

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**Disha Act**

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Friday passed the Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019 (Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2019).

About:

- It has prescribed the death penalty for rape crimes where there is adequate conclusive evidence. Provision is given by amending Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
- It also prescribes life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children and includes Section 354 F and 354 G in IPC.
- In cases of harassment of women through social or digital media, it states two years imprisonment for the first conviction and four years for second and subsequent convictions. For this, a new Section 354 E will be added in IPC, 1860.
- It envisages the completion of investigation in seven days and trial in 14 working days, where there is adequate conclusive evidence, and reducing the total judgment time to 21 days from the existing four months.
- The period for disposal of appeal cases has been reduced to three months. Amendments are being made in Section 374 and 377 of Code of Criminal Procedure Act, 1973.
- The government will constitute special police teams at the district level to be called District Special Police Team to be headed by DSP for investigation of offences related to women and children.

Relative Info : Disha is the name given to a veterinarian who was raped and murdered in Hyderabad on November 27. On the morning of December 6, the Cyberabad police shot all four accused in an encounter.

Jangubai Cave Temple and Kaplai Caves

The Jangubai Cave Temple and the Kaplai Caves are considered as a pilgrimage site by aboriginal tribes like Gond, Pradhan and Kolam. These caves are located at Maharashtra -Telangana border.

Kolam Tribe

- The Kolam tribe (or in their own language, Kolavar) is a scheduled tribe of Maharashtra. They also live in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- They have a language of their own (Kolami) which belongs, like Gondi, to the intermediate group of Dravidian languages.
- They are monogamous and follow Hinduism.
- Recently in 2018, the Government has identified Katkaria (Kathodia), Kolam and Maria Gond as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is administering the scheme "Development of PVTGs" for the overall development of PVTGs. This scheme is flexible and enables the States to focus on areas that they consider is relevant to PVTGs and their socio-cultural environment.

Gond Tribe

- The Gonds tribe is spread over Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, and West Bengal.
- Their main concentration is in forest and hilly areas between the Vidhyans and Satpura.

Pradhan Tribe

- The Pardhan is a subgroup of the tribal Gond people who live in central India.
- The large majority of the Pardhan live in the Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- The primary language of the Pardhan people is their own Pardhan language. Some Pardhan also speak Hindi, Marathi and Gondi.
- The traditional occupation of the Pardhan is that of being singers and musicians at festivals and important life

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**Accessible India Campaign**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment informed Lok Sabha that the deadline for the government's Accessible India campaign have been extended to March 2020 due to slow progress.

About:

- Accessible India campaign aims at making public spaces friendly for persons with disabilities.
- Under the Rights of PwD Act, 2016, all existing and new public buildings have to follow the accessibility standards notified on June 15, 2017. The existing buildings were given five years to comply.
- The original deadlines under the Accessible India campaign were July 2016 for conducting an accessibility audit of 25-50 of the most important government buildings in 50 cities and making them completely accessible and March 2018.
- The decision to extend deadline was taken by the Central Advisory Board chaired by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot.

National Ganga Council

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

About:

- The Council has been given overall responsibility for superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.
- He urged for a holistic thinking process where 'Namami Gange' evolves to 'Arth Ganga' or a sustainable development model with a focus on economic activities related to Ganga.
- For monitoring the work progress under Namami Gange, PM also gave directions for the setting up of a Digital Dashboard where data from villages and urban bodies should be monitored on a daily basis by Niti Ayog and Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Drinking Water Supply

According to the data presented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in the Lok Sabha, around 3 lakh rural habitations lack quality drinking water supply.

About:

- Over three lakh rural habitations across the country continue to be deprived of the government's minimum prescribed provision of 40 litre per capita per day (lpcd) of potable drinking water with assured quality with sources at a reasonable distance.
- As reported by States/UTs till Dec., 2019, 15.56% rural habitations have service level of less than 40 lpcd, whereas 3.17% rural habitations are with water sources having quality issues.
- Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam top the list where the coverage is facing quality issues or seeing diminished supply.

