 24 x 7 Power for All” Program

19-09-2020

1) *Abraham Accords*, sometimes seen in the news recently, was recently signed between?

1. Israel
2. Kuwait
3. Bahrain
4. United Arab Emirates

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Blue Flag Programme*

1. It is an eco-label certification awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.
2. It is jointly operated under the auspices of the International Maritime Organisation and UN-Oceans.
3. No Indian beach has qualified for this certification so far.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3) *BEAMS – India’s own eco-label*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an initiative under?

- a. Project Tiger
- b. Avian Diversity Plan 2020-2030
- c. Integrated Coastal Zone Management

4) *One District One Product (ODOP) scheme*, sometimes seen in the news recently, was first started by which of the following states?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Uttar Pradesh
- d. None of the above

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)*

1. It is an Institute of National Importance by the Act of Parliament set up in 1993.
2. It works under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Indus River*

1. The river rises in the Tibet Autonomous Region.
2. It flows between the Ladakh and the Zaskar Ranges.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements

1. The 49th Parallel demarcates South Korea and North Korea.

2. The 38th Parallel demarcates the USA and Canada.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Global Smart City Index 2020*

- 1. The Smart City Index 2020 key findings focuses on how technology is playing a role in the COVID-19 era.
- 2. It was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

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

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

9) *Bagh Printing* sometimes seen in news is a traditional print practised mainly in?

- a. Rajasthan
- b. West Bengal
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Assam

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL)*

- 1. It advises and assists Central as well as State Governments in the matters of language.
- 2. It protect and documents Minor, Minority and Tribal languages.
- 3. It contributes to the development of only Hindi language by creating content and corpus.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- India recently welcomed the signing of the Abraham Accords and reiterated its call for direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians for a “**Two-State Solution**”.

Abraham Accords

- It was signed in the White House recently by the **UAE, Bahrain and Israel**, under U.S. President Donald Trump’s mediation.
- They came almost 26 years after the signing of a declaration for a peace deal between Israel and Jordan.
- Under the Accords, the UAE and Bahrain will normalise their relations with Israel and expand engagements in politics, security, trade and connectivity.

2. b

- *Eight Indian beaches complying with the stringent Blue Flag certification criteria have been recommended by the Centre for final consideration before an international jury.*
- **No Indian beach has qualified for this certification so far.**
- The eight beaches that are under consideration are:
 1. Shivrajpur (Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat)
 2. Ghoghla (Daman and Diu)
 3. Kasarkod (Karwar, Karnataka)
 4. Padubidri (Udupi, Karnataka)
 5. Kappad (Kozhikode, Kerala)
 6. Rushikonda (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)
 7. Golden beach (Puri, Odisha)

8. Radhanagar (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

Blue Flag Project

- The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised **voluntary eco-labels** awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.
- It is run by the Denmark-based international, nongovernmental, non-profit organization Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).
- In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained.
- The Programme challenges local authorities and beach operators to achieve high standards in the four categories of:
 1. Safety
 2. Water quality
 3. Environmental education
 4. Environmental management
- Spain has the highest number of Blue Flag tagged sites.

3. c

- *On the eve of International Coastal Clean-Up Day which is celebrated across 100 countries since 1986, India has recently launched its own eco-label "BEAMS" (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) under its Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project.*
- The BEAMS was launched by e-hoisting the flag, carrying a message "**I AM SAVING MY BEACH**" simultaneously at eight beaches, recommended by the Indian jury recently for consideration for the Blue Flag.
- This is one of the several other projects of ICZM that the central government is undertaking for the sustainable development of coastal regions, striving for globally recognized and the coveted **eco-label Blue Flag** awarded by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**.

Beach Environment & Aesthetic Management System (BEAMS)

- Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had conceived an integrated coastal management scheme viz. BEAMS (also referred to as Beach Management Services), to reduce existing pollutants on beaches and to aspire & achieve such high International Standards in India.
- The main objective of setting up of BEAMS programme is to promote sustainable development in coastal regions of India for the beach management authorities to strive to achieve high international standards in four categories of:
 1. Environmental Management including cleanliness, solid waste management in beaches.
 2. Environment Education.
 3. Safety & Security of Beachgoers.
 4. Bathing Water Quality Standards.

4. c

- *The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry is preparing an institutional mechanism to promote the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, first started by the Uttar Pradesh government, at the national level to tap the rural economic potential of the country and identify one product per district.*

One District One Product (ODOP) scheme

- To encourage indigenous and specialized products in the state, the UP government has launched the One District One Product (ODOP) programme which aims to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of UP.
- This is going to provide an impetus to the traditional industries across respective districts in the state.

5. c

RG National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)

- It is an Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.
- The RGNIYD was set up in 1993 under the Societies Registration Act, XXVII of 1975.
- It is located in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

- The Institute functions as a think-tank of the Ministry and premier organization of youth-related activities in the country.
- As the apex institute at the national level, it works in close cooperation with the NSS, NYKS and other youth organizations in the implementation of training programmes.
- The Institute is a nodal agency for training youth as a facilitator of youth development activities in rural, urban as also tribal areas.

6. c

- September 19 marks the *60th anniversary of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT)* between India and Pakistan.
- The river rises in the southwestern Tibet Autonomous Region of China near Lake Mapam at an elevation of about 18,000 feet.
- After entering J&K it flows between the Ladakh and the Zaskar Ranges.
- It flows through the regions of Ladakh, Baltistan and Gilgit.
- It is joined by the Zaskar River at Leh.
- It empties into the Arabian Sea south of Karachi after forming a huge delta.

7. c

- Two years since North Korea and South Korea signed the *Pyongyang Joint Declaration* on September 19.
- It focused on diffusing military tensions between the two countries.
- The *38th Parallel demarcates South Korea and North Korea.*
- It demarcate the central part of the *Demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.*
- The *49th Parallel demarcates the USA and Canada.*

8. a

- Indian cities drop in *Global Smart City Index*, Singapore tops the list.
- Cities in India (New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru) suffer significant drops this year.

- This can be attributed to the detrimental effect that the pandemic has had where the technological advancement was not up to date, according to the report.
- It ranks cities based on economic and technological data, as well as by their citizens' perceptions of how smart their cities are.
- The *Institute for Management Development*, in collaboration with *Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD)*, has released the *2020 Smart City Index*.
- The key findings focuses on how technology is playing a role in the COVID-19 era in a way that is likely to remain.

9. c

- TRIFED is forging ahead in its endeavour to imparts training in *Bagh Printing* to Tribal Artisans in Barwani under Trifed Project.
- *Bagh Print* is traditional hand Block Print with natural colors an Indian Handicraft practised in *Bagh, Madhya Pradesh.*
- Bagh printing is essentially block printing.
- It has its roots in Sindh, which is now a part of Pakistan.
- It is then moved eastwards to Marwar (Rajasthan) and later to Madhya Pradesh with the migration of the craftsmen.

10. a

- Recently, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) organized webinar on Promotion of Indian Languages under Shiksha Parv.
- CIIL is an research and teaching institute, part of the Language Bureau of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It advices and assists Central as well as State Governments in the matters of language.
- It contributes to the development of all Indian Languages by creating content and corpus.
- It protect and documents Minor, Minority and Tribal languages.
- It promotes Linguistic harmony by teaching 15 Indian languages to non-native learners.

- It has now been entrusted with the Tamil Development Scheme under the declaration of Tamil as a Classical Language.

21-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian Culture Portal*

- It showcases both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India through manuscripts, museum artefacts, paintings, etc.
- It is a part of the National Virtual Library of India project, funded by the Ministry of Culture.
- The portal has been created and developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Financial Assistance to Cultural Institution Scheme*

- The scheme intended to offer grants-in-aid to select cultural institutions which are engaged in the promotion of the performing arts, namely, music, dance and drama.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi is the organization which formulated the scheme and offer grants-in-aid under the scheme.

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

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

3) Under the *National Food Security Mission (NFSM)*, which of the following crops are not promoted?

- Rice
- Banana
- Mushroom
- Root and Tuber Crops

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 3 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)*

- It has been established under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change.
- It is the National Project Management Unit (NPMU) of India in strategic planning and implementation of Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency (ENCORE) Project in all 13 Coastal States /UTs.

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

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

5) *SPICe+ Portal*, often seen in the news recently, is associated with?

- Ease of doing Business
- Doubling Farmers Income
- Incredible India Campaign 2.0
- Know your Nutrition level Campaign

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)*

1. It is an independent body reporting directly to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Finance Minister.
2. It is mandatory for banks in India to furnish a monthly Cash Transaction Reports (CTRs) to the FIU on all transactions over Rs 10 lakh or its equivalent in foreign currency.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *i-ATS (Automatic Train Supervision)*

1. It is a computer-based system, which manages the operation of metro trains.
2. It is an indigenously built Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) based signalling 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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Technical Textiles Mission*

1. The focus of the Mission is for developing on the usage of textiles in various flagship missions including strategic sectors.
2. Technical textiles are textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for aesthetic characteristics.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Komodo Dragon*

1. They are the heaviest lizards on Earth, listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN.
2. They can live in harsh climate, under extreme heat.

