GLOBAL AFFAIIRS

❖ **India & South Pacific: Key takeaways from PM Modi's visit;**

➢ **CONTEXT:** Visuals of Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Prime Minister James Marape touching Prime Minister Narendra Modi's feet have been seen as a reflection of India's global status, and the significance of its engagement with **Pacific Island Countries (PICs)** and the **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).**

❖ PICs is a cluster of 14 island nations dotting the Southwestern Pacific: the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. All these islands are located at the crossroads of strategically important maritime trade corridors.

❖ Until recently, the South Pacific was considered to be under US influence, managed under the Australia, New Zealand, US (ANZUS) trilateral military alliance. But with China's growing influence in the region, and the increasing focus on the Indo-Pacific, New Delhi's engagement strategy in the region has evolved.

❖ Of the 14 PICs, Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG) are the ones with the biggest populations and the most heft. India's interaction with the PICs has traditionally focussed on its engagement with Fiji and PNG, mainly due to the presence of a large diaspora — about 37% of Fiji's 849,000 population (2009 estimates) is of Indian origin, and about 3,000 Indians live in PNG.

❖ **Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and India**

- Beginning 1879, Indian indentured labour was transported to Fiji to work on sugarcane plantations. Some 60,000 Indians were brought to the islands between 1879 and 1916; from the early 20th century, Indian traders and others also started arriving in Fiji.

- Workers' agitations and the efforts of C F Andrews, a friend of Mahatma Gandhi's who visited Fiji in 1915 and 1917, led to the abolition of the indenture system in 1920.

- From 1948 until Fiji's independence in 1970, India had a Commissioner to look after the interests of people of Indian origin; the post was upgraded to that of High Commissioner after independence.

- Fiji's Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara visited India in 1971 and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi visited Fiji in 1981. Following the 1987 coups in Fiji, the High Commission of India and Indian Cultural Centre were closed on May 24, 1990; they reopened in March 1999 and February 2005 respectively. Fiji established its High Commission in New Delhi in January 2004.

- India-Fiji relations have grown steadily during the past few years due to several ongoing initiatives and bilateral visits from both sides.

- The Indian High Commission in Port Moresby, PNG, opened in April 1996; diplomatic relations were earlier conducted from Suva, Fiji, or Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. PNG opened its resident diplomatic mission in New Delhi in October 2006.

❖ **India and the PICs]**

- During his recent visit to island of PNG Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the **highest honours of Papua New Guinea and Fiji**, in a rare recognition for a non-resident in the two Pacific island nations.

- Papua New Guinea conferred the **Companion of the Order of Logohu** to Prime Minister Modi for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global South. Very few non-residents of PNG have received this award, including former US President Bill Clinton

- Engagement with the 14 PICs is part of **India's Act East Policy**. A major part of the engagement is through development assistance under **South-South Cooperation**, mainly in the form of capacity building (training, scholarships, grant-in-aid and loan assistance) and community development projects.

- An initiative launched under the Act East Policy for the PICs is the **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)**. Prime Minister Modi had hosted the First FIPIC Summit in Suva on November 19, 2014 during his historic visit to Fiji, with participation of all 14 PICs.

- The second FIPIC Summit was held in Jaipur on August 21, 2015, again with all 14 PICs taking part. During the two Summits, India announced a range of initiatives to assist the PICs in tackling challenges faced by their peoples, and for their well-being and development.

- PM Modi attended the third FIPIC Summit this week, hosted jointly with PNG.

- According to officials, the development partnership with the PICs include community development projects such as solar electrification, supply of agricultural equipment, computers and LED bulbs for schools, sewing machines, dialysis machines, portable saw mills, boats and pick-up trucks, vehicles, construction of sea walls and coral farms, etc.

- All PICs are vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels. Initiatives like **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** complement the relationship with PICs.

1

- Under the CDRI framework, India, along with Australia, the UK and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) launched the **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)** on the sidelines of the COP26 at Glasgow in 2021.
- As part of a project for solar electrification of 2,800 houses in 14 PICs, 70 women solar engineers — called **Solar Mamas** — have been trained. While addressing climate change and goals of sustainable development, the project also aims to provide livelihoods to women.
- Other community development projects have included a revamp of libraries and school buildings, renovation of colleges, and provision of IT infrastructure to educational institutes.
- India has been providing **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** to the PICs from time to time. It assisted various PICs with the supply of Covid-19 vaccines and medical supplies during the pandemic.
- India can become a key player in the Blue Pacific 2050 strategy along with its partners like Australia to boost sustainable growth in the region", and help Southern Pacific countries meet their developmental goals and tackle climate change.

