

## Current Affairs Questions (Mach 2020)

### March 02

1) Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated on

- a) 2nd April
- b) 2nd March
- c) 1st March
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c**

• On Zero Discrimination Day, 1 March, we celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life—and live it with dignity. Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change.

2) Which among the following is not a migratory species of India?

- a) Asian elephant
- b) Great Indian bustard
- c) Bengal florican
- d) None of the above

**Answer: d**

• ZSI's list had 451 species of migratory animals found in India, recently six species has been added which are as follows: Asian elephant, Great Indian bustard, Bengal florican, Oceanic white-tip shark, Urial hammerhead shark & Smooth hammerhead shark.

3) Merkel Cell Polyoma Virus, recently seen in news, is a type of

- a) Cancer
- b) Coronavirus
- c) Polio variant
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

• Merkel cell carcinoma is a rare and aggressive type of skin cancer. Merkel cell carcinoma is a rare and aggressive type of skin cancer.

• A team from National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, has developed a diagnostic system to detect the presence of Merkel cell polyomavirus in Merkel cell carcinoma tumours. Merkel cell carcinoma is a rare and aggressive type of skin cancer. The researchers have developed a test using the CRISPR-CAS12 technology that can identify the virus in the tumour and give off a fluorescence to indicate the presence of the virus. This is an important development, both, from the point of view of diagnostics and giving a prognosis for the condition.

4) Sonbhadra Gold Mines, recently discovered by Geographical Survey of India (GSI), is located in

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Karnataka

- c) Bihar
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- Geographical Survey of India (GSI) provided estimates for the amount of gold that can be extracted from a site in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.

5) As per World Air Quality Report 2019, which of the following country is most polluted country for PM 2.5?

- a) China
- b) India
- c) USA
- d) Bangladesh

**Answer: d**

- World Air Quality Report 2019 was released by the pollution tracker IQAir and Greenpeace. The ranking is based on a comparison of PM 2.5 levels. Bangladesh emerged as the most polluted country for PM 2.5. Pakistan, Mongolia, Afghanistan and India followed behind respectively.

### **Mar 03**

1) The legal limit that a Lok Sabha candidate can spend towards election purpose is

- a) 50 lakhs
- b) 70 lakhs
- c) 10 crores
- d) 30 crores

**Answer: b**

- The Election Commission has informed the Government that it is not in favour of state funding of elections.
- While the legal limit that a Lok Sabha candidate can spend is ₹70 lakh, a victorious candidate on an average does not spend less than ₹10 crore for the purpose. Suppose we assume again an average of five candidates per constituency, and halving the amount to losers, about ₹30 crore will be spent in each Lok Sabha constituency, and given 543 members of the Lok Sabha, about ₹3,300 crore per annum.

2) Which among the following will not happen after a site is declared as World Heritage Site by UNESCO?

- a) driving up demand for travel and tourism
- b) onus on the provincial government for its conservation
- c) once added, the site cannot be deleted from the list
- d) All of the above

**Answer: c**

- ZSI's list had 451 species of migratory animals found in India, recently six species has been added which are as follows: Asian elephant, Great Indian bustard, Bengal florican, Oceanic white-tip shark, Urial hammerhead shark & Smooth hammerhead shark.

3) Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is an attached office of the

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of External Affairs
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- It is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, formed in 1991. It is involved in the regulation and promotion of foreign trade through regulation. It has been assigned the role of a "facilitator". The DGFT also issues scrips/authorization to exporters and monitors their corresponding obligations through its network of regional offices.

4) The government has permitted airlines operating in India to provide in-flight WiFi services to passengers. The technology used for this includes

- a) Terrestrial Internet services
- b) Satellite-based services
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Answer: c**

- In-flight connectivity systems use two kinds of technologies– terrestrial and satellite internet services. Once flight mode is activated, the plane's antenna will link to terrestrial Internet services provided by telecom service providers. Then, when the aircraft has climbed to 3,000 m, the antenna will switch to satellite-based services.

5) Who among the following are not eligible for Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana?

- a) National Pension Scheme applicants
- b) Employees' Provident Fund applicants
- c) Income Tax assesses.
- d) All of the above

**Answer: d**

- All small shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders aged between 18-40 years and with Goods and Service Tax (GST) turnover below Rs.1.5 crore can enrol for pension scheme.
- To be eligible, the applicants should not be covered under the National Pension Scheme, Employees' State Insurance Scheme and the Employees' Provident Fund or be an Income Tax assessee.

## **March 04**

1) What type of body is Lalit Kala Akademi?

- a) Statutory authority
- b) Society
- c) Autonomous body
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- Lalit Kala Akademi, National Academy of Art, New Delhi was set up by the Government of India as an autonomous body, on 5th August, 1954. The Akademi was given statutory authority in 1957, under the Societies Registration Act 1860

- It has a vision that takes care of the traditional art of India as well as of helping artists to imbibe many of the contemporary happenings in the international art scene.

2) K2-18b, recently seen in news, is a

- a) Exoplanet
- b) Asteroids
- c) Comet
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- Recently astronomers have found a potentially habitable exoplanet, which is more than twice the size of Earth.
- The planet, named K2-18b, is located 124 light-years away from Earth and measures 2.6 times the radius and 8.6 times the mass of our planet.
- Because of its size, the K2-18b looks more like a smaller version of Neptune than a larger version of Earth.

