Top Story 2018

Eastern Peripheral Expressway
India's first smart and green highway

NIPAH VIRUS:
Newly detected infection in Kerala (India)

This Issue

Swachh Survekshan 2018:
1st survey to measure citizen connect with sanitation outcomes

India-China Informal Summit:
First informal summit between India and China

Rail Madad:
An App to streamline passenger grievance redressal

POSAN Abhiyaan:
National Nutrition Mission

GSAT-6A:
India's Communication satellite

NASAS InSight:
Mission to Mars
APRIL TO JUNE 2018
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CHAPTER 1

Polity Governance and Social Issues

PRAAPTI

- It is a web portal and an App which stands for Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators.
- It has been officially launched by Union Power ministry.
- Its main aim is to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and DISCOMS.
- Its other function is to capture the Invoicing and payment data for various long term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) from the Generators.

Advantages:

- The main benefit is that it will assist the stakeholders in getting month-wise and legacy data on outstanding amounts of DISCOMS against power purchase.
- It would provide relative assessment of various State DISCOMs on “Ease of making payments” to various Generation Companies.

SEVABHOJ SCHEME

- It has been introduced by the Union Ministry of Culture.
- The main objective of the scheme is to repay the Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) on purchase of certain raw items like ghee, edible oil, flour, rice pulses, sugar etc.
- The above mentioned raw items are used in the preparation of food/Prasad/langar/bhandara which is offered free of cost by religious institutions without any discrimination to Public/Devotees.
- This scheme will reduce the financial stress of the various Charitable Religious Institutions providing food etc. free of cost.

CAUVERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

- The Central government has acted on the Supreme Court’s direction and has recently constituted a Cauvery Water Management Authority (CMA).
- Its main objective is to address the dispute over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.
- The members of the authority would comprise of a chairman, eight members and a secretary.
- Out of eight members:
  - Two members will be full-time
  - Two will be part-time
  - Remaining four would be part-time members from states.
- Major Powers of the authority are:
  - Sufficient and expedient for securing compliance and implementation of the Supreme Court order in relation to “storage, distribution, regulation and control of Cauvery waters.
  - It can also seek the help of the central government for implementation of the award and take appropriate action.
- Major functions of the authority are:
  - It will supervise operation of reservoirs and with regulation of water releases therefrom with the assistance of regulation committee.
  - It will also provide regulated release of water
Polity Governance and Social Issues

by Karnataka, at the inter-state contact point presently called as Billigundulu, which is located on the common border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

- It would determine the total residual storage in the specified reservoirs at the beginning of the water year (on June 1).
- It will also advise the states to take suitable measures to improve water use efficiency. The measures taken are: (a) promoting micro-irrigation (drip and sprinkler), (b) change in cropping pattern, (c) improved agronomic practices, (d) system deficiency correction and (e) command area development.
- It will prepare an annual report which will include the activities of the authority for the last 1 year.

Note: The Supreme Court had asked the Centre in its verdict (Feb 16) to formulate the Cauvery management scheme. The scheme includes the creation of the Cauvery Management Board for the release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

It had modified the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award of 2007 and said that it will not extend the time for this order on any ground.

The share of Cauvery water for Karnataka was raised by 14.75 tmcft from the earlier 270 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft).

About Cauvery river:
Cauvery River rises in Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in south-western Karnataka. It flows in a south-easterly direction through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

It empties into the Bay of Bengal, south of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu through a large number of distributaries forming a wide delta called the “garden of southern India.”

Science and Technology (DST) and students who write popular articles about their research will be rewarded.

- Under this initiative, 100 best articles by PhD students will be rewarded with cash prize of Rs.1,00,000 each and a certificate of appreciation.

Objectives:
- To introduce popular science writing skills and bring science closer to the society
- To decrease the widening gap between research done in labs across the country and what the public knows.

JAN-AUSHADHI SUVIDHA

- It is the oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, launched by the government, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). Under this initiative, the affordable sanitary napkins will now become available at over 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras functional in 33 States/UTs across India.

Note: Jan Aushadhi Suvidha comes with a special additive, which makes Sanitary napkin biodegradable when it comes in contact with oxygen after being discarded. This would ensure ‘Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha’ for the underprivileged Women of India and go a long way in the achievement of vision of Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All.

Benefits:
- It will reduce the price of sanitary napkins available in the market from around Rs. 8 per pad to Rs. 2.50 per pad.

Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR)

- It is an effort by the Union Government to enhance and equip PhD scholars and post-doctoral fellows with skills to communicate science with lay people.
- It will be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and students who write popular articles about their research will be rewarded.