❖ **Presence of China in the Region**
  - China has made forays into the Pacific Islands through economic incentives, and has sought to boost its security relationship with the island states.
  - The South-Pacific region now witnessing the increasing rivalry between China and the US and its allies. China's increasing presence in the region has unnerved the US and has caused alarm in Australia and New Zealand.
  - China's development support peaked in 2016 in the region, and its loans and grants amounted to 8% of all foreign aid to the area between 2011 and 2017, surpassing the US's 0.3% over the same period.
  - Notably, China's trade volume with 10 PICs — the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, PNG, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Niue, and Micronesia — increased more than 30 times from 1992 to 2021. China is the biggest trading partner of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) after Australia and New Zealand.

❖ **Upshot of PM's visit:**
  - Prime Minister of PNG Mr. Marape that India has a role in his country especially in mobilising Indian technology and capacities to help in solar energy solutions, desalination, modern health facilities, and information systems capacities.
  - Targeting China, PM Modi said at the FIPIC Summit, "Those whom we considered trustworthy, it turned out that they were not standing by our side in times of need. During these challenging times, an old saying has proven true: 'A friend in need is a friend indeed'."
  - PM further added that "Whether it was vaccines or essential medicines, wheat or sugar; India, in line with its capabilities, has been assisting all partner countries. India respects your priorities. It feels proud to be your development partner. Whether it's humanitarian assistance or your development, you can count India as a reliable partner".
  - India's total annual trade with the PICs is around $300 million, and that it has also been looking to increase its investments in the islands. The need is to focus on the idea of inclusive economic cooperation with the region as a whole and on exploring complementarities in trade with the individual countries.
  - PM Modi's visit was impactful because of three clear reasons.
    ✓ One, it showed the gains India has made incrementally as a development partner to this strategic geography and managed to establish a reassuring presence in the region in a way that chequebook diplomacy cannot achieve.
    ✓ Two, the overwhelming welcome for PM Modi by the PIC leaders and Marape's reposing of faith in India as the voice of the Global South is significant given that India's G20 presidency is committed to being a bridge builder in a polarised global order.
    ✓ Three, it underscores how India is increasingly carving its space as an alternative to countries who don't want to get caught in the crossfire of binary choices in the Indo-Pacific.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

❖ **Global agency affiliated to UN rights body defers NHRC accreditation**
❖ **CONTEXT:** For the second time in a decade, the U.N.-recognised **Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)** deferred the accreditation of **National Human Rights Commission, India (NHRC-India)** citing objections like political interference in appointments, involving the police in probes into human rights violations, and poor cooperation with civil society.

- ❖ The Sub Committee on Accreditation (SCA) to the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) had granted 'A' status of accreditation to NHRC in 2017, after deferring it the year before — the first such instance since NHRC was established in 1993.
  - ✓ In 2016, the GANHRI had cited appointment of political representatives, failure in ensuring gender balance and pluralism in NHRC staff among its reasons for the deferment.
- ❖ The GANHRI is responsible for reviewing and accrediting National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the **Paris Principles every five years.**
- ❖ As part of this process, the review of NHRC, India was due in March 2023, for its re-accreditation, which has been deferred for a year, The GANHRI's letter to the NHRC also cited lack of diversity in staff and leadership, and insufficient action to protect marginalised groups, as reasons for the deferment of the accreditation.
- ❖ This came two months after seven human rights watchers/institutions wrote to GANHRI objecting to NHRC India's 'A' rank. They also raised concerns regarding the commission's lack of independence, pluralism, diversity and accountability that are contrary to the U.N.'s principles on the status of national institutions (the 'Paris Principles').
- ❖ **About Paris Principles:**
  - • The United Nations' Paris Principles, adopted in 1993 by the U.N. General Assembly, provide the international benchmarks against which National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) can be accredited.
  - • The Paris Principles set out six main criteria that NHRIs are required to meet. These are:
    - ✓ mandate and competence
    - ✓ autonomy from government
    - ✓ independence guaranteed by a statute or Constitution
    - ✓ pluralism
    - ✓ adequate resources
    - ✓ Adequate powers of investigation.
- ❖ **Without the accreditation, NHRC will be not be able to represent India at the UN Human Rights Council.**
- ❖ **Accreditation by the GANHRI:**
  - • In a unique peer-review-based accreditation process, GANHRI ensures individual NHRIs' compliance with internationally recognised standards – the Paris Principles– to ensure their independence, pluralism and accountability.
  - • The Paris Principles set out internationally agreed minimum standards that NHRIs must meet to be considered credible.
  - • GANHRI, through the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA), is responsible for reviewing and accrediting NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles.
  - • An NHRI is reviewed by the SCA when –
    - ✓ It applies for initial accreditation
    - ✓ It applies for re-accreditation every five years
    - ✓ The circumstances of the NHRI change in any way that may affect its compliance with the Paris Principles.
  - • NHRIs that are assessed as complying with the Paris Principles are accredited with 'A status', while those that partially comply are accredited with 'B status'.
  - • India's NHRC got 'A' status of accreditation for the first time in 1999, which it retained in 2006, 2011, and in 2017 after it was deferred for a year.
- ❖ **About National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):**
  - • The National Human Rights Commission is a statutory body established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
  - • The Commission is the watchdog of human rights in the country.
  - • Its objective is to look into allegations of excesses, independently of the government, in a manner that would underline the government's commitment to protect human rights;
  - • While inquiring into complaints under the Act, the Commission shall have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- ❖ **Composition of NHRC:**
  - • The Commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and five members.
  - • The chairperson should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.