3) Psyche Mission, recently seen in news, is a collaboration between

- a) NASA
- b) ESA
- c) SpaceX
- d) Both (a) and (c)

**Answer: d**

- NASA and SpaceX are collaborating for a space mission that involves a journey to a unique metal-rich asteroid called Psyche. Psyche is orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.

4) Recently, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory has developed a bi-luminescent security ink. It is used for

- a) Electoral ink
- b) Currency note ink
- c) Passport ink
- d) Both (b) and (c)

**Answer: d**

- Union minister Harsh Vardhan on Tuesday said that a new security ink has been developed to weed out fake passports and counterfeit currency.
- CSIR-National Physical Laboratory has developed a bi-luminescent security ink.
- The ink glows in red and green colors when illuminated by two different excitation sources at 254 Nano meters (nm) and 365 nm, respectively.
- The ink was prepared in a batch of 1kg and given to Bank Note Press (BNP), a unit of Security Printing Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL), New Delhi.

5) March 3rd, celebrated as World Wildlife Day, is also the day of formation of

- a) CITES
- b) CMS
- c) UNFCCC
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in 2013 passed a resolution to proclaim 3 March, the international day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- The day is being celebrated on the 3rd of March every year to create awareness about the importance of protecting wildlife. The theme for year 2020 is "Sustaining all life on earth".

### **March 05**

1) The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the consolidation of ten Public Sector Banks (PSBs) into four. Among those, Syndicate Bank was amalgamated into

- a) Union Bank of India
- b) Allahabad Bank
- c) Corporation Bank
- d) Canara Bank

**Answer: d**

- Syndicate Bank is one of the oldest and major commercial banks of India. It was founded by T M A Pai, Upendra Pai and Vaman Kudva. ... On 30 August 2019, the Government of India announced the bank would be merged into Canara Bank.

2) Which among the following about virtual currencies (VCs) is not true in India?

- a) RBI prohibited banks from providing services in relation to virtual currencies (VCs).
- b) Supreme Court banned trade in cryptocurrencies
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Answer: b**

- The Supreme Court has set aside an April 6, 2018, circular of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that prohibited banks and entities regulated by it from providing services in relation to virtual currencies (VCs).

3) The government has approved a scheme for the amalgamation of 10 state-owned banks into four. Which among the following is not an effect of mergers?

- a) Improving the professional standards
- b) Reduction in the cost of doing business.
- c) Becomes difficult to meet BASEL III norms
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c**

- It will help in meeting more stringent norms under BASEL III, especially capital adequacy ratio.

4) Swam deer are already extinct in Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is the state animal of

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Haryana
- c) Punjab
- d) Madhya Pradesh.

**Answer: d**

- Hard ground swamp deer is also known as Barasingha or Rucervus duvaucelii, the state animal of Madhya Pradesh. It is seeing a revival in the Kanha National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) after having been perilously close to extinction for a long time.

5) How many Indian institutes/universities are ranked under 50 in Engineering and Technology category in World University Rankings by Subject 2020?

- a) 1
- b) 0
- c) 2
- d) 15

**Answer: c**

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and IIT Delhi have secured 44th and 47th positions respectively in Engineering and Technology category.
- QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) has released the World University Rankings by Subject 2020.

### **March 06**

1) Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is the world's largest nesting beach for Olive Ridley Turtles. Which of the following rivers forms the boundary of it?

- a) Dhamra River
- b) Brahmani river
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) and (b)

**Answer: c**

- Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is a marine wildlife sanctuary located within Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha's Kendrapara district.
- It extends from Dhamra River mouth in the north to Brahmani river mouth in the south.

2) Which among the following is the implementing agency for Solar Charkha Mission?

- a) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
- b) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) not (b)

**Answer: a**

- Solar Charkha Mission is launched in 2018. It is a Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) initiative launched during June 2018. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) would implement the programme.

3) Swap Ratio, recently seen in news, deals with

- a) Share market
- b) Banking
- c) Insurance
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- Swap ratio is the ratio at which an acquiring company will offer its own shares in exchange for the target company's shares during a merger or acquisition. Eight state-owned banks have announced swap ratios for the proposed mergers.

4) MARPOL Convention, recently seen in news, deals with

- a) Free Trade
- b) Marine pollution
- c) Transnational crimes
- d) None of the above

**Answer: b**

- The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1978, is one of the most important international marine environmental conventions.
- The Environment Committee is now seeking public submissions about whether New Zealand should accede to Annex VI: Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships (Annex VI) of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention/MARPOL).

5) Which among the following is the Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park?

- a) Sanjay Gandhi National Park
- b) Chandoli National Park
- c) Bhimragarh National Park
- d) None of the above

**Answer: d**

- Tadoba Andhari tiger reserve (TATR) is located in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state in India. It is Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park.

## **Mach 07**

1) In Indian context, Delimitation Commission is a

- a) Constitutional body
- b) Executive body
- c) Statutory body
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c**

- It is a temporary statutory body constituted under Delimitation Commission Act. Such commissions have been constituted at least four times in India — in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952; in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962; in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and last in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.

2) India was recently accepted as an observer in the Indian Ocean Commission. Which among the following pairs are not members of Indian Ocean Commission?

- a) Comoros and Madagascar,
- b) Mauritius and Réunion
- c) Seychelles and Mauritius
- d) Sri Lanka and Maldives

**Answer: d**

- The COI is composed of five African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles.

3) Operation Vanilla is a support programme by Indian Navy to help the flood affected region of

- a) Nepal
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Madagascar
- d) Mayotte

**Answer: c**

- Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Vanilla' by sending INS Airavat, in support of flood-hit Madagascar in January 2020, which was in line with India's vision of Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR).

