

**Neo IAS Current Affairs Exclusive Test Series**  
**Sample set 01, Answer set**

**1. Ans: A**

- ✓ GAVI supported countries don't include India but includes Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar etc.

**Why in News?**

- ✓ Recently an Indian company **Bharat Biotech's** typhoid vaccine **Typbar TCV** has received World Health Organization's prequalification, which allows health and humanitarian organisations like **GAVI** to procure it for public health vaccination programmes across the world.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/who-okays-bharat-bio-typhoid-shot/article22360515.ece>

**About Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI):**

- ✓ The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) is an international coalition of public and private partners to increase access to immunization in poor countries. It includes:
  - National governments
  - International organizations such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.
  - Philanthropic institutions, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program and the Rockefeller Foundation.
- ✓ The Alliance was officially launched in Davos, Switzerland in January 2000.

**Activities:**

- GAVI support the world's poorest countries whose Gross National Income (GNI) per capita is below or equal to US\$ 1,580 on average over the past three years (according to World Bank data published every year on 1 July).
- GAVI supported countries doesn't include India but includes Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar etc.

- The Global Fund for Children's Vaccines is a financially independent mechanism designed by the GAVI partners to raise new resources for immunization and swiftly channel them to developing country health systems.

## 2. Ans. B

- ✓ NPPA comes under Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ Drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said it has fixed the retail price for 30 drug formulations, including those used for treatment of diabetes, bacterial infections and high blood pressure.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/pti-news/2018/jan/17/nppa-fixes-retail-price-of-30-drug-formulations-1756790.html>

### **About National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA):**

- ✓ The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regulate the prices of medicines under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

### **Major Functions:**

- The NPPA is mandated to fix/revise the prices of controlled bulk drugs and formulations and to enforce prices and availability of the medicines in the country.
- It also monitors the prices of decontrolled drugs in order to keep them at reasonable levels.
- The regulator implements and enforces the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.
- It is also entrusted with the task of recovering amounts overcharged by manufacturers for the controlled drugs from the consumers.
- Presently, Around 20 per cent of about 500 commonly used bulk drugs are kept under statutory price control.

### 3. Ans: B

#### **Why in News?**

In a bid to make low-cost medicines more accessible, the health ministry is working to increase the number of AMRIT pharmacy stores by four times by end of 2018 from the existing 111 outlets.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/govt-looking-to-increase-amrit-stores-by-4-times-this-year-1153547-2018-01-24>

#### **About Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)**

##### **Scheme:**

- ✓ Launched in 2015 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ Aims to reduce expenditure incurred by patients on treatment of cancer and cardiovascular (heart) diseases to make health care affordable for poor.
- ✓ Retail outlets in the name of AMRIT pharmacy are opened to sell drugs for cancer and heart diseases at highly discounted rates on market rates.
- ✓ Implemented by government-owned HLL Lifecare Ltd (HLL) which is deputed to establish and run AMRIT chain of pharmacies across the country.
- ✓ The drugs and implants will be sold based upon authentic prescriptions from doctors.

### 4. Ans: D

#### **Why in news?**

- ✓ Recently, the sub-committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) has recommended free and compulsory education for girls up to post-graduate level across the country.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/jan/10/cabe-committee-recommends-free-education-for-girls-up-to-pg-level-1749523.html>

#### **About Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE):**

- ✓ The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) is the highest body to advise both the Central and State Governments in the field of education.

- ✓ It was established in 1923 and after that it functioned only in the periods of 1920-23 and 1935-94. Finally it was reconstituted by the Government in July 2004.
- ✓ CAGE is chaired by the **Union Human Resource Development Minister**.
- ✓ The tenure is for three years.
- ✓ The Board will meet at least once every year and there shall not be a gap of more than two years between two consecutive meetings of the Board.
- ✓ CAGE **comprises of:**
  - Education ministers of all the states
  - Six Members of Parliament
  - Heads of different bodies such as UGC, CBSE, NUEPA and
  - Nominated members from civil society, NGO and educational institutions.

## 5. Ans: C

### Why in news?

- ✓ NARI as well as e-Samvad portals were launched by **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175111>

### About NARI Portal:

- ✓ Developed by the Ministry of Women & Child Development
- ✓ It contains following information:
  - Summarizes over 350 government schemes in different categories including Health, Employment, Housing and shelter, Addressing violence etc.
  - Links to the Ministries, Departments and autonomous bodies offering these schemes
  - Important information for the benefit of women suggestions for health check-ups, information on major diseases, tips for job search and interview etc.
  - Easy access to online applications and grievance redressal

### About e-Samvad portal:

- ✓ Platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD).
- ✓ They can provide their feedback, suggestions, put up grievances, share best practices etc.
- ✓ Senior Officers within MWCD will view the inputs/suggestions received for their concerned subject areas and appropriately respond to NGOs.

