



An Institute for Civil Services

== IAS 2019 ==

Current Affairs TEST SERIES

Test - 4

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IAS Prelims - 2019**CURRENT AFFAIRS**
(DECEMBER)**Time Allowed: 2 Hrs.****Maximum Marks: 200**Roll No.: **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/ discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. DO NOT write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. While writing name and Roll No. on the top of the OMR Sheet in appropriate boxes use **"ONLY BLACK BALL POINT PEN"**.
5. This Test Booklet contains **100 items (questions)**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
6. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate **OMR Answer Sheet** provided.
7. All items carry equal marks. **(2 marks each)**
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator only the Answer Sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. Penalty for wrong answers:
THERE WILL BE **PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED** BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.
 - (a) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third of the marks** assigned to that question will be **deducted as penalty**.
 - (b) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
 - (c) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

DO NOT OPEN THIS TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

1. With reference to BrahMos Supersonic Missile, consider the following statements:

1. The missile has two stages -- first is solid and the second one is a ramjet liquid propellant.
2. It operates on 'fire and forget principal' and is capable of being launched from land, sea, underwater, and air.
3. BrahMos has been introduced both in the Army and Navy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Polavaram Multi-Purpose Reservoir project is:

1. Constructed across the Godavari River.
2. Spreads to parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa States.
3. Accorded national status in the Andhra Bifurcation Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

3. With reference to Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), consider the following statement:

1. "The ERSS project is based on the recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee.
2. All emergency numbers like 100 for police, 101 for fire, 102 for ambulance and disaster response have been integrated into one number '112'.
3. Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to implement Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

4. With reference to G20 ,consider the following statements:

1. It was started in 1999 as meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the aftermath of the South-east Asian (Tiger economies) financial crisis
2. It was established for discussing policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.
3. India will host G20 Summit in 2020.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

5. Which of the following statement is/ are correct regarding World Custom Organization (WCO)?

1. WCO is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
2. WCO is the only international organization with competence in Custom matters and procedures for customs clearances at border
3. India is not the member of WCO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. Recently, which of the following country has withdrawn from Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Iraq
- (c) Saudi Arabia
- (d) Qatar

7. Consider the following statements regarding GI tag:

1. Geographical Indication (GI) are also used for industrial products.

2. GI tags last up to a term of 10 years and can be renewed.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

8. OSIRIS-REx spacecraft has found water locked inside asteroid Bennu. This spacecraft is of:

- (a) NASA
- (b) ROSCOSMOS
- (c) European space agency
- (d) ISRO

9. The first bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 took place between India and _____ ?

- (a) France
- (b) South Korea
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Japan

10. With reference GSAT 11, consider the following statements

- 1. It is India's heaviest satellite till date.
- 2. GSAT-11 also called Big Bird has been indigenously developed by ISRO.
- 3. It was launched on board from Kourou Launch Base, French Guiana.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

11. Which of the following statements is correct with reference to Agriculture export policy 2018:

- 1. Its objective is to double agricultural exports by 2022.
- 2. Ministry of Agriculture will be the nodal ministry to oversee implementation of the Policy.

3. It aims to promote indigenous, organic, ethnic and non-traditional agri product exports.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

12. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Chhau Dance:

- 1. Chhau Dance is a tradition from eastern India that enacts episodes from epics including the Mahabharata and Ramayana.
- 2. Its three distinct styles hail from the regions of Seraikella (Jharkhand), Purulia (West bengal) and Mayurbhanj (Odisha).
- 3. Seraikella and Mayurbhanj style of Chhau uses Mask during performance.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

13. Which of the following country is being assisted by India in developing Mangdechhu hydroelectric project ?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Myanmar

14. With reference to World Intellectual Property organization, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2. It dictates or prescribe mandatory measures.
- 3. India is a member of WIPO and party to several treaties administered by WIPO.
- 4. According to recent WIPO report, number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

15. Consider the following statements with reference Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS) recently launched by ISRO:

- 1. It is earth observatory satellite.
- 2. It can be used in counter-insurgency and anti-terrorist operations
- 3. HysIS is indigenously developed satellite.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

16. Gilets Jaunes movement also known as "Yellow Vests" is seen frequently in news. It is related to:

- (a) Anti-immigrant movement in the US
- (b) Protest against the rising living costs in France
- (c) Protest against the Brexit in Europe
- (d) Tibetan movement against mainland China

17. With reference to Exseed SAT1, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is India's first private Satellite to go into space.
- 2. It was launched through the Falcon 9 rocket of SpaceX.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

18. With reference to FAO report, consider the following statements:

- 1. The World Soil Day is celebrated every year on 10th of December by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- 2. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation- The soil holds 3 times as much carbon as the atmosphere.
- 3. 95% of our food comes from the soil.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

19. With reference to Minimum Support Price (MSP), which of the following statement is incorrect:

- (a) Government fixes MSPs of various agricultural crops on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP).
- (b) CACP considers the cost of production, demand-supply situation, trends in domestic and international prices and inter-crop price parity while recommending MSP
- (c) National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan had recommended that MSP should be at least 50 percent more than the weighted average cost of production.
- (d) CACP is the final authority in the approval chain of MSP.

20. Changi's-4 Mission, first probe ever to explore the dark side of the moon is an initiative of which of the following countries?

- (a) Japan
- (b) China
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) USA

21. Which of the following statement is incorrect about India Meteorological Department (IMD)?

- (a) It functions under Ministry of Agriculture.
- (b) It is the designated agency for providing drought early warning and forecasting.
- (c) Using Mihir and Pratyush (Supercomputers), it can now forecast weather conditions up to block level.
- (d) None

22. With reference to Commonwealth, consider the following statements

1. Formerly called British common wealth.
2. It is a trade block.
3. Recently, Maldives has applied to rejoin Commonwealth.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

23. Consider the following statements with reference to employment in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE):

1. As a social safety measure, Government is implementing Counseling, Re-training and Redeployment (CRR) scheme for employees of CPSEs who have been released under Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
2. In case an employee does not opt for training his or her dependent is not eligible for training under the scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

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

24. Aviaindra 2018, is a service specific _____ between India and Russia?

- (a) Military Exercise
- (b) Naval Exercise
- (c) Air Force exercise
- (d) All of the above

25. Elum Valley has been a site of divinity and pilgrimage for both the Hindu and the Buddhist communities located in?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Afghanistan
- (c) Iran
- (d) Iraq

26. Consider the following statements:

1. Plastics are usually made from the petroleum.
2. Bioplastics are in principle not climate-neutral.
3. Bioplastics are based on renewable raw materials such as maize, wheat or sugar cane.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

27. Choose the nuclear power plant which has recently created a World record for the longest uninterrupted operation?

- (a) Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant
- (b) Narora Atomic Power Station
- (c) Tarapur Atomic Power Station
- (d) Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant

28. With reference to UN Migration Compact, Consider the following statements

1. It is the first intergovernmental negotiated agreement under the auspices of UN to cover all dimensions of migration.
2. It aims to protect the human rights of migrants, help them resettle and ensure they have access to education.
3. USA and Australia have refused to sign.
4. The agreement is legally binding on the countries signing the pact.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

29. Which of the following States became the 1st Indian state to have 4 International airports?

- (a) Tamilnadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Maharastra

30. With reference to National Pension System (NPS), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2004 with the contribution 10% of Central Government to NPS corpus.
2. Employer also co-contribute for social security/welfare of individual.
3. Any Indian between age of 18 to 65 years may voluntarily join the NPS.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None

31. With reference to "Partners' Forum", consider the following statements:

1. The global health partnership, Partners' Forum was launched in September 2005.
2. Its aim is to reduce the child and maternal mortality, and improve adolescent, child, newborn and maternal health.
3. India has never conducted its edition

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

32. Consider the following statements regarding NASA's recently launched InSight Mission to Mars:

1. It aims to find traces of life on Mars.
2. It has on board seismometer to study the tectonic plate's movements of the planet Earth.
3. InSight mission will be looking for the causes responsible for the different path taken by the Mars and the Earth during the course of their evolution

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

33. "Nine Point Agenda", recently in news, is related to:

- (a) G-20 reforms
- (b) Sustainable Development
- (c) Fugitive Economic Offenders
- (d) Free Trade Agreement

34. Which of the following organisations has recently released the report New India @ 75?

- (a) Red Cross Society
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) ASSOCHAM
- (d) United Nations

35. Which of the following are correctly matched?

| (National Park) | (State) |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Kanha | Rajasthan |
| 2. Kaziranga | Meghalaya |
| 3. Silent Valley | Karnataka |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None

36. Paika Rebellion shook the East India Company in the early 19th century. Which of the following was its crusader?

- (a) Marathas
- (b) Pindaris
- (c) Mughal Rulers
- (d) Gajapathi Rulers

37. Which of the following pairs is/ are correctly matched?

| Hydropower Project | River |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Balighar | Chenab |
| 2. RanjitSagar | Jhelum |
| 3. Dulhasti | Ravi |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

38. Consider the following statements related to Public Credit Registry, frequently in news:

1. It is related to Recapitalisation of Public Sector Banks
2. Recently YM Deosthale committee has been created regarding Public Credit Registry.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

39. Consider the following places:

1. Chandragiri
2. Dhaulagiri
3. Udayagiri
4. Mahendragiri

Which of the above locations are the famous centers of Buddhism?

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

40. Consider the following statements:

1. National Super Computing Mission aims at creating supercomputers.
2. It is being implemented by Department of Science and Technology along with Department of Biotechnology.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

41. The term Colistin, seen in news, refers to:

- (a) Pain Killer
- (b) Antibiotic
- (c) Laser Therapy
- (d) Chemotherapy

42. The theme for the 2018 The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was:

- (a) Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all
- (b) Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Persons with Disabilities
- (c) Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.
- (d) None

43. The Von Kármán crater, recently in the news, is located in

- (a) Moon
- (b) Jupiter
- (c) Mars
- (d) None

44. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Oxytocin?

1. Oxytocin is a hormone that is made in the brain.
2. It acts as both hormone and neurotransmitter.
3. It affects and regulates female reproductive functions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

45. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Snap Election is an early election than expected date called by the ruling party
2. Bye Election is a special elections used to fill elected offices that have become vacant between general elections.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

46. Consider the following statements:

1. Parliament needs to amend the Constitution of India for the establishment of All India Judicial Services (AIJS)
2. Any constitutional amendment under Article 368 requires ratification by State legislatures also.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

47. "Bogibeel Rail-Road Bridge" has been built in which of the following States?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Manipur
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Assam

48. Consider the following statements

1. President Rule can be imposed if the state government does not comply with the direction given by the Union Government.
2. Presidential Rule under Article 356 of Indian constitution is not applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

49. Water Reservoir Project Mekedatu has become a bone of contention between which of the following States?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh and Orissa
- (b) Goa and Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu and Andhra
- (d) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

50. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

| <i>Space Object</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Ultima Thule | A mountain on the planet Mars |
| 2. Kuiper Belt | A vast cosmic disc left over from the days when planets first formed |
| 3. Planetesimals | Building blocks of which planets were formed |

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

51. Which of the following organisations organised the India Puppetry Festival (Putul Parampara) 2018 recently?

- (a) Indian Council of Cultural Relations
- (b) Indra Gandhi National Cultural Centre for Arts
- (c) Sangeet Natak Akademi
- (d) Centre for Cultural Resources and Training

52. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Central Information Commission?

1. It was established under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
2. It extends its jurisdiction over all the Central Public Authorities.

Code:

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

53. Recently, which of the following cyclones hit the eastern coast of the India?

1. Titli
2. Gaja
3. Phethai

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

54. State Start-up Ranking Report is released by:

- (a) Central Statistical Organization (CSO)
- (b) Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Department of Industrial Production and Promotion (DIPP)

55. Consumer Protection Bill 2018 aims to:

1. Replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
2. Establish Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) in place of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).
3. Cover the whole country as its jurisdiction once it becomes the Act.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None

56. Consider the following statements regarding GST Council?

1. It is a non-constitutional body.
2. In the council, vote of the central government have a weightage of one third of the total vote cast.
3. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

57. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched:

| <i>GI Tag</i> | <i>States</i> |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Kadaknath Chicken | Madhya Pradesh |
| 2. Alphonso Mango | Karnataka |
| 3. Pokkali Rice | Tamil Nadu |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

58. Multi-Layered Packaging (MLP) is:

1. A combination of multiple layers of plastic, paper and aluminum.
2. Easily recyclable and helps in preserving perishable foods and pharmaceuticals.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

59. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Agni-IV missile?

1. It is a surface to surface missile
2. It has a strike range of 4000km
3. It is equipped with Ring Laser Gyro-based Inertial Navigation System (RINS) and Micro Navigation System (MIGS)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

60. Angel Tax is:

- (a) Levied by the government on angel investors
- (b) Levied by the country on investor to invest in foreign destination
- (c) Levied by the government on funding received by the start-up from external investor
- (d) None

61. Which of the following features of Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle is/are incorrect?

- 1. It has a maximum operating depth of 1200 metres
- 2. It can be used for rescue operation across the globe
- 3. It can be used in very rough conditions with waves height of 4-6 mts.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

62. National Statistical Commission is :

- 1. A statutory body created under the act of parliament.
- 2. Created on the recommendation of Mundle Committee.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

63. Which of the following entities comes under the ambit of Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) is?

- (a) Public Sector banks only
- (b) Private Sector banks only
- (c) NBFCs
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

64. Which of the following species is/are on the verge of extinction?

- 1. Hawks Bill Turtle
- 2. Giant otter
- 3. Amur Leopard
- 4. White rumped vulture

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

65. Global Gender Gap Report is released by:

- (a) Amnesty International
- (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (d) International Labor Organization (ILO)

66. With reference to Dam Safety Bill 2018, consider the following statements:

- 1. This bill aims to provide for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of dams.
- 2. The bill applies to all dams across the country.
- 3. The governments of Tamil Nadu and Odisha have been opposing the bill.
- 4. The bill provides for setting up of a National Committee on Dam Safety.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

67. With reference to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), consider the following statements:

- 1. It was established in 2005.
- 2. Its aim is to provide developmental aid to war torn countries of Europe.
- 3. NGOs serve as implementing partners for CERF-funded projects and can directly receive the fund from CERF.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

68. "Global Nutrition Report" is published annually by which of the following?

