



### Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz - 31-01-2020 - (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to *World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)*

1. It is an annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
2. The theme for the year 2020 is "Mapping the Future Road for Energy".
3. WSDS 2020 will focus on the need to assess global contributions made, and the next steps to be undertaken by the world community to meet the 17 SDGs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 3 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer : c

- The **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)** is the **annual** flagship event of **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.
- It has in its journey of eighteen years (2001- 2019) become a focal point for global leaders and practitioners to congregate on a single platform to discuss and deliberate over climatic issues of universal importance.
- The Summit series has emerged as the premier international event on sustainability which focusses on the global future, but with an eye on the actions in the developing world which could bend our common future.
- The WSDS has continued the legacy of the erstwhile Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) which was initiated in 2001 with the aim of making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal.
- **WSDS 2020 Theme: Towards 2030: Making the Decade Count**
- The 2020 edition of TERI's annual flagship event, the WSDS will focus on the need to assess global contributions made, and the next steps to be undertaken by the world community to meet the 17 SDGs.
- Under the broad theme of 'Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count', the Summit will hope to establish the terms of the discourse for making the most of the decade we have left.
- This it intends to do by weaving together the many strands of climate action, through myriad, high-level discussions.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to *Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU)*

1. It was established in 1949 to promote understanding of the objects and purposes of UNESCO among the people of the Republic of India.
2. Prime Minister of India shall be the President of the Commission.
3. The membership of the commission consists of the members of five Sub-Commissions on five different fields.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only

- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer : b

- *Union Human Resource Development Minister has recently chaired the meeting of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) in New Delhi.*

### **Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO (INCCU)**

- India has been a member of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization**, a specialized agency of the United Nations since its inception in 1946.
- Article VII of the constitution of UNESCO requires that “each Member State shall make such arrangements as suit its particular conditions for purposes of associating its principal bodies interested in educational, scientific and cultural matters with the work of the Organization, preferably by the formation of a National Commission broadly representative of the government of such bodies”.
- It further defines that “National Commission or National Co-operating delegations to the General Conference and to their Governments in matters relating to the Organization and shall function as agencies of liaison in all matters of interest to it”.
- UNESCO is the **only UN body**, which has encouraged its Member States to establish National Commissions to have liaison with it.
- Accordingly, an interim Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO was set up in 1949 by the Government of India.
- A permanent Commission was established in 1951.

### **Functions of the Commission:**

- To promote understanding of the objects and purposes of UNESCO among the people of the Republic of India;
- To serve as a liaison agency between the Government of India and the institutions concerned with the working for the advancement of education, science and culture;
- To co-operate with the Government departments and with services, organizations and institutions concerned with questions within UNESCO’s competence;
- To encourage participation of national, governmental and non-governmental institutions and various individuals in the formulations and execution of UNESCO’s programmes so as to secure for UNESCO all the intellectual, scientific artistic or administrative assistance that it may require;
- To collaborate with the National Commissions of Asia and the Pacific and with UNESCO’s Regional Offices and centers in fostering regional, sub-regional and bilateral co-operation in education, the sciences, culture and information, particularly through the joint formulation and execution of programmes;
- To disseminate information on the objectives, programme and activities of UNESCO and endeavour to arouse public interest in them; and
- To advise the Government of India on matters relating to UNESCO.

### **Commission:**

- The **Minister of Human Resource Development** shall be the **President** of the Commission.
- He/She presides over the meetings of the commission.
- In the absence of the President, the Commission may elect a Chairman from among the members present to preside over each meeting.

### **Membership:**

The membership of the commission consists of the members of five Sub-Commissions

namely, Sub-Commission for

1. Education
2. Natural Sciences
3. Social Sciences
4. Culture
5. Communication

3) Consider the following statements with respect to *SAMPRITI*

1. It is a bilateral defence cooperation between India and Bangladesh.
2. The exercise will be hosted alternately by the participating countries.
3. The 9th edition of the exercise SAMPRITI-IX is being conducted at Meghalaya, India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer : d

- As part of the ongoing Indo-Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise **SAMPRITI-IX** is being conducted at **UMROI, Meghalaya, India** from 03 Feb to 16 Feb 2020.
- Exercise SAMPRITI is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between **India and Bangladesh** and will be the **ninth edition** of the exercise which is hosted **alternately by both countries**.

4) A committee constituted to review the *Micro Insurance Regulatory Framework* has submitted its report recently. It was constituted by inform and headed by governing ?

- a. RBI, Mahesh Kumar Jain
- b. LIC, T C Suseel Kumar
- c. IRDAI, Suresh Mathur
- d. Ministry of Finance, Rajiv Kumar

Answer : c

- A committee set up by **IRDAI** to recommend changes in *Micro Insurance Regulatory Framework* has submitted its report to the insurance regulator.
- Some of the important recommendations of the committee are:
  1. General insurance policies need to be allowed for the longer.
  2. Option to pay a single premium in daily /fortnightly /monthly /quarterly instalments should be allowed.
  3. Stamp duty waiver for microinsurance plans, especially for life insurance policies.
  4. E-KYC should be mandated
- This committee was set up by IRDAI on April 25, 2019.
- It was headed by Suresh Mathur.

### **Purpose of Micro Insurance**

- It is specifically intended for the protection of low -income people, with affordable insurance products to help them cope with and recover from financial losses.

- It also promises to support sustainable livelihoods of the poor.

5) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kalakshetra Foundation*

1. It was founded by Sucheta Kripalani in 1936.
2. It was recognised by the Government of India as an Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament in 1993.
3. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None

Answer : b

- **Kalakshetra Foundation** was recognised by the Government of India as an **Institute of National Importance** by an Act of Parliament in 1993 and is now an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
- Kalakshetra, as the name suggests, is a centre for artistic endeavour.
- Founded in 1936 by the vibrant visionary **Rukmini Devi Arundale**, the Institution stands testimony to her dream of creating a space where the essence of Indian thought would find expression through artistic education.

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Economic Survey*

1. It is a flagship document of the Finance ministry which is presented along with the budget.
2. The Government is constitutionally bound to present the Economic Survey.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 & 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : d

- Economic Survey is a flagship document of the Finance ministry, as it provides a detailed, official version of the government's take on the country's economic condition.
- **One day before the Union budget**, the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) of the country **releases the Economic Survey**.
- The Economic Survey for 2019-2020 will be then tabled in Parliament by the Finance Minister.
- The document is **prepared** by the **Economic Division** of the **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** under the **guidance of the CEA**.
- Once prepared, the Survey is approved by the Finance Minister.
- The **Government is not constitutionally bound to present the Economic Survey** or to follow the recommendations that are made in it.
- If the government so chooses, it can reject all suggestions laid out in the document.
- But while the Centre is not obliged to present the Survey at all, it is tabled because of the significance it holds.

7) Consider the following statements with respect to *Public Health Emergencies of International concern (PHEIC)*

1. The responsibility of determining whether an event is within this category lies with the WHO

Director-General and requires the convening of IHR Emergency Committee.

2. All the members of the IHR Emergency Committee should be an expert nominated by a State Party within whose territory the event arises.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : a

- Recently, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** has **declared** the **novel Coronavirus** infection as a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**.
- Declaring a **PHEIC** may lead to **restrictions on travel and trade** by other countries.
- The **WHO** uses the term **PHEIC** to refer to "**an extraordinary event**" **concerning public health**.
- There are **2 criteria to define an outbreak** as such.

1. The outbreak must pose a risk to more than one country.
2. The second requirement is that an outbreak requires a coordinated international response.

- A **panel of experts**, called the **IHR Emergency Committee**, is convened to discuss the situation.
- **IHR** stands for **International Health Regulations**, 196 countries including all WHO member states agreed to its most recent revision in 2005.
- The **responsibility of determining** whether an event is within this category **lies with the WHO Director-General** and requires the convening of a committee of experts the **IHR Emergency Committee**.
- This **committee advises the Director General** on the recommended measures to be promulgated on an emergency basis, known as temporary recommendations.
- **At least one member** of the Emergency Committee **should be** an expert **nominated** by a **State Party within whose territory the event arises**.

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *International Maritime Organization (IMO)*

1. It is the UN specialized agency which regulates and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
2. Cape Town Agreement (CTA) was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : b

- Recently, the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**, the **shipping agency of the United Nations**, issued **new rules** aiming to **reduce sulphur emissions**, due to which ships are opting for newer blends of fuels.
- The **IMO** has **banned ships from using fuels** with a **sulphur content above 0.5%**, compared with 3.5% previously.
- The **new regulations, called IMO 2020**, have been regarded as the biggest shake up for the oil and shipping industries in decades.

- It affects more than 50,000 merchant ships worldwide.
- **IMO** is the **UN Specialized agency** with **responsibility for the safety and security of shipping** and the **prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution** by ships.
- IMO's work supports the UN SDGs.
- The **2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA)**, adopted by the International Maritime Organization (**IMO**), which outlines fishing vessel standards.
- It includes other regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers and provide a level playing field for industry.
- India, ranked third in fisheries, is yet to ratify the CTA.
- **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** is an **intergovernmental body** that organizes, **regulates and control all mineral (non-living resources) related activities** in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- It has an observer status to UN.

9) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST)*

1. It is the most powerful solar telescope in the world.
2. The primary objective is to observe magnetic fields on the Sun in order to understand its dynamic behavior.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : c



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- Recently, the **World's largest Solar Telescope takes its first shot of the Sun.**
- The **Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST)** shot is the **highest-resolution photo of the sun ever taken.**
- The **National Science Foundation** of United State's, **Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope** is the **most powerful solar telescope in the world.**
- It was **built and is operated by the National Solar Observatory (NSO)**, a research center operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation Division of Astronomical Sciences.
- **DKISTs primary objective is to observe magnetic fields** on the Sun throughout the corona (the outermost region of its atmosphere) in order to understand its dynamic behavior.
- It collects seven times more sunlight than any other solar telescope, producing the clearest, highest resolution images of our Sun ever taken.

10) Consider the following statements with respect to *H5N1 Avian Influenza*

1. It is a type of influenza virus which infects human easily, and spread from person to person.
2. India has been declared free of H5N1 Avian Influenza.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : b

- Recently, Officials at the **Odisha** University of Agriculture Technology **closed all shops selling chicken** near the university in addition to **culling birds after some dead poultry tested positive** for the **H5N1 virus**.
- **H5N1** is a type of **Avian influenza virus** that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds called **avian influenza (or "bird flu")**.
- **Human cases** of H5N1 Avian influenza **occurs occasionally**.
- When people do become infected, the mortality rate is about 60%.
- The **virus does not infect humans easily**, and **spread from person to person appears to be unusual**.
- There is no evidence that the disease can be spread to people through properly prepared and thoroughly cooked food.
- At present, with effect from 3rd September 2019, **India has been declared free from Avian Influenza (H5N1)**, which has also been notified to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
- The status will last only till another outbreak is reported. **India was last declared free of the disease in 2017**.