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian National Space, Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACe)*

1. It is an independent nodal agency functions under ISRO.
2. It is established to permit and oversee the activities of Non-Government Private Entities (NGEPs).

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

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

Answers

1. d

Indian Culture Portal

- It is a part of the National Virtual Library of India project, funded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- The portal has been created and developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
- Data has been provided by organisations of the Ministry of Culture and curated by Indira Gandhi National Open University.
- The Indian Culture Portal promotes and showcases both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India through various categories mentioned above which include manuscripts, museum artefacts, paintings, archival photographs, food and culture, musical instruments of India, archival documents, social practices, rituals, and festivals, Oral traditions and expressions and rare books, etc.
- These details are provided for every region of India and from Indus Valley Civilisation to the present.

2. c

Scheme of Financial Assistance to Cultural Institutions

- It is one of several schemes **formulated by the Sangeet Natak Akademi** to further its objectives.
- The scheme is intended to enable the Sangeet Natak Akademi to offer grants-in-aid to select cultural institutions which are engaged in the promotion of the performing arts, namely, **music, dance and drama**.
- The grants-in-aid scheme is to serve primarily two objectives, namely, to provide financial support to institutions engaged in training in the fields of music, dance drama, etc. and to encourage production of new plays and ballets, etc.

Sangeet Natak Akademi

- The national Academy of Music, Dance and Drama- was founded in 1953 for the furtherance of performing arts of India.
- Financed by the government of India, the Akademi functions as an autonomous organization and is registered under the Societies Registration Act.

3. d

National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

- Government of India has been emphasizing promotion of various crops/cropping system viz. **rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals & commercial crops** under National Food Security Mission (NFSM).
- It also emphasizes Oilseeds and Oil palm under the NFSM-Oilseeds programme.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering **fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo**.
- Root and tuber crops consist of root crops, such as beets and carrots, and tuber crops, such as potatoes and sweet potatoes, and the leaves of root crops, such as beet tops.

4. c

Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)

- It has been established under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change with a vision for vibrant, healthy and resilient Coastal and Marine Environment for continuous and enhanced outflow of benefits to the Country and the Coastal Community.

Objective and Functions of SICOM

- SICOM is the National Project Management Unit (NPMU) of India in strategic planning, management, execution, monitoring and successful implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project and Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency (ENCORE Project) in all 13 Coastal States /UTs of India.
- 13 coastal states in India: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Puducherry, Kerala, Karnataka, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep
- SICOM has also embarked upon the Pilot Blue Flag programme first time in India under Beach Environment & Aesthetic Management Services (BEAMS) for Pilot Beaches.



5. a

- Spice+ is a new web-based form in place of earlier Spice form.
- SPICe+ is part of various initiatives and commitment of Government of India towards **Ease of Doing Business (EODB)**.
- To make the company incorporation process easier MCA has deployed new web-based form spice+ and other registration along with the form.
- The form offers 10 services by three Central Government Ministries and Departments (Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance), one State Government (Maharashtra) and various Banks, thereby saving procedures, time and cost for Starting a Business in India.

The 10 services are:

1. Name reservation
2. Incorporation
3. DIN allotment
4. Mandatory issue of PAN
5. Mandatory issue of TAN
6. Mandatory issue of EPFO registration
7. Mandatory issue of ESIC registration
8. Mandatory issue of Profession Tax registration (Maharashtra)
9. Mandatory Opening of Bank Account for the Company and
10. Allotment of GSTIN (if so applied for)

6. c

- The *Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs)* of bank alerts law enforcement agencies across the world.
- The *FinCEN Files* refer to a set of over 2,100 *Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs)* filed by banks with the United States Department of the Treasury's Financial Crime Enforcement Network.
- This agency serves as the *leading global regulator in the battle against money laundering*.

- A SAR is not an accusation, it is a way to alert regulators and law enforcement to possible irregular activity and crimes.
- The *Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)* performs the same functions as FinCEN in the US.
- It is *mandatory for banks in India to furnish a monthly Cash Transaction Reports (CTRs) to the FIU on all transactions over Rs 10 lakh or its equivalent in foreign currency*.
- The FIU is responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.

7. c

- Recently, the *Delhi Metro develops, Make in India signalling technology*.
- The *DMRC has developed an indigenously built Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) based signalling technology* for the metro rail network.
- The i-ATS (Automatic Train Supervision), is a computer-based system, which manages the operation of trains.
- Along with DMRC, Niti Aayog, MoHUA, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and CDAC are part of this development.

8. a

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has given its approval to set up a *National Technical Textiles Mission*.
- It is with a view to *position the country as a global leader in Technical Textiles*.
- The Mission would have a four year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24.
- *Technical textiles are textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics*.
- *The focus of the Mission is for developing on the usage of technical textiles in various flagship missions, programmes of the country including strategic sectors*.

- The mission shall work for holistic development of entire technical textile sector on pan-India basis.

9. c

- The *Komodo dragon*, could become extinct in the next few decades due to climate change unless measures are taken to change the status quo, according to a new study.
- They are *the world's largest lizard*, listed as *Vulnerable* by the IUCN.
- The lizard's habitat can be anything from a tropical dry forest to a savanna to a deciduous monsoon forest.
- No matter where they live, the *Komodo* likes *extreme heat and harsh weather*.
- It is usually around 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 degrees Celsius) with 70 % humidity on the islands of Indonesia.

10. b

- The Central government to allow private firms to utilise ISRO infrastructures.
- There will be reasonable charges for utilisation of government infrastructure which will be varying depending on requirement.
- *Indian National Space, Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPAcE) is an independent nodal agency under Department of Space.*
- It is for allowing space activities and usage of DOS owned facilities by NGPEs as well as to prioritise the launch manifest.
- *IN-SPAcE is an autonomous body which won't be influenced by ISRO and it won't influence ISRO.*
- It act as an interface between ISRO and private parties, and assess how best to utilise India's space resources and increase space-based activities.
- *It is established to permit and oversee the activities of Non-Government Private Entities (NGEPs).*

22-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *InvITs*

1. It pools direct investment from the possible investors and invest them into a completed and revenue-generating projects, thereby creating returns for the investor.
2. Only individuals can invest in InvITs.

Which of 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 *Nominal GDP*

1. It is an assessment of economic production in an economy using the current prices of goods and services in its calculation.
2. Nominal GDP can inflate the growth figure, when comparing one period to another.

Which of 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 *suspension of MPs from the House*

1. The Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman does have the power to suspend a Member of Parliament.
2. The House may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension, be terminated.

Which of 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 Rhinos

- 1. These are large, herbivorous mammals, characterized by the possession of one or two horns.**
- 2. Today, they are found only in the floodplains of Asia.**

Which of 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) "It is the largest National Park of India and situated at a high altitude. The park is bounded on the north by the banks of the Indus River, and includes the catchments of Markha, Sumdah and Rumbak, and parts of the Zaskar Range. Moreover there is a Famous Tibetan Buddhist monastery within the park which has 400 year old history".

Which one of the following National Park is correctly referred in the given above passage?

- a. Great Himalayan National Park
- b. Hemis National Park
- c. Khangchendzonga National Park
- d. Namdhapa National Park

Answers

1. a

- The NHAI plans to monetise its highways through InvITs.
- Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) are institutions similar to mutual funds.
- It pool investment from various categories of investors and invest them into completed and

revenue-generating infrastructure projects, thereby creating returns for the investor.

- It enables direct investment of small amounts of money from any possible individual or institutional investors.
- NHAI's InvIT will be a Trust established by NHAI under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 and SEBI regulations.
- The InvIT Trust will be formed the objective of investment primarily in infrastructure projects.

2. c

- Finance ministry has estimated that India's Nominal GDP will grow by 19% in nominal terms in financial year 2021-22.
- Nominal GDP measures a country's Gross Domestic Product using current prices, without adjusting for inflation.
- Since Nominal GDP doesn't remove the pace of rising prices when comparing one period to another, it can inflate the growth figure.
- Economists prefer using Real GDP to get a comparative picture of a nation's rate of economic growth.

3. b

- Recently, 8 Rajya Sabha MPs were suspended for unruly behaviour in the House.
- The government moved a motion seeking the suspension and the motion was passed by a voice vote.
- The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House.
- Unlike the Speaker, however, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.
- The Chairman may name a Member who disregards the authority of the Chair.
- In such a situation, the House may adopt a motion suspending the Member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.
- The House may, at any time, by another motion, terminate the suspension.