- (a) United Nations Development Programme
- (b) World bank
- (c) IMF
- (d) None

69. Which of the following places which were in news recently are correctly matched with their respective country?

| (Place) | (Country) |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Hodeidah | Yemen |
| 2. Sentosa | Singapore |
| 3. Katowice | Poland |
| 4. Wuhan | China |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

70. Which of the following statement about the Kimberley Process is correct?

- 1. It commits to remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain.
- 2. India is the founding member of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).
- 3. It is a non-binding agreement.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

71. Consider the following statements about Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI):

- 1. It is a geo-engineering technique.
- 2. It could limit rising rainfall.
- 3. It involves delivery of precursor sulfide gases such as sulfuric acid, hydrogen sulfide or sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

72. Consider the following statements about the city of "Ahmedabad":

- 1. Ahmedabad is the first Indian city to make it to the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- 2. The walled city of Ahmedabad was founded by Ahmed Shah.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

73. Consider the following statements regarding The Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC):

- 1. The objective of GICT was to leverage IT skills among youth with disabilities.
- 2. GITC is being held every year in Asia-Pacific region.
- 3. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed every year on 3rd December.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

74. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

1. UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty, entered into force in 1994.
2. Its aim is to prevent 'dangerous' human interference with the climate system.
3. The 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-24) to the UNFCCC is held at Katowice, Poland.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

75. Consider the following statements regarding International Whaling Commission (IWC):

1. It was established under United Nations Convention on Conservation of Biological Diversity.
2. Brazil was the host country for the 2018 IWC meeting.
3. India is a member of the IWC.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

76. Which of the following statements is/are correct about 'Global Compact for Migration':

1. It is a intergovernmental agreement that covers all the dimensions of international migration.
2. It has been established to materialize the goals of New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.
3. It is a legally binding agreement.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

77. Which of the following countries is/are members to both Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Qatar
3. Bahrain
4. Oman

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

78. Which of the following statements is incorrect about Surrogacy Bill 2016, recently passed by the Lok Sabha?

- (a) It bans commercial surrogacy but allows altruistic surrogacy in India.
- (b) It allows only close Indian relatives to be surrogate mothers as well as only Indian citizens couples to be eligible to have surrogated child.
- (c) The surrogate mother has to be provided with compensation including the medical expenses.
- (d) All of the above

79. As per the recent RBI Report, net bank credit flow in the past year has been at its highest level in a decade, in absolute terms. Which of the following sectors has been the largest receiver of Bank credit in the past one year?

- (a) Retail Loans
- (b) Agriculture
- (c) Services
- (d) Industries including MSMEs

80. Which of the following countries is not a party to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)?

- (a) China
- (b) USA
- (c) India
- (d) All of the above

81. A military communication satellite GSAT-7A has been built primarily to cater the needs of:

- (a) Army
- (b) Navy
- (c) Air Force
- (d) All of the above

82. Which of the following statements is/ are correct about Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) initiative?

- 1. It is a portal through which agriculture based industries sell their goods to government.
- 2. It will help in integrating agricultural markets in India.
- 3. It is being implemented under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

83. Nikshay Poshan Yojana is a:

- 1. Cash incentive for nutritional support to stunted children aged 5 years or below.
- 2. Part of National Nutritional Mission (Poshan Abhiyan)
- 3. Being implemented in all states and union territories of the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

84. Consider the following pairs regarding various climate change initiatives:

| <i>Initiative</i> | <i>Established</i> |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Green Climate Fund | Warsaw International Mechanism (COP 19) |
| 2. Loss and Damages | Cancun summit (COP 16) |

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 3. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) | Paris Agreement (COP21) |
|--|-------------------------|

Which of the above pairs is/are incorrectly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

85. Consider the following statements regarding Methanol:

- 1. It does not emit pollutants such as NO_x, SO_x and Particulate Matter when used as vehicular fuel.
- 2. It has high flammability, therefore it is a viable option as household cooking fuel.
- 3. Its use as alternative source of energy will drastically reduce the import bill of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

86. An allotrope of Carbon, Graphene is :

- 1. A bad conductor of heat and electricity therefore acts as best insulator.
- 2. An element which improves both energy capacity and charge rate in rechargeable batteries.
- 3. Used in paints to protect building and appliances from corrosion.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

87. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Both Indian Army and Indian Air Force have seven commands each.
- 2. Andaman and Nicobar is the country's first tri-service command.
- 3. The Strategic Forces Command forms part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

88. Recently, Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has been established by :

- (a) Army
- (b) Navy
- (c) Coast Guard
- (d) Air Force

89. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Trans-fats?

- 1. These are unsaturated fats occurring both naturally and artificially.
- 2. These can increase high density lipoproteins (HDL) and reduce the low density lipoproteins (LDL) in human body.
- 3. Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched 'Heart Attack Rewind,' a social media campaign to create awareness about ill effects of trans-fats.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

90. Which of the following is/are the nodal agency responsible for administering GST, central excise and service tax in India?

- (a) Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs
- (b) Central Board of Direct taxes
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

91. Which among the following is/are type of Asbestos, a naturally occurring group of silicate minerals?

- 1. Crocidolite
- 2. Amosite
- 3. Anthophyllite
- 4. Haematite

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

92. In the context of Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the term 'Global Stock Take' refers to:

- (a) A periodic transfer of carbon stocks accumulated by the developing countries over the years to developed country for compensating the overuse of later one.
- (b) An arrangement to transfer technology and expertise from the developed countries to developing and under developed countries by stocktaking the carbon reserves of the later.
- (c) A periodic stocktaking of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals.
- (d) None

93. COPE India is :

- 1. A bilateral military exercise between India and U.S.A.
- 2. Held annually since 2004.

Select correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

94. Recently, Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018 is awarded to:

- (a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
- (b) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)
- (c) National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- (d) Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)

95. Digital Sky Platform, seen in news, is related to:

- (a) Internet and Broadband
- (b) Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS)
- (c) Direct to Home (DTH) services
- (d) None

96. Development Impact Bonds are related to which of the following sectors:

- (a) Road and Highway development
- (b) Railways development
- (c) Education
- (d) Renewable Energy

97. Consider the following statements regarding Sunspots:

1. Sunspots are permanent phenomena on the Sun's photosphere that appear as spots darker than the surrounding areas.
2. Sunspots are correlated with climate on earth.
3. During extreme sunspots events communications systems are affected on earth.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

98. "Clean Sea 2018" is related to:

- (a) Beach cleaning exercise organised by Indonesia.
- (b) Fiji and Maldives's joint proposal at COP-24

- (c) Regional level marine oil pollution response exercise conducted by Indian Coast Guard.
- (d) Joint Naval exercise conducted by North and South Korea.

99. Which of the following statements are correct about Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)?

1. It functions under Directorate General of pharmaceutical, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. It supervises the prices of essential medicines in India.
3. It also grants approval of clinical trial of new medicines.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

100. Consider the following statements regarding "Rythu Bandhu":

1. It is a cash transfer scheme by the State of Telangana.
2. The aim of the scheme is to prevent farmers from getting debt trapped.
3. The scheme covers only horticulture crops.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 3 only

IAS Prelims - 2019**CURRENT AFFAIRS**
(DECEMBER)***Answer Key***

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|
| Q. 1 | (d) | Q. 26 | (c) | Q. 51 | (c) | Q. 76 | (a) |
| Q. 2 | (d) | Q. 27 | (d) | Q. 52 | (c) | Q. 77 | (a) |
| Q. 3 | (b) | Q. 28 | (c) | Q. 53 | (d) | Q. 78 | (c) |
| Q. 4 | (a) | Q. 29 | (b) | Q. 54 | (d) | Q. 79 | (c) |
| Q. 5 | (b) | Q. 30 | (d) | Q. 55 | (a) | Q. 80 | (b) |
| Q. 6 | (d) | Q. 31 | (b) | Q. 56 | (a) | Q. 81 | (c) |
| Q. 7 | (d) | Q. 32 | (b) | Q. 57 | (a) | Q. 82 | (d) |
| Q. 8 | (a) | Q. 33 | (c) | Q. 58 | (a) | Q. 83 | (b) |
| Q. 9 | (d) | Q. 34 | (b) | Q. 59 | (d) | Q. 84 | (c) |
| Q. 10 | (c) | Q. 35 | (d) | Q. 60 | (c) | Q. 85 | (d) |
| Q. 11 | (c) | Q. 36 | (d) | Q. 61 | (a) | Q. 86 | (c) |
| Q. 12 | (c) | Q. 37 | (a) | Q. 62 | (c) | Q. 87 | (d) |
| Q. 13 | (c) | Q. 38 | (b) | Q. 63 | (d) | Q. 88 | (b) |
| Q. 14 | (d) | Q. 39 | (d) | Q. 64 | (d) | Q. 89 | (c) |
| Q. 15 | (d) | Q. 40 | (d) | Q. 65 | (c) | Q. 90 | (a) |
| Q. 16 | (b) | Q. 41 | (b) | Q. 66 | (d) | Q. 91 | (b) |
| Q. 17 | (c) | Q. 42 | (c) | Q. 67 | (a) | Q. 92 | (c) |
| Q. 18 | (c) | Q. 43 | (a) | Q. 68 | (d) | Q. 93 | (d) |
| Q. 19 | (d) | Q. 44 | (d) | Q. 69 | (d) | Q. 94 | (b) |
| Q. 20 | (b) | Q. 45 | (c) | Q. 70 | (a) | Q. 95 | (b) |
| Q. 21 | (a) | Q. 46 | (a) | Q. 71 | (c) | Q. 96 | (c) |
| Q. 22 | (d) | Q. 47 | (d) | Q. 72 | (c) | Q. 97 | (a) |
| Q. 23 | (b) | Q. 48 | (d) | Q. 73 | (d) | Q. 98 | (c) |
| Q. 24 | (c) | Q. 49 | (d) | Q. 74 | (c) | Q. 99 | (a) |
| Q. 25 | (a) | Q. 50 | (b) | Q. 75 | (d) | Q. 100 | (b) |

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1. Correct Option: (d)

Explanations:

- Brahmos missiles are developed and manufactured by BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited as part of a joint venture between the India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's Reutov-based rocket and missile developers NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM)
- The Russia-made components include the booster, the ramjet engine, target seeker, homing device and the canister that stows the missile
- The BrahMos headquarters in New Delhi consists of the design centre, simulation and interface development department, application software development, and aerospace knowledge centre (also at Hyderabad).
- **Brahmos Characteristics:**
 - **Statement 1 is correct:** The missile has two stages -- first is solid and the second one is a ramjet liquid propellant.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** It operates on 'fire and forget principle' and is capable of being launched from land, sea, underwater, and air against sea and land targets.
 - It is capable of carrying warhead of 300 kilogram (both conventional as well as nuclear) and has a top supersonic speed of Mach 2.8 to 3 (roughly three times speed of sound).
 - The missile is highly versatile and its unmatched speed, precision and power makes it the ultimate modern weapon. Developers say that the missile has a strike accuracy rate of 99.99 per cent.
 - BrahMos follows a variety of trajectories like high, high-low, low, surface-skim etc. unlike ballistic missiles which are powered for half the journey times and follow an ellipsoidal trajectory. Moreover, because its trajectory cannot be predicted it is difficult to defend against.
 - Because BrahMos is powered till the time it hits the target, it develops an enormous kinetic energy which increases its destructive capacity.

- While India already extended the range of the three-tonne missile from its earlier 290 km to 400 km and successfully test-fired the variant in March 2017, the range can be further increased to 800 km after India's induction into the Missile Technology Control Regime in June 2016.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** BrahMos has been introduced both in the Army and Navy. The Air Force version saw a successful trial as per DRDO scientists.
- With INS Rajput, the first version of BrahMos missile system was inducted into the Navy in 2005. It is now fully operational with two regiments of the Army.
- Brahmos ALCM, weighing 2.5 tonnes, is the heaviest weapon to be deployed on India's Su-30 fighter aircraft modified by HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) to carry weapons.

In News:

Union Defence Ministry approved military procurement of Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles for Navy's two stealth frigate.

2. Correct Option: (d)

Explanations:

Polavaram Multi-Purpose Project

- **All the statements are correct:** Under the Polavaram Multipurpose project, a dam is constructed across the Godavari River in West Godavari District and East Godavari District of **Andhra Pradesh**. The **reservoir of the dam also spreads to parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa States**.
- The Polavaram was accorded **national status in 2014** in the Andhra Bifurcation Act and its design was changed.

In News

The Supreme court, hearing a petition on the status of Polavaram Multi-purpose project, has ordered the centre to hold a public hearing.

3. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for Nagaland

- **Statement 1 is correct:** "The ERSS project was approved by **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** (MHA) based on the recommendations of the **Justice Verma Committee** in the backdrop of unfortunate incident of Nirbhaya in December 2012 in national capital New Delhi. ERSS) was earlier referred as Nationwide Emergency Response System. The project was approved budgetary provision of Rs.321.69 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund with view to introduce Pan-India Single Emergency Response Number '112' to address all kinds of distress calls such as police, fire and ambulance etc.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under this system, all emergency numbers like 100 for police, 101 for fire, 102 for ambulance and disaster response have been integrated into one **number '112'**. This emergency number has been introduced on basis of US emergency number 911. It will provide single emergency response number across the country, providing 24*7 efficient and effective response system which can receive inputs from various voice and data services like voice call, SMS, e-mail and panic buttons in public transport, to attend to citizens in distress.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** **Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country** to implement Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).
- **Nagaland is the first amongst the North Eastern states** and the second state in India to Launch Pan-India Single emergency Number "112" under ERSS.

In News

The union Home minister launched Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for the state of Nagaland at Kohima

4. Correct Option: (a)

Explanations:

G20 summit

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India will host G20 Summit In 2022 (Not 2020), when it celebrates its 75th year of Independence. "It will be the first meeting of the global grouping in India."
- It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during ongoing G20 meet of international grouping in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina.

