

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION,
EMPOWERMENT ETC****Women Transforming India Awards**

- The Women Transforming India awards (4th edition) are being launched by NITI Aayog.
- The Women Transforming India awards are organized in collaboration with the United Nations.
- For WTI-2019 awards WhatsApp (facebook owned messaging platform) has collaborated with NITI Aayog.
- The theme of the Women Transforming India- 2019 awards is Women and Entrepreneurship (same as in 2018).

Women Transforming India Awards

- WTI awards were launched by NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India in 2016, to honour the women entrepreneurs, who are breaking the glass ceiling and challenging stereotypes, through businesses, enterprises and innovative initiatives.
- WTI award recognizes women who are flag bearers of the next wave of business innovations and connect with potential business opportunities, through NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform (unified access portal to help women realise their entrepreneurial aspirations) is an initiative by NITI Aayog to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India.

India's First Ecotoxicology Clinic

Recently AIIMS, Delhi, launched a clinical Ecotoxicology facility, a first-of-its-kind in India, to investigate increasing cases of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental toxins contaminating water, food and air. The new facility will provide diagnostic consultation as well as research services to all the clinical departments dealing with diseases due to ecotoxicity.

What is Ecotoxicology?

- It is that branch of science that deals with the nature, effects, and interactions of substances that are harmful to the environment, on ecological entities, i.e. populations, communities or ecosystems.
- For example: Ecotoxicology will engage in knowing the origin of unknown factors of a certain rise in the number of cancer cases, even among those who don't smoke.
- According to the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, contaminated water, air and soil are responsible for about nine million early deaths.
- About 92% of these deaths due to environmental toxicity occur in low-income and middle-income countries, which include India.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Gujarat-Madhya Pradesh Tussle over the Narmada**

Recently, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have engaged in a tussle over the sharing of Narmada river waters.

What is the Controversy?

- Madhya Pradesh has threatened to restrict the flow of water into the Sardar Sarovar Dam, located in Gujarat.
- The Sardar Sarovar Project includes two powerhouses, the River Bed Power House (RBPH; 1,200 MW) and the Canal Head Power House (250 MW).
 - Power is shared among Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat in a 57:27:16 ratio.
 - The RBPH has been shut since 2017, Gujarat has sought that generation should not start until the water reaches the full reservoir level (FRL).
- Gujarat's view is that its share of 9 MAF (million-acre feet) water in a normal monsoon year is insufficient to generate power as drinking water and irrigation are priorities.
- Gujarat has also argued that reaching the FRL is necessary for testing whether the increased height of the dam can withstand the thrust at that level.

- In light of this Narmada Control Authority has granted the permission not to start generation at a powerhouse until the dam fills to its full level.
- Madhya Pradesh is discontented by frequent power outages and has refused to release the surplus share for power generation and to allow the dam to be tested at FRL.

Sardar Sarovar Project

- The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) is a gravity dam on the Narmada River crossing Gujarat in India.
- It involves a series of large irrigation and hydroelectric multi-purpose dams.
- The project took form in 1979 as part of a development scheme to increase irrigation and produce hydroelectricity.
- The hydroelectric power of the SSP is to be shared by the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh; the irrigation benefits would accrue to the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

India in US list on Drug Transit

Recently, US designated India among about 20 major drug transit or illicit drug-producing countries.

- However, it also noted that a country's presence on the list is not necessarily a reflection of its government's counter-narcotic efforts.
- Apart from India, the countries identified in the list are Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.
- There are a combination of geographic, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit or be produced, even if the government has engaged in robust and diligent narcotics control measures.
- For instance, India is in the middle of two major illicit opium production region in the world the Golden Crescent (Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan) in the west and the Golden Triangle (South-East Asia) in the east.