4. a

- *World Rhino Day* is celebrated on September 22, every year.
- It was first announced by WWF-South Africa in 2010.
- There are five species of Rhinos in the world, Black, White, Greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan rhinos.
- These are *large, herbivorous mammals, characterized by the possession of one or two horns.*
- White rhinos and Black Rhinos live in the grasslands and floodplains of eastern and southern Africa.
- Greater one-horned rhinos can be found in the swamps and rain forests of northern India and southern Nepal.
- Sumatran and Javan rhinos are found only in small areas of Malaysian and Indonesian swamps and rain forests.

5. b

23-09-2020

1) A **Special Report on Sustainable Recovery** was published recently. Consider the following statements regarding the report:

1. The report is a part of International Energy Agency (IEA's) flagship World Energy Outlook series.
2. The report was prepared in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund.

Which of 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 schemes comes under the *Ministry of Science & Technology*?

1. VAJRA Scheme

2. Samagra Shiksha

3. YUVIKA Programme

4. Ramanujan Fellowship

5. Operation Digital Board

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

1. It consists of a Chairperson and a minimum of eight Members out of whom 50% are Judicial Members.
2. The Chairperson and the Members are appointed by the President of India by warrant under his hand and seal.
3. It has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against Prime Minister and Member of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4) *O-SMART Scheme* is an umbrella scheme of which of the following Ministries?

- a. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- b. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- d. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020*

1. The bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for health care service personnel combating epidemic diseases.
2. Under the bill, the central government may regulate the inspection of any bus, train, goods vehicle, ship, vessel, or aircraft leaving or arriving at any land port, port, or aerodrome.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)*

1. It is a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
2. It is empowered to exercise the powers of RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA in respect of financial services performed in the international financial services centres in the country.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Shell Companies*

1. These are corporations without active business operations or significant assets, always set up for illegal purposes.
2. The term 'Shell Company' was clearly defined in the Companies Act, 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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme*

1. It aims to prevent gender biased sex selective elimination.
2. It promotes a protective environment for girl children through implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012.

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

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

9) *Feluda test* sometimes seen in news is?

- a. A paper-based test strip to detect Covid-19
- b. An indigenously developed COVID 19 test which uses CRISPR gene-editing technology
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

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

1. It is an infectious disease caused by virus from the livestock.
2. It can infect humans and person-to-person transmission is most common.

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

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answers

1. c

- Against the backdrop of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, International Energy Agency (IEA), in collaboration with **NITI Aayog**, presented a 'Special Report on Sustainable Recovery' recently.
- The report, part of **IEA's flagship World Energy Outlook series**, was prepared in collaboration with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- The report details energy-focused policies and investments that could help boost economic growth, create jobs and put emissions into structural decline while making energy systems lower-cost, secure and resilient.
- The report mentions key sectors for creating jobs: electricity, transportation, buildings, industry and sustainable biofuels and innovations.
- A combination of policy actions and targeted investments will offer huge benefits to the economy and generate jobs.
- However, the measures highlighted in the report remains the sovereign choice of the country.

2. a

- The Ministry of Science & Technology has formulated following schemes to provide attractive avenues and opportunities to **Indian researchers who are residing in foreign countries to work in Indian Institutes and Universities**.

Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme

- This Scheme is to bring overseas scientists and academicians including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to India to work in public funded Institutions and Universities for a specific period of time.
- The scheme offers adjunct / visiting faculty assignments to overseas scientists including Indian researchers to undertake high quality collaborative research in cutting edge areas of

science and technology with one or more Indian collaborators.

Ramanujan Fellowship

- This Fellowship provides attractive avenues and opportunities to Indian researchers of high calibre, who are residing abroad, to work in Indian Institutes/Universities in all areas of Science, Engineering and Medicine.
- It is directed to scientists and engineers below the age of 40 years, who want to return to India from abroad.

Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship

- The programme is to encourage scientists (Indian Nationals) working outside the country, who would like to return to the home country to pursue their research interests in Life Sciences, Modern Biology, Biotechnology, and other related areas.

Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)

- This program provides opportunity to early, intermediate and senior level researchers to establish their research & academic career in Basic biomedical or Clinical & Public Health in India.
- These fellowships are open to all eligible researchers who wish to relocate or continue to work in India.

Scientists/ Technologists of Indian Origin (STIO) in Indian research Laboratory

- There is a provision to appoint Scientists/ Technologists of Indian Origin (STIO) on a contractual basis at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories to nurture a research field in their area of expertise.

Senior Research Associateship (SRA) (Scientist's Pool Scheme)

- This scheme is primarily meant to provide temporary placement to highly qualified Indian scientists, engineers, technologists, and medical personnel returning from abroad, who are not holding any employment in India.
- The Senior Research Associateship is not a regular appointment, but is a temporary facility to enable the Associate to do

research/teaching in India while looking for a regular position.

Schemes under Ministry of Education

1. Samagra Shiksha
2. Operation Digital Board
- YUVIKA Programme comes under the ambit of **ISRO**.
3. c
 - The institution of Lokpal has been functioning since the appointment of its Chairperson and eight Members in March, 2019.

Lokpal

- It is an independent statutory body established under section 3 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- The Lokpal to consist of a Chairperson with a **maximum of 8 members** of which 50% shall be judicial members.
- The Chairperson and the Members are appointed by the President of India by warrant under his hand and seal.
- They hold office for a term of five years from the date on which they enter upon the office or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- The salary, allowances and other conditions of services of the Chairperson are the same as that of Chief Justice of India.
- The salary, allowances and other conditions of services of the Members are the same as that of a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- The Lokpal has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against anyone who is or has been Prime Minister, or a Minister in the Union government, or a Member of Parliament, as well as officials of the Union Government under Groups A, B, C and D.
- The Lokpal is required to present annually to the President a report on the work done by it, which is caused to be laid in both the Houses of the Parliament.

4. a

Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources and Technology (O-SMART) scheme

- It is an **umbrella scheme of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

Objectives of the scheme

1. To generate and regularly update information on Marine Living Resources and their relationship with the physical environment in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
2. To periodically monitor levels of sea water pollutants for health assessment of coastal waters of India, to develop shoreline change maps for assessment of coastal erosion due to natural and anthropogenic activities.
3. To develop a wide range of state-of-the art ocean observation systems for acquisition of real-time data from the seas around India.
4. To generate and disseminate a suite of user-oriented ocean information, advisories, warnings, data and data products for the benefit of society.
5. To develop high resolution models for ocean forecast and reanalysis system.
6. To develop algorithms for validation of satellite data for coastal research and to monitor changes in the coastal research.
7. Acquisition of 2 Coastal Research Vessels (CRVs) as replacement of 2 old CRVs for coastal pollution monitoring, testing of various underwater components and technology demonstration.
8. To develop technologies to tap the marine bio resources.
9. To develop technologies generating freshwater and energy from ocean,
10. To develop underwater vehicles and technologies.
11. Establishment of Ballast water treatment facility.
12. To support operation and maintenance of 5 Research vessels for ocean survey/monitoring/technology demonstration programmes.
13. Establishment of state of the art sea front facility to cater to the testing and sea trial activities of ocean technology.
14. To carryout exploration of Polymetallic Nodules (MPN) from water depth of 5500 m in

site of 75000 sq.km allotted to India by United Nations in Central Indian Ocean Basin, to carryout investigations of gas hydrates.

15. Exploration of polymetallic sulphides near Rodrigues Triple junction in 10000 sq. km of area allotted to India in International waters by International Seabed Authority/UN.
16. Submission of India's claim over continental shelf extending beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone supported by scientific data, and Topographic survey of EEZ of India.

5. c

- *Indian Parliament has recently passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020.*

Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- The bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for health care service personnel combating epidemic diseases.
- The legislation makes harm, injury, hurt or danger to the life of health care service personnel as a cognizable and non-bailable offence.
- It has provisions of imprisonment from three months to five years and a fine between 50 thousand rupees to two lakh rupees.
- Persons convicted of offences under the bill will also be liable to pay compensation to the health care service personnel whom they have hurt.
- The bill also expands the powers of the Central Government to prevent the spread of such diseases.
- The earlier Act specifies that the central government may regulate:

1. The inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port.
2. The detention of any person intending to travel from the port, during an outbreak.

- The Bill expands the powers of the central government to regulate the inspection of **any bus, train, goods vehicle, ship, vessel, or aircraft leaving or arriving at any land port, port, or aerodrome.**

- Further, the government may regulate the detention of any person intending to travel by these means.