4) First-ever five-day Khelo India Winter Games in India is being organised at

- a) Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Darjeeling, West Bengal
- c) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- d) Guwahati, Assam

**Answer: a**

- Union Sports Ministry inaugurated first-ever five-day Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir. It is being organised to promote winter sports in India and to popularise it among the youths of the country.

5) Great Barrier Reef, recently seen in news for coral bleaching, is located in

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Thailand
- c) Australia
- d) Indonesia

**Answer: c**

- The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching for over 2,300 kilometres over an area of approximately 344,400 square kilometres. The reef is located in the Coral Sea, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.
- When a coral bleaches, it does not die but comes pretty close to it. Some of the corals may survive the experience and recover once the sea surface temperature returns to normal levels.
- It is a world heritage site.

## **March 09**

1) Nari Shakti Puraskar was initiated in the year

- a) 2011
- b) 2019
- c) 1999
- d) 1956



Answer: c

- To acknowledge Women's achievements, the Government of India confers Nari Shakti Puraskars on eminent women and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment.
- It was Initiated in the year 1999.

2) With reference to Indian history, Marakkars clan defended India against

- a) British
- b) Dutch
- c) French
- d) Portugese

Answer: d

- Recently, a petition was filed in the Kerala High Court against the film- Marakkar: The Lion of the Arabian Sea, alleging 'distortion of history' and demanding a stay on the release. It is said to be the most expensive Malayalam film ever made.
- The film is based on Kunjali Marakkar IV, who earned his reputation with his fierce onslaught on Portuguese ships, the favours he gave those who fought against the Portuguese, and his efforts to strengthen the fort at Kottakkal.

3) 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25). It deals with

- a) Olympics
- b) Environmental degradation
- c) Women Empowerment
- d) COVID 19 virus

Answer: c

- 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25), the most visionary agenda on women's empowerment to date.

4) The only living member of the genus Ailurus, the Red Panda is listed as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. It is the state animal of

- a) Jammu & Kashmir
- b) West Bengal
- c) Sikkim
- d) Assam

Answer: c

- About 5,000-6,000 red pandas are estimated to be present in four Indian states – Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal. This is the second-largest population after China (6,000-7,000). Nepal accounts for 580 animals, while Bhutan and Mynamar have no estimate of the animal's population.
- It is the state animal of Sikkim.

5) First Gender Social Norms Index was recently released. It was released by

- a) UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- b) World Economic Forum

- c) UN Women
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- The first Gender Social Norms Index was recently released by the UN Development Programme (UNDP).
- This index measures how social beliefs obstruct gender equality in areas like politics, work, and education, and contains data from 75 countries, covering over 80 percent of the world's population.

### **March 10**

1) National level Search and Rescue Exercise and Workshop (Exercise SAREX), recently seen in news, is conducted by:

- a) Indian Navy
- b) Indian Army
- c) CRPF
- d) ICG

**Answer: d**

- National level Search, and Rescue Exercise and Workshop (Exercise SAREX 2020) concluded in the sea at Vasco, Goa. The Exercise was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). It was carried out on 5-7 March.

2) Delimitation commission' has been set up by the Ministry of

- a) Law and Justice
- b) Home
- c) Parliamentary Affairs
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- Recently a 'delimitation commission' has been set up by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

3) Which among the following statement is incorrect about Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)?

- a) It is a viral disease
- b) It is endemic to south India
- c) It is tick borne
- d) None of the above

**Answer: d**

- Kyasanur forest disease (KFD) is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever endemic to South India. The disease is caused by a virus belonging to the family Flaviviridae, which also includes yellow fever and dengue fever, which are transmitted by monkeys.

4) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organization established under

- a) Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974
- b) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- c) Environmental Protection Act, 1986
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF). It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The CPCB is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

5) Freedom in the World 2020 report is released by

- a) WEF
- b) UNDP
- c) UNHRC
- d) None of the above

**Answer: d**

- It is released by Freedom House, a US-based watchdog. India's overall score declined from 75 in 2019 to 71 in 2020.

### **March 11**

1) World Climate and Security report is released by

- a) IPCC
- b) UNEP
- c) UNFCCC
- d) None of the above

**Answer: d**

- International Military Council on Climate and Security (IMCCS) is a group of senior military leaders and security institutions across the globe dedicated to addressing the security risks of a changing climate. It publishes the World Climate and Security report.

2) Gaur (*Bos gaurus*), also called the Indian bison, is extinct in Sri Lanka and probably also in Bangladesh. IUCN has listed it as

- a) Extinct
- b) Vulnerable
- c) Critically endangered
- d) None of the above

**Answer: b**

- It is native to South and Southeast Asia and has been listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List since 1986.

3) Pyramid of Djoser or Step Pyramid, recently seen in news, is located in

- a) Egypt
- b) Brazil
- c) China
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- The Pyramid of Djoser or Step Pyramid is an archaeological remain in Egypt.

4) Which among the following countries doesn't belong to Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

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

**Answer: c**

- The current OPEC members are the following: Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. Ecuador, Indonesia and Qatar are former members.

5) The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of

- a) 10 years
- b) 20 years
- c) 5 years
- d) None of the above

**Answer: b**

- The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.