- This comes after Italy accepted India's formal request to host this summit in 2021 as earlier it was going to host it in 2022.
- During the Buenos Aires G20 meet, India presented a nine-point agenda to the G20 countries calling for strong and active cooperation among them to comprehensively deal with fugitive economic offenders.

G20

- It is premier forum for international economic cooperation and decision-making for governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies to focus on economic issues and other important development challenges.
- It comprises of total 19 countries plus European Union (EU), representing 85% of global GDP, 80% of international trade, 65% of world's population. Its members include Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Turkey, South Africa, UK, US and EU.
- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** It was **started in 1999** as meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the aftermath of the South-east Asian (Tiger economies) financial crisis.
- It was established for studying, reviewing, and promoting high-level discussion of policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.
- In 2008 (during Global Financial crisis), the first G20 Leaders' Summit was held in Washington DC, US. Prior to this, it was merely forum for meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. The group has played key role in responding to the global financial crisis.

In news

India will host the G20 Summit in 2022, when the country celebrates its 75th year of independence.

5. Correct Option: (b)

Explanations:

World Custom Organization (WCO)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is independent intergovernmental body whose mission

is to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations. It was established in 1952 as Customs Co-operation Council (CCC).

- It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. More than 180 countries are its members including India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters and defines global standards and procedures for customs clearances at border and their implementation.
- It is considered as voice of international Customs community.
- It aims to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of member customs administrations and assist them to contribute successfully to national development goals, particularly revenue collection, national security, trade facilitation, community protection, and collection of trade statistics.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India is member of WCO since 1971 and has been participating actively in its various activities. It is part of Asia Pacific region having 33 countries, one of 6 regions.
- From 1st July 2018, India has taken over as the Vice-Chair of the Asia Pacific region for two years.
- The 80th Session of Policy Commission of World Customs Organization (WCO) was held in Mumbai

In news

- The 80th Session of Policy Commission of World Customs Organization (WCO) was held Mumbai.
- It is being organized by WCO and hosted by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), under Union Finance Minister.

6. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- **Option (d) is correct:** Qatar has announced its withdrawal from Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 2019 and focus more on the production of natural gas.

- It makes Qatar first Gulf country to leave OPEC bloc of oil-producing countries led by Saudi Arabia.
- Qatar has been member of OPEC since 1961 and its decision to pull out after more than five decades comes at turbulent time in Gulf politics. It is under boycott from its neighboring gulf allies including Saudi Arabia for 18 months (since August 2017)
- Qatar is the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LPG) and 17th largest producer of crude oil (around 600,000 barrels per day).

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- OPEC is an intergovernmental organization (or cartel) of 15 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its member countries.
- It was established in 1960 in Baghdad, Iraq by the first five members. **Its headquarters are in Vienna, Austria.**
- Its mission is to coordinate and unify petroleum policies of its member countries and ensure stabilization of oil markets, in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, steady income to producers and fair return on capital for those investing in petroleum industry.
- OPEC member countries accounted for an estimated 43% of global oil production and 73% of the "proven" world's oil reserves. Two-thirds of OPEC's oil production and reserves are in its six Middle Eastern (west Asian) countries that surround the oil-rich Persian Gulf.

OPEC Members

- **Asia and Middle East:** Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia (de facto leader of OPEC), Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar (to withdraw from January 2019)
- **Africa:** Algeria, Angola, Libya, Congo, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon
- **South/Latin America:** Ecuador and Venezuela

7. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Geographical Indication

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A geographical indication (GI) is a label used on products

that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. GIs are typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, **and industrial products.**

- **Statement 2 is correct:** GI tags last up to a term of **10 years, and can be renewed.** It is given to an association of makers or growers of the product or state or Central government which may apply on their behalf.

In News:

Recent reports suggest that **Kandhamal Haldi** is likely to get a GI tag.

8. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft has found water locked inside asteroid Bennu.
- Bennu is too small to have ever hosted liquid water, but this finding does indicate that liquid water was present at some time on Bennu's parent body, a much larger asteroid.
- Data obtained from spacecraft's two spectrometers OSIRIS-REx Thermal Emission Spectrometer (OTES) and OSIRIS-REx Visible and Infrared Spectrometer (OVIRS) has revealed presence of hydroxyl molecules that contain oxygen and hydrogen atoms bonded together. These hydroxyl groups exist globally across asteroid in water-bearing clay minerals, indicating that at some point Bennu's rocky material interacted with water.
- It was launched in September 2016 as NASA's first asteroid sampling mission i.e. it will survey surface, collect sample and deliver it safely back to Earth.
- It had reached its destination Bennu asteroid in December 2018 after travelling through space for more than two years and travelling over two billion kilometres. Samples returned by the mission to Earth in 2023 will enable scientists to find new information about the history and evolution of our solar system.
- It is near-Earth carbonaceous asteroid about the size of a small mountain in

the Apollo group. It was discovered in September 1999 by the LINEAR Project.

- It is one of oldest known asteroids which is considered as remnant from early in formation of solar system and orbits close to Earth's path around Sun.. It is carbon-rich asteroid and believed to be the type of asteroids that may have chemical building blocks of life, along with lots of water. So, analysis of returned sample from it could help to reveal key insights about early solar system and the origin of life on Earth. It is potentially hazardous asteroid and there is very slight chance it could strike into Earth in the late 22nd century.

In News

NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft has found water locked inside asteroid Bennu

9. Correct Option (d)

Explanation:

SHINYUU Maitri-18

- The first bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 took place between India and Japan. The focus of the exercise is set for IAF and JASDF crews to undertake Joint Mobility/ HADR operations. IAF and JASDF will also practice display of heavy loading/off loading during this exercise.
- In this exercise, JASDF will be participating with C2 aircraft along with aircrew and observers. IAF is participating with C-17 and An-32 aircraft with aircrew and observers.

In News:

The first bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 between Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and Indian Air Force (IAF) began at Air Force Station Agra.

10. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

GSAT 11

- **Statement 1 and 3 are correct:** Recently, Indian Space Research and Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched India's heaviest and most-advanced communication satellite GSAT-11 into space.

- It was launched on board of Ariane 5 VA-246 rocket from Kourou Launch Base, French Guiana.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** GSAT-11 also called Big Bird has been indigenously developed by ISRO.
- It weighs 5854 kg making it heaviest Indian-made equipment that has been put into the orbit.
- It will provide high data rate connectivity to Indian mainland and islands users through 32 user beams in Ku-band and 8 hub beams in Ka-band.
- It is three to six times more powerful than any other ISRO's satellite. It will help provide satellite-based internet to remote places where cable-based internet cannot reach. It will boost the broadband connectivity to rural and inaccessible gram panchayats in the country under Bharat Net Project, which is part of Digital India Programme.

In News:

Indian Space Research and Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched India's heaviest and most-advanced communication satellite GSAT-11 into space.

11. Correct Option: (c)

Explanations:

Agriculture export policy 2018

- Union Cabinet has approved Agriculture Export Policy, 2018 with aim to **double farmer's income by 2022**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Cabinet has also approved proposal for establishment of Monitoring Framework at Centre with **Ministry of Commerce as nodal ministry** to oversee implementation of Agriculture Export Policy. It will also have representation from various ministries and departments and agencies and representatives of concerned State Governments

Agriculture Export Policy

- It is aimed at doubling agricultural exports and integrating Indian farmers and agricultural products with the global value chains. Its vision is to harness export potential of Indian agriculture, through suitable policy instruments and to make India global power in agriculture and raise farmers' income.

Objectives

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Double agricultural exports from present US\$ 30+ Billion to US\$ 60+ Billion by 2022 and reach US\$ 100 Billion in next few years thereafter with stable trade policy regime.
- Diversify India's export basket, destinations and also boost high value and value added agricultural exports including perishables.
- Provide institutional mechanism for pursuing market access, tackling barriers and deal with sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.
- Strive to double India's share in world agri-exports by integrating with global value chain at earliest.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Promote indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional agri products exports
- Enable farmers to benefit from export opportunities in overseas market.

In News:

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved Agriculture Export Policy, 2018 with aim to double farmer's income by 2022.

12. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Chhau Dance

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Chhau means a mask. Chhau dance probably originated as a martial art and performers, apart from a mask, hold swords and shields and performing vigorous movements and leaps. This is a popular dance in Odisha, Bihar and Bengal. The stages are decorated and brightly lit by torches, lanterns and flickering oil lamps. The musical instruments used are the Dhol, Nagara and Shehnai. The themes often revolve around mythological heroes and warriors from the Mahabharata and Ramayana.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Prevalent in the tribal belt of the bordering areas of the provinces of Orissa, Jharkhand and West-Bengal in eastern India. There are three district forms of Chhau:

- Seraikella Chhau of Jharkhand
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mayurbhanj Chhau of Orissa (mask is not used)
- Purulia Chhau of West Bengal (Chhau mask of Purulia, West Bengal was awarded the Geographic Indication Tag.)

In new

- Recently the distinctive Chhau mask of Purulia, West Bengal was awarded the Geographic Indication Tag.

13. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Mangdechhu hydroelectric project

- **Option (c) is correct:** Government of India is assisting for 10,000 MWs of hydropower in Bhutan for export of surplus power to India by 2020. Implementation Agreement has been signed for construction of Punatsangchhu-I, Mangdechhu, Kholongchu between India and Bhutan.

14. Correct Option: (d)

Explanations:

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is the global body for promotion and protection of intellectual property rights (IPR). It is one of the specialized agencies of United Nations (UN). **It was established in 1967 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.** Its mandate is to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It encourages and provides assistance to all its 188 member countries in formulating national IPR policy however **it does not dictate or prescribe any mandatory measures.**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India is a member of WIPO and party to several treaties administered by WIPO.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** According to World Intellectual Property Indicators 2018 report released by United Nation's World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017.

In News

According to World Intellectual Property Indicators 2018 report released by United Nation's World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017.

15. Correct Option: (d)

Explanations:

Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS):

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Hyper spectral imaging satellite (HysIS,) is **earth observatory satellite**. It will make observations by studying the effects of the Earth's surface under the visible, near infrared and far infrared bands of the electromagnetic spectrum. Simply put, the imaging tools will help the HysIS satellite monitor atmospheric activity and climate change, while also assisting studies of Earth's magnetic field.
- **Note:** GSAT-29 a communication satellite launched recently by ISRO carries Ka/Ku-band high throughput communication transponders which will bridge the digital divide of users including those in Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern regions of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The earth observation satellite can be used for lot of purposes such as agriculture, forestry, soil survey, geology, coastal zone studies, inland water studies, environmental monitoring, and pollution detection from industries etc.
- It will provide a deeper understanding of climate change, weather phenomena, ocean currents and more.
- It has onboard an optical imaging detector chip, which can do precise identification of any object. **Therefore, it can be used for anti-terrorism operations and counter-insurgency.**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** HysIS is **indigenously developed satellite**. The satellite was launched under ISRO's PSLV-C43 mission that carried **30 foreign satellites** as well as part of its payload.

What is Hyperspectral Imaging?

- It is the process of scanning and displaying an image within a section of the **electromagnetic spectrum**.

- To create an image the eye can see, the energy levels of a target are color-coded and then mapped in layers.
- This set of images provides specific information about the way an object transmits, reflects, or absorbs energy in various wavelengths.
- Using this procedure, the unique spectral characteristics of an object can be revealed by plotting its energy levels at specific wavelengths on a line graph.
- This creates a unique curve, or signature. This signature can reveal valuable information otherwise undetectable by the human eye, such as fingerprints or contamination of groundwater or food.

16. Correct Option: (b)

Explanations:

Yellow Vests (Gilets Jaunes)

- **Option (b) is correct:** On November 17, nearly 300,000 people in smaller towns and rural areas across France participated in an extraordinary demonstration led by drivers wearing high-visibility vests, to protest rising living costs and, especially, higher taxes on automobile fuels that President Macron had announced earlier this year. The demonstrations — the initial mobilisation for which began online — have not ceased since but have escalated spectacularly.
- Supporters of the movement are mostly ordinary people belonging to the middle and working classes, but include some elements identified as “radical” and “fringe” as well. They are of all ages and come from across the country, mostly from outside the big cities. Their movement began spontaneously — and even after three weeks, the yellow vests have no clear leaders beyond eight semi-official spokespeople who have been giving media statements. The absence of identifiable leaders has made the government’s task of dealing with them even more difficult. The movement continues to rely mostly on social media to organise.

17. Correct Option: (c)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The ‘Made in India’ micro satellite ExseedSAT1, built

by a small start up is the first built in the private sector to go into space.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was launched through the Falcon 9 rocket of SpaceX.
- So far building and launching satellites has been the exclusive preserve of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), the main driver of the impressive space programme.
- Early this year, through its commercial arm Antrix Agency, ISRO had encouraged private participation and building of satellites.

ExseedSAT1 and its purpose

- The satellite is a major boost to the private radio operators in the country.
- The satellites of this form are called Cubesats as they are 10 cm across and 1kg weight.
- This satellite is freely available for all radio amateurs across the world.
- It is an open radio transponder that works on ham radio frequencies.
- The amateur radio services provide vital communication links during natural disasters.

18. Correct Option: (c)

Explanations:

World Soil Day

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) had adopted resolution proposing 5th of December as World Soil Day in 2002 to celebrate importance of soil as critical component of natural system and as vital contributor to human wellbeing. Later in June 2013, the FAO Conference unanimously endorsed World Soil Day and requested official adoption at 68th UN General Assembly. In December 2013, 68th UNGA declared 5th of December as the World Soil Day.
- The **World Soil Day** is celebrated every year on **5th of December** by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. It aims to communicate messages on the importance of soil quality for food security, healthy ecosystems and human well-being.
- The **Theme for year 2017** is ‘Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground’. The theme seeks to highlight importance of

soil in human livelihoods and increase in degradation of soil resources worldwide due to inappropriate management practices, population pressure driving unsustainable intensification and inadequate governance over this essential resource.

Importance of Soil

- **Statement 2 and 3 are correct:** Soil is the upper layer of earth. It is mixture of organic and inorganic matter, in which plants grow. It is a finite natural resource. On a human time-scale it is non-renewable. According to FAO, soil holds three times as much carbon as atmosphere and can help to meet challenges of a changing climate. 95% of our food comes from soil and 33% of global soils are already degraded.

