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Jal Shakti Abhiyan
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conservation projects

Dirac Metals
New class of quantum materials
for clean energy technology

NISHITHA
National Initiative for School Head's
and Teachers' Holistic Advancement

One Nation One Ration Card Scheme
Provide portability of food
security benefits

Ease of Doing Business Index 2019
Comparing Business Regulation
in 190 Economies

2nd Informal Summit
2nd India-China Informal Meeting



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

**JANUARY TO NOVEMBER
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Office : F-126, (Lower Basement), Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016 • **Phone** : 011-26522064
Mobile : 8130909220, 9711853908 • **E-mail**: info@iesmasterpublications.com, info@iesmaster.org
Web : iesmasterpublications.com, iesmaster.org

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CHAPTER

1

Polity Governance and Social Issues

SKILLSBUILD PLATFORM

- ❖ It was jointly launched by Directorate General of Training (ministry of skill development & entrepreneurship) & IBM in 2018.
- ❖ It offers digital learning material from IBM and other types of online coding teaching firms.
- ❖ It will provide a two-year advanced diploma in subjects such as IT, networking & cloud computing at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) & National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).
- ❖ Later on, it will also include the training of ITI & NSTI teachers on enhancing skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The platform will teach digital technologies & professional skills like resume-writing, problem solving & communication.
- ❖ It will provide a personal assessment of cognitive capabilities & personality via MyInnerGenius to the students.

UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK (UCCN)

- ❖ It was 1st created in 2004 by **United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** to promote cooperation among the cities of the world, which identify creativity as main factor for sustainable urban development.
- ❖ There are **7 creative fields** included in the network which are:
 - Crafts and Folk Arts
 - Media Arts
 - Film, Design
 - Gastronomy
 - Literature and
 - Music

- ❖ The cities under this network pledge to share their best practices & forge partnerships to enhance cultural activities, goods and services.
- ❖ The **Indian cities** included in this network are:
 - **Mumbai:** Creative City of Films
 - **Hyderabad:** Creative City of Gastronomy
 - **Varanasi & Chennai:** City of music
 - **Jaipur:** City of Crafts and Folk Arts

Note: Gastronomy is the study of the practice of choosing, cooking, and eating good food.

SHALA DARPAN PORTAL

- ❖ It is an online portal of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, launched by **Union Ministry for Human Resources Development**.
- ❖ Its **main objective** is to integrate all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas with a common standard.
- ❖ It will better mess management and conditions of hostel.
- ❖ It will also enhance budget and finance management system.
- ❖ It has been designed from **Open Source Technology**, resulting in low cost in its designing.
- ❖ It will provide information regarding:
 - Service record
 - Transfer/posting
 - Disciplinary action

Advantages

- End to end info sharing
- Effective analytical details
- Better transparency in teachers & students evaluation

OFFICE OF CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA COMES UNDER RIGHT TO INFORMATION (RTI) ACT

- ❖ The Supreme Court stated that office of Chief Justice of India is a public authority under the Right to Information Act.
- ❖ It was pronounced by five-judge constitution bench headed by former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.
- ❖ The verdict stated that the Supreme Court is a public authority and the office of CJI is part of it.
- ❖ But the Supreme Court stated that Right to Privacy is an important point that has to be related with transparency while providing information from the Chief Justice of India office.
- ❖ RTI shouldn't be used as a mechanism of surveillance & judicial independence shouldn't be undermined by transparency.
- ❖ The current Chief Justice of India is **Sharad Arvind Bobde who took the office of CJI on Nov 17, 2019.**

SUPREME COURT (SC) DECISION ON FINANCE ACT RULES FOR JUDICIAL TRIBUNALS APPOINTMENTS

- ❖ An interim order has been passed by SC which states that appointments to tribunals shall not be on the basis of the rules framed under the Finance Act of 2017, but as per the existing statutes.
- ❖ SC said that government should reframe the rules & until then, the tribunals will be governed by the existing laws.
- ❖ It also ordered that the Ministry of law should conduct an impact study and submit report to it.
- ❖ It also said that the validity of Finance Act 2017 as Money Bill will be decided by a larger SC bench.