6. c

- Recently, *International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Committee* submits interim report on development of global retail business.
- It is to suggest ways for the development of international retail business in International Financial Services Centres (IFSC).
- This report focuses mainly on the banking vertical, suggests that the GIFT IFSC can aim at becoming a gateway to India growth story for international investors and business.
- *IFSCA is a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.*
- It is *empowered to exercise the powers of RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA in respect of financial services, financial products and financial institutions performed/located in the international financial services centres in the country.*

7. d

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs had removed the names of more than 3.82 lakh companies, for failing to submit their annual returns for two years or more.
- *A Shell Company usually refers to companies without active business operation or significant assets.*
- These types of corporations *are not all necessarily illegal*, but they are sometimes used illegitimately, such as to disguise business ownership from law enforcement or the public.
- *The Companies Act, 2013 does not define the term Shell Company.*

8. c

- Nearly 45% of the funds allocated to the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme* in FY 2019-20 had not been utilised.
- *BBBP aims to prevent gender biased sex selective elimination*, to ensure survival and protection of the girl child, to ensure education and participation of the girl child.

- It promote a protective environment for girl children through implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012.
- It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

9. c

- Recently, the Drugs Controller General of India approved the *Feluda*, first CRISPR COVID-19 test.
- *Feluda* test uses indigenously developed CRISPR gene-editing technology to identify and target the genetic material of SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes Covid-19.
- It is an accurate and low-cost paper-based test strip to detect Covid-19 in less than 30 minutes.
- It was developed by a research team of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Tata Group.
- According to CSIR, the test matches accuracy levels of RT-PCR tests, considered the gold standard in the diagnosis of Covid-19.

10. d

- Recently, *Brucellosis* outbreak was reported in China.
- *Brucellosis* has infected over 3000 people in north-east China which can leave men infertile.
- It is an infectious disease caused by bacteria from the livestock which can also infect humans.
- The most common way to be infected is by eating or drinking unpasteurized/raw dairy products.
- When sheep, goats, cows, or camels are infected, their milk becomes contaminated with the bacteria.
- Person-to-Person transmission is rare.
- It is found globally and is a reportable disease in most countries.

24-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Arab League

1. It is a regional multi-national organization of Arabic-speaking countries on the African and Asian continents.
2. India is a observer nation to Arab League.

Which of 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 Adjourned Sine Die in Parliament

1. It suspends the work in a sitting of the house for a specified time, which may be days or weeks.
2. The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the house.

Which of 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 the flight test of ABHYAS

1. It is a High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) which offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems.
2. It is designed and developed by ISRO.

Which of 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) Medical Device Park recently seen in news is to be set up in?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Bihar
- d. Kerala

5) Consider the following statements with respect to the E-Waste Management Rules, 2016

1. These rules shall apply to every manufacturer, micro enterprises as defined in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.
2. This rules also covers radio-active wastes.

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

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

Answers

1. c

- Recently, Palestine quits Arab League role in protest over Israel deals with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.
- The Arab League is a union of Arab-speaking African and Asian countries.
- It was formed in 1945 to promote the independence, sovereignty, affairs and interests of its 22 member countries and 4 observers.
- The 4 observers are Brazil, Eritrea, India and Venezuela.

- It's mission is to promote trade and economic growth as well as sovereignty and political stability in the region.

2. b

- The monsoon session of Parliament, 2020 comes to an end, Lok Sabha Adjourned Sine Die.
- Adjourned Sine Die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period.
- When the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die.
- The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.

3. a

- Recently, India conducts successful flight test of ABHYAS.
- ABHYAS is a High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) which offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems.
- It is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of DRDO.
- It is powered by a small gas turbine engine.
- It has MEMS based Inertial Navigation System (INS) for navigation along with the Flight Control Computer (FCC) for guidance and control.
- The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight.
- It can be used as a target for evaluation of various Missile systems.

4. d

- India's first Medical Device Park to be set up in Kerala.
- It will focus on the high-risk medical device sector to provide a full range of services for the medical devices industry like R&D support, testing, and evaluation.
- MedSpark, the medical devices park envisaged as a joint initiative of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST),

Govt. of India, and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (KSIDC).

5. d

- *Electronic waste (E-Waste)* generation in India increased by over 43% between 2017-18 and 2019-20, according to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the *E-Waste Management Rules, 2016*.
- These rules shall apply to every manufacturer, producer, consumer, bulk consumer, collection centres, dealers etc.
- It shall not apply to micro enterprises as defined in the *Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006*.
- It shall not apply to used lead acid batteries as covered under the Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001.
- It shall not apply to radio-active wastes as covered under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

25-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *VAIBHAV summit*

1. It is a collaborative initiative by Science and Technology and Academic Organizations of India.
2. The aim of summit is to reflect in-depth on the collaboration and cooperation instruments with academia and scientists in India.
3. The platform will bring the Indian Overseas and resident academicians and scientists together to evolve a structure of association.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *One-horned Rhinoceros*

1. It is one of the 21 species identified for Recovery programme for critically endangered species by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
2. 75% of the entire population of Greater One-horned Rhinoceros now occurs in India in the three States viz, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Which of 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 *Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme*

1. The scheme aims for educational empowerment of students belonging to the six notified minority communities in India.
2. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs through the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Which of 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 *Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR)*

1. It is India's second stage of three stage nuclear power generation plan envisaged by Dr. Homi Bhabha, the father of the Indian nuclear programme.



2. FBR envisages the use of Pu-239 obtained from the first stage reactor operation, as the fuel core.
3. India's Prototype FBR is being constructed by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) in Kakrapar, Gujarat.

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

5) *Shinkun La*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is a mountain pass on the border between?

- a. Sikkim and West Bengal
- b. Assam & Arunachal Pradesh
- c. Ladakh & Himachal Pradesh
- d. Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)*

1. It is a statutory organisation, constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
2. Principal function of the CPCB is to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Artemis Program*

1. It is a NASA's mission to land the first woman and next man on the Moon, to explore more of the lunar surface.
2. The mission aims to demonstrate new technologies, capabilities and business approaches that will ultimately be needed for the future exploration of Mars.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)*

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. It regulates Pharmacy Education in the Country for the purpose of registration as a pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act.

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

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

9) *Bougainville Island* sometimes seen in news is an Island of?

- a. New Zealand
- b. Indonesia
- c. Philippines
- d. Papua New Guinea

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Show Cause Notice*

1. It is issued by a competent authority, asking an individual or a group of people to explain as to why the disciplinary action should not be taken against them.
2. In legal context, the court may issue a show cause notice, to the investigating authority or to the lawyer.

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

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

Answers

1. d

- The virtual VAIBHAV summit will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 2nd October 2020 in the virtual presence of registered academia and researchers from across the world.

Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020

- It is a collaborative initiative by S&T and Academic Organisations of India to enable deliberations on thought process, practices and R&D culture with a problem solving approach for well-defined objectives.
- The platform will bring the Indian Overseas and resident academicians and scientists together to evolve a structure of association.
- The aim of summit is to reflect in-depth on the collaboration and cooperation instruments with academia and scientists in India.
- The goal is to create an ecosystem of Knowledge and Innovation in the country through global outreach.

2. c

- The World Rhino Day is celebrated every year on 22nd September to emphasize the importance of conservation of Rhinoceros species and its habitats.

- Efforts are currently ongoing in the country to protect the existing rhino population and also to increase the distribution of the species through the **Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020 programme**.
- Success was achieved in restocking the rhino population in the World Heritage Site Manas National Park recently through wild to wild translocations.
- One-horned Rhinoceros is also **one of the 21 species identified for Recovery programme for critically endangered species by the Ministry**.
- The Ministry has also launched the "National Conservation Strategy for the Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros" with the goal to repopulate Rhinoceros population in those areas also which used to hold the Rhinoceros earlier by augmenting the existing conservation efforts and strengthening them through scientific and administrative measures.
- The Ministry and the State Forest Departments of the Assam, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal with support from other organizations are taking appropriate steps in accordance with the "New Delhi Declaration" which was signed after the 2nd Asian Rhino range States Conservation meeting held on 26th-28th February, 2019 at MoEF&CC, New Delhi wherein representatives from Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nepal attended the meeting besides India.

3. c

Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme

- The Scheme aims for educational empowerment of students belonging to **six notified minority communities** i.e. Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Sikh, Zoroastrian (Parsi).
- The MANF Scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** through the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.

4. a

Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)

- It is being constructed by **Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI)** in **Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**.
- It is expected to get commissioned by October 2022.
- On completion of commissioning, PFBR will be adding 500 MW of electrical power to the national grid.

BHAVINI

- BHAVINI is a **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**.

Three Stage Nuclear Programme

- Dr. Homi Bhabha, the father of the Indian nuclear programme, envisioned a three-stage plan.
- The first stage was the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) which Indian nuclear scientists and engineers have mastered.
- The second stage is the PFBR technology.