- Under this initiative, 100 best articles by PhD students will be rewarded with cash prize of Rs.1,00,000 each and a certificate of appreciation.

Objectives:
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1. Consider the following statements related to PRAAPTI.
   1. It stands for Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators.
   2. It has been launched to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and DISCOMS.

   Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only       (b) 2 only       (c) Both 1 and 2       (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements related to SevaBhoj Scheme.
   1. It has been introduced by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
   2. The main aim is to repay the Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax and Integrated Goods and Service Tax on purchase of certain raw items like ghee, edible oil, flour, rice pulses, sugar etc.

   Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only       (b) 2 only       (c) Both 1 and 2       (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following statements related to JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA.
   1. It is the oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, launched under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana
   2. It would ensure Swachta, Swasthya and Suvidha for the underprivileged Women of India

   Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
   (a) 1 only       (b) 2 only       (c) Both 1 and 2       (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements related to Mission Raftaar.
   1. It is a joint initiative of Indian Railways and World Bank to double the average speed of freight trains.
   2. Its main benefits are less operational cost and enhancing the revenues and the railway’s market share.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
   (a) 1 only       (b) 2 only       (c) Both 1 and 2       (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements related to initiatives launched by Ministry of Coal.
   1. UTTAM App has been launched for auction and allotment of coal linkages.
   2. Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India has been launched to help in creating direct and indirect employment through higher investment and better technology.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
   (a) 1 only       (b) 2 only       (c) Both 1 and 2       (d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Consider the following statements related to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana.
   1. It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development.
   2. Its main focus area is on rural youth aged between 15 and 35 years who belong to minorities.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only       (b) 2 only       (c) Both 1 and 2       (d) Neither 1 nor 2

7. Which of the following has set up National data centers in India?
   (a) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
   (b) National Informatics Centre
   (c) IIIT-Allahabad
   (d) It’s a joint effort of all the above three institutions.

Which of the following has set up National data centers in India?
   (a) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
   (b) National Informatics Centre
   (c) IIIT-Allahabad
   (d) It’s a joint effort of all the above three institutions.

8. Consider the following statements related to India BPO promotion scheme.
   1. It is the union government scheme under the Digital India initiative.
   2. Its main aim is to increase the capacity building in smaller cities related to infra & manpower.
OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Which of the following statement(s) is/are NOT correct related to Bad bank concept?
1. It is also known as Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency and was first coined at the G7 summit in 2000.
2. It specializes in loan resolution process in order to make banking system focus on core banking solutions.
Correct answer codes:
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct related to small finance banks?
1. Acceptance of deposits and lending to unattended and underserved sections of the society is one of the important functions of small finance bank.
2. They can also open branches without prior RBI approval for first five years.
3. The Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow urban co-operative banks to convert into small finance banks.
Correct answer codes:
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) 3 only  (d) 1 and 3 only

11. NITI Aayog has formulated a comprehensive plan to replace 20% of crude imports from Methanol. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct related to Methanol?
1. Methanol is a clean fuel and can replace both petrol & diesel in transportation sector.
2. It doesn't produce particulate matter, soot, Sulfur oxide and Nitrogen oxide emissions.
3. It can't be produced from Natural Gas and Coal.
Correct answer codes:
(a) 1 only  (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only  (d) 1 and 3 only

12. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct related to Cop Connect?
1. It is a mobile application developed by Telangana police.
2. It also has a unique feature, called as i-Meeting, to create and schedule department meetings in user friendly way.
Correct answer codes:
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2

13. Which of the following statement(s) is/are NOT correct related to Dhanush?
1. It has been jointly developed by India and Russia.
2. It is a 155-mm, 45-calibre gun and has a maximum range of 40 km.
Correct answer codes:
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2

14. Which one of the following countries is part of coordinated patrol named as IND-INDO CORPAT?
(a) India and Singapore
(b) India and Malaysia
(c) India and Thailand
(d) India and Indonesia

15. Consider the following statements related to G7.
1. It is an annual event where world leaders from seven countries hold discussions on the most happening and important issues of the world.
2. Spain is the member of this bloc.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2

16. Consider the following statements related to World Environment Day.
1. This day is organized in collaboration with the United Nations Environmental Programme.
2. The theme for 2018 Environment Day is Beat plastic pollution.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only  (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2  (d) Neither 1 nor 2

17. Consider the following statements related to Chandrabhaga Beach.
1. It is located on the Konark coast of Odisha.
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