Pakistan halts Samjhauta Express at Wagah, Indian crew brings it in

- Pakistan has taken more retaliatory actions in response to India's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370.
- Pakistan has stopped the Samjhauta Express on their side at Wagah border citing security concerns. It has also decided to downgrade its diplomatic ties with India and has suspended bilateral trade.
- Pakistan has also decided to approach the United Nations, including the UN Security Council over India's move on Kashmir.
- The Samjhauta express commonly called the Friendship Express is a bi-weekly train that runs on Monday and Thursday between Delhi and Attari in India and Lahore in Pakistan. The train was started in 1976 following the Shimla Agreement.

INDIAN ECONOMY

New Procedure for Pending Angel Tax Cases

In a move to ease scrutiny of startups over the capital they have received from angel investors, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has recently laid out a procedure to address pending angel tax assessments. The procedure has followed the announcement made by the Finance Minister in Budget 2019-20. The Finance Minister proposed a host of incentives, including a special arrangement for resolution of pending assessments of income tax cases, with a view to encouraging startups.

New Procedure

- No verification will be done by an assessing officer if a startup has been recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the case is selected under limited scrutiny.
- In case the startup has not received DPIIT approval, officers are only allowed to carry out any inquiry or verification only after obtaining approval of his/her supervisory officer.

- In the event that a startup is recognised by DPIIT, but the assessing officers are scrutinising it for multiple issues, the officials cannot pursue scrutiny under an anti-evasion provision of the Income Tax Act, 1961, in its assessment proceedings.
- The applicability of angel tax would not be pursued during the assessment proceedings and inquiry or verification with regard to other issues in such cases shall be carried out by the assessing officer only after obtaining approval of his/her supervisory officer.

Steps Taken by Indian Government Against Tax terrorism

- In order to reduce the long pending grievances of taxpayers and to minimise litigations pertaining to tax matters, Government of India in July 2018, has decided to increase the threshold monetary limits for filing Departmental Appeals at various levels.
- Goods and Services Tax has been introduced.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has been implemented.
- “Kardaata e-Sahyog Abhiyaan” has been launched by CBDT etc.

ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Changes in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

Recently, the Union government has issued a notification on certain changes in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which will further empower the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in tackling the cases of Money Laundering.

What are the proposed amendments?

- The amendment seeks to treat money laundering as a stand-alone crime.
 - Till now Money Laundering was not an independent crime; rather depended on another crime, known as the 'predicate offence' or 'scheduled offence', the proceeds of which are made the subject matter of crime of money laundering.
- It also expands the ambit of “proceeds of crime” to those properties which “may directly or indirectly be derived or obtained as a result of any criminal activity relating to the scheduled offence.
- The most crucial amendments are the deletion of provisions in sub-sections (1) of Section 17 (Search and Seizure) and Section 18 (Search of Persons).
 - These provisions required the pre-requisite of an FIR or charge sheet by other agencies that are authorised to probe the offences listed in the PMLA schedule.
- An explanation is added to Section 45 that clarifies that all PMLA offences will be cognizable and non-bailable.
 - Therefore, ED will be empowered to arrest an accused without a warrant, subject to certain conditions.
- Another vital amendment makes concealment of proceeds of crime, possession, acquisition, use, projecting as untainted money, or claiming as untainted property as independent and complete offences under the Act.
- Section 72 will now give power to the Centre to set up an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee for inter-departmental and inter-agency coordination for operational and policy level cooperation, for consultation on anti-money laundering and counter-terror funding initiatives.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

Climate Change and Land: IPCC's Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) report on 'Climate Change and Land' reveals the relation between climate change and land use pattern. This is the first time that the IPCC, has focused its attention solely on the land sector. The report focuses on the contribution of land-related activities to global warming i.e how the different uses of land, like agriculture, industry, forestry, cattle-rearing, and urbanisation, was affecting emission of greenhouse gases.

Key Findings

- Climate Change and Land degradation: Land degradation is linked to several climate variables, such as temperature, precipitation, wind, and seasonality.