## 6. Ans: D

### Why in news?

- ✓ Recently, India has missed December 2017 deadline announced for elimination of Kala Azar (black fever) in 2017-18 Budget by the Union Government.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-misses-kala-azar-elimination-deadline-5019796/>

### About Kala-azar disease:

- ✓ Kala-azar also known as black fever is caused by the leishmania parasite which are **transmitted by the bites from female sandflies.**
- ✓ The sand flies feed on animals and humans for blood, which they need for developing their eggs.
- ✓ The parasite primarily infects immune system and may be found in abundance in bone marrow, spleen and liver.
- ✓ Recurrent fever, loss of appetite and weight etc. are the symptoms of kalaazar.
- ✓ Light coloured persons show grayish discolouration of the skin of hands, feet, abdomen and face.
- ✓ Skin condition called Post Kala Azar Dermal Leishmaniasis (PKDL) occurs when the parasite invades skin cells causing dermal lesions.
- ✓ It belongs to Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) family of diseases which affect poorest populations.
- ✓ **Kala azar is the second largest parasitic killer in the world after malaria.**
- ✓ India accounts for half the global burden of Kala-azar disease.
- ✓ Kala azar endemic regions in India includes the eastern States of India namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- ✓ Elimination of Kala azar is defined as reducing annual incidence of disease to less than 1 case per 10,000 people at the sub-district level.

- ✓ An obstacle for the elimination of Kala-azar is that the vector dwells in wooden structure and escapes various measures to kill it. The majority of houses in endemic blocks are made from wood. Hence, to stop infection transmission, pucca houses need to be built.

### **7. Ans: D**

#### **Why in news?**

- Ministry of Culture under the banner of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat is taking the initiative for the first-ever cultural integration of the famous MadhavpurMela of Gujarat with the North-East with which it is said to share its roots.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177982>

#### **Madhavapur Mela:**

- ✓ MadhavapurMela is held at the coastal village of MadhavpurGhed, District Porbandar in Gujarat.
- ✓ Every year, for five days from day of Ram Navmi, a cultural fair is organized here based on the religious belief that Krishna married to Rukmini here.

#### **The North East Connect:**

- The MadhavpurMela of Gujarat shares it's connect to the Mishmi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Rukmini is the daughter of the legendary King Bhishmak to whom the Mishmi Tribe traces their ancestry.

### **8. Ans: A**

#### **Why in News?**

- ✓ Airbus, an aeronautics company based in Netherlands, is developing CIMON (Crew Interactive Mobile Companion), an AI based space assistant for Germany's DLR Space Administration.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/ai-based-floating-head-to-assist-iss-astronauts/article22931043.ece>

### **Key Facts**

- ✓ Described by its creators as a “flying brain”, this 3D-printed artificial intelligence system will soon join the crew aboard the International Space Station (ISS) to assist astronauts.
- ✓ It will be tested during the European Space Agency’s Horizons mission between June and October this year.
- ✓ CIMON will be the first AI-based mission and flight assistance system.
- ✓ CIMON makes work easier for the astronauts when carrying out every day routine tasks, helps to increase efficiency, facilitates mission success and improves security, as it can also serve as an early warning system for technical problems.

### **9. Ans: A**

#### **Why in news?**

- The Odisha government is set to collaborate with the Thailand-based Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for strengthening its early warning services and enhancing preparedness for management of hazards in the State.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/odisha-govt-to-collaborate-with-rimes-for-disaster-management/article23276565.ece>

#### **More about RIMES:**

- ✓ The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an international and intergovernmental institution, owned and managed by its Member States, for the generation and application of early warning information.
- ✓ RIMES evolved from the efforts of countries in Asia and Africa, in the aftermath of 2004 tsunami, to establish a regional warning system within a multi hazard framework.
- ✓ RIMES were established on 30 April 2009, and were registered with the United Nations on 1 July 2009.

- ✓ RIME operates from its regional early warning center located at the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology in Pathumthani, Thailand.
- ✓ It provides information related to Tsunami and extreme weather conditions.
- ✓ It also acts as a test bed for emerging technologies and help to enhance performance.
- ✓ There are 12 Member States in RIMES.
- ✓ The member countries are Bangladesh, Cambodia, Comoros, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

**10. Ans: A**

- ✓ Under Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) the State Government in consultation with local bodies may notify in the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Ameenpur Lake becomes the first waterbody in the country to be declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site.

**Ameenpur Lake:**

- ✓ Ameenpur Lake is a man-made lake located in Hyderabad.
- ✓ The Lake dates back to the time of Ibrahim Qutb Shah, who ruled the kingdom of Golconda between 1550 and 1580.
- ✓ The lake is spotted with various birds such as bar-headed geese, cormorants, ruddy shelducks, and greyherons.

**Biodiversity Heritage Sites:**

- ✓ Biodiversity Heritage Sites” (BHS) are **well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile Ecosystems.**
- ✓ It can be **terrestrial, coastal and inland waters or marine ecosystem** having rich biodiversity.

- ✓ Under Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) the State Government in consultation with local bodies may notify in the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).

**11. Ans: B**

- ✓ The National Culture Fund is managed and administered by a council headed by Union Minister of Culture.

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Culture Minister says that 34 projects had successfully implemented under National Culture Fund Scheme till date, in a press release.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178268>

**National Culture Fund:**

- ✓ National Culture Fund (NCF) set up as a Trust under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1996 by the Government, with a view to mobilize extra resources through Public Private Partnerships.
- ✓ The National Culture Fund is managed and administered by a council headed by Hon'ble Culture Minister to decide the policies and an Executive Committee headed by Secretary, Culture to actualize those policies.
- ✓ The Fund aims at inviting the participation of the corporate sector, non-government organizations, private/public sector as well as individuals in the task of promoting, protecting and preserving India's cultural heritage.
- ✓ It receives contributions and voluntary donations as endowments from many other sources. Donations and contributions to NCF are eligible for 100% tax exemption.

**12. Ans. B**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ NASA is gearing up for the upcoming launch of its Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On (GRACE-FO) mission, which will map changes in water and ice around the world.