5. c

- **National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)** under Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways has speeded up the detailed project report (DPR) work on the **World's Longest High-Altitude Shinkun La Tunnel** (13.5 Km long) along with its approach roads in UT of Ladakh and Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.
- Shinkun La is located on the border between **Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh**, which is being developed as an alternate road for strategic reasons.
- On completion of this tunnel, the **Manali - Kargil highway** will remain open throughout the year.
- The tunnel at Shinkun La will link the NH-3 from the Himachal Pradesh side with Darcha-Padam-Nimu road to Leh.
- This axis passes away from the border of China and Pakistan.

6. c

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, celebrated 46th Foundation day on September 23.
- On the occasion of its Foundation Day, CPCB has announced its plans for the next decade, or until 2030.
- It is a statutory organisation, constituted under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- One of its principal function is to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.
- The another principal function is to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.
- It provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of **Environment (Protection) Act 1986**

7. c

- Recently, NASA published the outline for its **Artemis Program**.
- Under this mission NASA, plans to send the next man and first woman to the lunar surface by the year 2024.
- The mission also aims to demonstrate new technologies, capabilities and business approaches that will ultimately be needed for the future exploration of Mars.
- It aims to inspire a new generation, encourage careers in STEM.

8. b

- **World Pharmacists Day** is observed every year on September 25.
- This year's theme is 'Transforming global health'.
- It was an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).
- The **Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)** is a statutory body governed by the provisions of the **Pharmacy Act, 1948** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- It regulates the Pharmacy Education in the Country for the purpose of registration as a pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act.
- It also regulates the Profession and Practice of Pharmacy.
- It prescribes the minimum standard of education required for qualifying as a pharmacist.

9. d

- Recently, Former rebel leader was elected as Bougainville President.
- Bougainville Island, is an easternmost island of Papua New Guinea, in the Solomon Sea, southwestern Pacific.
- It is an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea.
- The two largest islands are Bougainville Island and Buka Island.

10. c

- The Union government informed the Supreme Court that a *Show-Cause Notice* had been issued to Sudarshan TV under the Cable TV Network Act.
- *Show Cause Notice* means an order issued by a Court, Competent Authorities or an Organization asking an individual or a group of people to explain as to why the disciplinary action should not be taken against those involved in certain incidents, misconduct, poor performance and wrongdoing.
- In legal context, the court may issue a *show cause notice*, to the investigating authority or to the lawyer, if due procedure was not followed while filing a complaint.

26-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to National Medical Commission Act, 2019

1. The Act repeals the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and establishes four autonomous boards under the supervision of National Medical Commission (NMC).

2. The Act proposes a common final year undergraduate examination to obtain license for practice and it also serve as the basis for admission into post-graduate courses.

Which of 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) RAISE 2020 is a mega virtual summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) being organized by?

- a. NITI Aayog
- b. Department of Science and Technology
- c. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- d. Both a and c

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Blazars

1. They are Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) whose jets are aligned with the observer's line of sight.
2. It's the same thing as a Quasar, just pointed at a different angle.
3. They are one of the most luminous objects in the universe that composed of ionized matter traveling at nearly the speed of light towards an observer.

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

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

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Brucellosis

1. It is a bacterial disease caused by various Brucella species.



2. It is a zoonotic disease which causes production losses in livestock.

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

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *JIMEX-20*

- 1. It is a bilateral maritime exercise conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- 2. The current edition of JIMEX is being conducted in a non-contact at-sea-only format off the coast of Sea of Japan.

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

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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)*

- 1. It aims to transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.
- 2. It is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the *State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)*

- 1. It shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims.
- 2. A State government may use the SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that are included only in the notified list of disasters of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)*

- 1. It is an indigenously-developed Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) by DRDO.
- 2. It has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *GUARD approach of RBI*

- 1. It is a strategic approach to deal with the cybersecurity threats being faced by Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).
- 2. The Urban Cooperative Banks are under supervisory powers of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)*

- 1. It's objective is to prevent the proliferation and eventual elimination of weapons of mass destruction.
- 2. India and Pakistan are Member States to CICA.

Which of 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 Medical Commission (NMC) has replaced the Medical Council of India (BoG-MCI), as per information released by the Health Ministry recently.
- Dr. Suresh Chandra Sharma, retired HoD, ENT, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, has been appointed as the Chairman of the NMC for a period of three years.

National Medical Commission (NMC), 2019

The Centre has formed four autonomous boards under the NMC Act, viz.

- 1. Under-Graduate Medical Education Board
- 2. Post-Graduate Medical Education Board
- 3. Medical Assessment and Rating Board
- 4. Ethics and Medical Registration Board

- Apart from the Chairman, the NMC will consist of 10 ex-officio members and 22 part-time members appointed by the Central government.
- There were many complaints of corruption in the Medical Council, and to ensure transparency, the **NMC members will have to declare their assets at the time of joining and while demitting the office also.**
- The members will **not be allowed to accept for a period of two years**, any employment in any capacity in a private medical institution whose matter has been dealt with them either directly or indirectly.
- Under the Bill, the NMC may grant a limited license to certain mid-level practitioners connected with the modern medical profession to practice medicine.
- These mid-level practitioners may prescribe specified medicines in primary and preventive healthcare.
- In any other cases, these practitioners may only prescribe medicines under the supervision of a registered medical practitioner.
- The Act proposes a common final year undergraduate examination called the **National Exit Test** for the students graduating from medical institutions to obtain the license for practice.
- This test will also serve as the basis for admission into post-graduate courses at medical institutions.

2. d

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and **NITI Aayog** will jointly organize a mega virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), **RAISE 2020 (Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020)**, from **October 5-9, 2020.**
- RAISE 2020 will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.

3. d

- Six scientists spanning over three countries – India, Serbia, and the USA studied some of the brightest blazars called **TeV (Tera-electron Volt) blazars** and found that they stand out as a semblance of stability of brightness among the blazar family in the short duration.
- While their brightness varies in the long duration, they maintain their brightness levels in short duration.
- Blazars are among one of the most favourite astronomical transient objects, and their study could provide clues to the processes happening close to the black hole, not visible through direct imaging.

Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN)

- At the center of most galaxies — including our own Milky Way — there's a gargantuan black hole that can have the mass of millions or even billions of Suns.
- In some galaxies, this supermassive black hole may collect a swirling disk of gas, dust and stellar debris around it to eat from.
- As material in the disk falls toward the black hole, its gravitational energy can be converted to light, making the centers of these galaxies very bright and giving them the name Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN).

Quasars

- A minority of Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) (~15%) emit collimated charged particles called **Jets**, travelling at speeds close to the **speed of light**. Scientists call this a Quasar.

Blazars

- When a galaxy happens to be oriented so the **jets point toward Earth** — and we're **staring right down the barrel of the gun**, as it were — it's called a Blazar.
- In other words, Blazars are AGN whose **jets are aligned with the observer's line of sight**.
- It's the same thing as a quasar, just **pointed at a different angle**.

- Blazars are one of the most luminous and energetic objects in the universe.
- These are powered by material falling onto a super-massive black hole at the center of the host galaxy — the luminosity being because of their a jet composed of ionized matter traveling at nearly the speed of light towards an observer (the Earth).
- Some blazars are thought to host binary black holes in them and could be potential targets for future gravitational-wave searches.

4. c

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT), facilitated Transfer of Technology of novel *Brucella* vaccine viz. **Brucella abortus S19 delta per vaccine**, through Video Conferencing (VC), recently and an MoU was signed.
- This vaccine was developed by ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI), Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh through a Network project on Brucellosis supported by DBT in which a gene was knocked out from *Brucella abortus* S19 strain.

Brucellosis

- Brucellosis is a bacterial disease caused by various *Brucella* species.
- It mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs.
- Humans generally acquire the disease through direct contact with infected animals, by eating or drinking contaminated animal products or by inhaling airborne agents.
- Most cases are caused by ingesting unpasteurized milk or cheese from infected goats or sheep.
- Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease which causes production losses in livestock.
- The disease induces abortion at the last stage of pregnancy, infertility and other reproductive problem which causes losses in production of milk and meat.
- Globally the disease is reported in approximately half a million human population every year.