- **Reduced Photosynthesis:** Extreme heat events can reduce photosynthesis in trees, restrict growth rates of leaves and reduce the growth of the whole tree. In regions where plants decline, land degradation is expected to occur as vegetation provides a vital safeguard against erosion.
- **Increased Aridity:** global warming will exacerbate heat stress thereby increasing deficits in soil moisture that in turn will increase the rate of drying/ aridity.
- **Rainfall and Flooding:** as a consequence of climate change can also delay planting, increase soil compaction, and cause crop losses.
- However, report states that some aspects of climate change can improve the condition of the land like CO₂ fertilisation, where higher levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere increase plant growth.

How Does the Land contribute to Climate Change:

- Land acts as both the source as well as a sink of carbon thereby, large scale land-use changes like deforestation or urbanisation, or even a change in cropping pattern, have a direct impact on the overall emissions of greenhouse gases.
- **Carbon Source:** Land-based activities such as agriculture and forestry are sources of greenhouse gas emissions hence act as carbon source.
- **Carbon Sink:** Soil, trees and vegetation absorb carbon dioxide, thus act as carbon sinks.
- **Climate Change and Desertification:** The IPCC land report defines desertification as land degradation in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas, collectively known as drylands, resulting from many factors, including human activities and climatic variations.
- According to report risks from desertification are projected to increase due to climate change.
- The decline in vegetation can leave the soil more at risk of erosion, increasing the likelihood of sand and dust storms that in turn would tend to decrease precipitation in the local climate, thus further reinforcing desertification.
- **Impacts of Climate Change-driven Land Degradation:**
- **Poverty:** Report states that climate change is frequently noted as a risk multiplier for both land degradation and poverty.
- **Migration:** Climate-related land degradation and migration are directly linked to each other.
- When people are pushed into poverty or have their livelihoods stripped as a result of changes in their environment, one adaptation option is to move to another area and this can be internally or across borders.
- **Climate Change and Food Security:** Climate change is affecting food security through increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and greater frequency of some extreme events.
 - **Agricultural Production:** Increasing temperatures are affecting agricultural productivity in higher latitudes, raising yields of some crops (maize, cotton, wheat, sugar beets), while yields of others (maize, wheat, barley) are declining in lower-latitude regions.
 - **Nutritional Quality:** Increased atmospheric CO₂ levels can lower the nutritional quality of crops.
 - **Livestock Production:** Future climate change could affect livestock production.
 - An increase in desertification and heatwaves could have a direct impact on animal morbidity, mortality and distress that in turn could adversely affect the food security.
 - **Higher Prices:** Report states that cereal prices could increase by 1-29% by 2050 as a result of climate change, leading to higher food prices and increased risk of food insecurity and hunger

Proposals to Change in CITES Listing

India has submitted proposals regarding changes to the listing of the smooth-coated otter, small-clawed otter, Indian star tortoise, Tokay gecko, wedgefish and Indian rosewood in the CITES secretariat meeting, scheduled in August 2019 in Geneva (Switzerland).

Smooth-coated otter and Small-clawed otter

- Otters are found world over, except in Australia, New Zealand, Madagascar, and other oceanic islands.
- India is home to 3 of the 13 species of otters found worldwide. These are - Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*); Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) and Small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinereus*).
- The Smooth-coated Otter is distributed throughout the country from the Himalayas southward.
- But the Common Otter and the Small-clawed Otter are restricted to the Himalayas, to the north of the Ganges and to southern India.
- These otters have generally been described as fish specialist.
- Major threats to Asian otter population are loss of wetland habitats due to construction of large scale hydroelectric projects, conversion of wetlands for settlements and agriculture, reduction in prey biomass, poaching and contamination of waterways by pesticides.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed these otters under the vulnerable category.
- India, Nepal and the Philippines have proposed that the listing of these otters should be moved from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I.

Indian star tortoise

- Indian star tortoise is found across the Indian sub-continent, more specifically, in the Central and Southern parts of India, in West Pakistan and in Sri Lanka.
- Star Tortoises are protected under Schedule IV of Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- The IUCN has listed it under the vulnerable category.
- The species faces two threats: loss of habitat to agriculture and illegal harvesting for the pet trade.
- India is among the parties proposing the re-listing of the star tortoise from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I.