In News

The World Soil Day was celebrated on 5th of December by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

19. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Minimum Support Price

- **Option (a) is correct:** Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various agricultural crops on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after ascertaining the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned.
- **Option (b) is correct:** While recommending MSPs, CACP considers the cost of production and host of factors such as demand-supply situation, trends in domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and the likely impact of MSP on consumers and overall economy along with rational utilization of scarce natural resources like land and water
- **Option (c) is correct:** National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan submitted its report in 2006. One of the recommendations of Commission was that MSP should be at least 50 percent more than the weighted average cost of production.

In News

Government has increased the MSP for all Kharif and Rabi crops and other commercial crops for the season 2018-19 with a return of at least 50 percent over cost of production.

20. Correct Option: (b)

Explanations:

Chang'e-4 mission

- China has launched Chang'e-4, a first probe ever to explore the dark side of the moon.
- It is being named after the Chinese moon goddess

21. Correct Option: (a)

Explanations:

- **Option (a) is incorrect: Ministry of Agriculture is the nodal Ministry** in respect of monitoring and managing drought conditions and droughts are classified into meteorological droughts, hydrological droughts and agricultural droughts. IMD Functions under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Option (b) is correct:** IMD is the designated agency for providing drought early warning and forecasting Meteorological drought is classified based on rainfall deficiency w.r.t. long term average – 25% or less is normal, 26-50% is moderate and more than 50% is severe.
- Hydrological drought is best defined as deficiencies in surface and sub-surface water supplies leading to a lack of water for normal and specific needs. Such conditions arise even in times of average (or above average) precipitation when increased usage of water diminishes the reserves.
- Agricultural drought is identified by 4 consecutive weeks of meteorological drought, weekly rainfall is 50 mm from 15/5/ to 15/10, 6 such consecutive weeks rest of the year and crop planted is 80% in Kharif season.
- In India, around 68% of the country is prone to drought in varying degrees. 35% which receives rainfall between 750 mm and 1125 mm is considered drought prone while 33% receiving less than 750 mm is chronically drought prone.

- **Option (c) is correct** Owing to Mihir and Pratyush (Supercomputers), India Meteorological Department can now forecast weather conditions up to block level.

22. Correct Option: (d)

Explanations:

Maldives has applied to rejoin Commonwealth

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Formerly called British common wealth. It is inter-governmental organization of 53 member states that were mostly territories of the former British Empire.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is not a trade block. It aims to promote democracy, human rights, world peace etc.
- Common wealth countries in theory do not consider each other foreign and hence send "High Commissioners" and not "Ambassadors".
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Maldives has applied to rejoin Commonwealth

23. Correct Option: (b)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As a social safety measure, Government is implementing Counselling, Re-training and Redeployment (CRR) scheme for employees of CPSEs who have been released under Voluntary Retirement Scheme and Voluntary Separation Scheme. These separated employees have opportunity of self or wage employment after short duration skill trainings under the CRR scheme
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In case an employee does not opt for training his or her dependent is eligible for training under the scheme.

24. Correct Option: (c)

Explanations:

AVIAINDRA 2018

- The aim of this exercise is focused towards anti-terrorist operations in bi-lateral scenario. It also seeks to further enhance co-operation and understanding between Air forces of both countries in each other's

Concept of Operations. This edition of exercise is planned in two phases.

- The exercise is unique wherein foreign participant does not bring its air assets. In Russia IAF pilots flew alongside their Russian counterparts in RFSAF aircraft at Lipetsk in September 2018. Similarly in India, RFSAF pilots will fly alongside their Indian counterparts in the IAF aircraft, which are common to both Air Forces.
- It is service specific Air force exercise between India and Russia, in 2018 it took place in Jodhpur.

In News

The second edition of service specific exercise AVIAINDRA between Indian Air Force and Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFSAF) was held at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

25. Correct Option: (a)

Explanations:

Elum Valley

- **Option (a) is correct:** Heritage Park for Hindus, Buddhists in Elum Valley is located in Pakistan.
- Elum Valley is located between the Swat and Buner district of Pakistan.
- Elum Valley has been a site of divinity and pilgrimage for both the Hindu and the Buddhist communities.
- According to Hindu belief, Lord Ram spent time meditating there during his 14 years of exile, while Buddhists believe it to be the site where previous incarnation of lord Buddha gave up his life.

26. Correct Option: (c)

Explanations:

Bio plastics

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Plastics are usually made from the petroleum with the associated impacts in terms of fossil fuel depletion and climate change.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Bioplastics, plant based plastics is often considered as an alternative to petroleum -based plastics.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** They are in principle climate-neutral since they are based on renewable raw materials such as maize, wheat or sugar cane.

Types of Bioplastics

- Bioplastics can be prepared from a variety of materials like starch, sugar, cellulose etc. Cellulose-based plastics are made from wood pulp and they are used for making film based materials such as wrappers. Thermoplastics are starch based plastics. They are used for production of drug capsules as starch has ability to absorb moisture. Polylactic Acid (PLA) is made from the fermentation of starch from crops. It is used for preparing computer and mobile phone casings, cups, bottles and other packaging. Poly hydroxyl butyrate (PHB) is used for making bank notes and car parts etc. Polyamide 11 (PA 11) prepared from vegetable oils is used for making oil and gas flexible pipes, and electrical anti-termite cable sheathing etc.

Impact of bioplastics on environment

- Bioplastics are better than petro plastics in terms of fossil-fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency. But in terms of cost and applicability, bioplastics are inferior to petro plastics. Bioplastic production requires almost 80% of the energy required to produce common plastic. Biodegradable plastics are easy to recycle and are non-toxic.
- In India, the bioplastic market is still at a nascent stage. The demand for bioplastics growing at a slow rate and it increases with raising awareness among citizens.

27. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation

Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant

- Kaiga nuclear power plant, which is located in western Karnataka, has recently created a world record for the longest uninterrupted operation of 941 days.
- It broke the earlier record of 940 days by the Heysham plant in the United Kingdom.
- While the Kaiga (KGS-1) is a Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), Heysham-2 Unit-8 is an Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (AGR).

28. Correct Option: (c)

Explanations

UN Migration Compact

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is the first intergovernmental negotiated agreement under the auspices of UN to cover all dimensions of migration.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It aims to protect the human rights of migrants, help them resettle and ensure they have access to education.
- The agreement was signed in the UNGA by adopting a political declaration "New York Declaration for Refugee and Migrants" in 2016.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** It is a non-binding political Accord on member countries.
- Few countries have refused to sign or withdrawn from the agreement-such as US, Australia, Hungary, Australia, Israel etc.

About UN Global Compact on Migration:

- The negotiations for Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration started in 2016 after the influx of over one million migrants into Europe.
- In 2018, all of the 193 members agreed to the UN pact on migration except the United States. But, only 164 countries formally signed the UN migration deal in Marrakech on 10th December 2018.
- The agreement commits the signatories to improve co-operation on international migration.
- The agreement is not legally binding on the countries signing the pact and allows them to be in charge of their own immigration policies.
- The agreement stresses that all migrants should be given universal human rights. It seeks to do away with all forms of discrimination against migrants and their families.

29. Correct Option: (b)

Explanations

International Airports

- Kerala becomes the 1st Indian state to have 4 International airports

- Kerala has now become the first state in India to have four international airports, with Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozikode

In News

On December 9, the Kannur International Airport started operations, and the first flight from the airport, an Air India Express Boeing 737-800 to Abu Dhabi, was flagged off. Kerala becomes the 1st Indian state to have 4 International airport.

30. Correct Option: (d)

Explanations:

National Pension System (NPS)

- Union Cabinet has decided to raise contribution of Central Government to National Pension System (NPS) corpus of its employees from 10% to 14%. This will increase in eventual accumulated corpus of all central government employees covered by NPS. There are 18 lakh central government employees at present.
- Government also has decided to make NPS fully tax free, making it on par with the provident fund scheme. It has decided to exempt income tax that is applicable on part of NPS corpus that is withdrawn on retirement. At present, while exiting scheme, 60% of corpus could be withdrawn and 20% of withdrawn amount is taxable. This portion now has been made tax free. The remaining part that could be used to buy annuities is anyway tax free. With this decision, NPS has acquired parity with provident fund savings, which are not taxed at any of three stages of saving, profit accrual or exit.
- **All the Statements are correct:** It is easily accessible, low cost, tax-efficient, flexible and portable retirement savings account. **It was launched in 2004** and was initially introduced for new Government recruits (except armed forces). It aims to institute pension reforms in country and to inculcate habit of saving for retirement amongst the citizens. Its objective is to provide retirement income to all the citizens. Under it, individual contributes to his retirement account. Employer can also co-contribute for social security/welfare of individual.

- **It was extended for all citizens of country from May 2009** including the unorganised sector workers on voluntary basis. NPS is governed and administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Currently, **any Indian between age of 18 to 65 years may voluntarily join the NPS.** NRI can open an NPS account; however contributions made by NRI are subject to regulatory requirements as prescribed by RBI and FEMA from time to time.

In News:

Union Cabinet has decided to raise contribution of Central Government to National Pension System (NPS) corpus of its employees from 10% to 14%.

31. Correct Option: (b)

Explanations:

Partner's Forum

Fourth edition of Partners' Forum was inaugurated in New Delhi. The two day international conference was hosted by government of India in association with Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and child Health (**PMNCH**).

Key Facts

The programme will be framed on the objective of Survive – Thrive – Transform. The forum is aimed to explore the findings of 12 success factors case studies which shows how the countries are working towards the improvement of women's and children health. The forum will showcase learnings from six regions on six thematic areas:

- Early childhood Development – Germany and Chile
- Adolescent Health and Wellbeing – USA and Indonesia
- Quality, Equity and Dignity in services – India and Cambodia
- Sexual and Reproductive Health – Malawi and Malaysia
- Empowerment of women, Girls and communities – South Africa and Guatemala
- Humanitarian and fragile settings – Sierra Leone and Afghanistan

Background

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** The global health partnership, Partners' Forum was launched in September 2005 to reduce the child and maternal mortality, and improve adolescent, child, newborn and maternal health. Many countries around the globe joined forum to achieve the objective.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Earlier editions of forum were held in – Tanzania (2007), India (2010), South Africa (2014).

PMNCH's mission

- The mission supports the global health community to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 3 of SDG is to achieve good health and well-being for people.

In news:

Fourth edition of Partners' Forum will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12th December in New Delhi.

32. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

NASA's Insight Mission to Mars

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** InSight, the Lander *won't be looking for life on Mars. But studying its insides such as what it's made of, how that material is layered and how much heat seeps out of it.* It would reveal information about why Mar's magnetic field vanished. The Lander is supposed to provide information about the core of the red planet, whether it is solid, liquid or combination of both. It could help scientists better understand how a planet's starting materials make it more or less likely to support life.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** *Mars doesn't have tectonic plates like earth.* Mars and the Earth are considered twins as both started evolving on similar patterns. Both were warm, wet and shrouded in thick atmospheres.
- But 3 or 4 billion years ago, these two worlds took different paths of evolution. Earth developed a kind of geological "conveyer belt" in the form of tectonic plates which is responsible for releasing life supporting element such carbon dioxide, oxygen etc. **While Mars did not develop any tectonic like phenomenon.**

- **Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) an onboard seismometer on InSight,** records how quakes that can be caused by processes other than just tectonic action could travel through Mars. Understanding how the planet is layered will help scientists work backward, piecing together how dust, metals and ices in the early solar system combined to form the Red Planet.
- A number of physical phenomena can create seismic waves on Mars, including mars-quakes, meteorites striking the surface, landslides, or even the pressure of the wind on the surface. Weather phenomena, such as dust devils, can also generate seismic waves.
- Scientists suspect that Mars was born from the same planet-forming material as Earth and the Moon. The heat flow package's (**The Heat Flow and Physical Properties Probe,**) measurements will help determine whether this is true. How Mars' fuel, its heat-producing elements, are distributed in the planet today is still an open question. **The information from InSight's heat flow package and its seismometer together can help answer this question.**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Insight mission will be looking for the causes responsible for the different path taken by the Mars and the Earth during the course of their evolution.
- Ultimately it will help scientists to decipher any possibility of life in the future for the people on the red planet Mars.

33. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Nine Point Agenda

Nine points agenda on fugitive economic offenders presented by the Prime Minister of India at G-20 annual summit 2018:

- Strong and active cooperation across G-20 countries to deal comprehensively and efficiently with the menace economic offenders.
- Cooperation in the legal process such as effective freezing of the proceeds of crime, early return of the offenders and efficient registration of the proceeds of crime should be enhanced and streamlined.

- Joint effort by G-20 countries to form a mechanism that denies the entry and safe havens to all fugitive economic offenders.
- Principles of United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (UNOTC), especially related to "International Cooperation" should be fully and effectively implemented.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** should be called upon to assign priority and focus to establishing international co-operation that leads to timely and comprehensive exchange of information between the competent authority and FIUs.
- FATF should be tasked to formulate a standard definition of fugitive economic offenders
- FATF should also develop a set of commonly agreed and standardized procedures related to identification, extradition and judicial proceedings for dealing with fugitive economic offenders to provide guidance and assistance to G-20 countries subject to their domestic law.
- Common platforms should be set up for sharing experiences and best practices including successful cases of extradition gaps in existing systems of extradition and legal assistance etc.
- G-20 Forum should consider initiating work on locating properties of economic offenders who have a tax debt in the country of their residence for its recovery.

34. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

New India @ 75

- NITI Aayog has released Strategy for New India @75, a document, attempting to bring innovation, technology, enterprise and efficient management together at the core of policy formulation and implementation.
- It will encourage discussions and debate and invite feedback for further refining policy approach.
- The forty-one chapters in the document have been disaggregated under four sections:

- **Drivers**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Inclusion and**
- **Governance.**

35. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation

National Parks

- **Option 1 is incorrectly matched:** The Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh came into being in 1955 and forms the core of the Kanha Tiger Reserve, created in 1974 under Project Tiger. The Park's landmark achievement is the preservation of the rare hard ground **Swamp Deer (Barasingha)**, saving it from near extinction.
- Sariska Tiger Reserve is a national park and tiger reserve located in the Alwar district of the state of Rajasthan, India. The topography of the protected area comprises scrub-thorn arid forests, rocky landscapes, dry deciduous forests, rocks, grasses and hilly cliffs. This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and it was declared a wildlife reserve in 1955. It was given the status of a tiger reserve making it a part of India's Project Tiger in 1978.
- **Option 2 is incorrectly matched:** Kaziranga National Park represents one of the last unmodified natural areas in the north-eastern region of India. **Located in the State of Assam** it is the single largest undisturbed and representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley floodplain.
- Kaziranga is regarded as one of the finest wildlife refuges in the world. The park's contribution in saving the **Indian one-horned rhinoceros** from the brink of extinction at the turn of the 20th century to harboring the single largest population of this species is a spectacular conservation achievement.
- The property also harbors significant populations of other threatened species including tigers, elephants, wild water buffalo and bears as well as aquatic species including the Ganges River dolphin. It is an important area for migratory birds too
- **Option 3 is incorrectly matched:** Silent Valley National Park is a beautiful representation of the **last remaining rain forest of Kerala**.

- Silent Valley was declared as National Park in 1984 and formally inaugurated in the year 1985.

36. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation

Paika Rebellion

- **Option (d) is correct:** The Paika Bidroha (Paika Rebellion) of 1817 in Odisha briefly shook the foundations of British rule in the eastern part of India.
- Paikas were essentially the peasant militias of the **Gajapati rulers of Odisha** who rendered military service to the king during times of war while taking up cultivation during times of peace.
- They unfurled the banner of rebellion against the British under the leadership of Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara as early as 1817 to throw off the Britishers.

In news

Prime Minister released a commemorative stamp and coin on the Paika Rebellion. The Paika Rebellion (Paika Bidroha) was fought against British rule, in Odisha in 1817.

37. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation

Hydropower Projects

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1. Balighar | Chenab |
| 2. Ranjit Sagar | Ravi |
| 3. Dulhasti | Jhelum |

Power Projects on Chenab (In news)

- **The Pakal Dul Project** of 1000 MW installed capacity is on the river Marusadar, a tributary of Chenab in district Kishtwar of J&K State. The project envisages construction of a 167 mtr high Dam with annual generation of 3387 MU.
- **Kiru power project**, a run-of-river scheme, is located in district Kishtwar of J&K. The Kiru power Project of 624 MW installed capacity is proposed on river Chenab and envisages construction of 135 mtr Dam (High above deepest foundation level).
- **Kwar power project**, a run-of-river scheme is located in distt. Kishtwar of J&K State and is about 31 kms from Kishtwar. The Kwar Project of 540 MW installed

capacity is proposed on river Chenab and envisages construction of 109 mtr high Dam (above deepest foundation) and an underground Power House with 4 units of 135 MW each.

38. Correct Option : (b)

Explanation

Public Credit Registry

- A public credit registry is an information repository that collates all loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers. A credit repository helps banks distinguish between a bad and a good borrower and accordingly offer attractive interest rates to good borrowers and higher interest rates to bad borrowers.
- Recently a committee headed by Y.M. Deosthalee has been constituted by RBI to address issues such as information asymmetry, improve access to credit and strengthen the credit culture among consumers. It can also address the bad loan problem staring at banks, as corporate debtors will not be able to borrow across banks without disclosing existing debt. A PCR may also help raise India's rank in the global ease of doing business index.
- Setting up the PCR will help improve India's rankings in the World Bank's ease of doing business index.

Panel's proposals

- The committee has suggested the registry should capture all loan information and borrowers be able to access their own history. Data is to be made available to stakeholders such as banks, on a need-to-know basis. Data privacy will be protected.

Why PCR is necessary?

- Credit information is now available across multiple systems in bits and pieces and not in one window. Data on borrowings from banks, non-banking financial companies, corporate bonds or debentures from the market, external commercial borrowings (ECBs), foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs), masala bonds, and inter-corporate borrowings are not available in one data repository. PCR will help capture all relevant information about a borrower, across different borrowing products in one place.

- It can flag early warnings on asset quality by tracking performance on other credits.

PCR in other countries

- PCR in other countries now include other transactional data such as payments to utilities like power and telecom for retail consumers and trade credit data for businesses. Regularity in making payments to utilities and trade creditors provides an indication of the credit quality of such customers.

39. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Buddhist Centres

- **Chandragiri:** In the year 2010, Dalai Lama inaugurated South Asia's biggest monastery at Chandragiri near Berhampur. Spread over 10 acres, the monastery houses a 21 feet high idol of Buddha, 17-feet high second Buddha Padma Sambhav and the idol of Avaloketeswara. The foundation stone for the monastery was laid in 2003 and the construction was completed in 2009 at a cost of rupees eight crore.
- **Dhoulagiri:** Dhauli is also famous for its Buddhist monuments. It happens to be the place where the bloodiest of battles were fought and won by Emperor Ashoka. This monument marked his transformation from an ambitious king of a prospering kingdom to a follower of Buddha and his teaching. The evidence of this transformation can be seen at Dhauli, 8 km from Bhubaneswar, in the form of a rock edict marked by the image of an elephant sculpted from the overhanging rock. There are two such rock edicts still surviving in Odisha.
- **Udayagiri:** If Lalitgiri is the oldest Buddhist site in the area, Udayagiri and Khandagiri is the most picturesque. Located at the base of verdant rolling hills forming a semi circle, this site exemplifies the blissful and tranquil natural surroundings selected for the construction of Buddhist monasteries in ancient India. It is a Buddhist complex in Odisha comprising major stupas and monasteries and is also famous for its Jain monuments.
- **Lalitgiri:** Set in the valley of two rivers, Birupa and Chitrotpala, the monastery was discovered by a local British official

in 1905. A seven year excavation of the site by the Archaeological Survey of India beginning in 1985 yielded a number of stone inscriptions, seals, sealing, and potsherds, which established the site as having flourished between 2nd-3rd and 14-15th century AD. It is a popular tourist destination and pilgrimage site for its enormous brick monasteries.

In news

- One of the earliest Buddhist settlements in Odisha, Lalitgiri, where excavations have yielded ancient seals and inscriptions, has been converted into a museum. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the museum through video conference from Bhubaneswar.
- Located in Cuttack district, it will be the third site museum of the Bhubaneswar circle of the Archaeological Survey of India after Ratnagiri and Konrak, said Nandini Bhattacharya Sahu, Regional Director of ASI (Eastern Circle)

40. Correct Answer: (d)

National Super Computing Mission

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mission envisages empowering our national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities. These supercomputers will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN). The NKN is another programme of the government which connects academic institutions and R&D labs over a high speed network. Academic and R&D institutions as well as key user departments/ministries would participate by using these facilities and develop applications of national relevance.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Mission would be implemented and steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) at an estimated cost of Rs.4500 crore over a period of seven years.
- Recently, the tender to build these high performance computers (HPC) had been floated by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). Atos

would be deploying its energy efficient Direct Liquid Cooled Bull Sequana supercomputers in India.

41. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Colistin

- **Option (b) is correct:** Colistin, also known as polymyxin E, is an **antibiotic** produced by certain strains of the bacteria *Paenibacillus polymyxa*.
- Colistin is a mixture of the cyclic polypeptides colistin A and B and belongs to the class of polypeptide antibiotics known as polymyxins.
- Colistin is effective against most Gram-negative bacilli.
- Colistin is a decades-old drug that fell out of favour in human medicine due to its kidney toxicity. It remains one of the last-resort antibiotics for multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Acinetobacter*. NDM-1 metallo- β -lactamase multidrug-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* have also shown susceptibility to colistin.
- Increasing incidence of resistance of gram-negative bacteria against even newer antibiotic including carbapenem has generated interest in the old antibiotic colistin, which are being used as salvage therapy in the treatment of multidrug resistant infection. Colistin has excellent bactericidal activity against most gram-negative bacilli. It has shown persist level in the liver, kidney, heart, and muscle; while it is poorly distributed to the bones, cerebrospinal fluid, lung parenchyma, and pleural cavity.

In news

- Samples of raw food lifted across Chennai have tested positive for Colistin resistant bacteria.

42. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed every year on December 3 to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development.

- **2018 theme-** "Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".
- This year's theme focused on empowering persons with disabilities for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable development as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda pledges to "leave no one behind". Persons with disabilities, as both beneficiaries and agents of change, can fast track the process towards inclusive and sustainable development and promote resilient society for all, including in the context of disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action, and urban development.
- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1992.
- It aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.
- It also seeks to increase awareness of situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

43. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation

Von Kármán crater

- **Option (a) is correct:** China has launched the first mission to land a robotic craft on the far side of the Moon.
- The Chang'e-4 mission will see a static lander and rover touch down in Von Kármán crater, located on the side of the Moon which never faces Earth. Von Kármán crater is of interest to scientists because it is located within the oldest and largest impact feature on the Moon – the South Pole-Aitken Basin.

44. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Oxytocin

- **All the statements are correct:** Oxytocin is a hormone that is made in the brain, in the hypothalamus. It is transported to, and secreted by, the pituitary gland, which is located at the base of the brain.

- It acts both as a hormone and as a brain neurotransmitter.
- The release of oxytocin by the pituitary gland acts to regulate two female reproductive functions: Childbirth and Breast-feeding.
- Oxytocin drug is chemically synthesised and sold by pharmaceutical companies across the world. It is used as a drug during childbirth because it can contract the uterus and induce delivery, control bleeding, and promote the release of breast milk. Oxytocin can be administered to humans as an injection or a nasal solution. An oxytocin injection is generally available for Rs 3-20 at any chemist.
- In a crucial development that exposes the flaws in health policy-making in the country, the Delhi High Court quashed a government ban on the retail sale and private manufacture of oxytocin.
- **Carbetocin:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has come up with a safe and effective alternative to the controversial drug oxytocin.

45. Correct Option: (c)

Explanations:

Snap Elections

- A snap election is an election called earlier than expected.
- Generally, it refers to an election in a parliamentary system called when it is not required either by law or convention, usually to capitalize on a unique electoral opportunity or to decide a pressing issue. It differs from a recall election in that it is initiated by politicians (usually the head of government or ruling party) rather than voters, and from a by-election in that the winners will serve an entire term as opposed to the remainder of an already established term.
- Since the power to call snap elections usually lies with the incumbent, they usually result in increased majorities for the party already in power having been called at an advantageous time. However, snap elections can also backfire on the incumbent and resulting in a decreased majority or even the opposition winning or gaining power. As a result of the latter cases there have been occasions in which the consequences have been the implementation of fixed term elections.

- Bye Elections: By-elections or bypolls in India), are used to fill elected offices that have become vacant between general elections. In most cases these elections occur after the incumbent dies or resigns, but they also occur when the incumbent becomes ineligible to continue in office

In news

- Israel will go for snap elections in April 2019. Earlier this year, Telangana state has gone for snap elections for the state legislative assembly.

46. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

All India Judicial Services

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As originally enacted, Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution vested all powers of recruitment and appointment with the State Public Service Commission and High Courts.
- During the Emergency, Parliament amended Article 312 of the Constitution to allow for the Rajya Sabha to pass a resolution, by two-thirds majority, in order to kick-start the process of creating an all India judicial service for the posts of district judge.
- Once the resolution is passed, Parliament can amend Articles 233 and 234 through a simple law (passed by a simple majority), which law will strip States of their appointment powers.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is unlike a constitutional amendment under Article 368 that would have required ratification by State legislatures. In other words, if Parliament decides to go ahead with the creation of the AIJS, State legislatures can do nothing to stop the process.

In news

Strategy New India @75, a visionary document recommends the establishment of All India Judicial Services.

47. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanations:

Bogibeel rail-road Bridge

- **Option (d) is correct:** The 4.9 km-long bridge on the **Brahmaputra river, in ASSAM** boasts of being Asia's second longest rail-cum-road bridge.

- The bridge will reduce travel time from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh to four hours. It will also reduce the Delhi to Dibrugarh train-travel time by about three hours to 34 hours as against 37 hours presently.
- The bridge is among the infrastructure projects planned by India to improve logistics along the border in Arunachal Pradesh.
- While inaugurating the Bogibeel bridge in May 2017, PM Narendra Modi dedicated it to the musician and film-maker Bhupen Hazarika.
- It is the fourth rail-road bridge being built on the Brahmaputra, others are Pandu Saraighat, KoliaBjumuraguri and Narayan Setu.
- It is the fourth largest bridge in the country and also the largest structure built on the river Brahmaputra.
- The bridge is crucial for more integration of north eastern India with the rest of the country.

48. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

State Emergency (Article 356)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to the Constitution it is the duty of the Union Government to ensure that governance of a State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- Under Article 356, the President may issue a proclamation to impose emergency in a state if he is satisfied on receipt of a report from the Governor of the concerned State, or otherwise, that a situation has arisen under which the administration of the State cannot be carried on according to the provisions of the constitution
- In such a situation, proclamation of emergency by the President is on account of the failure (or breakdown) of constitutional machinery. Thus it is known as "President's Rule" or "State Emergency" or "Constitutional Emergency".
- The proclamation imposing state emergency must be placed before both the Houses of Parliament for approval. The approval must be given within two months from the date of its issue failing which the proclamation ceases to operate. If in

the meantime Lok Sabha gets dissolved, then the proclamation must be approved within 30 days from the first sitting of Lok Sabha.

- If approved by the Parliament, the proclamation remains valid for six months at a time. It can be extended for a maximum three years with the approval of the parliament, every six months. The 44th Amendment Act added a provision that the emergency beyond one year can be extended by six months at a time only when
 - (a) A National Emergency is already in operation; or
 - (b) The Election Commission certifies that the election to the State Assembly cannot be held.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In the state of Jammu and Kashmir, failure of governmental function results in Governor's rule, imposed by invoking Section 92 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The state's governor issues the proclamation, after obtaining the consent of the President of India. If it is not possible to revoke Governor's rule within six months of imposition, the President's Rule is imposed.