Note: Finance Act, 2017 is the act which gives the Union government the power to decide appointments, removal and service conditions of the members of judicial tribunals like National Green Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

- ❖ It is a two-year program, designed under Skills Acquisition & Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP).
- ❖ It is jointly launched by **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship & Indian**

Institute of Management Bangalore on a pilot basis in 75 districts in the states of Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand.

- ❖ Its objective is to address the issue of non-availability of personnel needed to implement government programmes at national, state & district levels.
- ❖ It will also enhance skill development at the district level.
- ❖ It has an in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.
- ❖ Under this program, the fellows will be trained under close supervision of state skill development missions to understand skills related challenges and shortcomings in the district.
- ❖ They will enhance skilling programmes by inducing latest thinking to local planning, execution, community interaction & outcome management.
- ❖ Under this program, fellows will receive a stipend of Rs. 50,000 & Rs. 60,000 in 1st year & 2nd year respectively.
- ❖ Certificate in Public Policy & Management from IIM Bangalore will also be awarded to them, on successful completion of program.



Note: SANKALP is a World Bank loan assisted project, launched by Indian Government in Jan 2018.

It aims to implement the directives of the National Skill Development Mission.

The **4 key areas** focused under this project are: Institutional Strengthening; (ii) Quality Assurance; (iii) Inclusion; and Extensively improving skills through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

Major components of this project are:

Setting up National Skill Certification Body

Setting up unified National Accreditation board under National Skill Development Agency

Development of Labour Market Information System

QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements related to Ek Bharat Vijayi Bharat programme:
 1. It was launched on the 50th foundation year of Vivekanand Rock Memorial.
 2. Its objective is spreading awareness about story of Vivekanand Rock Memorial & Vivekanand Kendra activities.
 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 POSHAN Abhiyaan:
 1. It is implemented jointly by the Ministry of Women and Child Development & NITI Aayog.
 2. One of its objectives is to enhance nutrition level in the country.
 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

3. Which one of the following launched the Eat Right Movement?
 - (a) Ministry of Rural Development
 - (b) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
 - (c) NITI Aayog
 - (d) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

4. ANGAN (Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat) Conference is a 3-day conference, organised jointly by Bureau of Energy Efficiency & GIZ. Bureau of Energy Efficiency comes under:
 - (a) Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
 - (b) Ministry of Power
 - (c) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
 - (d) Ministry of Rural Development

5. Global Liveability Index 2019 uses 5 parameters to publish the rankings, which are:
 1. Stability
 2. Healthcare
 3. Culture and environment
 4. Education
 5. Infrastructure
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - (a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 2, 3 and 4
 - (c) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (d) 2, 3, 4 and 5

6. Drain of Wealth Theory was first coined by:
 - (a) Dadabhai Naoroji
 - (b) Mahatma Gandhi
 - (c) Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru
 - (d) Subhash Chandra Bose

7. Vladivostok-Chennai Sea Link is a maritime route between:
 - (a) India and France
 - (b) India and Iran
 - (c) India and Ukraine
 - (d) India and Russia

8. Which one of the following is declared as best Swachh iconic place in India for its improvement in sanitation?
 - (a) Golden Temple
 - (b) Mata Vaishno Devi shrine
 - (c) Mahakaleshwar Temple
 - (d) Sabarimala Temple

9. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about Great Indian Bustard?
 1. It has been listed in Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 only.
 2. It is a large bird found in India only.
 3. Project Great Indian Bustard was initiated by Rajasthan Government on World Environment Day 2013.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2 only
 - (c) 3 only (d) 1 only

10. 14th Conference of Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

was held at:

- (a) Greater Noida, India
- (b) Tokyo, Japan
- (c) Beijing, China
- (d) Manila, Philippines

11. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about Samudrayaan?