Tokay gecko

- The Tokay Gecko or Gekko gecko is one of the largest geckos (Lizard) in the country and the world.
- This is a nocturnal arboreal gecko, ranging from northeast India, Nepal and Bangladesh, throughout Southeast Asia.
- Occurring in the rainforests, it is primarily a tree-dweller.
- It's use as a traditional Asian medicine —everything from energy drinks to treatments for diabetes, cancer, and HIV/AIDS (there is no proof of efficacy in any of these uses), make it prone to illegal trade across borders.
- The IUCN has listed it under Least Concern category.
- India has proposed it's listing should be moved from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I.

Wedgefish

- Wedgefish are shallow water coastal species, found in northern Indian Ocean and northwestern Pacific Ocean.
- Alongwith giant guitarfishes, they are collectively known as Rhino Rays because of their elongated snouts.
- They have been listed as the 'most imperilled marine fish families in the world'.
- The main drivers of the decline are the loss of free flowing rivers and increasing agricultural and urban pollution.
- The IUCN has listed it under vulnerable category.
- Indian proposed to include Wedgefish in Appendix II of CITES.

Indian rosewood

- It is deciduous rosewood tree native to the Indian subcontinent, also grown in Nigeria, Kenya, Vietnam, the Philippines, and other parts of tropical Africa.
- It is used for making furniture, plywood, and decorative wood products.

- The species grows at a very fast rate and has the capacity to become naturalised outside its native range, it is invasive in other parts of the world as well.
- India has proposed to remove rosewood from Appendix II of CITES.
- Its IUCN Red List status is 'vulnerable'.

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

Software Defined Networking

Software Defined Networking (SDN) is a network architecture approach that enables the network to be intelligently and centrally controlled, using software applications. SDN enables network behavior to be controlled by the software that resides beyond the networking devices that provide physical connectivity.

What is the need of SDN?

- The monumental growth in multimedia content, the impact of increasing mobile usage, and increasing competition, pressuresizes the business to reduce costs.
- To keep pace, many global technology companies are turning to SDN technology to revolutionize network design and operations.

How SDN can bring a paradigm shift?

- By opening up traditionally closed network platforms and implementing a common SDN control layer, operators can manage the entire network and its devices consistently. This will allow optimum use of resources.
- By decoupling the hardware from the software, operators can introduce innovative, differentiated new services rapidly— free from the constraints of closed and proprietary platforms.
- SDN architectures usher in a new era of openness—enabling multi-vendor interoperability.
- SDN can manage the network efficiently, thereby improving the performance of Big Data applications.
- SDN can greatly facilitate big data acquisition, transmission, storage and processing.
- SDN too can benefit from big data, in terms of traffic engineering and countering security attacks.

What are the issues in SDN?

- Creating SDN architecture will be a difficult process for many small and mid range organizations. Thereby SDN will provide advantage to technology giants and thereby further augment global technological inequality.
- There is much clamour about data privacy. In this context, SDN too will get into the data protection debate.

MISC

World Biofuel Day

- The World Biofuel Day is observed every year on August 10 to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- It is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- The theme of the World Biofuel Day, 2019 is “Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)”.
- The National Policy on Biofuels, released by the Government of India in 2018, envisages production of biofuel from UCO. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is implementing a strategy to divert UCO from the food value chain and curb current illegal usage.
- The benefits of transformation of UCO will help bring health benefits as there would be no recycling of the UCO, employment generation, infrastructural investment in rural areas & cleaner environment with reduced carbon footprint.

Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum

- The Asia Book of Records has listed the Virasat-e-Khalsa museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib as the most visited museum in the Asian sub-continent (on a single day).

- The museum had witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day.
- The Limca Book of Records and India Book of Records had also listed 'Virasat-e-Khalsa' as the country's top-ranked museum in terms of the number of visitors.
- The museum has been conferred an award by the Punjab Energy Development Agency in state-level energy conservation competition, for cutting down electricity consumption.
- The Virasat-e-Khalsa museum (the second most important Sikh shrine in Anandpur Sahib, after the Golden Temple complex) was built to commemorate 300 years of the founding of the 'Khalsa Panth' by the Guru Gobind Singh (10th Sikh guru).
- Museum also helped grow the economy of Anandpur Sahib in Punjab.