Related Into:

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been launched in August, 2019 in partnerships with States to provide potable water through Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) at service level of 55 lpcd by 2024.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**UNESCO representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Of Humanity**

This year, UNESCO has included 20 elements – such as “Nuad” Thai massage, Irish harping, Portugal's Carnival of Podence – in its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity at its recent meeting that was held in Bogota, Columbia.

About:

- UNESCO maintains three lists under its “Intangible Cultural Heritage” banner:
 - the list of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding,
 - the list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity and
 - the register of good safeguarding practices.
- Intangible culture is that part of culture which cannot be touched but can only be recorded. It includes performing arts like song, music, drama, skills, crafts etc.
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003. India ratified it in 2007.
- Domains: There are five broad ‘domains’ in which intangible cultural heritage is manifested:
- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;

Performing arts:

- Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
- Traditional craftsmanship.

Till date, this list includes 13 intangible cultural heritage items from India, the most recent addition was made in 2017 when Kumbh Mela was added to the list. The first three entries were made in 2008, when Vedic chanting, Ramlila and Sanskrit theatre Kutiyattam were added.

World's Oldest Cave Art

According to a study published in 'Nature', a cave painting found on Indonesia's island of Sulawesi, depicting human-like figures hunting animals, appears to be the earliest known pictorial record of story-telling.

About:

- The painting, found in a limestone cave in 2017, was dated to nearly 44,000 years ago using uranium-series analysis.
- It shows eight therianthropes, or humans with animal characteristics, appearing to chase and kill six animals such as the warty pigs native to the island, using what seem to be spears and ropes.
- The drawings were found in a cave called Leang Bulu'Sipong 4 in the south of Sulawesi, an Indonesian island east of Borneo.
- Until now, the oldest rock art showing a character with the characteristics of an animal had been an ivory sculpture found in a cave in Germany. Thought to be dating back 40,000 years, it depicts a human body attached to a feline-like head.

The Office Of The High Commissioner For Human Rights (OHCHR)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has criticized the Citizenship Amendment Act for being fundamentally discriminatory in nature and undermines India's commitment to equality before the law.

About:

- Names: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is commonly known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) or the UN Human Rights Office.
- Type: It is a department of the Secretariat of the United Nations.
- Mandate: To promote and protect the human rights that are stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.
- History: It was established by the UN General Assembly in 1993 in the wake of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.
- Secretariat: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Leadership: The High Commissioner for Human Rights is the principal human rights official of the United Nations. The High Commissioner heads OHCHR.

'Phase One' Agreement

The United States and China announced a "Phase One" agreement under which the US will reduce some tariffs in exchange for increased Chinese purchases of American farm and energy goods.

Key highlights of the agreement:

- Tariffs: The US will halve its 15 per cent tariff on about \$120 billion in Chinese goods. China didn't agree to specific tariff reductions in the deal. Instead, the nation's obligation is to make the purchases and to have an exclusion process for its tariffs.
- Purchases: China has agreed to increase its total purchases of US goods and services by at least \$200 billion over the next two years.
- IP, Forced Tech Transfer: China has agreed to end its long-standing practice of forcing or pressuring foreign companies to transfer their technology to Chinese companies as a condition for obtaining market access
- Enforcement: The agreement will include a dispute-resolution mechanism that will serve as the enforcement arm.
- The first phase leaves contentious issues unresolved, including US demands that China curb subsidies to state-owned firms. Thus, negotiations for the next phase would start soon.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (Iora)

At the 'Delhi Dialogue' conference, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries should build a common vision for Indo-Pacific.

About:

- IORA is an inter-governmental organisation to strengthen regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean Region.
- IORA has identified six priority areas, namely: (1) maritime security, (2) trade and investment facilitation, (3) fisheries management, (4) disaster risk reduction, (5) academic and scientific cooperation and (6) tourism promotion and cultural exchanges.
- Established in: 1997.
- Membership: IORA has 22 Member States and 9 Dialogue Partners.
- Secretariat: Mauritius.
- IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually.

INDIAN ECONOMY**Fund Manager**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has come out with a draft notification with regard to remuneration of India-based fund managers who are managing funds of overseas investors.