<https://www.space.com/40451-grace-fo-mission-will-track-earths-water.html>

### **More about GRACE-FO**

- ✓ Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On (GRACE-FO) is a mission by NASA, **which will map changes in water and ice around the world.**
- ✓ Changes in water and ice around the world by detecting variations in Earth's gravity.
- ✓ The mission involves two identical spacecraft that will orbit the Earth in tandem.
- ✓ GRACE-FO is a follow-on mission to the original GRACE mission, which mapped Earth's gravity field from 2002 to 2017.
- ✓ Both missions are joint projects between NASA and the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam, Germany.

### **How it will track changes?**

- As the ice melts, the water becomes a part of the ocean or seeps into the soil.
- This change how mass is distributed on our planet. And when Earth's mass distribution changes, so does its gravity field.
- By measuring those changes, the GRACE missions can track Earth's water cycle and how climate change affects oceans, glaciers, sea ice, groundwater and even moisture in the atmosphere.

### **13. Ans. C**

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179519>

### **About CSIR**

- ✓ The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is a R&D organization, having pan-India presence.
- ✓ CSIR has a dynamic network of several national laboratories and outreach centres.
- ✓ CSIR's R&D expertise and experience is embodied in about 4600 active scientists supported by about 8000 scientific and technical personnel.
- ✓ Although it is mainly funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, it operates as an autonomous body through the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ✓ The Shanti SwarupBhatnagar Prize was established by CSIR. It is aimed to honour the outstanding performers in the various research fields of Science & Technology,
- ✓ The Prime Minister is the ex-officio President of CSIR

#### 14. Ans. B

##### Why in news?

- ✓ The Western Ghats and the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary face 'significant concern,' says the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2 report.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/western-ghats-need-more-attention-iucn/article23930845.ece>

##### About the Outlook

- ✓ The IUCN World Heritage Outlook is the global assessment report of **natural World Heritage sites**.
- ✓ It is composed of a website and a three-yearly global report.
- ✓ It is the first global assessment of natural World Heritage and the first to recognise conservation success in the world's most iconic places.
- ✓ The **first report** was launched at IUCN World Parks Congress in **2014**.
- ✓ This report provides an overview of the main conservation challenges that natural World Heritage sites are facing, and the trends and changes observed in the last three years.
- ✓ It list sites under each category of rating – good, good with some concerns, significant concern and critical.
- ✓ The listing are based upon:
  - The current state and trend of values
  - The threats affecting those values

- The effectiveness of protection and management

### **IUCN World Heritage Outlook Report 2**

- ✓ This was the second report which was released in the Bonn UN climate change conference in November 2017.
- ✓ The global World Heritage Outlook in 2017 provides a positive conservation outlook (“good” or “good with some concerns”) for 64% of sites, an outlook of “significant concern” for 29% and a “critical” status for 7% of sites.
- ✓ According to the report:
  - **Western Ghats** and **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary** face ‘**significant concern**’.
  - The Kaziranga and Sundarbans National Parks were classified as good, with some concerns.
  - Grazing, massive pilgrimage tourism and mining are among the identified threats to Western Ghats.
  - In Manas, the threat came from illegal logging and poaching.

### **15. Ans. B**

- ✓ It is Non-Profit organization that provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) study, parameters related to women, including education and age at marriage, account for 50% of the difference between districts with high and low levels of stunting among children below the age of five.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/womens-health-crucial-to-combat-stunting-study/article24007186.ece>

### **About Study**

- ✓ India accounts for approximately **a third of the world's stunted children** at 63 million.
- ✓ Across the country, in 239 districts more than 40% of the children are stunted, while 202 districts record between 30% and 40 % of stunting.
- ✓ Only 29 districts have levels between 10% and 20% and **most of them are in south India.**
- ✓ The northern States account for **more than 80%** of stunted children at 52.6 million.

### **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**

- ✓ The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is an **international agricultural research centre** to improve the understanding of national agricultural and food policies to promote the adoption of innovations in agricultural technology.
- ✓ It was founded in the year 1975.
- ✓ It is headquartered in **Washington D C.**
- ✓ The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.
- ✓ IFPRI is part of a network of international research institutes funded in part by the CGIAR (Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research).

### **16. Ans. B**

#### **Why in news?**

- ✓ The Chicxulub asteroid — which caused the extinction of dinosaurs — drove a long-lasting era of global warming when it smashed into Earth 65 million years ago, with a rapid temperature increase of 5 degree Celsius that endured for roughly 100,000 years.

<https://www.aaas.org/news/did-chicxulub-asteroid-cause-earths-thermometer-spike>

### **About the Crater**

- ✓ It is an impact crater buried underneath the **Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico**.
- ✓ Its centre is located near the town of Chicxulub, after which the crater is named.
- ✓ It was formed by a large asteroid or comet about **10 to 15 kilometres** in diameter striking the Earth.

17.

**Ans. D**

- ✓ Vitamin C deficiency causes Scurvy.
- ✓ Rickets occur usually because of an extreme and prolonged vitamin D deficiency.

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ Deficiency of vitamin D (also known as the sunshine vitamin), has emerged as a silent public health challenge in India.

18. **Ans. A**

- ✓ The campaign will be led by the Wildlife Trust of India along with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) on rolled out the 'GajYatra' from Tura, the principal town of Garo Hills.

<https://www.wti.org.in/news/wildlife-trust-of-india-launches-the-gaj-yatra-a-unique-campaign-to-secure-the-future-of-indias-wild-elephants/>

### **About the Yatra**

- ✓ GajYatra is a nationwide campaign which aims at **securing 100 elephant corridors across India**.