## **March 12**

1) "Happy hour" for autorickshaws was recently celebrated in

- a) Delhi
- b) Gujarat
- c) Kerala
- d) Maharashtra

**Answer: d**

- Maharashtra govt approves implementation of "happy hour" for autorickshaws. Maharashtra government has approved the implementation of "happy hour" for autorickshaws as recommended by Khatua panel. A government resolution states that fares will be slashed by 15 percent between 12 noon and 4 pm.

2) Which among the following are categorised as Tier-1 capital as per the Based III framework?

- a) Common Equity (CET)
- b) Additional Capital (AT1)
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) not (b)

**Answer: c**

- Under the Based III framework, banks' regulatory capital is divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital. Tier 1 capital is subdivided into Common Equity (CET) and Additional Capital (AT1).
- They are a type of unsecured, perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms..

3) YUVIKA scheme, recently seen in news, is launched by

- a) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- b) Dept. of Science and Technology
- c) Dept. of Atomic Energy
- d) Indian Space Research Organisation

**Answer: d**

- YUva VIGyani KAryakram is a special programme for School Children, in tune with the Government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan".
- It was launched by Indian Space Research Organisation.

4) "reset to zero" proposal, recently seen in news, deals with

- a) Climate Change
- b) International Trade
- c) Terrorism
- d) None of the above

**Answer: d**

- The "reset to zero" proposal would mean "removing the restriction for any person, any citizen, including the current president, and allowing them to take part in elections in the future, naturally in open and competitive elections".

5) World Kidney Day is observed annually on the 2nd Thursday in March. What's the theme of 2020 world kidney day?

- a) Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere
- b) Kidneys and Women's Health
- c) Kidney Disease and Obesity
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- World Kidney Day is a global health awareness campaign focusing on the importance of the kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide. World Kidney Day is observed annually on the 2nd Thursday in March.
- This year's theme is 'Kidney health for everyone everywhere – from prevention to detection and equitable access to care'.

### **March 13**

1) Which among the following are not the functions of Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Limited?

- a) Production of Currency and Bank Notes
- b) Production of Passport and Visa
- c) Refining of Gold & Silver
- d) None of the above

**Answer: d**

- SPMCIL is engaged in the manufacture/ production of Currency and Bank Notes, Security Paper, Non-Judicial Stamp Papers, Postal Stamps & Stationery, Travel Documents viz. Passport and Visa, Security certificates, Cheques, Bonds, Warrant, Special Certificates with security

features, Security Inks, Circulation & Commemorative Coins, Medallions, Refining of Gold & Silver, and Assay of Precious Metals.

2) Landlord model, recently seen in news, is associated with

- a) Ports
- b) Airports
- c) Real Estate
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- In the landlord port model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and as landlord while private companies carry out port operations—mainly cargo-handling activities.
- Major Port Authorities Bill 2020 Introduced in The Lok Sabha to reorient the governance model in central ports to landlord port model in line with the successful global practice.

3) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) had classified giraffes as

- a) Endangered
- b) Least Concern
- c) Vulnerable
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c**

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) had classified giraffes as vulnerable in the Red List in December 2016. They are listed under Appendix II of the CITES.
- Poachers have killed two extremely rare white giraffes in northeast Kenya, leaving just one such animal in the world.

4) 'FingerPrint in India' report is published by

- a) NCRB
- b) NIC
- c) CBI
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- Reports published by NCRB are:
  - o 'Crime in India',
  - o 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India',
  - o 'Prison Statistics India'
  - o 'FingerPrint in India'.

5) University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (UAHS), Shivamogga (Karnataka), has developed 'Sahyadri Megha'. It is a new variety

- a) Rice
- b) Wheat
- c) Cotton
- d) Brinjal

**Answer: a**

- The University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (UAHS), Shivamogga (Karnataka), has

developed a new variety of paddy, 'Sahyadri Megha'. The new variety has been developed to prevent decline in the area under paddy cultivation.

### **March 14**

1) National Biopharma Mission (NBM) is co-funded by

- a) World Bank
- b) New Development Bank
- c) Asian Development Bank
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c**

- It is an industry-academia collaborative mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country
- It is co-funded by World Bank

2) Bhoomi Rashi Portal, recently seen in news, is an e-Governance initiative of

- a) ISRO
- b) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- d) None of the above

**Answer: b**

- The Bhoomi Rashi Portal is an e-Governance initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- The portal intends to expedite the process of land acquisition for National Highways.

3) Blue chip stocks, recently seen in news, refers to stocks of

- a) IT companies
- b) Social networks like Facebook
- c) Companies with strong financial performance
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c**

- Blue chip stocks are shares of very large and well-recognised companies with a long history of sound financial performance.

4) Market that is on the rise and is economically sound is called

- a) bull market
- b) bear market
- c) stag market
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- A bull market is a market that is on the rise and is economically sound, while a bear market is a market that is receding, where most stocks are declining in value.

5) National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aims to reduce PM2.5 and PM10 concentration by 2024 to

- a) 20-30%
- b) 30-40%
- c) 5-15%
- d) 15-20%

**Answer: a**

- The programme will not be notified under the Environment Protection Act or any other Act to create a firm mandate with a strong legal back up for cities and regions to implement NCAP in a time bound manner for effective reduction.
- Target: Achieve a national-level target of 20-30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration by between 2017 and 2024.

### **March 16**

1) H1N1 influenza virus causes

- a) Swine Flu
- b) SARS
- c) MERS
- d) Avian influenza

**Answer: a**

- Spanish flu was caused by an H1N1 influenza virus. H1N1 influenza virus causes Swine Flu.