About:

- Section 9A of the Income-tax Act, 1961, provides for a special taxation regime in respect of certain offshore funds in the context of their fund managers being located in India.
- Finance (No 2) Act, 2019 amended section 9A so as to provide that the remuneration paid by the fund to an eligible fund manager in respect of fund management activity undertaken by him on its behalf is not less than the amount calculated in such manner as may be prescribed.
- Accordingly, the manner for calculation of the amount, compared to which the remuneration paid to the eligible fund manager should not be less, is required to be prescribed. In this background, the CBDT has issued draft notification.

E-Commerce

The government has issued new rules that make it compulsory for e-commerce companies with foreign investments to submit an audit report every year, showing that they have been in compliance with the FDI rules for the sector.

About:

- According to a notification amending the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, dated December 5, e-commerce companies have to obtain a statutory auditor report by the end of September each year for the preceding financial year.
- The latest notification on FEMA comes amid fresh sets of complaints by brick-and-mortar stores against the alleged violation of FDI rules by e-tailers. The government, however, stated that the notification was only a reiteration of existing rules.

Related Info:

- The DPIIT had issued a notification in December 2018, which barred online marketplaces with foreign investments from selling products of companies where they held stakes or controlled inventory, and also banned exclusive marketing arrangements, among others.
- The rules were also designed to ensure that the e-commerce marketplaces themselves did not influence the prices of the products on sale by providing deep discounts.

Rohne and Rabodih Coal Mines

The Ministry of Coal has allotted two Coking Coal mines, Rohne and Rabodih located in Jharkhand, to the Steel Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE's).

About:

- Allocated under the Coal Mines (Special Provision) Act, 2015, these mines located in Jharkhand will add about more than 10 MT per annum and boost the coking coal production in the country.
- The 'Rohne' Coal Mine has been allotted to National Mineral Development Corporation Limited.
- The 'Robodih OCP' coal mine has been allotted to Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited.

- This allotment is in addition to 5 coal mines which have been allocated to successful bidders and 6 coal mines which have allotted to PSU's. In all, the 13 mines will add more than 35 MT per annum coal to the domestic availability of coal.

Marginal Cost Of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR)

State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the reduction in its marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points across all one-year products from 8 per cent to 7.90 per cent.

About:

- MCLR is the minimum interest rate that a bank can lend at. The actual lending rates for loans of different categories and tenors are determined by adding the components of spread to MCLR.
- MCLR is a tenor-linked internal benchmark, which means the rate is determined internally by the bank depending on the period left for the repayment of a loan.
- MCLR is calculated based on four components: the marginal cost of funds, negative carry on account of cash reserve ratio, operating costs and tenor premium.
- The Reserve Bank of India introduced the MCLR methodology for fixing interest rates from 1 April 2016. It replaced the base rate structure, which had been in place since July 2010.

7th Economic Census

Recently, the 7th Economic Census was launched in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It is being carried out by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) in collaboration with Common Service Centre (CSC), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Ministry of Electronics and IT.

Key Points

- For the first time, an IT-based digital platform is being used for data capture, validation, report generation and dissemination will be used.
- A comprehensive training strategy has been evolved to impart training to enumerators and supervisors engaged in the Census.
- It is conducted every five years and very crucial for framing of policies and planning for the government and other organisations.
- It was held in 1978 for the first time and this is the 7th Census which will provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural aspects of all establishments in the country.
- The census will provide valuable insights into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern; persons engaged etc. of the establishments engaged in economic activity.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)

Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change informed Lok Sabha about the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM).

About:

- The Ministry of Environment has set up the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) at Chennai.
- It has been setup to undertake studies and research in the area of Coastal Zone Management including coastal resources and environment.
- It advises the Union and State Governments and other associated stakeholder(s) on policy, and scientific matters related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).
- For the first time, Integrated Island Management plans including holistic island development plans have been prepared by NCSCM for implementation by coastal States/ UTs.

National Energy Conservation Awards

National Energy Conservation Day is being celebrated on 14th December 2019.