- ✓ The campaign has been launched in the Garo Hills, where the people have created community forests for **human-elephant harmony and conservation of animals such as hoolock gibbon.**
- ✓ The campaign is planning to cover **12 elephant range states.**
- ✓ The 15 months campaign will be led by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) along with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ✓ The campaign aims to create awareness about elephant corridors to encourage free movement in their habitat.

**19. Ans. B**

**Why in News?**

- ✓ **Saudi Arabia** is celebrating the **annual Janadriyah festival.**
- ✓ Giving due recognition to the strategic partnership, close ties and historical linkages between the two countries, **for the first time, India was accorded the 'Guest of Honour' status** at the Festival.

[https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29442/India\\_Guest\\_of\\_Honour\\_country\\_at\\_the\\_Janadriyah\\_Festival\\_in\\_Saudi\\_Arabia](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29442/India_Guest_of_Honour_country_at_the_Janadriyah_Festival_in_Saudi_Arabia)

**Janadriyah Festival**

- ✓ Janadriyah is the **annual national heritage and culture festival** of **Saudi Arabia**, named after the village on the northern outskirts of Riyadh.
- ✓ The festival encourages Saudis to celebrate their heritage and to bolster cultural exchange.
- ✓ The festival was begun in **1985** under the **patronage of the ruling monarch.**
- ✓ 2018 marks the **32nd edition** of the festival.
- ✓ **Organised every year** by the **Saudi National Guard**, a primary goal of this festival is to **highlight Saudi Arabia's Islamic identity, display its national heritage and help preserve it for generations to come.**
- ✓ It also **aims to acquaint its people with the cultures of other countries.** For this purpose, every year the country nominates a "**Guest of Honour**" at its festival.

**20. Ans. B**

- ✓ WSDS is the **flagship forum** of **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).**

**Why in News?**

- ✓ The Prime Minister inaugurated **18th edition** of **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)** at **VigyanBhawan** in New Delhi.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176567>

#### Key Facts

- ✓ WSDS is the **flagship forum** of **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.
- ✓ It **seeks to bring together on a common platform, global leaders and thinkers in the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment sectors.**
- ✓ The theme of the Summit this year is **'Partnerships for a Resilient Planet'**.
- ✓ WSDS 2018 **seeks to create action frameworks to resolve some of the most urgent challenges facing developing economies** in the backdrop of climate change.
- ✓ The **'Greenovation Exhibition'** at WSDS 2018 will showcase the latest technological advancements to meet Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **21. Ans.C**

- ✓ RUSTOM-II is a **Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE)** unmanned aerial vehicle (**UAV**).

#### Why in News

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) has successfully completed the test flight of its **Rustom 2** drone at the Aeronautical Test Range.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/drdo-successfully-carries-out-test-flight-of-rustom-2-drone/articleshow/63068375.cms>

#### RUSTOM-II

- ✓ RUSTOM-II is a **Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE)** unmanned aerial vehicle (**UAV**).
- ✓ It was developed on the lines of predator drones of the United States.
- ✓ The UAV has been designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (**ADE**) of the DRDO, and aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (**HAL**) and Bharat Electronics Ltd (**BEL**) are its production partners.

#### **Purpose:**

- The objective of this drone is to carry out surveillance for the armed forces with an endurance of 24 hours.

- The drone was developed **for use by all three services of the Indian armed forces**, primarily for **intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) operations**.

**Features:**

- The medium-altitude prototype can fly at over 22,000 ft. and is a long-endurance (MALE) UAV that has an approximate flight time of 20 hours.
- It can fly at around 280 km/h and **carry a variety of payloads** like Medium Range Electro Optic (**MREO**), Long Range Electro Optic (**LREO**) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (**SAR**)
- It can also carry Electronic Intelligence (**ELINT**), Communication Intelligence (**COMINT**) and Situational Awareness Payloads (**SAP**) to perform missions during day and night.
- Rustom 2 can fly missions on **manual as well as autonomous modes**.
- The **on-board way-point navigation system** allows the drone to conduct missions autonomously.
- Rustom 2 is part of the **Rustom line of UAVs** that includes **Rustom-I, Rustom-H and Rustom-C**.

**22. Ans.B**

**Why in News?**

- ✓ **Google** has launched **#SecurityCheckKiya campaign** in India to safeguard internet users.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/google-india-launches-securitycheckkiya-campaign-to-protect-data-devices-5051996/>

**Key Facts:**

- ✓ It was launched on the occasion of **Safer Internet Day (6 February)**.
- ✓ The campaign aims to protect first-time web users from account hijacking, safeguard Android devices from malicious apps and secure all their personal data if they lose their device.

**23. Ans: C**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Defexpo India 2018, will be held at ArulmiguNithyakalyanaPerumal Temple, Thiruvudanthai, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu from 11th to 14th April 2018.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178391>

### **Defence Expo 2018:**

- ✓ Defence Expo is a biennial exhibition of weapons and military hardware. The four-day expo will see live demonstrations, flying display, seminars among others.
- ✓ Defexpo India 2018 will be the tenth in the series of biennial Land, Naval and Internal Homeland Security Systems Exhibition.
- ✓ DefExpo 2018 will, for the first time, project India's defence manufacturing capabilities to the world.
- ✓ The theme of the Defence Expo 2018 is "India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub".
- ✓ The Defence Expo 2018 will showcase India's indigenously developed land, air and naval systems for the first time. This include the Tejas fighter jets, advanced towed artillery gun systems (ATAGS) designed by the DRDO Arjun Mark 2 tank, Dhanush artillery guns.