In news:

- As the Governor's rule expires in Jammu and Kashmir after six months.

49. Correct Option: (d)

Explanations:

Mekedatu Project

- **Option (d) is correct:** Karnataka intends to build a reservoir across river Cauvery near Mekedatu in Kanakapura taluk.
- It was first proposed along with Shivasamudram hydro power project at Shimsa in 2003 with an intention to use the water for a hydro power station and supply drinking water to Bengaluru city.
- However, Tamil Nadu objected saying Karnataka had not sought prior permission for the project. Its argument was that the project would affect the flow of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

50. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Ultima Thule is a relic of early solar system, the most distant planetary object ever studied. This is the most primitive object ever encountered by the spacecraft in the solar system. It lies in the Kuiper Belt which is a freezing area of the solar system.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Kuiper Belt, a vast cosmic disc left over from the days when planets first formed. Astronomers sometimes call it the "attic" of the solar system. Scientists didn't even know the Kuiper Belt existed until the 1990s. The Kuiper Belt begins some 4.8 billion kilometers beyond the Sun, past the orbit of Neptune which is the furthest planet from the Sun. It is teeming with literally billions of comets, millions of objects like Ultima which are called planetesimals
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Planetesimals are the building blocks out of which planets were formed. These are now found in the Kuiper Belt of the solar system.

In news

NASA's spacecraft New Horizon is hurtling towards a historic New Year's Day flyby of the most distant planetary object ever studied, a frozen relic of the early solar system called Ultima Thule. 6.4 billion kms away, the unmanned spaceship, New Horizons, is poised to zoom by at 12:33 am on January 1, 2019, at a distance of just 3,500 kms from Ultima Thule.

New Horizon Mission:

- Launched in 2006, the mission is first of its kind to study the Pluto and Kuiper Belt of the solar system. The New Horizons mission will help us understand worlds at the edge of our solar system by making the first reconnaissance of the Pluto system and by venturing deeper into the distant, mysterious Kuiper Belt – a relic of solar system formation.

51. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

Indian Puppetry Festival 2018

- **Option (c) is correct:** Sangeet Natak Akademi has organised a five-day long 'Putul Parampara -- India Puppetry Festival', to showcase the significance of the country's traditional folk culture.

- Puppet troupes from New Delhi, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha besides Tripura took part in the carnival, inaugurated by renowned puppetry artiste and Padmashree award winner Suresh Dutta.
- The Academy aims at presenting all forms of puppetry -- String, Rod, Glove, Banraku and Shadow puppetry during the five-day long festival. Eleven states of India have about 18 living puppet traditions.
- The festival would showcase both contemporary and traditional performance.
- Puppet dance, popularly known as 'Putula Nach', was once the most popular form of entertainment, especially for children, but the folk-culture has struggled against the onslaught of modern popular culture.
- Stories of Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore and other renowned novelists are being portrayed through the Puppet dance or 'Putula Nach'," Tripura Puppet Theatre Director Prabhitangshu Das.

52. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

Central Information Commission

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** The Central Information Commission has been constituted with effect from 12-10-2005 under **the Right to Information Act, 2005**. The jurisdiction of the Commission extends **over all Central Public Authorities**.
- The Commission has certain powers and functions mentioned in sections 18, 19, 20 and 25 of the RTI Act, 2005. These broadly relate to **adjudication in second appeal for giving information**; direction for record keeping, suo-motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI etc; imposition of penalties and Monitoring and Reporting including preparation of an Annual Report. The decisions of the Commission are final and binding.

In News

- Struggling with vacancies, CIC is about to get four new information commissioners. Former chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chief Vanaja N Sarna appointed as Information Commissioner in CIC

53. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation

Titli, Gaja and Phethai Cyclones

- **Option (d) is correct:**
 - **Cyclone Titli:** It brought with itself, strong winds, torrents of rain and a metre high storm surge which inundated the coastal areas. While the IMD said it was because of their warnings that the loss could be minimized, cyclone Titli and the ensuing flood caused more devastation in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh than expected.
 - **Cyclone Gaja :** Severe Cyclonic Storm Gaja was the fifth named cyclone of the 2018 North Indian Ocean cyclone season, after cyclones **Sagar, Mekunu, Luban and Titli**. The system crossed through Southern Thailand and the Malay Peninsula and eventually crossed into the Andaman Sea.
 - **Cyclone Phethai:** recently hit the coasts of Andhra Pradesh.

54. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation

State Startup Ranking Report

- **Option (d) is correct:** The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) announced results of the first ever States' Start-up Ranking 2018 at an event in New Delhi recently.

| Category | State/States |
|------------------|--|
| Best Performer | Gujarat |
| Top Performers | Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and Rajasthan |
| Leaders | Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana |
| Aspiring Leaders | Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal |
| Emerging States | Assam, Delhi, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand |
| Beginners | Chandigarh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tripura |
| Champions | Fifty-one officers from States and Union Territories have been identified as "Champions", who have made significant contributions towards developing their State's Start-up ecosystem. |

Identification

States have been identified as leaders across various categories such as Start-up policy leaders, incubation hubs, seeding innovation, scaling innovation, regulatory change champions, procurement leaders, communication champions, North-Eastern leader, and hill state leader. On the basis of performance in these categories, the States have been recognised as the Best Performer, Top Performers, Leaders, Aspiring Leaders, Emerging States and Beginners, as follows:

Motive behind the Ranking

- The key objective of the exercise was to encourage States and Union Territories to take proactive steps towards strengthening the Start-up ecosystems in their states. The methodology has been aimed at creating a healthy competition among States to further learn, share and adopt good practices.
- The entire exercise was conducted for capacity development and to further the spirit of cooperative federalism.

55. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

Consumer Protection Bill 2018

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bill replaces the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The Bill enforces consumer rights, and provides a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defect in goods and deficiency in services.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions will be set up at the District, State and National levels for adjudicating consumer complaints. Appeals from the District and State Commissions will be heard at the next level and from the National Commission by the Supreme Court. The bill also has provisions for the creation of Central Consumer Protection Authority as a regulatory body. While NCDRC will adjudicate the matter between the parties, CCPA will look into the implementation aspects of the consumer related rules and regulation. It aims at promote, protect and enforce consumer rights as a class. It can issue safety notices for goods and services, order refunds, recall goods and rule against misleading advertisements.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Consumer Protection Bill passed by the Lok Sabha will be applicable to whole India after becoming an Act.

In News

- Lok Sabha passed the Consumer Protection Bill 2018, in the winter session of the parliament.

56. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

GST COUNCIL

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Goods & Services Tax Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax. The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one third of the total votes cast, and the votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is chaired by Union Finance Minister

In news

The GST Council reduced tax rate on 23 goods and services, including movie tickets, TV/monitor screens and power banks. It also exempted frozen and preserved vegetables from the levy.

The reduced rates are likely to come into effect from January 1, 2019, finance minister Arun Jaitley told reporters after the 31st meeting of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council in the national capital.

57. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to Madhya Pradesh's Kadaknath chicken. The GI tag will ensure that no one else can use name Kadaknath Chicken while selling any other black chicken.

- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Alphonso from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra, is registered as Geographical Indication (GI). The king of mangoes, Alphonso, better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra, is in demand in domestic and international markets not only for its taste but also for pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour. It has long been one of the world's most popular fruit and is exported to various countries including Japan, Korea and Europe. New markets such as USA and Australia have recently opened up.

- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** The GI-tagged Pokkali is a saltwater-tolerant paddy grown in the coastal fields of Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts. Endemic to central Kerala, the variety is now grown in only over 5,000 hectares, a drop from over 25,000 hectares a few decades ago, due to high labour cost and poor returns. The single-season paddy is raised in saltwater fields between June and November followed by a season of fish-farming. After the harvest, the paddy stubble in the fields acts as food and shelter for shrimp and small fish. Fish excreta and scales, along with the decomposed stubble, provide excellent natural manure for another season of Pokkali.

58. Correct option: (a)

Explanation

Multi Layered Packaging

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As per the CPCB, "multi layered packaging" means any material used or to be used for packaging and having at least one layer of plastic as the main ingredients in combination with one or more layers of materials such as paper, paper board, polymeric materials, metalized layers or aluminium foil, either in the form of a laminate or co-extruded structure.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** MLP, which is used in everything from tetrapacks to wafer bags and shampoo sachets and generates about 0.6 million tonnes of waste annually, cannot be recycled easily. For now, it is also irreplaceable, because the multiple layers of paper, plastic and aluminium in it are the only way to keep perishable foods and pharmaceuticals fresh for months at a time.

In news:

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018

Important Highlights:

- The Plastic Waste Management Rules, which were notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in March 2016, have now been amended and shall be called Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018.
- The phasing out of Multi-layered Plastic (MLP) is now applicable only to MLP that are "non-recyclable or non-energy recoverable or have no alternate use".
- MLP is most widely used in food packing Industries.
- The amended Rules prescribe a central registration system for the registration of the producer/importer/brand owner.
- The system will be evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- National registry has been prescribed for producers with presence in more than two states.
- A state-level registration has been prescribed for smaller producers/brand owners operating within one or two states.
- Any mechanism for the registration should be automated.

59. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Agni-IV missile

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Agni-IV surface to surface missile is a two-stage solid propellant missile with a length of 20.0 m and a launch weight of 17,000 kg. Reports suggest that the Agni-4 can be fitted with a 20 or 45 kT nuclear warhead, or a 200-300 kT fusion warhead.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Agni-IV has the range of 4000km. With this range, Chinese cities such as Beijing and Shanghai come within the range of the Agni-IV even if the missile is sited in Uttar Pradesh or Bihar.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Agni-IV missile is equipped with advanced Avionics,

5th generation On Board Computer and distributed architecture. It has the latest features to correct and guide itself for in-flight disturbances. The accurate Ring Laser Gyro-based Inertial Navigation System (RINS), supported by highly reliable redundant Micro Navigation System (MINGS), ensures the vehicle reaches the target with accuracy.

In news

- the December 23 2018 test of the Agni-IV ballistic missile is the latest in a series of missile tests aimed at ensuring the credibility of India's land-based nuclear deterrence while simultaneously providing useful training to the Strategic Forces Command which is inducting the missiles.

60. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

Angel Tax

- **Option (c) is Correct:** Angel Tax is a 30% tax that is levied on the funding received by start-ups from an external investor.
- Dreaded by most early-stage entrepreneurs, the issue of Angel Tax has come back to haunt them. Over the past few weeks, several start-ups have reportedly been receiving notices from the I-T department asking them to clear taxes on the angel funding they raised, and in some cases, levying a penalty for not paying Angel Tax.
- However, this is not the first time that this issue has come up. Start-ups have been raising the issue of Angel Tax for years, requesting the government to do away with it. Even when the union budget was announced last year, start-ups were hoping for the abolishment of Angel Tax.

61. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation

Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Indian Navy joined a select group of naval forces in the world on when it inducted its first non-tethered Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) system at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. The DSRV is used to rescue crew members from submarines

stranded under water in the high seas. **The DSRV can be operated at a depth of 650 meters and can hold around 15 people.** The Indian Navy in March 2016 had commissioned two DSRVs, the second will be deployed at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam.

- **Statement 2 and 3 are correct:** The DSRV can be transported by air, enabling it to conduct rescue operations across the globe. The flyaway Deep Sea Submarine Rescue System can be operated in very rough conditions with wave height of 4 to 6 metres. It has total capacity of 17 passengers and can rescue 14 persons at a time.

62. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

National Statistical Commission

- **Statement 1 and 2 are incorrect:** The Government of India through a resolution dated 1st June, 2005 set up the National Statistical Commission (NSC). The setting up of the NSC followed the decision of the Cabinet to accept the **recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission**, which reviewed the Indian Statistical System in 2001.
- The NSC was constituted with effect from 12th July 2006 with a mandate to evolve policies, priorities and standards in statistical matters. The NSC has four Members besides a Chairperson, each having specialization and experience in specified statistical fields.

In News:

- Government has recently brought out a back series data on GDP growth which claims that India has never achieved a double digit growth in real terms in past decade or so.
- The National Statistical Commission (NSC) constituted a Committee on Real Sector Statistics under the Chairmanship of **Sudipto Mundle in April, 2017 for improvement and modernisation of real sector database.** The Committee submitted its report to the NSC in July, 2018. Chapter V of the report discusses alternative approaches for converting the old GDP series to the new base year 2011-12.

63. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation

Prompt Corrective Action

- **Option (d) is correct:** Presently, 12 banks are under PCA, out of which 11 are public sector banks and 1 is private bank.
- As the financial health of banks had deteriorated over the last three years, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the norms for prompt corrective action early last month, and has promptly imposed those norms on a couple of public sector lenders.

64. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation

Species on the verge of extinction

- **Hawksbills** Turtle are a critically endangered species due mostly to human impact. Hawksbill eggs are still eaten around the world despite the turtle's international protected status, and they are often killed for their flesh and their stunning shells.
- The **Amur leopard** is a leopard subspecies native to the Primorye region of southeastern Russia and northern China. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. In 2007, only 19–26 wild leopards were estimated to survive in southeastern Russia and northeastern China
- **Giant Otter:** Found only in South America, Giant otters, or *Pteronurabraziliensis*, are the largest otters in the world, with some as long as 6 feet. They are also the rarest otters in the world, with only a few thousand believed to be surviving in the wild. Sometimes known as the "river wolf," their fur is chocolatey brown and extremely soft. They also have a creamy white patch on their throat that is unique to each Otter.
- **White rumped vulture:** One of three critically endangered species of vulture, the white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) has suffered what the IUCN classifies as a "catastrophic decline" across the Indian subcontinent, to the point that it is highly threatened with extinction. Over 99% of its population has been wiped out since the 1980s, making it the fastest decline of any bird species in recorded history, according to Mother Nature Network.

65. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

Global Gender Gap Report

- **Option (c) is correct:** The Global Gender Gap Report benchmarks 149 countries on their progress towards gender parity across four thematic dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. In addition, this year's edition studies skills gender gaps related to Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- It is published annually by the **World Economic Forum** since 2006. Global gender gap index is a part of this which measures gender equality across four pillars— they are economic opportunity, political empowerment, educational attainment and health and survival.