Bharat Ratna

- The President of India presented Bharat Ratna Awards to Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), Bhubendra Kumar Hazarika (posthumously) and Pranab Mukherjee
- The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India. Bharat Ratna recipients rank seventh in the Indian order of precedence
- The award was instituted in 1954
- The first recipients of the Bharat Ratna were C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and C. V. Raman, who were honoured in 1954.
- The award is conferred in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in "any field of human endeavour".
- The award was originally limited to achievements in the arts, literature, science, and public services, but this was changed in 2011.
- Though usually conferred on India-born citizens, the Bharat Ratna has been awarded to one naturalised citizen, Mother Teresa, and to two non-Indians, Pakistan national Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and former South African President Nelson Mandela.
- There is no formal nomination process. The recommendations for the award can only be made by the Prime Minister to the President.
- A maximum of three nominees can be awarded per year.
- Recipients receive a certificate signed by the President and a medal. There is no monetary grant associated with the award.

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT

Royal Bengal Tigress 'Priyanka' Dies At Nandankanan Zoo

- A 19 years and five months old Royal Bengal tigress 'Priyanka' died while undergoing treatment at the Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar. As per reports, 'Priyanka' was unwell due to age-related ailments and undergoing treatment at a veterinary hospital in the zoo premises for the past two years.
- The normal coloured tigress was born in 2000 to tiger Ashok and tigress Tanuja in the zoo.
- With Priyanka's death, the Nandankanan Zoo is left with a total of 26 tigers including 13 normal, nine white and four melanistic tigers. It is pertinent to mention that the zoo is famous for its tiger population and captive breeding of the big cat.
- Earlier, on September 2, 2018, a 10-year-old Royal Bengal tiger named 'Manish' died while undergoing treatment for blood Protozoan disease at the zoo.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: How does globalization impact money laundering? Examine the recent policy efforts by the Government of India to tackle the problem.

Money laundering is the process of making large amounts of money generated by criminal activity, such as drug trafficking or smuggling, appear to have come from a legitimate source.

The growth in international trade, the expansion of the global financial system, the lowering of barriers to international travel, and the surge in the internalization of organized crime have combined to provide the source, opportunity, and means for converting illegal proceeds into what appears to be legitimate funds.

Impact of Globalization on Money Laundering

- Easy interlinkages of financial institutions have made the three F's-finding, freezing and forfeiting of criminally derived income and assets-all the more difficult.
- Rapid developments in financial information: Easy information sharing facilitates the inclusion of illegal money into the international banking system, which further makes it difficult to identify its origin.
- Development of financial infrastructure along with technological and communication advancement allow money to move anywhere in the world with speed and ease.

Policy efforts by the Government of India to tackle the problem

- India is a full-fledged member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). It helps India to build the capacity to fight terrorism and trace terrorist money and to successfully investigate and prosecute money laundering and terrorist financing offences.
- Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 (amended in 2005, 2009, 2012, and 2018) imposes an obligation on banking companies, financial institutions, and intermediaries to verify the identity of clients, maintain records and furnish information in the prescribed form. It seeks to
 - Prevent and control money laundering
 - Confiscate and seize the property obtained from the laundered money; and
 - Deal with any other issue connected with money laundering in India.
- Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND) is a central agency that
 - receives financial information pursuant to the country's anti-money laundering laws;
 - analyses and processes such information;
 - and disseminates the information to appropriate national and international authorities, to support anti-money laundering efforts
- The Black money (undisclosed foreign income and assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 was enacted to deal with the menace of the black money existing in the form of undisclosed foreign income and assets by setting out the procedure for dealing with such income and assets.
- Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 aims to expand the definition of Benami Transactions and specifies the penalty to be imposed on a person entering into a Benami transaction.
- Anti-money laundering/counter financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) –guidelines for general insurers, 2013: Each insurance company has to establish and implement policies, procedures, and internal controls/audit in its AML/CFT program. Insurers are also required to maintain records of their transactions under these guidelines.
- Apart from the above-mentioned efforts, the Vienna Convention and the Basel Committee's Statement of Principles aim to curb the problems of money laundering at the global level.
- Anti-Money Laundering Global Task Force (GTF-AML) of GOPAC (Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption) also works with anti-money laundering experts, and organizations such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol etc. and has developed a complementary approach to combating money laundering globally.