### **24. Ans: A**

- The largest shareholder in EBRD is **U.S.**

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ India becomes EBRD's newest shareholder.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2018/india-becomes-ebrds-newest-shareholder.html>

### **EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development):**

- ✓ The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is an international financial institution founded in 1991.
- ✓ As a multilateral developmental investment bank, the EBRD uses investment as a tool to build market economies.
- ✓ It is headquartered in **London**.

- ✓ The EBRD serves the interests of all its shareholders - 67 countries from five continents plus the European Union and the European Investment Bank - not just those countries which receive its investments.

**25. Ans: C**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ India ranked 130th out of 186 economies in recently released Index of Economic Freedom 2018 that measures the degree of economic freedom in the countries of the world.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-climbs-13-spots-to-130-in-economic-freedom-index/article23511379.ece>

**Index of Economic Freedom (IEF)**

- ✓ The index was released by top US based Think Tank, The Heritage Foundation.
- ✓ It ranks countries based on score ranging 0 (least free) to 100 (most free).
- ✓ The score is based on 12 factors of economic freedom.
- ✓ Hong Kong tops in the list of latest edition.
- ✓ In the 2018 edition of index, India jumped 13 places from 143rd rank in previous year (2017).

**Twelve factors for calculating score are:**

- ✓ property rights, government integrity, tax burden, judicial effectiveness, government spending, fiscal health, business freedom, monetary freedom, labour freedom, trade freedom, investment freedom and financial freedom.

<https://neoiias.com/index.php/current-affairs-test-series-2019.html>

**26. Ans: D**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ India is coordinating with China and other Asian countries to raise voice against *Asian premium* charged by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/india-to-ally-with-china-on-asian-premium/article23549767.ece>

### **Asian Premium:**

- ✓ Asian Premium is extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries.
- ✓ For example, production cost of one barrel of crude oil is Rs.100 in OPEC countries. These countries want to make profit of Rs. 100 so they ideally should sell one barrel for Rs. 200. But under Asian Premium pricing mechanism, OPEC countries gives discriminatory treatment to Asian countries (though being largest importer of OPEC produced oil) by charging them Rs. 220 per barrel and on other side giving discount to western countries by selling them at Rs.180 or below one 180 per barrel.
- ✓ The discriminatory Asian Premium is mainly used by OPEC countries to subsidised western buyers at cost of Asian buyers.

### **27. Ans: A**

- ✓ 4 UN Member states - Egypt, North Korea, South Sudan and Israel (signed, but not ratified) are non-members of OPCW.

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ The world's chemical watchdog is meeting after a British laboratory said it had not proved that Russia manufactured a deadly nerve agent used to poison a former Russian spy.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/18/opcw-rejects-russian-claims-of-second-salisbury-nerve-agent>

### **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW):**

- ✓ The OPCW Member States share the collective goal of preventing chemistry from ever again being used for warfare, thereby strengthening international security. To this end, the Convention contains four key provisions:
  - Destroying all existing chemical weapons under international verification by the OPCW.
  - Monitoring chemical industry to prevent new weapons from re-emerging.

- Providing assistance and protection to States Parties against chemical threats.
- Fostering international cooperation to strengthen implementation of the Convention and promote the peaceful use of chemistry.
- ✓ The OPCW is an independent, autonomous international organization with a working relationship with the United Nations.
- ✓ The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997.
- ✓ As of today OPCW has 192 Member States, who are working together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.
- ✓ The organisation was **awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize** for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons

**28. Ans: D**

- ✓ Boao Forum for Asia is modelled on the World Economic Forum and held annually.
- ✓ Headquarters of Boao forum is located at Beijing.

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The 17th annual Boao Forum for Asia just concluded on China's south-eastern resort island of Hainan, and opened a window onto Xi Jinping's economic plans for the next five years.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ban-ki-moon-to-head-boao-forum-for-asia-118040900821\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ban-ki-moon-to-head-boao-forum-for-asia-118040900821_1.html)

**Boao Forum:**

- ✓ The Boao Forum for Asia is a **non-profit organisation** that hosts high-level forum for leaders from government, business and academia in Asia and other continents to share their vision on the most important issues in the world.
- ✓ BFA is **modelled on the World Economic Forum** held annually in Davos, Switzerland.
- ✓ It is held in **Boao, Hainan province, China.**

- ✓ The forum takes its name from this town of Boao where the session is being held annually since 2002.
- ✓ It is also known as the “**Asian Davos**”.
- ✓ The aim of the Forum is to promote regional economic integration and bringing Asian countries even closer to their development goals.

**29. Ans. C**

- ✓ The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly.

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The 30th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva saw representatives of 107 member states taking the floor to praise Bangladesh for the way it has dealt with the Rohingya refugee crisis in terms of supplying aid.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/bangladesh-praised-for-rohingya-aid-during-unhrc-review-118051500431\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/bangladesh-praised-for-rohingya-aid-during-unhrc-review-118051500431_1.html)

**About UNHRC**

- ✓ The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations System inter-governmental body responsible for strengthening the **promotion and protection of human rights around the world**.
- ✓ It was created by Resolution 60/251 of the UN General Assembly on March 15, 2006.
- ✓ The UNHRC is the successor to the **UN Commission on Human Rights**.
- ✓ It is a **subsidiary body** of the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ The council works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- ✓ The Council is mandated to meet for at least three regular sessions, totalling at least ten weeks, per year.
- ✓ It also can convene in special session when necessary, upon the request of one-third of its members.
- ✓ It is made up of **47 States responsible** for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.