2) Tara Tarini hill shrine where annual Chaitra Jatra festival is celebrated, is located in

- a) Karnataka
- b) Odisha
- c) Gujarat
- d) Maharashtra

**Answer: b**

- The annual Chaitra Jatra festival at Odisha's Tara Tarini hill shrine has been cancelled as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 infection.

3) ExoMars is a joint endeavour between

- a) ESA
- b) NASA
- c) Roscosmos
- d) Both (a) and (c)

**Answer: d**

- It is a joint endeavour between ESA and the Russian space agency, Roscosmos. The primary goal of the ExoMars programme is to address the question of whether life has ever existed on Mars.

4) Olympic Flame for the 2020 Tokyo Games has been lit in Olympia in Greece. When is the flame extinguished?

- a) Never
- b) After reaching Tokyo



- c) After the completion of Olympics
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c**

- The flame is kept lit for the duration of the Games and is extinguished only at the closing ceremony.

5) Verily, focused on life sciences and healthcare, is a subsidiary of

- a) Facebook
- b) Amazon
- c) Google
- d) None of the above

**Answer: c**

- Verily is a subsidiary of Google's parent company Alphabet "focused on life sciences and healthcare".

### **March 17**

1) State Election Commission is appointed by

- a) President
- b) Governor
- c) Chief Justice of respective High Court
- d) None of the above

**Answer: b**

- The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor.
- Both Election commission of India and State election commission enjoy the same powers in their respective areas.

2) Which among the following is the highest-numbered element to be found naturally in significant quantities on earth?

- a) Uranium
- b) Potassium
- c) Fluorine
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

- Uranium is the highest-numbered element to be found naturally in significant quantities on earth.

3) Pakhui Tiger Reserve is located in

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- The Arunachal Pradesh government has decided to "keep in abeyance" the survey work for a road through the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR).

4) Government has decided to establish two defence industrial corridors. Where are they located?

- a) Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi
- b) Rajasthan and Gujarat
- c) Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
- d) Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

Answer: d

- Government has decided to establish two defence industrial corridors to serve as engines of economic development and growth of defence industrial base in the country. They span across Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu and Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

5) Which one of the following is not a location for Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL)?

- a) Vishakhapatnam
- b) Mangaluru
- c) Padur
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL), a Government of India Special Purpose Vehicle, has established Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) facilities with total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations, namely (i) Vishakhapatnam, (ii) Mangaluru and (iii) Padur. Government has given 'in principle' approval for establishing two additional SPR facilities with total storage capacity of 6.5 MMT at two locations namely (i) Chandikhol in Odisha (4 MMT) and (ii) Padur in Karnataka (2.5 MMT).

## March 18

1) Which of the following are required in the body for Blood Clotting?

- a) Platelets
- b) Calcium
- c) Vitamin K
- d) All of the above

Ans: d

- Apart from platelets, calcium ions and Vitamin K are needed for clotting.
- Recently, scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) (under department of S&T) have developed a starch-based 'hemostat' material that concentrates the natural clotting factors in blood by physically absorbing excess fluid.

2) National Institute of Social Defence is a

- a) Statutory body

- b) Constitutional body
- c) Armed force
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

- The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) is an Autonomous Body and is registered under Societies Act XXI of 1860 with the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT), Delhi.

3) Water Plus, recently seen in news, deal with

- a) Sustain toilets by treating and reuse of water
- b) Raising immunity by breaking the chain of transfer of disease
- c) Focuses on toilets with sludge and septage management
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- Announced in August 2019, Water Plus aims to sustain toilets by treating and reuse of water. It contributes to the government's focus on water conservation and reuse under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and is in alignment with United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goal No 6 on clean water and sanitation.

4) Which among the following is a benefit enjoyed by Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders?

- a) Right to vote
- b) Right to any public service/government jobs
- c) Own agricultural property
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

- There are certain restrictions placed on OCI card holders:
  - Do not have right to vote.
  - Do not have right to any public service/government jobs
  - Cannot hold offices of – Prime Minister, President, Vice -President, Judge of Supreme Court and High Court, member of Parliament or Member of state legislative assembly or council.
  - Cannot own agricultural property.

5) Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) are identified by collecting data on

- a) Chlorophyll concentration
- b) Sea surface temperature
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Ans: c

- Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) utilizes data on chlorophyll concentration (Chl) obtained from ISRO's Oceansat-2 satellite and the sea surface temperature from National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA / USA satellites).

### March 19

1) Ordnance Factory Day is observed on

- a) 18<sup>th</sup> March
- b) 19<sup>th</sup> March
- c) 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- d) 15<sup>th</sup> January

Ans: a

- The Ordnance Factory Day is observed on the 18 March. The Ordnance Factories are observing their 219th foundation day this year.

2) Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is headed by

- a) Defence Secretary
- b) Defence Minister
- c) Prime Minister
- d) Foreign Secretary

Ans: b

- To counter corruption and speed up decision- making in military procurement, the government of India in 2001 decided to set up an integrated DAC. It is headed by the Defence Minister.

3) Herd immunity, recently seen in news, doesn't deal with

- a) Raising immunity by immunisation
- b) Raising immunity by breaking the chain of transfer of disease
- c) estimate the extent of spread and immunity
- d) none of the above

Ans: c

- Herd immunity refers to preventing an infectious disease from spreading by immunizing a certain percentage of the population.
- This breaks the chain of infection through the community ("herd"), and prevents it from reaching those who are the most vulnerable.
- To estimate the extent of spread and immunity, epidemiologists use a measure called the 'basic reproductive number' ( $R_0$ ).

4) Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal intends to connect the Danube, Oder and Elbe rivers. It connects

- a) Black Sea
- b) Baltic Seas
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Ans: c

- The Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal intends to connect the Danube, Oder and Elbe rivers and thus provide another navigable link from the Black Sea to the North and Baltic Seas.

5) Artemis Mission is a space mission by

- a) NASA
- b) ESA
- c) JAXA
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- NASA's Artemis mission is the next chapter in the US agency's space exploration program. It aims to send first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024.

### March 20

1) The National Crisis Management Committee is headed by

- a) Prime minister
- b) Cabinet secretary
- c) National security advisor
- d) Home minister

Ans: b

- The National Crisis Management Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

2) Saranda and Chaibasa, one of the largest iron ore reserves in India, is located at

- a) Bihar
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Odisha
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

- Saranda and Chaibasa — in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district has large iron ore reserves.
- Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM), which regulates mining in Chaibasa and the Saranda Sal forest area.

3) Country-by-Country (CbC) Report, recently seen in news, is released by

- a) FATF
- b) G20
- c) OECD
- d) none of the above

Ans: c

- The Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action 13 report (Transfer Pricing Documentation and Country-by-Country Reporting) provides a template for multinational enterprises (MNEs) to report annually and for each tax jurisdiction in which they do business the information set out therein. This report is called the Country-by-Country (CbC) Report.

4) Naya Savera scheme implemented by Ministry of Minority Affairs aims at

- a) Free coaching to entrance examinations
- b) Skill development
- c) Providing loans for startind new initiatives
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements Naya Savera – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme under which free coaching is provided to students of six centrally notified minority communities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians (Parsis). So as to enable them to qualify in entrance examinations for admission in technical/ professional courses, and various Competitive examinations.

5) According to World Energy Statistics 2019 report, India is the 3rd largest producer of electricity in the world. It is published by

- a) International Energy Agency(IEA)
- b) Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries(OPEC)
- c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development(OECD)
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- As per the latest key world energy statistics published by the IEA in 2019, India is the 3rd largest producer of electricity in the world and it ranks 106th in terms of per capita consumption in 2017.

## March 21

1) How much is the quorum required for a session in the Parliament of India?

- a) 1/10<sup>th</sup>
- b) 1/2<sup>nd</sup>
- c) 1/3<sup>rd</sup>
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- The minimum number of members required to be present at a sitting of the House or a Committee for valid transaction of its business, which is one-tenth of the total number of members of the House, as provided under article 100(3) of the Constitution.

2) Which among the following is not true about the festival Navroz?

- a) Celebrated as Persian new year
- b) Parsi community in India celebrates it
- c) 3,000-year-old Zoroastrian tradition
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

- All the statements are correct

3) G7 become G8 with the induction of

- a) India
- b) Russia
- c) Italy
- d) Japan

Ans: b

- Russia was formally inducted as a member in the group in 1998, which led G7 to become G8. In Mar 2014, Russia was suspended indefinitely following its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

4) Which of the following is incorrect about Tech for Tribals programme?

- a) It aims to transform 5 crore tribal entrepreneurs
- b) supported by Ministry of MSME
- c) launched by TRIFED
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

- TRIFED Launches transformational "Tech For Tribals" program in partnership with Institutes of National Importance (INIs) to develop Tribal entrepreneurship. It aims to transform 5 crore Tribal Entrepreneurs. It is supported by Ministry of MSME.

5) World Happiness Report 2020 released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network ranked India at

- a) 22
- b) 44
- c) 144
- d) 103

Ans: c

- Finland is the world's happiest nation for the third year running. Nordic states dominated the top 10, along with countries such as Switzerland, New Zealand and Austria. India is at 144<sup>th</sup>

## March 23

1) Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) is an initiative of :

- a) Confederation of Indian Industry(CII)
- b) Technology Development Board
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Ans: c

- Technology Development Board under DST invites technology proposals for fighting COVID 19.
- In order to stimulate private sector's investment in R&D, TDB has established Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA).
- It is a joint venture between Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and TDB with an equity contribution of 51:49 respectively.

2) Reunion Island, a part of French republic, is located in

- a) Indian ocean
- b) Atlantic ocean
- c) Mediterranean sea
- d) Aegean sea

Ans: a

- Reunion is an overseas department and region of the French Republic and an island in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar and 175 km southwest of Mauritius.

3) Olive Ridley is listed under IUCN Red List as

- a)Vulnerable
- b)Endangered
- c )Critically Endangered
- d)None of the above

Ans: a

- Gahirmatha marine sanctuary and Rushikulya rookery coast in Ganjam district are main Olive Ridley Nesting sites in Odisha. Of these sites, Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is the largest rookery (mass nesting site) of Olive Ridley turtles.

4) Kopili river, recently seen in news, flows through

- a)Assam
- b)Maharashtra
- c)Rajasthan
- d) Tamil Nadu

Ans: a

- The Carissa kopilii is threatened by the very river it is named after — Kopili in central Assam. It is a distant cousin of multi- utility wild berry.