In news:

WEF recently released Global Gender Gap Index.

66. Correct Option: (d)

Explanations:

Dam Safety Bill 2018

- **Statement 1 is correct:** This bill aims to provide for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of specified dams across the country. The Bill also provides for the institutional mechanism to ensure the safety of the dams.

Features of the Dam Safety Bill 2018

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Bill applies to all specified dams. The specifications of dam for which the bill is applicable are
- Height more than 15 metres, or
- Height between 10 metres to 15 metres and subject to certain additional design and structural conditions.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The bill provides for setting up of a National Committee on Dam Safety. The National Committee on Dam Safety would be chaired by the Chairperson, Central Water Commission. The other members of the committee would be nominated by the central government, and include up to 10 representatives of the central government, up to seven representatives of the state

governments (by rotation), and up to three dam safety experts.

- The National Committee on Dam Safety would be entrusted with formulating policies and regulations regarding dam safety standards and prevention of dam failures, and analysing causes of major dam failures and suggesting changes in dam safety practices.
- The bill provides for a National Dam Safety Authority headed by an officer not below the rank of an Additional Secretary who will be appointed by the central government.
- The bill also provides for the establishment of State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs) by the state governments. The bill states that dams situated in a state will fall under the jurisdiction of that state's SDSO.
- The bill lists the cases in which the National Dam Safety Authority will act as the SDSO. It includes:
- Wherein the dam is owned by one state but situated in another state.
- Wherein the dam extends over multiple states.
- Wherein the dam is owned by a central public sector undertaking.

Why Tamil Nadu and Odisha opposed the Bill?

- The governments of Tamil Nadu and Odisha have been opposing the bill. The concerns against the bill are:
- **Statement 3 is correct** The bill compromises the rights of States like Tamil Nadu on the issues of control and maintenance of dams located in neighbouring States since the National Dam Safety Authority would act as Dam safety organisation for the dams like Mullaiperiyar, Parambikulam, Thunakkadavu and Peruvuripallam dams which are owned and operated by Tamil Nadu but are located in different states.
- The State Governments also argue that the bill violates the federal political system as the subject comes under the purview of State governments and not in the purview of the Lok Sabha or Parliament.

In News:

- The Dam Safety Bill, 2018 has been introduced in Lok Sabha in December, 2018.

67. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** CERF was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005 as the United Nations global emergency response fund.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** CERF enables humanitarian responders to deliver life-saving assistance whenever and wherever crises strike.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** NGOs cannot directly receive funds from CERF, although they are actively involved in the process. NGOs may prioritize and recommend sectors, geographical areas, or projects to be included in the CERF request. NGOs also often serve as implementing partners for CERF-funded projects.

68. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation

Global Nutrition Report

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

comprises high-level members of government, donor organisations, civil society, multilateral organisations and the business sector. The Stakeholder Group also provides strategic leadership and builds support for the Global Nutrition Report.

- The Report Secretariat supports the Independent Expert Group in developing the report, through data analysis, research and coordination functions. It also leads the production, communication and dissemination of the report. Development Initiatives was awarded this role for 2018 to 2021.

In news:

Global Nutrition Report 2018

69. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Hodeida is the fourth largest city of Yemen. It is in the news due to its takeover by the rebel forces of the Yemen. The city has been ravaged by the continuous fighting between Yemen government supported by Saudi Arabia and the rebel forces Supported by Iran. Yemen is facing one of the bloodiest crises of the recent time due to ongoing fight and civil war.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Sentosa Island is in Singapore. It was in news recently because President Trump of United States and Kim Jong Yun of North Korea met on this island. The meeting was historic as it formally concluded the Korea war which was going on since 1950s
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Katowice is a city in southern Poland. It is in news because COP-24 regarding climate change has happened in this city. COP-24 is important in the sense that a rule book will be developed and decided for the proper implementation of Paris Agreement of 2015(COP-21).
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Wuhan is a city in central China. It was in news for India-China informal Wuhan Summit. The recent improvements in the relations between the two countries are being credited to the understanding created by the political leadership at Wuhan Summit in March 2018.

70. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement (a) is correct:** Kimberley Process is a binding agreement that imposes extensive requirements on every participant to remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain. It is underpinned by the United Nations mandate. Since August 2013, it has 54 participants, representing 81 countries. Today, participants actively prevent 99.8% of the worldwide trade of conflict diamonds.
- **Statement (b) is correct:** India is the founding member of KPCS. KPCS safeguards the shipment of 'rough diamonds' and certifies them as conflict free.
- **Statement (c) is incorrect:** It is a binding agreement.
- The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) Plenary 2018, was held in Brussels, Belgium. EU handed over the Chairmanship of KPCS to India from 1st January, 2019. India was the Vice-Chair during the period of 2017-2018. Botswana and the Russian Federation will serve as Vice-Chair during the period of 2019-2020.

71. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is one of the geo-engineering techniques being considered by scientists to cut the rate of temperature change in half.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI)** could limit rising temperatures that are causing climate change.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** SAI involves delivery of precursor sulfide gases such as sulfuric acid, hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) or sulfur dioxide (SO₂) into the stratosphere.

72. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UN cultural agency UNESCO in July 2017 declared the 600-year-old walled city of Ahmedabad

as a world heritage city, the first Indian city to make it to the list.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The walled city of Ahmedabad was founded by Ahmed Shah. It has 26 ASI-protected structures, hundreds of 'pols' that capture the essence of community living and numerous sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi who lived here from 1915 to 1930.
- The historic city has several 'Pur' neighbourhoods forming the entire fortified historic city. These various 'Pur' have its own urban structure which is self-sufficient for the communities, where each 'Pol' once again is a self-sufficient unit.
- In 1984, the first study for conserving heritage structures was carried out. A heritage cell was also set up by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC).

73. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

The Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The objective of GITC was to leverage IT skills among youth with disabilities and also to spread awareness about application of Information and Computer Technology in enhancing the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

Key Facts

- **Statement 2 is correct:** GITC is being held every year in Asia-Pacific region and such events were held in past in countries like South Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam etc.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is **observed every year on December 3** to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development.
- The theme for 2018 is- "**Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality**".

74. Correct Option : (c)

Explanation:

Conference of Parties (COP-24)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty, entered into force on 21 March 1994. Now, it has near-universal membership. The UNFCCC has 197 parties as of December 2015.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Aim of the UNFCCC is to prevent 'dangerous' human interference with the climate system
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is held at **Katowice, Poland**.
- COP24 is the informal name for the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The COP takes decisions to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention and regularly reviews the implementation of these provisions.

75. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

International Whaling Commission

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is the global body charged with the conservation of whales and the management of whaling. The IWC currently has 89 member governments from countries all over the world. **All members are signatories to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. This Convention is the legal framework which established the IWC in 1946.**
- The IWC is responsible for setting catch limits for commercial whaling (with the exception of catches set by countries under objection or reservation to the current moratorium - see below). The Commission receives advice on sustainability from its Scientific Committee and this assists it in deciding catch limits, which are then set out in a document called the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946).

- In 1982 the IWC decided that there should be a pause in commercial whaling on all whale species and populations (known as 'whale stocks') from the 1985/1986 season onwards. This pause is often referred to as the commercial whaling moratorium, and it remains in place today.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 2018 Commission meeting of the IWC was held in Florianopolis, Brazil. Kenya will host the commission meeting in 2019.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India is a member of International Whaling Commission.

In news

- Japan is withdrawing from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and will resume commercial whaling next year, in a move expected to spark international criticism. The announcement had been widely expected and comes after Japan failed in a bid earlier this year to convince the IWC to allow it to resume commercial whaling.

76. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

Global Compact for Migration

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The global compact for migration is the first, inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In September 2016 the General Assembly decided, through the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, to develop a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The process to develop this global compact started in April 2017. The pages in this section detail 18 months of consultation and negotiation, and provide the relevant documentation for each of the events. On 13 July 2018 UN Member States finalized the text for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was held on 10 – 11 December in Marrakech, Morocco.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Global Compact for Migration is the first-ever

UN global agreement on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions. The global compact is non-legally binding. It is grounded in values of state sovereignty, responsibility-sharing, non-discrimination, and human rights, and recognizes that a cooperative approach is needed to optimize the overall benefits of migration, while addressing its risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

77. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

OPEC and GCC

- **Option (a) is correct:** Among the options given, **Saudi Arabia** is the only country which is the part of both the organizations. Qatar too was part of both the organization till recently it withdrew from the OPEC. While as Bahrain and Oman are part of Gulf Cooperation Council and were never a part of OPEC.

OPEC

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- The five Founding Members were later joined by ten other Members:
- Recently Qatar has left the organization due to its constrained relations with Saudi Kingdom. OPEC had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first five years of its existence. This was moved to Vienna, Austria, on September 1, 1965.

GCC

- The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf known as the Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf except Iraq.
- Its member states are **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates**. The Charter of the Gulf Cooperation Council was signed on 25 May 1981, formally establishing the institution.

In News:

- Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's decision to stay away from the December 9 Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Riyadh is the latest reminder of the growing disunity among the Gulf countries.

78. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Surrogacy Bill 2016

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy, and allows altruistic surrogacy. Altruistic surrogacy does not involve any monetary compensation to the surrogate mother other than the medical expenses and insurance coverage during the pregnancy. Commercial surrogacy includes surrogacy or its related procedures undertaken for a monetary benefit or reward (in cash or kind) exceeding basic medical expenses and insurance coverage.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The foreign couples have been completely banned from having surrogate children from India. As per the bill, couples are supposed to have certificate of essentiality and certificate of eligibility. A certificate of essentiality will be issued to the intending couple upon fulfilment of the following conditions: (i) a certificate of proven infertility of either or both of them; (ii) an order of parentage and custody of the surrogate child passed by a Magistrate's court; and (iii) insurance coverage for the surrogate mother.
- The certificate of eligibility to the intending couple is issued upon the fulfilment of the following conditions: (i) the couple being Indian citizens and married for at least five years; (ii) between 23 to 50 years old (wife) and 26 to 55 years old (husband); (iii) they do not have any surviving child (biological, adopted or surrogate), except if the child is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from a life threatening disorder; and (iv) such other conditions that may be specified through regulations.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The bill states that an Indian infertile couple, married for five years or more, can go in for altruistic surrogacy where surrogate mother will not be paid any compensation except medical expenses and insurance.

In news

The Lok Sabha has passed a Bill banning commercial surrogacy with penal provisions of jail term of up to 10 years and fine of up to 10 lakh.

79. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- Credit flow has been picking up in the last year with the share of
 - **Services ~ 50 %**
 - **Industry ~ 10%.**
 - **Retail ~ 30%**
 - **Agriculture ~ 10%**

Important:

- Between October 2013 and October 2018, total bank credit growth has expanded at 9% a year. But retail loans have galloped at 17% a year in the same period. Loans to services have grown at 12% and those to agriculture at 11%.

80. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

- The objective of launching RCEP negotiations is to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's FTA partners. The RCEP negotiations commenced in early 2013
- **Option (b) is correct:** Countries in East Asia region have thriving trade and economic relations with each other through free trade agreements. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has free trade agreements with six partners namely People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Japan, India as well as Australia and New Zealand (AANZFTA).
- The RCEP negotiation includes: trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property, competition, dispute settlement, e-commerce, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and other issues

81. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

GSAT-7A

- **Option (c) is correct:** Military communication satellite GSAT-7A, is expected to add a new space-based dimension to the way **Indian Air Force** interlinks, operates and communicates with its aircraft.
- Although all Indian communication satellites offer capacity to armed forces, GSAT -7A would be the first one built primarily for the IAF to qualitatively unify its assets and improve combined, common intelligence during operations. It will also support aerial activities of the Army and the Navy where required. About 70% of it would be for the Air Force and the rest for the needs of the Army.
- This is the 13th flight of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).
- It is also the 35th Indian Communication satellite.
- The satellite is built to provide communication capability to users in ku-band over the Indian region.
- Ku-band will enable superficial real time aircraft to aircraft communication.

82. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Electronic- National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. It does not include the agro industries based goods rather include agricultural commodities such as fruits, vegetables, food grains, spices.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** eNAM aims at promoting uniformity in agriculture marketing by streamlining of procedures across the integrated markets, removing information asymmetry between buyers and sellers and promoting real time price discovery based on actual demand and supply. It is designed to create unified national market for agricultural

commodities. Its objective is to provide competitive and remunerative price to farmers for their produce through online competitive and transparent bidding process.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.
- SFAC is an exclusive Society focused on increasing incomes of small and marginal farmers through aggregation and development of agribusiness.

83. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Nikshay Poshan Yojana

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** it is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme for nutritional support to Tuberculosis (TB) patients rolled out in April 2018. The scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme under National Health Mission (NHM). Financial norms of NHM in terms of cost sharing, are applicable to the scheme.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It has nothing to do with Poshan Mission which is an initiative of Ministry of women and Child Development. On the other hand NikshayPoshanYojana is launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for all the TB patients of the country.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** This scheme is implemented across all States and UTs in India. All TB patients notified on or after 1st April 2018 including all existing TB patients under treatment are eligible to receive incentives. The patient must be registered/notified on the NIKSHAY portal.
- Benefits of the scheme

In news:

The direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme for nutritional support to Tuberculosis (TB) patients — Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) — rolled out from April 2018 has recorded slow progress in the last eight months. Of the 18 lakh registered TB patients across the country, only 4.69 lakh, barely 26% of the beneficiary pool, have received cash transfer so far.

84. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** The Copenhagen Accord established during the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-15) in Copenhagen mentioned the "Copenhagen Green Climate Fund". The fund was formally established during the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun as a fund within the UNFCCC framework. Its governing instrument was adopted at the 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 17) in Durban, South Africa.
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a new global fund created to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change. GCF helps developing countries limit or reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change. It seeks to promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development, taking into accounts the needs of nations that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.
- When the Paris Agreement was reached in 2015, the Green Climate Fund was given an important role in serving the agreement and supporting the goal of keeping climate change well below 2 degrees Celsius.
- Responding to the climate challenge requires collective action from all countries, including by both public and private sectors. Among these concerted efforts, advanced economies have agreed to jointly mobilize significant financial resources. Coming from a variety of sources, these resources address the pressing mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** At COP19 (November 2013) in Warsaw, Poland, the COP established the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Loss and Damage Mechanism), to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of these long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.
- The Paris Agreement requests each country to outline and communicate their post-2020 climate actions, known as their NDCs.
- Together, these climate actions determine whether the world achieves the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as soon as possible and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs in the second half of this century.