- ✓ The **UN General Assembly elects** the members who occupy the UNHRC's 47 seats.
- ✓ **The term of each seat is three years**, and no member may occupy a seat for more than two consecutive terms.

**30. Ans: D**

#### **Why in news?**

- ✓ India has agreed to provide tariff concessions on 3,142 products to Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) members. These duty concessions will be more for least developed countries (LDCs) and less for developing nations.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-gives-tariff-concessions-on-3142-items-to-china-other-apta-countries/article24311488.ece>

#### **The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA):**

- ✓ The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously named the Bangkok Agreement, was signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP.
- ✓ The six member countries are Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Korea and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Being the oldest preferential trade agreement among developing countries in Asia-Pacific, APTA aims to promote economic development through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures that will contribute to intra-regional trade expansion and provides for economic integration through coverage of merchandise goods, services, investment and trade facilitation.

#### **Significance of APTA:**

- Open to all developing member countries, APTA is a truly region-wide trade agreement spanning East and South Asia, with potential to expand to other sub-regions, including Central Asia and the Pacific.
- APTA is the first plurilateral agreement among the developing countries in the region to adopt common operational procedures for certification and verification of the origin of goods and it has the longest effective implementation period amongst the trade agreements in the entire Asia-Pacific.

- Notably, APTA is the only operational trade agreement linking China and India, two of the fastest growing markets in the world, and other major markets such as the Republic of Korea.

**31. Ans: A**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Global Democracy Index (GDI) released by UK-based Company, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/india-ranks-42nd-on-global-democracy-index-and-the-reasons-are-the-ones-we-feared-the-most-1160141-2018-02-02>

**Global Democracy Index:**

- ✓ Global Democracy Index is an annual Index released by UK based company Economist Intelligence Unit.
- ✓ The index ranks 165 independent states and 2 territories on basis of 60 indicators grouped in five different categories.
- ✓ The five categories are electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture.
- ✓ It categories countries into four broad categories viz. full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime and authoritarian regime.
- ✓ 2017 index was topped by Norway, while India's rank was 42.

**32. Ans: C**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research initiative will each year reward 100 best articles by PhD students.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/novel-initiative-to-encourage-science-communication/article24068354.ece>

**AWSAR (Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research):**

- ✓ Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR) is an initiative launched by Department of Science and Technology to encourage and equip PhD scholars and post-doctoral fellows with skills to communicate science with lay people.
- ✓ Under the initiative, PHD and Post-Doctoral scholars in science and technology stream would be encouraged to write at least one popular science article during their tenancy of their scholarship and participate in a National Competition.
- ✓ The articles can either be submitted to DST directly or published in newspapers.
- ✓ The initiative will each year reward 100 best articles by PhD students with cash prize of Rs.1,00000 each and a certificate of appreciation.
- ✓ The reward for post-doctoral fellows will be Rs.10000 each and a certificate of appreciation for 20 best articles.

**33. Ans: C**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ NASA is targeting 2024 for the launch of a new mission to learn more about the generation of cosmic rays in the heliosphere, a sort of magnetic bubble surrounding and protecting our solar system.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nasas-imap-to-study-cosmic-rays-in-heliosphere/article24068657.ece>

**Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) mission:**

- ✓ Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) mission is a mission by NASA that will help sample, analyze, and map particles streaming to Earth from the edges of interstellar space.
- ✓ The mission will help researchers better understand the boundary of the heliosphere, a sort of magnetic bubble surrounding and protecting our solar system.
- ✓ IMAP will collect and analyze particles that make it through heliosphere.

Another objective of the mission is to understand the generation of cosmic rays of the heliosphere.

**34. Ans: C**

- Chairmanship of the Council rotates every two years among the eight national members.

**Why in news?**

- Contrary to popular belief that the melting ice in the Arctic would open up alternate shipping routes, a senior Finnish official said it would still not be an easily navigable route. He also called for a greater Indian role in the region as an observer in the Arctic Council.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/arctic-sea-route-not-possible-even-if-it-is-ice-free-finnish-official/article24069146.ece>

**Arctic Council:**

- ✓ The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum which addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and people living in the Arctic region.
- ✓ It was established by Ottawa Declaration in 1996.
- ✓ Arctic Council has no programming budget. All projects or initiatives are sponsored by one or more Arctic States.
- ✓ The Arctic Council's mandate, as articulated in the Ottawa Declaration, explicitly excludes military security.
- ✓ The Arctic Council cannot implement or enforce its guidelines, assessments or recommendations on its own. That responsibility belongs to each individual Arctic State.
- ✓ Chairmanship of the Council rotates every two years among the eight national members.
- ✓ Decisions of the Arctic Council are taken by consensus among the eight Arctic Council States, with full consultation and involvement of the Permanent Participants.
- ✓ India holds an Observer status in Arctic Council since 2013.
- ✓ The secretariat formally became operational in 2013 in Tromso, Norway.

- ✓ Artic Council Members – Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Russia and US.