About:

- National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on 14th December by Ministry of Power in association with Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- In order to recognise the efforts of industry and other establishments towards promoting energy efficiency, on this Day, Ministry of Power organizes National Energy Conservation Awards event every year.
- The National Energy Conservation Awards Programme recognizes the energy efficiency achievements in 56 sub sectors across industry, establishments and institutions.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):

- BEE is a statutory body under Ministry of Power which is mandated to implement policy and programmes in the area of energy efficiency and conservation.
- The objective of such initiatives is to reduce energy intensity in our country by optimizing energy demand and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) which are responsible for global warming and climate change.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC

Initiatives to promote Research in the Field of Science

Union Minister for Human Resource Development informed Rajya Sabha today about the various initiatives taken by the Government to promote research in the field of science & engineering and to develop world class research facilities.

About:

- Prime Minister Research Fellowship: Under this scheme, meritorious students of IITs, IITs, NITs and IISERs, after completing their B.Tech programme can straightaway get admission in PhD programme at IITs and IISc. They are given fellowship and a research grant.
- Junior Research Fellow (JRF)/Senior Research Fellow (SRF): Under this scheme, research personnel engaged in R&D programmes are given emoluments of Rs.31,000/- per month. For Senior Research Fellow (SRF) these emoluments are Rs. 35,000/- per month.
- Establishment of Research Parks: Five new Research Parks at IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, and IISc Bangalore have been approved by the Government under Startup India Initiative in Higher Education (SIIHE) Scheme.
- Impacting Research, Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT): IMPRINT aims at providing solutions to the most relevant engineering challenges in 10 selected technology domains, viz. health care, energy, sustainable habitat etc. It is a pan IITs and IISc Joint Initiative seeking to develop a roadmap for research.
- Institutions of Eminence (IoE): In order to empower the Higher Educational Institutions and to help them in becoming world class teaching and research institutions, government has recently declared 20 institutions (10 public and 10 Private institutions) as Institutions of Eminence.

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT

\$5 Trillion Economy: Odisha Not Among Key Driver States Says SBI Report

While a report titled "Economic Possibilities for Odisha Towards a One Trillion Dollar Economy" released by Jindal Group in July this year predicted Odisha will play a key role in making the country touch the 5 trillion dollar mark by year 2025, a recent report of SBI research cell doesn't see any such role for Odisha.

The SBI research report authored by SBI Group quite clearly observed that states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana as well as Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are the states which are likely to contribute more towards the central govt's goal of reaching \$5 trillion economy.

Main Causes:

The lead author of the study has taken the yardsticks of Ease of Doing Business, tax revenue mobilised, GSDP growth, Fiscal deficit, population growth, unemployment, National Highway length and Power availability in a state to rank its contribution to country's \$5 trillion economy benchmark.

- As per the report, Odisha exhibited strong showing in decadal population growth and urban unemployment rate
- In the indicator of 'Ease of Doing Business and collection of tax revenue', Odisha fared poorer than neighbouring states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal
- The State fared poorly in the indicator of 'Growth & Fiscal Deficit'. The study has placed Odisha in unfavourable quadrant
- Odisha also failed to make it into the favourable quadrant in the indicator of infrastructure like power availability and national Highways length
- The bottomline is Odisha has to address the lag-in factors in its economy that are playing drag-down role on the economic front.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: Even though migrants add substantially to the economy, they are always not seen favourably by the recipient states/cities. Comment.

Ans: Migration is movement of people from one geographical area to another geographical area. Factors like economic interests, unfavourable climate, political instability or war may prompt people to migrate

Economic benefits of Migration

- **Boost in Efficiency:** According to the ILO, bulk of employment in the informal sector is economically efficient and profit-making. Thus migration increases the efficiency of local businesses as well as provides income for migrants.
- **A source of labor:** It serves as boost in demographic dividend for ageing population for states or simply lack of labour, like Tamil Nadu and Kerala which get cheap supply of unskilled labour from northern states. These gains will increase in the future as the share of post working-age population increases in the southern states.
- **Source of Remittances:** Migrants send significant remittances to their home state thus helping economic growth in poor states. Testimony of this is India being highest recipient of remittances i.e. nearly \$70 billion.
- **Leads to catch-up effect:** Migration leads to remittances transfers and social capital transfer thereby bridging inequality across the regions.