5) World Water Day celebrated on



- a) March 21
- b) March 22
- c) March 23
- d) April 1

Ans: b

- Annually, March 22 is celebrated as World Water Day, with the objective of raising awareness about the water-related issues

### March 24

1) Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 has been declared with the outbreak of

- a) Swine flu
- b) Dengue
- c) Cholera
- d) All of the above

Ans: d

- It has been enforced across the country for dealing with outbreaks of diseases such as swine flu, dengue, and cholera.
- It lays down punishment as per Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code for flouting orders issued by various state governments
- The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 lays down punishment as per Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, for flouting orders issued by various state governments to contain the spread of COVID-19.

2) The first supercomputer assembled indigenously in India is

- a) Param Shivay
- b) Param Shakti
- c) Param Brahma
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- The first supercomputer assembled indigenously, called Param Shivay, was installed in IIT (BHU) and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. Similar systems Param Shakti and Param Brahma were installed at IIT-Kharagpur and IISER, Pune. They are equipped with applications from domains like Weather and Climate, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Bioinformatics, and Material science.

3) Teesta River doesn't flow through

- a) India
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Bhutan
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

- Teesta River (or Tista River) is a 315 km long river that rises in the eastern Himalayas, flows through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal through Bangladesh and enters the Bay of Bengal.

4) Anosmia is a condition of

- a) loss of sense of smell
- b) diminished sense of taste
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Ans: a

- Anosmia, the loss of sense of smell, and Ageusia, an accompanying diminished sense of taste, have emerged as peculiar telltale signs of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, and possible markers of infection.

5) Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of Karnataka. It is performed in

- a) Kannada
- b) Malayalam
- c) Tulu
- d) All of the above

Ans: d

- Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in Malayalam as well as Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka).
- More than 900 Yakshagana scripts, including the ones printed in 1905 and 1907, have now been digitised and made available online for free, thanks to the voluntary community effort by some Yakshagana lovers who did it under the banner Yakshavahini, a registered trust

## March 25

1) All India Financial Institutions regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank are

- a) EXIM Bank
- b) NABARD
- c) NHB
- d) All of the above

Ans: d

- SIDBI is one of the four All India Financial Institutions regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank; other three are EXIM Bank, NABARD and NHB.

2) Kurzarbeit scheme provides for a short-time work allowance. It is a scheme by

- a) Germany
- b) France
- c) Italy
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- Amid the all-round disruption caused to the economy by the novel coronavirus outbreak, a concern across the world is the possibility of loss of jobs.
- Germany's Kurzarbeit is being mentioned time and again in this context. Also, the German cabinet is planning to extend the benefit of short-time work allowance by the first half of April through legislation.

3) Hindus of Bali and Indonesia also celebrate their new year on the same day as

- a) Nyepi
- b) Ugadi
- c) Cheti Chand
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- Hindus of Bali and Indonesia also celebrate their new year on the same day as Nyepi.

4) Anosmia is a condition of

- a) Loss of sense of smell
- b) Diminished sense of taste
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Ans: a

- Anosmia, the loss of sense of smell, and Ageusia, an accompanying diminished sense of taste, have emerged as peculiar tell-tale signs of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, and possible markers of infection.

5) Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) located in

- a) Sikkim
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Ladakh

Ans: c

- Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) is a research institute for the study of Geology of the Himalaya under the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, GoI. It was established in 1968. It is located in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India.

## March 26

1) Which among the following statements about Hanta Virus is incorrect?

- a) It is novel virus.
- b) It is contracted by humans from infected rodents.

- c) It's mortality rate is higher than COVID-19  
d) All of the above

Ans: a

- The Hantavirus is not novel and its first case dates back to 1993, according to the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC).
- It is contracted by humans from infected rodents.
- The CDC maintains that HPS can be fatal and has a mortality rate of 38 per cent while that of COVID is 7.2%.

2) Legacy Waste, recently seen in news, refers to

- a) Nuclear waste  
b) Petroleum waste  
c) Biodegradable waste  
d) Landfill waste

Ans: d

- Legacy wastes are the wastes that have been collected and kept for years at some barren land or a place dedicated for Landfill (an area to dump solid waste).

3) MACS 4028, recently seen in news, is a newly developed bio fortified variety of

- a) Rice  
b) Wheat  
c) Corn  
d) Biryani

Ans: b

- Recently, scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, have developed a bio fortified durum wheat variety MACS 4028.

4) Which of the following is not correct about Capital-to-risk Weighted Assets Ratio?

- a) RBI stipulated CRAR is less than that specified by Basel norms  
b) It is the ratio of a bank's capital to its risk weighted assets  
c) Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%.  
d) All of the above

Ans: a

- The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%. However, as per RBI norms, Indian scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CRAR of 9%.

5) With regard to recapitalization of RRBs, who identifies which RRB require recapitalization assistance to maintain the mandatory CRAR of 9%?

- a) NABARD  
b) RBI

- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) BBB

Ans: a

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) identifies those RRBs, which require recapitalization assistance to maintain the mandatory CRAR of 9% based on the CRAR position of RRBs, as on 31st March of every year.

## March 27

1) When is the World Theatre Day observed?

- a) 27<sup>th</sup> March
- b) 29<sup>th</sup> April
- c) 12<sup>th</sup> August
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- World Theatre Day celebrated is observed annually on the 27 March by ITI Centres and the international theatre community. The day aims to promote theatre in all its forms across the world.

2) A vigorous regime of "trace, test, treat", has shown remarkable results in controlling the spread of the novel coronavirus. This was done by

- a) South Korea
- b) China
- c) Germany
- d) India

Ans: a

- The Korean Model, a vigorous regime of "trace, test, treat", has shown remarkable results in controlling the spread of the novel coronavirus, without putting a nationwide lockdown in place.