**35. Ans: A**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha will be the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/odisha-beach-is-asias-first-to-get-blue-flag-tag/article24073494.ece>

**Blue Flag Certification:**

- ✓ Blue Flag is an international award presented to well manage beaches with excellent water quality and environmental education programmes.
- ✓ The certification is issued by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).
- ✓ Blue Flag criteria include standards for water quality, safety, environmental education and information, the provision of services and general environmental management criteria.
- ✓ The Award is given to beaches, marinas and sustainable boating tourism operators as an indication of their high environmental and quality standards.
- ✓ Awards are issued on an annual basis to FEE member countries.
- ✓ The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education.
- ✓ FEE conducts mainly five programmes such as
  - Blue Flag,
  - Eco-Schools,
  - Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE)
  - Learning about Forests (LEAF) and
  - Green Key
- ✓ FEE has member organisations in 73 countries worldwide.
- ✓ It was established in 1981.
- ✓ It's headquartered in Copenhagen.

**36. Ans: B**

- 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The government has launched the 'JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA', the Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179755>

**PradhanMantriBhartiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana (PMBJY):**

- ✓ 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. Of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra's known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- ✓ The affordable sanitary napkins will now become available at over 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras functional in 33 States/UTs across India.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- ✓ Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of PMBJP.
- ✓ BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs.

**37. Ans: A**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Odisha government has launched "Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana" for working journalists. The health insurance scheme for working journalists will be implemented with effect from June 1, 2018.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/odisha-starts-health-insurance-scheme-for-journalists/articleshow/64412410.cms>

### **Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya BimaYojana:**

- ✓ Under the scheme, journalists from across the state will get health insurance coverage up to Rs 2 lakh.
- ✓ At least five members of a journalist's family would be covered under the scheme.
- ✓ The scribes will get their health insurance card from the District Information and Public Relations Officer (DIPRO) in their respective districts.

### **38. Ans: C**

- ✓ It was founded in 1920 in Bombay by Lala Lajpat Rai, Joseph Baptista, N. M. Joshi, Diwan Chaman Lall and a few others.

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ Accusing the Centre of running an “anti-worker government”, leading trade union body AITUC is planning to launch a nationwide campaign against the government.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/pm-modi-running-anti-worker-govt-aituc-threatens-40-day-campaign-118060400644\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/pm-modi-running-anti-worker-govt-aituc-threatens-40-day-campaign-118060400644_1.html)

### **All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC):**

- ✓ The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) is the oldest trade union federations in India.
- ✓ It was founded in 1920 in Bombay by LalaLajpatRai, Joseph Baptista, N. M. Joshi, DiwanChamanLall and a few others.
- ✓ Until 1945 when unions became organised on party lines, it was the primary trade union organisation in India. Since then, it has been associated with the Communist Party of India.
- ✓ AITUC is a founder member of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

### **39. Ans: D**

### **Why in news?**

- ✓ Twelve-year-old endosulfan victim who was afflicted with serious heart ailments and paralysis breathed his last at the Kanjangad district hospital, Kasaragod, Kerala.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/endosulfan-claims-child-prodigys-life/article24083848.ece>

**Stockholm convention:**

- ✓ Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is an international environmental treaty, aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants.
- ✓ It was signed in 2001 and came effective from May 2004.
- ✓ There are 182 parties to the convention.
- ✓ Significant non signatories are USA, Italy, and Israel.

**40. Ans: D**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ 38 Indian nationals were stranded on the Yemeni island of Socotra in the aftermath of cyclone Mekenu.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/navy-sends-ship-to-socotra-island-in-yemen-to-rescue-38-stranded-indians/article24069098.ece>

**41. Ans: A**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation launched a new mobile application called ReUnite.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/suresh-prabhu-launches-mobile-app-to-trace-missing-abandoned-children-523877/>

**ReUnite:**

- ✓ ReUnite app was launched to help track missing and abandoned children in India.
- ✓ The app was developed by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan & Capgemini.
- ✓ The app is multiuser where parents and citizens can upload pictures of children, and provide detailed description like name, birth mark, address, report to the police station, search and identify missing kids.
- ✓ The photographs will not be saved in the mobile phone's physical memory.
- ✓ Amazon Rekognition, web facial recognition service, is being used to identify missing kids.
- ✓ The app is available for both Android and iOS.

**42. Ans: B**

- It is found mainly in Sikkim, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.

**Why in news?**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/what-do-we-know-about-the-red-panda/article24740631.ece>

**Red Panda:**

- ✓ The red panda is closely associated with montane forests with dense bamboo-thicket.
- ✓ It is found mainly in Sikkim, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ It is poached for its meat, and for use in medicines, and as a pet.
- ✓ The IUCN has categorized Red Panda as 'Endangered' and as per their Red List assessment of 2015, the population of the species is decreasing.
- ✓ National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has recently added four species- Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and Red Panda, into Centre's Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species.

**Clouded Leopard:**

- ✓ The clouded leopards are found in the Himalayan foothills.
- ✓ It is threatened due to habitat loss, poaching for its skin and is also as a live pet trade.

- ✓ The IUCN has categorized the species as 'Vulnerable' and indicates a declining trend in its population.

**43. Ans: B**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The Law Commission of India submitted a report to the government, saying that since it is impossible to stop illegal gambling, the only viable option left is to “regulate” gambling in sports.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/allow-gambling-in-sports-but-regulate-it-says-law-panel/article24343527.ece>

**Law Commission of India:**

- ✓ Law Commission of India is an executive body established by an order of the Government of India.
- ✓ Its major function is to work for legal reform.
- ✓ The Commission is established for a fixed tenure (generally three years) and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice. Before finalising its recommendations, the Commission needs to consult the law ministry.
- ✓ Law Commission works in close co-ordination and under the general instruction of Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ✓ The commission is headed by a chairperson who is a retired Supreme Court Judge.
- ✓ The first commission of independent India in 1955 was chaired by M C Setalvad who was also the first attorney general of India.