In news:

- At the 24th United Nations Conference of Parties (COP-24) in Katowice 2018, Poland, Key questions on whether developed countries would come good on earlier commitments to make available 100 billion per year from 2020, to support developing countries.

85. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation

Methanol

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Methanol, the simplest single carbon compound can serve as the best alternative fuel for India. It is a highly efficient fuel, can be blended with gasoline/diesel, **emits lesser NO_x, PM, no SO_x** and can be further converted to Dimethyl ether (DME) which is a clean diesel alternative and can be blended with LPG as well. Emissions from methanol powered vehicles are quite less at the consumption end, however, the well-to-

wheel emissions for methanol produced from coal is quite high i.e. 190 grams of CO₂e/MJ of fuel in comparison with gasoline/diesel run vehicles for which the number is in the range of 95-100. But, the well-to-wheel emissions for coal to methanol production can be reduced to 85 grams CO₂e/MJ of fuel if carbon capture and storage (CCS) equipment or cogeneration plant for electricity generation is used alongside a coal to methanol plant.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Methanol is safer than other cooking fuels such as LPG because of low flammability, therefore a viable alternative for cooking fuel in households. Three low hanging fruits can be achieved if India aggressively moves towards methanol:
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India has a target of 10% reduction in oil and gas import dependence by 2022 from 2014-2015 levels. The use of Methanol can be viable option to achieve the target; however it will not drastically reduce the oil imports as of now. Besides, the potential source for the production of Methanol is coal and technology to produce methanol from coal is still be harnessed in India.

In news:

- Niti Aayog has proposed a move to transform the way food is prepared in India, reducing the massive import bill and worsening pollution.
- The Aayog has prepared a comprehensive plan advocating adoption of methanol as the preferred cooking fuel in households as well as commercially. It's a cleaner fuel and will reduce dependence on imported gas too, said people aware of the matter.
- A plant each would be set up in Bengaluru and Assam for manufacturing methanol cooking stoves based on a technology sourced from Sweden. Larger stoves for commercial use will be imported till technology is developed locally.

86. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

Graphene

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Graphene is the thinnest compound known to man at one atom thick, the lightest material known (with 1 square meter weighing around

0.77 milligrams), the strongest compound discovered **the best conductor of heat at room temperature** and also **the best conductor of electricity known**.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Graphene is also being used to boost not only the capacity and charge rate of batteries but also the longevity. Currently, while such materials as silicone are able to store large amounts of energy, that potential amount diminishes drastically on every charge or recharge. With graphene tin oxide being used as an anode in lithium ion batteries for example, batteries can be made to last much longer between charges (potential capacity has increased by a factor of 10), and with almost no reduction in storage capacity between charges, effectively making technology such as electronically powered vehicles a much more viable transport solution in the future. This means that batteries (or capacitors) can be developed to last much longer and at higher capacities than previously realised. Also, it means that electronic devices may be able to be charged within seconds, rather than minute or hours and have hugely improved longevity.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Graphene is highly inert and so can act as a corrosion barrier between oxygen and water diffusion. This could mean that future vehicles could be made to be corrosion resistant as graphene can be made to be grown onto any metal surface (given the right conditions). Due to its strength, graphene is also currently being developed as a potential replacement for Kevlar in protective clothing, and will eventually be seen in vehicle manufacture and possibly even used as a building material.

In news:

- Scientists have found a potential new application of graphene for detecting Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) — a progressive brain disorder for which there is currently "no objective diagnostic test."

87. Correct Option: (d)

Explanations:

Defence commands

- **Statement 1 is correct:**

Commands of Indian Army

| Command | HQs |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Western Command | Chandimandir |
| 2. Eastern Command | Kolkata |
| 3. Northern Command | Udhampur |
| 4. Southern Command | Pune |
| 5. Central Command | Lucknow |
| 6. Army Training Command | Shimla |
| 7. South-Western Command | Jaipur |

Commands of Indian Air Force

| Command | HQs |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Western Air Command | Delhi |
| 2. South-Western Air Command | Gandhinagar |
| 3. Central Air Command | Allahabad |
| 4. Eastern Air Command | Shillong |
| 5. Southern Air Command | Thiruvananthapuram |
| 6. Training Command | Bengaluru |
| 7. Maintenance Command | Nagpur |

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Andaman and Nicobar Command is the only Tri-service theatre command of the Indian Armed Forces, based at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a Union Territory of India. It was created in 2001 to safeguard India's strategic interests in Southeast Asia and the Strait of Malacca by increasing rapid deployment of military assets in the region.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India's nuclear command and control system was placed under a new Strategic Forces Command (SFC) structure by June 2002. As recommended by the **Arun Singh Committee**, an army strategic rocket command (ASRC) to handle surface-based nuclear weapons was also formed.
- Strategic Forces Command (SFC), also sometimes known as Strategic Nuclear

Command, forms part of India's nuclear National Command Authority (NCA) which is responsible for command and control decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons program).

88. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Information Fusion Centre

- **Option (b) is correct:** The Navy will formally inaugurate the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) in December 2018.
- Through this Centre, information on "white shipping", or commercial shipping, will be exchanged with countries in the region to improve maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean.
- The IFC-IOR is established with the vision of strengthening maritime security in the region and beyond, by building a common coherent maritime situation picture and acting as a maritime information hub for the region.
- The IFC has been established at the Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram, which is the single point centre linking all the coastal radar chains to generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500-km coastline.
- All countries that have already signed white shipping information exchange agreements with India about 21 of them are IFC partners.
- Against this backdrop, information exchange at the Centre would be initially undertaken by virtual means, telephone calls, faxes, e-mails and video conferencing. Subsequently, to enable better interconnection, quicker analysis of information and timely inputs, the IFC-IOR would host liaison officers from foreign countries.
- Additionally, the Centre would undertake conduct of exercises and training capsules in maritime information collection and sharing.

89. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Trans-Fats

- **Statement 1 is correct:** There are two broad types of trans-fats found in foods:

naturally-occurring and artificial trans-fats. Naturally-occurring trans-fats are produced in the gut of some animals and foods made from these animals (e.g., milk and meat products) may contain small quantities of these fats. Artificial trans-fats (or trans-fatty acids) are created in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Trans fats raise your bad (LDL) cholesterol levels and lower your good (HDL) cholesterol levels. Eating trans fats increases risk of developing heart disease and stroke. It's also associated with a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently launched a new mass media campaign in order to create awareness about trans fats and eliminate them in India by 2022.

About the campaign:

- "Heart Attack Rewind", a 30-second public service announcement, will be broadcast in 17 languages for a period of four weeks on YouTube, Facebook, Hotstar, and Voot.
- It will also be placed on outdoor hoardings and run on radio stations in Delhi and the National Capital Region.
- The campaign will warn citizens about the health hazards of consuming trans fats and offer strategies to avoid them through healthier alternatives.
- This campaign will concentrate on the demand side (consumers), who in turn, will push the supply side (food manufacturers) to come up with various strategies in order to reduce and later replace trans-fats.
- A guidance book on trans fats was also released during the event.

90. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

- It is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It is the nodal national agency responsible for administering customs, GST, central excise, service tax & narcotics in India.

- Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has been renamed to CBIC in 2018.

91. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Asbestos

- Option (b) is correct:** Asbestos is not a single type of mineral — rather, it refers to a group of silicate minerals that share the same fibrous nature. In business terms, it was common to speak of common “white asbestos” (chrysotile) and the less often used “blue asbestos” (crocidolite) and “brown asbestos” (amosite).
- There are two types of Asbestos:
 - Serpentine asbestos: Chrysotile
 - Amphibole asbestos: Crocidolite, amosite, anthophyllite, tremolite, actinolite
- Microscopic asbestos fibers cannot be seen, smelled or tasted, and asbestos exposure does not cause any immediate symptoms, so it is easy for a person to inhale or swallow asbestos dust without realizing it.
- Once asbestos fibers are in the body, they never dissolve, and the body has extreme difficulty expelling them. Over years of time, trapped asbestos fibers can cause inflammation, scarring and eventually genetic damage to the body’s cells.
- Asbestos-related illnesses often take 20-50 years to develop, which means most cases diagnosed were caused by asbestos exposures that occurred before modern safety regulations came into effect.

92. Correct Option (c)

Explanation:

Global Stocktake

- Option c is correct:** Article 14 of the Paris Agreement requires the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) to periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals. This process is called the global stocktake.
- The global stocktake shall be conducted in a comprehensive and facilitative manner,

considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science. The CMA will undertake the first global stocktake in 2023 and every five years thereafter, unless otherwise decided by the CMA.

In News:

- India at COP -24 held in Katowice, Poland expressed its strong reservation regarding the treatment of equity in the **Global Stocktake decision**.
- Equity is specifically mentioned in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement. It is the basic principle of the Convention and the Paris Agreement

93. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Cope India 2018

- Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a joint exercise between **Indian Air Force and US Air Force**. India-US joint military exercise is conducted under the name of ‘YudhAbhyas.’ The last edition of this exercise took place in Uttarakhand in September 2018.
- Statement 2 is incorrect:** It took place for the first time in 2004 as a fighter training exercise at Air Force Station Gwalior. Similar exercises were held in 2005, 2006 and 2009 but the latest exercise was restarted after 10 years.

94. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018

- Option (b) is correct:** United Nation Environment has awarded Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) **with Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018 for excellent work done by the Bureau in combating trans-boundary environmental crimes**. The award was decided upon by a selection panel set up by the UN Environment and this is the second time in a row that the award is being given by to India.
- This is the third time the awards will be given, and this year’s awards will be given to recipients who demonstrate excellence and leadership in trans-boundary crimes.

- The 2018 Awards will be given by **UN Environment in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL, USAID, Freeland Foundation, and the Government of Sweden.**

95. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Digital Sky Platform

- Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS), popularly referred to as drones, are a technology platform with wide-ranging applications.
- In August 2018, India had announced the release of its Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) to enable safe flying of RPAS in India. The CAR detailed the obligations of operators, remote pilots/ users and manufacturers/ OEM for safe operations of RPAS and co-operative use of airspace.
- It also announced Digital Sky Platform, a first of its kind that implements 'no permission, no take-off' (NPNT) – a novel system of software-based self-enforcement to minimize deviations from the CAR.
- Nano drones in India can start flying legally from today. For micro and above categories, operators and pilots are required to register on the Digital Sky Portal.

96. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

Development Impact Bonds

- A group of global philanthropic foundations, including UBS Optimus Foundation, British Asian Trust, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, and Tata Trust announced a '**Development Impact Bond**' (DIB) worth \$11 million.
- To be known as **Quality Education India**, it is an innovative education financing model based on measurable outcome rather than the present input model of social financing that does not bother about result.
- It is expected to improve education outcome of 300,000 students in Delhi and Gujarat.

- It is projected to be the largest education DIB in the world.

97. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

Sunspots

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Sunspots are **temporary phenomena** on the Sun's photosphere that appear as spots darker than the surrounding areas. They are regions of reduced surface temperature caused by concentrations of magnetic field flux that inhibit convection. Sunspots usually appear in pairs of opposite magnetic polarity.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sunspots are **correlated with climate on earth**. A lot of the research in this area focuses on predicting the way the next sunspot cycle will shape up – whether the sun will be extremely active and produce many sunspots or not.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Sunspots events **effect the space weather**. This refers to the effect of radiation, particle flux and magnetic flux in the region around the sun. During extreme events, space weather **can affect electronics-driven satellite controls, communications systems**, air traffic over polar routes and even power grids.

In News:

- A team of **researchers from IISER Kolkata have developed a way of predicting the intensity of activity in the next solar cycle** (approximately from 2020 to 2031) using data spread over the last 100 years.

98. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

Clean Sea- 2018

- Clean Sea- 2018 is a **Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise conducted by Indian Coast Guard** (ICG) recently at sea off Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&B) Islands.
- The objective of exercise was to ascertain preparedness of IGC, resource agencies and other stakeholders in **responding to major oil spill** in line with provisions of National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP).

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) under Ministry of Defence is responsible for marine environment protection in maritime zones of India and is coordinating authority for response to oil spills in Indian waters.
- It has drawn up **National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan** (NOS-DCP) and has established three pollution response centres at Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair.

99. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and Government of India is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India. Its headquarter is located at FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi 110002 and also has six zonal offices, four sub zonal offices, thirteen Port offices and seven laboratories spread across the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** CDSCO has nothing to do with price supervision of essential drugs. The drug prices in India are controlled using what is called the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO). The DPCO is an order issued by the government under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowering it to fix and regulate the prices of essential bulk drugs and their formulations. **NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority), Controls and regulates the prices of Pharmaceutical drugs in India**, it has limited authority to fix, review and justify pharmaceutical prices under the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), 1995. The organization is also entrusted with the task of recovering amounts overcharged by manufacturers for the controlled drugs

from the consumers. It also monitors the prices of decontrolled drugs in order to keep them at reasonable levels.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, CDSCO is responsible for **approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs** in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

In news:

CDSCO has approved more than 1000 Fixed Dose Combination drugs in the recent past, which is point of worry given the quality of FDCs.

100. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation

Rythhu Bandhu Scheme

- **Statement 1 is correct:** State of Telangana is implementing Rythu Bandhu Scheme for its Farmers. It is Cash transfer scheme in which farmers will get stipend for purchasing inputs for farming.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The aim of the scheme is to prevent farmers from getting debt trapped which ultimately force them to suicide. It is not based on price support of crop insurance, rather direct intervention through money transfer for the input costs of the produce. However the cash will be given based on the size of the land therefore will help farmers with large landholding than those having less or no land of their own.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The scheme covers both agriculture and horticulture crops and the scheme has commenced with the Kharif season of 2018.