3

- Members should be a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of a high court and three persons (out of which at least one should be a woman) having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.
- The chairperson and members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of:
  - ✓ Prime Minister as its head
  - ✓ Speaker of the Lok Sabha
  - ✓ Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
  - ✓ Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament
  - ✓ Central Home Minister
- The chairperson and members are appointed for the term of 3 years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- The chairperson and members are eligible for reappointment.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

❖ **India will unveil 18 new petaFLOP supercomputers for weather forecasting in 2023:**

➢ **CONTEXT:** Union Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju said India will unveil its new 18 petaFLOP supercomputer for weather forecasting institutes later this year.

➢ The new supercomputer is expected to improve weather forecasts at the block level, help weather scientists give higher resolution ranges of the forecast, predict cyclones with more accuracy and better lead time (the difference between a phenomenon being forecast and actually occurring), and provide ocean state forecasts, including marine water quality forecasts.

➢ Presently, India has a capacity of forecasts with a 12-kilometre resolution. The new supercomputer will improve it to six-kilometre resolution. The aim is to achieve one-kilometre resolution forecasts.

➢ **What are FLOPs in computing?**
- FLOPs or **Floating-Point Operations per Second**, is a commonly used metric to measure the computational performance – processing power and efficiency – especially in the field of **high-performance computing (HPC)** and artificial intelligence (AI). Floating-point operations are a certain kind of mathematical calculation using real numbers with fractional parts.

➢ **How many FLOPs can a computer achieve?**
- Modern computing systems, such as CPUs (Central Processing Units) and GPUs (Graphics Processing Units), are designed to perform multiple operations simultaneously, using parallel processing techniques. The parallelism significantly increases the number of FLOPs a system can achieve within a given time frame. Over the years, hardware has become more efficient, exponentially increasing computing power.
- For instance, in 1961, the IBM 7030 Stretch, costing a whopping $ 7.8 million at the time, performed one floating-point multiplication every 2.4 microseconds, roughly performing 417,000 FLOPs. A PlayStation 5 today is listed to have a peak performance of 10.28 TFLOP, i.e. 10.28 trillion FLOPs.

➢ **What is a petaFLOP?**
- Due to the immense computing power of today's computers, the FLOPs metric is most often represented in terms of billions (giga), trillions (tera), or even quadrillions (peta) of operations per second (GFLOPs, TFLOPs, PFLOPs, respectively).
- A petaflop is thus equal to a thousand TFLOPs or 10^{15} FLOPs.
- 2008 was the first year when a supercomputer was able to break what was then called "the petaFLOPS barrier," when the IBM Roadrunner shocked the world with an astounding peak performance of 1.105 petaFLOPS. Currently, the world's fastest computer in terms of PFLOPs is the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Frontier, or OLCF-5 with the capability to touch a peak performance of 1,685.65.

➢ Are FLOPs the only metric to judge a computer's performance?
- No. FLOPs is not the only factor determining the performance of a computing system. Memory bandwidth, latency, and other architectural features also play significant roles. Nonetheless, FLOPs provide a valuable baseline for comparing the computational capabilities of different systems, especially in tasks where floating-point calculations dominate.