Way Forward

- Establishment of comprehensive enforcement agencies
- Promote cashless digital transaction with regulating and monitoring infrastructure in place.
- Ensuring strict implementation of the KYC norms.
- Spreading financial awareness among the common masses about money laundering.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED MCQS

1. W.r.t the 'Enforcement Directorate', which of the following statements is/are incorrect?
 1. It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance.
 2. It enforces the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
 3. It is not empowered to arrest an accused without a warrant under the PMLA Act, 2002.Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1 and 3**
2. W.r.t the report, "Climate Change and Land", which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. It is a special report of the World Bank, focuses on the contribution of land-related activities to global warming.
 2. The report says the global food production system could account for 16 to 27 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
 3. According to the report, the mean land surface air temperature between 2006 to 2015 was about 1.53 degree Celsius above the average pre-industrial period of 1850 to 1900.Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2
 - (c) 2 and 3**
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
3. W.r.t 'Angel Tax', which of the following statements is/are incorrect?
 1. It is a tax on the excess capital raised by an unlisted company through the issue of shares over and above the fair market value of those shares.
 2. The tax was introduced in the 2012 Union Budget by the finance minister to arrest laundering of funds.
 3. The tax most commonly affects start-ups and the angel investors who back them.Select the correct answer using the code given below:
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3**
4. W.r.t 'Indian star tortoise', which of the following statements is/are incorrect?
 1. Indian star tortoise is found only in India, more specifically, in the Central and Southern parts of the country.
 2. It is protected under Schedule IV of Wild Life Protection Act, 1972
 3. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed it under the endangered category.Select the correct answer using the code given below:
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1 and 3**
5. W.r.t the 'Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)', which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. Its secretariat is administered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and is located at Geneva, Switzerland.
 2. The convention is legally binding on the Parties and it takes the place of national laws.
 3. Appendix I of the convention includes species threatened with extinction.Select the correct answer using the code given below:
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2
 - (c) 3 only**
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

6. Consider the following statements:
1. The World Biofuel Day is observed every year on August 30 to create awareness about conventional fossil fuels.
 2. Any hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from an organic matter (living or once living material) in a short period of time is considered as biofuel.
 3. Third generation biofuels are produced from non-food crops or portions of food crops that are not edible and considered as wastes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. W.r.t the Women Transforming India Award, consider the following statements.

1. It is given by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the United Nations.
2. The theme of the Women Transforming India- 2019 awards is Women and Entrepreneurship.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

8. The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) is Dam located on which of the following river?

- (a) Sabarmati
- (b) Tapi
- (c) Narmada**
- (d) Luna

9. Consider the following statements about the Samjhauta Express.

1. It was started in 1976 following the Shimla Agreement.
2. It's a bi-weekly train between Delhi and Lahore.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10. Consider the following statements w.r.t the BharatRatna Award.

1. It was constituted in the year 1954
2. The first recipients of the award were C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and JN Nehru
3. A maximum of three nominees can be awarded per year.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

11. Who among the following were awarded Bharatratna in 2019?

1. Pranab Mukherjee
2. Nanaji Deshmukh
3. Bhupen Hazarika

Select the correct answer using codes given below

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

12. Recently in news, a tigress named Priyanka is related to which of the following habitats?

- (a) Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve
- (b) Sundarban National Park
- (c) Nandankanan Zoological Park**
- (d) Ranthambore Tiger Reserve