- In India huge population involved in dairy farming is directly affected with the Brucellosis.
5. a
- The 4th edition of India - Japan Maritime bilateral exercise JIMEX, which is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) will be held in **North Arabian Sea** from 26 to 28 September 2020.
 - JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation.
 - The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam, India.
 - JIMEX 20 will be spread over three days and is being conducted in a 'non-contact at-sea-only format', in view of COVID-19 restrictions.
 - JIMEX 20 will further enhance the cooperation and mutual confidence between the two navies and fortify the long standing bond of friendship between the two countries.
6. c
- Recently, Foundation Day of *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)* was celebrated.
 - It aims to transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.
 - It is a part of the *National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)*.
 - It uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.
 - It is tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.
7. a
- Recently, Centre allows states to spend up to 50% from *State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)* on Covid relief.
 - The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), was constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- It is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.
 - It shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims.
 - *A State Government may use up to 10% of the funds available under the SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within the local context in the State and which are not included in the notified list of disasters of the Ministry of Home Affairs.*
8. c
- Recently, DRDO successfully test-fires *Laser-Guided Anti Tank Missile (ATGM)*.
 - It is an *indigenously-developed Laser-Guided ATGM by DRDO*.
 - It has been *developed with multiple-platform launch capability*.
 - The missile employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles.
9. c
- *RBI suggests five-pillared approach 'GUARD' to deal with cybersecurity issues in Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs).*
 - The RBI released its *Technology Vision for Cyber Security for Urban Cooperative Banks 2020-2023*.
 - *The UCBs and Multi-State Co-operative Banks are under supervisory powers of the RBI.*
 - The five-pillared strategic approach 'GUARD' comprises Governance Oversight, Utile Technology Investment, Appropriate Regulation and Supervision, Robust Collaboration and Developing necessary IT and cybersecurity skills set.
10. c
- India, Pakistan trade charges at SAARC, *Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)* meetings.

- CICA is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- One of its objective is to prevent of proliferation and eventual elimination of weapons of mass destruction.
- For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
- Presently CICA has 27 Member States, including India and China accounting for nearly 90% of the territory and population of Asia.
- 8 countries and 5 multi-national organizations, including United Nations, have the observer status.

28-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to INDIAai Portal

1. It is the National AI Portal of India and a single central knowledge hub on artificial intelligence and allied fields in India.
2. It is a joint initiative of Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology (MeitY) and NASSCOM.

Which of 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) 12th century Keshava temple at Somanathapura was recently included for the World Heritage Site nomination as part of the serial nomination process. A serial nomination is any nomination which consists of two or more unconnected areas. In India, which of the following are the earlier examples of such nomination process?

- a. Konark Sun Temple
- b. Sunderbans National Park

- c. Great Living Chola Temples
- d. None of the above

3) Consider the following statements with respect to World Risk Index

1. It is a biennial index, released since 2011, which describes the disaster risk for various countries and regions.
2. It is a part of the Global Risk Report 2020 released by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS).

Which of 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) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar' Prize are awarded annually to recognize outstanding Indian work in?

- a. Literature
- b. Sports & Games
- c. Science & Technology
- d. Disaster Management

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Destination North East-2020

1. It aims to introduce various cultures of the country to each other along with the tourist destinations of the North East.
2. The theme for the event is "The Emerging Delightful Destinations".
3. It is being organized by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



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

6) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Industrial Relations Code 2020*

1. It defines workers to include, all persons employed in a skilled or unskilled, manual, technical, operational, clerical capacity, supervisory staff drawing up to Rs 18,000 a month as salary.
2. Any establishment that employs 100 or more workers must prepare standing orders relating to classification of workers, hours of work, holidays, shifts, attendance 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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *e-Sanjeevani*

1. It is an independent, browser-based application facilitating both doctor-to-doctor and patient-to-doctor tele-consultations.
2. It extends the reach of specialized healthcare services to masses in both rural areas and isolated communities.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)*

1. The UNGA may take action in cases of a threat to the peace, or act of aggression, when the Security Council has failed to act owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.
2. Each of the 193 Member States in the Assembly has one vote.

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

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

9) *Nagorno-Karabakh Region* sometimes seen in news is located in?

- a. Syria
- b. Afghanistan
- c. Azerbaijan
- d. None of the above

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *Prithvi-II Missile*

1. It is an indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface missile.
2. Prithvi is the first missile developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

Which of 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

INDIAai Portal

- It is the National AI Portal of India and the single central knowledge hub on artificial intelligence and allied fields for aspiring entrepreneurs, students, professionals, academics, and everyone else.
- It is a joint initiative of National E-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology (MeitY) and NASSCOM.
- The website aims to be the trusted content powerhouse in the backdrop of India's journey to global prominence in Artificial Intelligence.
- The portal focuses on creating and nurturing a unified AI ecosystem for driving excellence and leadership in India's AI journey, to foster economic growth and improve lives through it.

2. c

- *The Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapura temples will be nominated for seeking the UNESCO World Heritage Site status.*
- *Both Belur and Halebid have been under the UNESCO's tentative list for the last six years, and it was decided at the stakeholders' meeting held recently to include the 12th century Keshava temple at Somanathapura as part of the serial nomination process under the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas.*

Serial Nomination Process of UNESCO World Heritage Site

- UNESCO defines serial nominations as **any two or more unconnected sites that may contain a series of cultural or natural properties in different locations, provided that they are related because they belong to the same historical and cultural group.**
- The serial nomination process allows for inclusion of other monuments at a later date, and this has happened in the case of **Great Living Chola Temples.**
- **Darasuram and Gangaikonda Cholapuram was nominated after Brihadeshwara temple at Thanjavur** was first inscribed as a World Heritage Site.
- Other such serial nominations include the **Hill Forts of Rajasthan** (forts at Chittorgarh,

Kumbhalgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Jaipur, Jhalawar, and Jaisalmer).

3. d

- *According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India has been ranked 89th among 181 countries on the WRI 2020.*
- The country was fourth-most-at-risk in south Asia on the index, after Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

World Risk Index

- It is part of the **World Risk Report 2020** released by the **United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security** (UNU-EHS), Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft and the University of Stuttgart in Germany.
- **Global Risk Report is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).**
- It is calculated on a country-by-country basis, through the multiplication of exposure and vulnerability and describes the disaster risk for various countries and regions.
- Released **annually since 2011**, it indicates which countries are in the greatest need to strengthen measures for coping with and adapting to extreme natural events.

Highlights of the report 2020

- A comparison with the WRI 2019, shows that all south Asian countries have slipped on their ability to adapt to the reality of climate emergency.
- Countries with a score above 52.73, are 'very poor' in their adaptive capacities for extreme natural disasters.
- Among continents, Oceania is at the highest risk, followed by Africa and the Americas.
- According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India is 'poorly prepared' to deal with 'climate reality', due to which it is vulnerable to extreme natural disasters.

4. c

- *Dr. Abhijit Mukherjee, Associate Professor at the Dept. of Geology and Geophysics and the School of Environmental Science and Engineering has been selected for the*

prestigious award 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize' for the year 2020 in Earth Atmosphere Ocean and Planetary Sciences.

- The award will be presented in the presence of the Prime Minister of India, who holds the chair of the President of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize

- The award aims to recognize outstanding Indian work in the field of **Science and Technology**
- The award, each of the value of Rupees five lakh, are awarded annually for notable and outstanding research (applied or fundamental) in various disciplines.
- It has been awarded annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

5. d

- The Union Minister for Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah, who is also the chairman of the North Eastern Council inaugurates "Destination North East-2020" through virtual medium.

Destination North East 2020

- It is a calendar event of the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** conceptualized with the objective of taking the North East Region to other parts of the country and bringing them closer together in order to strengthen national integration.
- The theme for the event is "**The Emerging Delightful Destinations**".
- The four-day programme will feature Audio Visual presentation of the tourist spots of the states and the region, messages from state icons and achievers, introduction to prominent local entrepreneurs and virtual exhibition of handicraft/ traditional fashion/ & local products.

6. a

- The government is aiming to implement all the 4 Labour Codes in one go by December this year as a final stretch of labour reforms.
- The Industrial Relations Code 2020 combines the features of 3 erstwhile laws, the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment

Act, 1946, and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

- It defines 'workers' to include, besides all persons employed in a skilled or unskilled, manual, technical, operational and clerical capacity, supervisory staff drawing up to Rs 18,000 a month as salary.
- It introduces *fixed term employment*, giving employers the flexibility to hire workers based on requirement through a written contract.
- Any establishment that employs 300 or more workers (earlier 100) must prepare standing orders relating to classification of workers, hours of work, holidays, shifts, attendance etc.

7. c

- Governments 'eSanjeevani' records 400,000 doctor-to-patient tele-consultations.
- It is a web-based comprehensive telemedicine solution.
- It is an independent, browser-based application facilitating both doctor-to-doctor and patient-to-doctor tele-consultations.
- It extends the reach of specialized healthcare services to masses in both rural areas and isolated communities.
- eSanjeevani's Comprehensive Electronic Medical Record (EMR) includes demographic and other patient data like clinical examination reports, physical examination reports along with patient's medical history, family's medical history.