**44. Ans: A**

- The Competition Commission of India consists of a Chairperson and Three members.

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Competition Commission of India (CCI) issues order against All India Chess Federation (AICF) for abuse of dominant position and imposition of

unreasonable vertical restraints on chess players and organisation of chess events.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180540>

**Competition Commission of India:**

- ✓ Competition Commission of India is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing The Competition Act, 2002 throughout India and to prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.
- ✓ It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ✓ This commission was preceded by Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.
- ✓ The Competition Commission of India consists of a Chairperson and Three members.
- ✓ These members are appointed by the Central Government.
- ✓ The commission was established through Competition Act, 2002.

**45. Ans: C**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ ADB accords approval for lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad – Bhojpur region of Bihar.
- ✓ <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180474>

**Asian Development Bank:**

- ✓ ADB is a regional development bank based out of Asia. It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia. It was established in December 1966.
- ✓ It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- ✓ ADB's main objective is to assist its members and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- ✓ It has total 67 members, of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.

- ✓ The ADB was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.
- ✓ ADB is an official United Nations Observer.
- ✓ India has about 6% voting rights (4th highest, Japan and US has the highest voting rights).
- ✓ The highest policy-making body of the bank is the Board of Governors, composed of one representative from each member state.
- ✓ The Board of Governors, in turn, elect among themselves the twelve members of the Board of Directors and their deputies.
- ✓ Eight of the twelve members come from regional (Asia-Pacific) members while the others come from non-regional members.

**46. Ans: A**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ China successfully launched two remote sensing satellites for its "all-weather" ally Pakistan.
- ✓ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/china-launches-two-satellites-for-pakistan/articleshow/64916846.cms>

**PRSS-1, PakTES-1A':**

- ✓ PRSS-1 and PakTes-1A are two remote sensing satellites launched by China for Pakistan.
- ✓ The PRSS-1 is China's first optical remote sensing satellite sold to Pakistan.

**47. Ans: B**

- ESSO-INCOIS was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).

**Why in news?**

- ✓ Vice President was interacting with the Scientists of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and the National Tsunami Warning Centre located there, in Hyderabad.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=180573>

### **ESSO - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS):**

- ✓ ESSO-INCOIS was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).
- ✓ ESSO- INCOIS is mandated to provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvements through systematic and focussed research.
- ✓ It is located in Hyderabad.

### **International Involment:**

- ✓ ESSO-INCOIS has a prominent international presence, being a permanent member of the Indian delegation to IOC of UNESCO and a founding member of the Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS) and the Partnership for Observing the Oceans (POGO) which is actively engaged in capacity building and international exchange of students and researchers.
- ✓ ESSO-INCOIS houses the IOGOOS secretariat and the Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (SIBER) International Programme Office.
- ✓ Through the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), ESSO-INCOIS provides ocean information and forecasts to member countries.
- ✓ ESSO-INCOIS is also a member of the Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment (GODAE) Ocean View Science Team (GOVST) and Patrons Group.

**48. Ans: A**

**Why in news?**

- ✓ The district administrations of Mysuru, Kodagu, Mandya, and Hassan are on alert given the incessant rain in the Cauvery catchment area.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/more-rain-likely-in-cauvery-catchment-areas/article24428215.ece>

**Cauvery River:**

- ✓ It rises on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka state, flows in a southeasterly direction for 475 miles (765 km).
- ✓ It is the third largest after Godavari and Krishna in south India and the largest in Tamil Nadu which on its course, bisects the state into North and South.
- ✓ It empties into the Bay of Bengal south of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The Kaveri's main tributaries are the Kabani (Kabbani), Amaravati, Noyil, and Bhavani rivers.
- ✓ The cauvery basin extends over the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and union territory of Puducherry. Cauvery water dispute tribunal in 1990.
- ✓ The cauvery basin is surrounded by Tungabhadra basin of Krishna Basin on the northern side and Palar basin on the southern side. The Western Ghats form the western boundary.

**49. Ans: D**

- The Central Information Commission is a statutory body established under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and other Information Commissioners shall hold office for a term of Five years and are not eligible for reappointment

**Why in news?**

- ✓ BCCI brought under RTI Act by Central Information Commission.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/cricket/story/bcci-brought-under-rti-act-by-central-information-commission-1353613-2018-10-01>

### **Central Information Commission:**

- ✓ The Central Information Commission is a statutory body established under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- ✓ The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and not more than 10 Information Commissioners (IC) who are appointed by the President of India.
- ✓ Central Information Commissioners and members are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee consisting of :
  - Prime Minister as Chairperson,
  - The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha,
  - A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- ✓ The Chief Information Commissioner and other Information Commissioners shall hold office for a term of Five years and are not eligible for reappointment.

**50. Ans: D**

### **‘Rapid Trident’:**

- Ukraine has launched annual joint military exercise named Rapid Trident with United States and other NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries.
- The exercise will place in western Ukrainian village of Starychi from September 2 to 15, 2018. Its main goal is to practice countering armed aggression in conditions of the hybrid war.
- The exercise is composed of multinational, brigade-level, computer-assisted command post exercise, that is integrated with battalion-level field training exercise, and platoon-level situational training exercise.
- It will see participation of around 2,200 soldiers (all having combat experience) from 14 countries including the UK, Canada, Georgia, Turkey, Poland and Germany.}

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