➢ Is India already using petaFLOPs computers for weather forecasting?
- The National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting(NCMRWF) houses **'Mihir'**, a 2.8 petaflop supercomputer, while the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology **(IITM), Pune, is home to 'Pratyush'**, a 4.0 petaflop supercomputer, as per PTI. These were launched in 2018 and will be decommissioned once the new supercomputer is unveiled.
- NCMRWF will be allocated eight PFLOPs computing power with the remaining 10 PFLOPs going to IITM. The Pune-based institute requires higher power as it deals with seasonal weather forecasts while

4

the NCMRWF deals with medium-range forecasts for a period extending three to seven days in advance.

PRELIMS

1. International Booker Prize

News: Time Shelter, written by Georgi Gospodinov and translated into English by Angela Rodel, has won the International Booker Prize 2023. This is the first time a novel originally published in Bulgarian has won this annual award.

About
a) The International Booker Prize is given every year to a foreign language book translated into English and published in Britain or Ireland.
b) From 2016 onwards, the prize equally recognises the work of both author and translator.
c) Novels and collections of short stories are both eligible.
d) Last year, the prize went to Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand, translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.

About Booker Prize
- It is distinct from the Booker Prize which is awarded to the best work of fiction written in English and published in the UK and Ireland.
- Indian writers like Arundhati Roy and Aravind Adiga have won it in the past

2. Period Poverty/ Tampon Tax

News: Concern about "period poverty" has fuelled campaigns globally calling for the end of the so-called tampon tax.

Period poverty
- Period poverty describes the struggle many low-income women and girls face while trying to afford menstrual products.
- It also refers to the increased economic vulnerability women and girls face due the financial burden posed by menstrual supplies.

Impact of Period poverty
- Period poverty does not only affect women and girls in developing countries; it also affects women in wealthy, industrialized countries.
- It causes girls to stay home from school and work; Use unhygienic products; and Pushes girls closer toward dangerous coping mechanisms. E.g. in Kenya, some schoolgirls have engaged in transactional sex to pay for menstrual products.

List of human rights undermined by women's treatment during menstruation:
- **Right to health:** Menstruation stigma prevents women from seeking treatment for menstruation-related disorders or pain
- **Right to education:** due to school absenteeism and poor educational outcomes.
- **Right to work/**work absenteeism: They may refrain from taking certain jobs, or they may be forced to forgo working hours and wages.
- **Right to non-discrimination and gender equality:** Stigmas and norms related to menstruation can reinforce discriminatory practices.
- **Right to water and sanitation: during periods:** They also face poor access to safe Water and sanitation facilities, such as bathing facilities, that are private, safe and culturally acceptable

Tampon Tax / Tax On Periods
- **What it is?** "Tampon tax" (or period tax) means menstrual products being subject to value-added tax (VAT) or sales tax.
- **What it is not?** It is not a special tax levied directly on feminine hygiene products.
- **Arguments for abolishing it:** This will 'End Period Poverty'; It is a basic necessity as females use them for about a week each month for about 30 years.
- **Why do countries retain it?** VAT is an important source of revenue for governments. In countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), VAT revenue represented 6.7% of their gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020.

Global Initiatives
- Since Kenya became the first country to scrap VAT on sanitary pads and tampons in 2004, at least 17 countries have followed suit. Among the latest countries to pass laws to abolish the tampon tax are Mexico, Britain and Namibia.
- Another 10 countries have designated sanitary products as tax-exempt goods or have exempted the tax on imported raw materials used to make them.

5

- In 2022, Scotland became the first nation to make tampons and sanitary pads free and available at designated public places such as community centres, youth clubs and pharmacies.
- In 2017, Government of India imposed a 12 % tax on sanitary napkins under the new GST regime; this was abolished later on.

Janaushadhi Suvidha
- In 2018, Government of India launched 'Janaushadhi Suvidha'.
- It is an Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin complying with ASTM D-6954 (biodegradability test) standards. 'Oxo-biodegradable' means a special additive is added in the SUVIDHA napkin which makes it biodegradable when it reacts with oxygen after it is used and discarded.
- It has been launched under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) by the Union** Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- The affordable sanitary napkins are available through Janaushadhi Kendras at a minimum price of Rs.1/-per pad. The market price of the similar Sanitary Napkins is around Rs. 3/- to Rs. 8/- per pad.
- This ensures 'Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha' for the underprivileged Women.

3. People's Biodiversity Register(PBR)
IN NEWS: Recently a national campaign for updation and verification of People's Biodiversity Register was launched in Goa , marking a significant step towards the documentation and preservation of India's rich biological diversity.