8. d

- The UN mark its 75th anniversary with a one-day high-level meeting of UN General Assembly (UNGA 75).
- The UNGA may also take action in cases of a threat to the peace, breach of peace or act of aggression, when the Security Council has failed to act owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.
- In such instances, the Assembly may consider the matter immediately and recommend to its Members collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security.



- Each of the 193 Member States in the Assembly has one vote.

9. c

- Recently, Clashes erupt between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.
- Both Azerbaijan and Armenia claim absolute historic ownership of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, located within the boundaries of Azerbaijan but populated largely by Armenians.
- Since 1992, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been the primary forum for mediation efforts.

10. c

- Recently, India conducted a successful night testfire of Prithvi-II Missile as part of a user trial by the Army.
- It is an indigenously developed nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missile.
- It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.
- The state-of-the-art missile uses an advanced inertial guidance system with maneuvering trajectory to hit its target.
- Prithvi is the first missile developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

29-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Ultra-Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT)

- It is a 3-in-1 imaging telescope simultaneously observing in the visible, the near-ultraviolet (NUV), and the far-ultraviolet (FUV) spectrum.
- It is one of the five payloads onboard India's first multi-wavelength astronomical observatory CartoSat launched in 2015.
- The UVIT project was led by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an

autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology.

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

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

2) With respect to H-CNG, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

- It is a blend of Hydrogen and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) with ideal hydrogen concentration being 50%.
- H-CNG was included recently as an automotive fuel in India.

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

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

3) Consider the following statements with respect to UMANG App

- It provides a single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies and other citizen centric services.
- The app was developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD).

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

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



4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD)*

1. It is caused by phytoplasma — bacterial parasites of plant tissues — which are transmitted by insect vectors.
2. Indian Sandalwood is classified as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Which of 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) *SAMVEDNA*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with?

- a. Hospital on Wheels Services
- b. Election Commission of India
- c. Tele counseling service for Children
- d. Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *CHEOPS Mission*

1. It is the mission dedicated to studying bright, nearby stars that are already known to host exoplanets.
2. It is the NASA's Mission, as a first-step characterisation towards understanding the alien worlds.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system*

1. It is the football's first use of video technology to reach more correct decisions.
2. It is a part of digitalisation of football which replaces the official referees with the AI powered VAR system.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Cigarettes And Other Tobacco Products Act, (COTPA) 2003*

1. No person shall import cigarettes or any other tobacco products for distribution or supply for a sale in India.
2. The specified warning in the package shall be expressed in English or in any Indian language or languages.

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

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

9) Which country becomes the first major nation to pass a law to phase-out coal as an energy source?

- a. Norway
- b. Greenland
- c. Germany
- d. Japan

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020*

1. As per the Act, only Kashmiri, Hindi and English shall be the languages used for



all or any official purpose in the Union Territory.

2. It provides that institutional mechanisms shall make special efforts for the promotion and development of Gojri, Pahari and Punjabi languages.

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

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

Answers

1. b

- The satellite that detected the first extreme-UV rays in the Universe from the cosmic noon celebrated its 5th birthday on, September 28, 2020.

Ultra-Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT)

- It is a remarkable 3-in-1 imaging telescope **simultaneously observing** in the visible, the near-ultraviolet (NUV), and the far-ultraviolet (FUV) spectrum.
- Weighing all of 230 kg, the UVIT comprises of two separate telescopes.
- One of them works in the visible (320-550 nm) and the NUV (200-300 nm).
- The second works only in the FUV (130-180 nm).
- It is one of the five payloads onboard India's first multi-wavelength **astronomical observatory AstroSat** and completed five years of operation in the sky by imaging astronomical objects on 28 September 2020.
- It has carried out 1166 observations of 800 unique celestial sources proposed by scientists both from India and abroad.
- It has explored stars, star clusters, mapping of the large and small satellite galaxies nearby to our own Milky Way galaxy called the Magellanic Clouds, an energetic phenomenon in the Universe such as the ultra-violet

counterparts to gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, active galactic nuclei, and so on.

- Its superior spatial resolution capability has enabled astronomers to probe star formation in galaxies as well as resolve the cores of star clusters (3 times better than the last NASA mission, GALEX).
- Observations from UVIT has recently led to the discovery of a galaxy located at a distance of about 10 billion light-years from Earth and emitting extreme ultraviolet radiation that can ionize the intergalactic medium.

AstroSat

- It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on 28 September 2015.
- It has proved to be an important satellite capable of carrying out simultaneous observations over a range of wavelengths from the far ultraviolet to the hard X-ray band.

UVIT Project

- It was led by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, in collaboration with the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, several centers of ISRO and the Canadian Space Agency.
- Several groups from ISRO have contributed to the design, fabrication, and testing of the payload.

2. b

- In a major step towards adopting alternative clean fuel for transportation, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has allowed use of H-CNG (18% mix of hydrogen) in CNG engines.
- A notification for amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, for inclusion of H-CNG as an automotive fuel has been published recently.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has also developed specifications of Hydrogen enriched Compressed Natural Gas (H-CNG) for automotive purposes, as a fuel.

CNG

- It is Compressed Natural Gas.
- With natural gas mainly composed of methane, CNG emits less air pollutants — carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter — than petrol or diesel.

H-CNG

- It is a **blend of hydrogen and CNG**, the **ideal hydrogen concentration being 18%**.
- Compared to conventional CNG, use of H-CNG can reduce emission of carbon monoxide up to 70%, besides enabling up to 5% savings in fuel, tests by the Automotive Research Association of India and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) have found.

3. c

UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance)

- UMANG provides a single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies and other citizen centric services.
- It was developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to drive Mobile Governance in India.

4. c

Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD)

- SSD is caused by phytoplasma, a bacterial parasites of plant tissues which are transmitted by insect vectors.
- SSD has been one of the major causes for the decline in sandalwood production in the country for over a century.
- The disease was first reported in Kodagu in 1899.
- The devastating impact in natural habitats resulted in sandalwood being **classified as "vulnerable"** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 1998.
- Presently, there is no option but to cut down and remove the infected tree to prevent the spread of the disease.

- With between 1 and 5% of sandalwood trees lost every year due to the disease, scientists warn that it could wipe out the entire natural population if measures are not taken to prevent its spread.
- Recently it is reported that Karnataka's sandalwood trees are facing a serious threat with the return of the destructive Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD).
- The natural population of sandalwood in Marayoor of Kerala and various reserve forests in Karnataka, including MM Hills, are heavily infected with SSD for which there is no cure as of now.

5. c

- The apex child rights body **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has recently launched a toll-free tele-counselling helpline number 1800-121-2830 for children affected during COVID-19 for providing counselling and psycho-social support.

Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance (SAMVEDNA)

- It is a toll free Tele counseling number that will be able to address the stress, anxiety, fear and other issues among children.
- When a child dials the toll-free number, they get to speak to a professional counsellor in a safe environment.
- The tele-counseling support will cater to children all over India in various regional languages also.
- Counsellors have been specially trained by the expert team of NIMHANS to address the needs of children in these difficult times.

6. a

- Recently, **CHEOPS (Characterizing Exoplanet Satellite) Mission** discovers one of the most extreme planet ever.
- It is the mission of the European Space Agency (ESA).
- It is the first mission dedicated to studying bright, nearby stars that are already known to host exoplanets.

- It is to make high-precision observations of the planet's size as it passes in front of its host star.
- It focuses on planets in the super-Earth to Neptune size range, as a *first-step characterisation towards understanding these alien worlds*.

7. a

- Football Premier League managers, stars have slammed the use of Video Assistant Referee(VAR) system over controversial decisions.
- The VAR, is football's first use of video technology to reach more correct decisions.
- VAR only intervenes in the course of a match when the officials have made a 'clear and obvious error' in one of four key areas.
- It is a part of the digitalization of football but it does not replace the official referees.

8. b

- Recently, Maharashtra ban the sale of loose cigarettes.
- It is in a bid to reduce the consumption of tobacco and to comply with Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003.
- This Act prohibit the advertisement of, and to provide for the regulation of trade and commerce in, and production, supply and distribution of, cigarettes and other tobacco products.
- No person shall import cigarettes or any other tobacco products for distribution or supply or for sale in India unless every package of cigarettes or any other tobacco products so imported by him bears thereon, or on its label, the specified warning.
- The specified warning in the package shall be expressed in English or in any Indian language or languages.

9. c

- At the International Energy Agency's Clean Energy Transition Summit held recently, UN Secretary-General said coal and fossil fuels have no place in COVID-19 recovery plans.

- Germany becomes first major nation to pass a law to phase out coal and nuclear as an energy source by 2038.
- The country earlier committed to phase-out nuclear energy by 2022.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had stated that staying within 1.5°C would require all coal-powered electricity to zero out by 2050.