However, social issues due to migration lead to backlash against the migrants:

- **Economic causes:** As migration puts pressure on employment opportunities for unskilled native workers, discontent is bound to rise. For eg: Trump's policy of hire American and buy American is aftermath of inflow of migrants into USA.
- **Cultural causes:** Migration also causes social unrest. As migration increases the linguistic and ethnic profile tends to change which creates anxiety in local population leading to demographic changes which at times is fed by populist anti-migrants rhetoric. For eg: Assam riots happened in backdrop of illegal migration from Bangladesh.
- **Pressure on public services:** Due to incessant migration to industrialized states and cities from poor states there has been tremendous pressure on public services in inbound states/cities especially on health, education and transport services producing mass discontentment among locals for migrants.
- **Identity politics:** The 'son of the soil' discourse, is propagated by political leaders to gain support from local people. This is the another reason for migrants being unwelcomed.

Conclusion: In India 45.36 crore Indians (37 per cent) are migrants but nature of Indian economy is formal (83% workforce is engaged in informal sector) which adds to woes of migrants' labours. Therefore, it is necessary that governments manage migration carefully through comprehensive policy.

Qns: Social changes in society cannot be brought only on the edifice of legislations. Analyze.

Ans:

Social change refers to any modification in established patterns of social structure, inter-human relationship and standards of conduct. These can be generated from within society (changing economy, technology) or due to external interventions and influences (legislation, judicial pronouncements, influence of other cultures etc).

In modern societies legislative action tends to be most important instrument delivering social change, but that may sometime not be sufficient to bring long lasting change and may at times come in direct conflict with the established norms.

Social change in the society through legislation:-

- **Pre-independence legislations:** The British rule in India for the first time established the supreme authority of law in social matters, ensuring uniformity in law and social order which India did not have till then. Many of the evil practices such as sati pratha, child marriage etc. were curtailed by timely and suitable legislations.

- Increased status of the women: Legislation helped to shelve many of our outmoded traditional customs and practices. For instance law has been instrumental in bringing about a change in the status of women.
- In matters of employment, a woman is entitled for equal pay as her male counterparts.
- Workplaces have been made safer through Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace(Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- A daughter can be given and taken in adoption under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act 1956.
- Education for all: Education has been made accessible and mandatory for all irrespective of gender, status, religion or caste through Right to Education.
- However, in some instances legislation has failed to bring about the needed social change. For instance, problem of untouchability, child marriages, female foeticide, honour killings are still rampant despite legislations. Sometimes legislative actions come in direct conflict with societal norms thereby defeating the efforts. For ex: Effort towards Uniform Civil Code. Hence, more efforts in other dimensions are needed to ensure sustainable and smooth social change.

Other steps to bring social change:-

- Social work and empowerment of people: Since social work aims at resolving problems and issues related to structural inequalities, mass poverty, socio-economic injustices and deprivation, it promotes social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being.
- Judicial activism: Legislatures are not best fitted for the role of adapting the law to the necessities of the time, for the legislative process is too slow and the legislatures often divided by politics, slowed down by periodic elections and overburdened with myriad other legislative activities. Judicial interventions can be a better alternative.
- Social reform movements: The social change can be brought by preaching of religions, by launching social reform movements like one done by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Justice Ranade, Shahu Maharaj, Jotiba Phule, Gandhiji, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other such prominent social thinkers.
- Participatory decision making is needed: Administrative solutions are often unsatisfactory to absolutists who have little respect for the pragmatic balancing of interests. Any step for social change should come from within the society so that it is practical in implementation.
- Education: Education is the most powerful factor of social change and social changes to a great extent can be brought about through the process of education
- Acceptance by high status individuals: Any change would become easily accepted in the society if the people who are in high position would accept the change.
- New opinions and thoughts: Another factor of social change is the appearance of new opinions and thoughts. For example changes in the attitudes towards dowry, caste system, female education, etc. have resulted in widespread social variations and modifications. In fact, a majority of the social revolutions take place as a result of the evolution of new ways of thinking.
- Technological and scientific factors: Technological and scientific inventions such as various types of machines and equipments etc. are potent factors in social change. They break regional barriers by providing easy and fast means of communication as well as of conveyance.