- 1. Under it, 2 persons will be sent in a submersible vehicle to 6 kms under the sea.
- 2. It comes under the Deep Ocean Mission of Ministry of Science & Technology.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

12. Longest electrified rail tunnel in India is located in the state of:

- (a) Telangana (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Odisha (d) Tamil Nadu

13. Groundwater contamination is caused by:

- (a) Arsenic and Fluoride
- (b) Ineffective disposal of waste & wastewater
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

14. AH-64E Apache Guardian attack helicopter is manufactured by:

- (a) Boeing
- (b) Lockheed Martin
- (c) Russian Aircraft Corporation MiG
- (d) Sukhoi

15. Which of the following statement(s) is/are NOT correct about SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) scheme?

- 1. It has been launched by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- 2. One of its objectives is to provide institutional reforms & enhance the quality of skill development training programs in Vocational Education & Training.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

16. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)?

- 1. It is the world's 2nd largest teachers training program launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- 2. Some of the tools used are educational games, social-emotional learning & motivational interactions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

17. National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by:

- (a) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
- (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

18. Which of the following banks will be merged as announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman?

- (a) Oriental Bank of Commerce & United Bank of India will be merged with Punjab National Bank
- (b) Oriental Bank of Commerce & Canara Bank will be merged with Punjab National Bank
- (c) Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank will be merged with Syndicate Bank
- (d) Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank will be merged with Indian Bank

19. Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant is located in:

- (a) India (b) Nepal
- (c) Bangladesh (d) Bhutan

20. Which Indian structures are included in Time magazine's 2nd annual list of 2019 World's 100 greatest places?

- (a) Soho House & Qutub Minar
- (b) Statue of Unity & Soho House

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
44. One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme under the:
 (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development
 (b) Ministry of Women & Child Development
 (c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
45. Which of the following statement(s) is/are NOT correct about One Nation One Ration Card Scheme?
 1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture.
 2. It will be available across the country from Dec 1, 2019.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
46. Consider the following statements related to Atal Innovation Mission:
 1. Atal Tinkering Laboratories have been established by this mission in schools across India.
 2. Entrepreneurship promotion is not one of the major functions of this mission.
 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
47. Jal Hi Jeevan Hai scheme is proposed scheme of:
 (a) Punjab Government
 (b) Uttar Pradesh Government
 (c) Delhi Government
 (d) Haryana Government
48. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought?
 1. It is observed annually on June 17 under United Nations Environment Program.
 2. 2019 Theme is: Let's Grow the Future Together.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
49. Which one of the following is the largest dead zone in the world?
 (a) Gulf of Mexico (b) Dead Sea
 (c) Gulf of Oman (d) Lake Erie
50. Which one of the following is the first state to implement the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 in India?
 (a) Rajasthan (b) Maharashtra
 (c) Punjab (d) Assam

ANSWER KEY

1. (c)	10. (a)	19. (d)	28. (b)	37. (c)	46. (a)
2. (a)	11. (d)	20. (b)	29. (c)	38. (a)	47. (d)
3. (d)	12. (b)	21. (c)	30. (a)	39. (d)	48. (b)
4. (b)	13. (c)	22. (a)	31. (d)	40. (b)	49. (c)
5. (c)	14. (a)	23. (d)	32. (b)	41. (c)	50. (a)
6. (a)	15. (d)	24. (b)	33. (c)	42. (a)	
7. (d)	16. (b)	25. (c)	34. (a)	43. (d)	
8. (b)	17. (c)	26. (a)	35. (d)	44. (b)	
9. (c)	18. (a)	27. (d)	36. (b)	45. (c)	



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F-126 (Lower Basement), Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016

Phone : 011 26522064, Mobile : 97 1185 3908

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