10. b

- Recently, President gives his assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020.
- As per the Act, Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, Hindi and English shall be the languages used for all or any official purpose in the Union Territory.
- The Act further provides that business in the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory shall be transacted in the official language or languages.
- It further provides that institutional mechanisms shall make special efforts for the promotion and development of Gojri, Pahari and Punjabi languages.

30-09-2020

1) Consider the following statements with respect to iDEX 4 Fauji Initiative

1. It aims to develop a 'right product and the product right' approach and helps in steering the prototype development to a market ready product.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Defence.

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

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

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Amnesty International



1. It is a United Kingdom based non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 196
2. It focuses on environmental abuses, protection of endangered species and heightens environmental awareness among people through direct confrontations with the polluters.

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

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

3) India has recently launched a *Green Strategic Partnership* with which of the following countries?

- a. Israel
- b. Canada
- c. Denmark
- d. Netherlands

4) Consider the following statements with respect to *Time Use Survey (TUS)*

1. National Statistical Office (NSO) has conducted the first Time Use Survey in India during January – December 2019.
2. The primary objective of Time Use Survey is to measure participation of men and women in both paid and unpaid activities.

Which of 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) *Health in India Report* was published recently by the?

- a. World Health Organization

- b. Indian Council of Medical Research
- c. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *ESG Funds*

1. It is a sustainable, socially responsible investing in companies that score high on non-financial parameters environment friendliness, social responsibility, and governance.
2. SEBI has listed out strict norms on what constitutes ESG companies.

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

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

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Namami Gange Programme*

1. Industrial Effluent Monitoring, Public Awareness are the main pillars of the Namami Gange Programme.
2. The Programme is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), registered as a society under Societies Registration Act 1860.

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

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

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT)*

1. It has been used in coordinated international campaigns to monitor



stellar explosions, comets, and exoplanets.

2. It is remotely operated using dedicated satellite communication link from the Centre for Research & Education in Science & Technology (CREST) and Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

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

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

9) Consider the following statements with respect to *Section 102 of CrPC*

1. It gives the police the power to seize the material they think will be valuable as part of investigation.
2. Police can seize only the materials of an accused and not of the witness.
3. The NCB, a central agency, gets similar powers of search and seizure from the NDPS Act.

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

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *FDI in India's Tourism Industry*

1. Under the automatic route, 100% FDI is allowed in tourism industries.
2. Project Mausam is a Ministry of Tourism scheme to showcase a transnational mixed route on the World Heritage List.

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

- a. 1 only

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

Answers

1. b

iDEX 4 Fauji Initiative

- It is a first of its kind initiative, launched to support innovations identified by members of the Indian Armed Forces and will bolster frugal innovation ideas from soldiers/ field formations.
- There are more than 13 Lakh service personnel working in the field and on borders, handling extreme conditions and equipment and would be having many ideas and innovations to improve such equipment.
- There was no mechanism to support such innovations.
- iDEX 4 Fauji would open this window and allow our Faujis to become part of the innovation process and get recognised and rewarded.
- Services Headquarters will provide support to the soldiers & field formations all over the country to ensure maximum participation.

2. b

- *Amnesty International has recently announced that it will halt its operations in India due to reprisal from the Central government.*
- The human rights watchdog said the complete freezing of its bank accounts by the Indian government compelled its staff in India to stop all campaign and research work.
- The government has said that the global rights watchdog has been receiving funds illegally and that **it never registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.**
- As per the Ministry of Home Affairs, the watchdog "got money into India through the **FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) route,**" which is not allowed in the case of non-profit organizations.

Amnesty International

- It is a United Kingdom based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).
- Established in 1961, Amnesty describes itself as an organization working in the **field of human rights**.

3. c

- At the virtual Summit held recently, the Prime Ministers of India and Denmark agreed to elevate **India-Denmark** relations to a Green Strategic Partnership.
- Through this partnership, India and Denmark agree to be at the forefront in the global fight against climate change.
- Both countries have set very ambitious national targets on climate and energy that will contribute to an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- Together, the two countries will show the world that delivering on ambitious climate and sustainable energy goals is possible.
- This partnership would build on and consolidate the existing agreement establishing a Joint Commission for Cooperation (signed 6 February 2009) between India and Denmark which envisaged cooperation within the political field; economic and commercial field; science and technology; environment; energy; education and culture.

Green Strategic Partnership

- It is a mutually beneficial arrangement to advance political cooperation, expand economic relations and green growth, create jobs and strengthen cooperation on addressing global challenges opportunities; with focus on an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, according to the joint statement released after the Summit.

4. c

Time Use Survey (TUS)

- It is an important source of information about the activities that are performed by the population and the time duration for which such activities are performed.

- One distinguishing feature of Time Use Survey from other household surveys is that it can capture time disposition on different aspects of human activities, be it paid, unpaid or other activities with such details which is not possible in other surveys.
- The primary objective of Time Use Survey (TUS) is to measure participation of men and women in **paid and unpaid activities**.
- TUS is an important source of information on the time spent in unpaid **caregiving activities, volunteer work, unpaid domestic service** producing activities of the household members.
- It also provides information on time spent on learning, socializing, leisure activities, self-care activities, etc., by the household members.
- National Statistical Office (NSO), which is a wing of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has conducted the first Time Use Survey in India during January – December 2019.
- The survey will cover the whole of the Indian Union except the villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are difficult to access.

Highlights

- As per the study, 57.3 per cent males were engaged in employment and related activities while the proportion was 18.4 per cent for females in the country.
- In the rural areas, the proportion of women engaged in employment and related activities was higher at 19.2 per cent compared to 16.7 per cent in cities.
- Overall 53.2 per cent of participants in the survey were engaged in unpaid domestic services for household members.
- **The proportion of females in the category was higher at 81.2 per cent compared to 26.1 per cent for males.**

5. d

- **Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has released a report titled '**Health in India**'.

Health in India Report

- The objective of the report is to gather basic quantitative information on India's health sector.
- The survey defines ailment as any deviation from a person's state of physical and mental well-being.
- The 'Proportion of Persons who Responded as Ailing', or PPRA, in a 15-day period when they were approached by the surveyors, were registered as those suffering from ailments.

Findings of the report

- Around 7.5 % of Indians reported that they were suffering from ailments.
- While in rural India only 6.8 % said that they were suffering from an ailment, this number in urban India was 9.1 %
- The Zoroastrian community remains the most susceptible to ailments (31.1 % of them were suffering from an ailment)
- The survey shows that women remain more susceptible to suffering from ailments than men.
- In rural India 6.1 % of males said that they were suffering from ailments, while 7.6 % of rural women said the same.
- While 8.2 % of urban males said that they were sick, 10 % urban females said the same.

6. a

- Recently, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, launched its *ESG Fund*.
- ESG stands for *Environment, Social Responsibility And Corporate Governance*.
- The ESG funds use these parameters as filters while picking stocks for investment.
- The focus is on companies that adopt environment-friendly practices, produce products or services that influence society positively and conduct their business ethically.
- *There are no strict norms on what constitutes ESG companies.*
- Each fund house follows different parameters to assign scores to companies on ESG to short-list stocks.

7. c

- Recently, Sewage Treatment Plants are inaugurated in Uttarakhand to clean Ganga under *Namami Gange Programme*.
- Industrial Effluent Monitoring, Public Awareness are the main pillars of the Namami Gange Programme.
- *The Programme is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).*
- *NMCG is registered as a society under Societies Registration Act 1860.*
- It functions under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Sakthi.

8. c

- Workshop was conducted to mark 20 years of *Himalayan Chandra Telescope* to highlight the science it produced.
- *It has been used in many coordinated international campaigns to monitor stellar explosions, comets, and exo-planets, and has contributed significantly to these studies.*
- *The telescope remotely operated using a dedicated satellite communication link from the Centre for Research & Education in Science & Technology (CREST), Indian Institute of Astrophysics.*

9. b

- The *Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)*, which is probing drug charges against actors, has seized and retrieved data from the mobile phones.
- *Section 102 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) gives the police the right to seize material they think will be valuable as part of investigation.*
- The police has the power to seize the mobile/laptop/private diary or anything and it doesn't matter if the person is an accused or just a witness in the case as long as the police believe he/she has something that will aid the investigation.
- The *NCB*, a central agency which is technically not police, gets similar powers of 'search and seizure' from the *NDPS Act*.

10. a

- *World Tourism Day* is commemorated each year on 27 September.
- The 2020 edition of World Tourism Day, theme is 'Tourism and Rural Development'.
- *100% FDI in tourism industries is allowed under automatic route.*
- 100% FDI in tourism and hospitality sectors including tourism construction projects like the development of hotels, resorts, and recreational facilities.
- *Project Mausam* is a Ministry of Culture scheme to showcase a transnational mixed route on the World Heritage List.