3) Which among the following is incorrect about Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization?

- a) autonomous status
- b) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) ensures supply of oxygen cylinders
- d) None of the above

Ans: d

- Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization takes various measures to address the problems faced by Petroleum, Explosives, Oxygen and Industrial Gas Industries. All the statements given are correct.

4) Project Isaac, recently seen in news, is an initiative of

- a) IIT Gandhinagar
- b) IISc Bangalore
- c) Ministry of Health
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) has launched Project Isaac to engage its students in creative projects to enhance their critical skills while they are confined to their homes because of Corona virus.

5) SAARC Charter was signed at

- a) Kathmandu
- b) Dhaka
- c) New Delhi
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

- SAARC was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter on 8 December 1985 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The headquarters of SAARC is located in Kathmandu, Nepal.

## March 28

1) Which among the following are included in Schedule H1 Drugs?

- a) 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation antibiotics
- b) habit forming drugs
- c) anti-TB drugs
- d) All of the above

Ans: d

- Both the statements are correct.
- Govt classifies hydroxychloroquine as Schedule-H1 drug, sale only on prescription. It restricts its sale only based on prescription. It contains 3rd and 4th generation antibiotics, habit forming drugs and anti-TB drugs.

2) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has come out with own measures to help deal with economic fallout of COVID-19. It doesn't include

- a) Cut in repo rate
- b) Cut in reverse repo rate
- c) Cut in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)
- d) Cut in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)

Ans: d

- RBI has reduced the CRR to 3%, freeing up ₹1.37 trillion for banks to lend. CRR has been chosen rather than SLR because this increases 'primary liquidity' with the banks a bit better.

3) Force Majeure, recently seen in news, was declared by

- a) State Bank of India
- b) LIC of India
- c) Indian Railways
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

- Indian Railways has decided that the period from 22.03.2020 to 14.04.2020 shall be treated under "Force Majeure". During this period no demurrage, wharfage, stacking, stabling, detention and ground usage charge shall be leviable.

4) Ossification test, recently seen in news, is used to evaluate the status of

- a) COVID 19
- b) Age of a person
- c) Water quality
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- It is the primary test for age determination.

5) Arr-Rinam is a tribal lockdown ritual imposed by consensus for 48 hours whenever an epidemic strikes. Where is it observed in?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Gujarat
- d) Tamil Nadu

Ans: a

- It is a tribal lockdown ritual observed in Arunachal Pradesh. The Adi community inhabiting East Siang and Lower Dibang Valley districts too performed a similar ritual called Motor that they believe lets shamans with legendary powers to locate wild herbs to combat an epidemic.

### March 30

1) Business Immunity Platform to fight against covid-19 is an initiative of

- a) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- b) Invest India
- c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- d) All of the above

Ans: b

- Invest India has launched The Invest India Business Immunity Platform

- Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India, set up as a non-profit venture under the aegis of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

2) The Disaster Management Act, 2005, under Section 8 enjoins the Central Government to constitute a National Executive Committee (NEC) to assist the National Disaster Management Authority. It is headed by

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Home Minister
- c) Minister of Health
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

- The Home secretary serving as the Chairperson, ex officio. The Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, is an ex officio member.

3) Exercise Red Flag is a two-week advanced training exercise held several times a year conducted by the US. It is a/an

- a) Naval Exercise
- b) Army Exercise
- c) Air Exercise
- d) Submarine warfare

Ans: c

- The U.S. Air Force has cancelled Phase-I of its flagship multilateral air exercise, Red Flag, scheduled in Alaska from April 30.

4) Ossification test, recently seen in news, is used to evaluate the status of

- a) COVID 19
- b) Age of a person
- c) Water quality
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- It is the primary test for age determination.

5) Himalayan Ibex, seen recently in news, is found in

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Ladakh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) All of the above

Ans: d



- A recent study by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has proved that Himalayan Ibex, distributed in the trans-Himalayan ranges of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, is a distinct species from the Siberian Ibex.
- They are divergent from Siberian Ibex, reveals a genetic study

### March 31

1) Earth Hour is an annual event organized by

- a) World Wildlife Fund
- b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- c) United Nations Environment Programme
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- It is an annual event organized by the World Wildlife Fund.
- Every year, Earth Hour is observed on the last Saturday of March at 8:30 pm. And while previously it brought the public out onto the roads to mark the hour, this year the famous environmental initiative went digital as many countries are in lockdown.

2) Sodium Hypochlorite, recently seen in news, is a

- a) Artificial food sweetener
- b) Bleaching agent
- c) Hand sanitizer
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

- In several places migrant workers travelling to their home states, or their belongings, were sprayed with sodium hypochlorite solution, apparently to sanitize them.

3) VIX (Volatility index) is an index used to measure the near-term volatility expectations of

- a) Markets
- b) Exports and Imports
- c) Global corona positives
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

- Volatility signifies the rate and magnitude of change in the stock price or index value.

4) Conservation reserves and community reserves of India gets its legal backing from

- a) Wildlife Protection Act
- b) Environment Protection Act
- c) Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules
- d) All of the above

Ans: a

- These protected area categories were first introduced in the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002 – the amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

5) National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE) is located in

- a) New Delhi
- b) Kolkata
- c) Mumbai
- d) None of the above

Ans: b

- The National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) is the leading stock exchange of India, located in Mumbai. The NSE was established in 1992 as the first dematerialized electronic exchange in the country.