Conclusion: The social change brought by holistic approach is more sustainable and acceptable to all sections of the society.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

1. Consider the following statements:-

1. Accessible India Campaign is being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The aim of the Accessible India Campaign is to achieve universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the Economic Census, consider the following statements:

1. It is carried out by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It is conducted once in every ten years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Which of the following bodies/institutions are headed by the Prime Minister of India?

1. National Ganga Council
2. National Board for Wildlife
3. National Integration Council

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

4. With reference to the marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR), consider the following statements:

1. It is the minimum interest rate that a bank can lend at.
2. Base rate structure replaced MCLR methodology for fixing interest rates from 1 April 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. With reference to the "Phase One" agreement between U.S.A and China, consider the following statements:

1. The US will halve its 15 per cent tariff on about \$120 billion in Chinese goods.
2. China has agreed to increase its total purchases of US goods and services by at least \$200 billion over the next two years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. With reference to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, consider the following statements:

1. It was established by the UN General Assembly in 1993 in the wake of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.
2. Its Secretariat is in New York.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. With reference to the data presented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in the Lok Sabha on drinking water supply, consider the following statements:

1. Over three lakh rural habitations across the country continue to be deprived of the government's minimum prescribed provision of 40 litre per capita per day (lpcd) of potable drinking water with assured quality with sources at a reasonable distance.
2. Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam top the list where the coverage is facing quality issues or seeing diminished supply.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. With reference to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), consider the following statements:

1. It is an inter-governmental organisation established in 2010 to strengthen regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean Region.
2. IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. The Ministry of Coal has recently allotted two Coking Coal mines, Rohne and Rabodih to the Steel Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE's). It is located in:

- (a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha
(c) Chhattisgarh (d) West Bengal

10. With reference to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, consider the following statements:

1. Recently it included “Nuad” Thai massage, Irish harping, Portugal’s Carnival of Podence – in its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
2. Till date, this list includes 13 intangible cultural heritage items from India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. With reference to the Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019 (Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It has prescribed the death penalty for rape crimes where there is adequate conclusive evidence.
2. It envisages the completion of investigation in 2 months and trial in 1 month, where there is adequate conclusive evidence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. The Ministry of Environment has set up the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) in which of the following places?

- (a) Kochi (b) **Chennai**
(c) Panaji (d) Vishakhapatnam

13. With reference to the National Energy Conservation Awards, consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Power organizes National Energy Conservation Awards event every year on National Energy Conservation Day.
2. Bureau of Energy Efficiency is an executive body under Ministry of Power which is mandated to implement policy and programmes in the area of energy efficiency and conservation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. With reference to the Accessible India campaign, consider the following statements:

1. Accessible India campaign aims at making public spaces friendly for persons with disabilities.
2. Under the Rights of PwD Act, 2016, all existing and new public buildings have to follow the accessibility standards notified on June 15, 2017.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

15. With reference to the e-commerce, consider the following statements:

1. According to a notification amending the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, e-commerce companies have to obtain a statutory auditor report by the end of September each year for the preceding financial year.
2. According to DPIIT notification online marketplaces with foreign investments from selling products of companies where they held stakes or controlled inventory, and also banned exclusive marketing arrangements, among others.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. With reference to the initiatives taken by the Government to promote research in the field of science & engineering, consider the following statements:

1. In order to empower the Higher Educational Institutions and to help them in becoming world class teaching and research institutions, government has recently declared 100 institutions (50 public and 50 Private institutions) as Institutions of Eminence.
2. Under the Prime Minister Research Fellowship scheme, meritorious students of IITs, IIITs, NITs and IISERs, after completing their B.Tech programme can straightaway get admission in PhD programme at IITs and IISc.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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