What is People's biodiversity register?
- PBR serves as a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity, including the conservation of habitats, preservation of land races, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals, micro-organisms, and the accumulation of knowledge related to the area's biological diversity.
- So far, 2,67,608 PBRs have been prepared by Biodiversity Management Committees in different states.
- There is a plan to set up PBR in every village across the country under Mission LiFE (lifestyle for environment) which is conceived to conserve the planet earth through mindful utilisation of natural resources and various other actions at individual and community levels in the country.

Biodiversity Management Committees
- As per the Biological Diversity Act 2002, BMCs are created for "promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity" by local bodies across the country.
- BMCs have been constituted by the local bodies in the States and Union Territories and are entrusted with preparation of the PBRs in consultation with local communities.

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)
- Led by India, mission LiFE is a global plan of action that aims to save the planet from the disastrous consequences of climate change.
- Vision: This mission envisions replacing the prevalent 'use-and-dispose' economy with a circular economy.

Objective: To promote an environmentally conscious lifestyle that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' instead of 'mindless and wasteful consumption'

ANSWER WRITTING

Q. The most significant remedy for India's healthcare system is universal health coverage (UHC). Discuss the benefits and challenges of implementing universal health Coverage in India.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) refers to a system where all individuals and communities have access to the quality health services, they need without facing financial hardship. In the context of India, this includes health promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care, without experiencing any financial hardship or risk of impoverishment.

UHC can help to address the current health disparities that exist in India, as it would ensure that everyone, regardless of their social status, has access to essential health services.

Potential advantages of Universal health coverage in India:

- Improved access to health services: UHC would ensure that all Indians have access to necessary healthcare services, including preventive care, treatment, and rehabilitation, regardless of their financial status or geographic location.
- Reduced financial burden: UHC would protect individuals and families from catastrophic healthcare expenses, reducing the financial burden on households and preventing them from falling into poverty due to healthcare costs.
- Better health outcomes: Access to healthcare services will improve health outcomes and reduce mortality rates by diagnosing and treating illnesses and diseases at an earlier stage
- Increased productivity: Improved health outcomes would lead to increased productivity and economic growth as a healthy workforce is more productive.

6

- Increased government accountability: UHC would increase government accountability in healthcare, as the government would be responsible for ensuring that all citizens have access to essential health services.

Challenges related to universal health coverage in India:

- Lack of adequate funding for healthcare- It's just only 1.5% of the GDP resulting in insufficient infrastructure, staff, and medical supplies in many areas.
- Unequal distribution of healthcare resources with urban areas often having better facilities and medical staff than rural areas. In rural areas, Primary health care centres (PHC) are short of more than 2900 doctors, with the shortage up by 200% over the last 10 years to 27,120.
- High out-of-pocket expenses for healthcare- According to government reports around 68% of the health spending are from patient pockets, which can be a barrier for people living in poverty or with limited financial resources.
- Inadequate health insurance coverage- India has one of the lowest insurance coverage, government contribution is roughly 32% as compared to 84% in the UK.
- Limited access to specialized healthcare, with many people in remote areas having to travel long distances to access specialized medical care. Example- Tribal areas of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
- Poor quality of healthcare services, with issues such as understaffing, lack of training, and corruption leading to low-quality care in some areas. Example-Doctor density ratio in India is just 8 per 1000 as per WHO report.
- Limited awareness and education about health and healthcare, with many people in India lacking basic knowledge about health and disease prevention.

UHC is based on the principle that good health is a fundamental human right and a key component of sustainable development. WHO has identified UHC as a critical target for achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Aayushman Bharat Mission of the Government of India is a positive step in this regard. India has already taken several steps like National Health Policy 2017, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, and recent steps to incentivise the private sector to open hospitals towards Universal Health Coverage.

MCQs

1. Considered the following statement regarding Janaushadhi Suvidha ?
   1. In 2018, Government of India launched 'Janaushadhi Suvidha'.
   2. It has been launched under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) by the Union** Department of Pharmaceuticals.
   Which of the above statement is/ are correct?
   a) Only 1
   b) Only 2
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Considered the following statement regarding Tampon tax.
   1. Tampon tax" (or period tax) means menstrual products being subject to value-added tax (VAT) or sales tax.
   2. It is not a special tax levied directly on feminine hygiene products.
   3. This tax is compulsory for every country.
   Which of the above statement is/ are correct?
   a) Only 1
   b) Only 3
   c) 1 and 2
   d) All of the above

3. Considered the following statement regarding International Booker Prize.
   1. Time Shelter, written by Georgi Gospodinov and translated into English by Angela Rodel, has won the International Booker Prize 2023.
   2. The International Booker Prize is given every year to a foreign language book translated into English and published in Britain or Ireland.
   3. Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand, translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.
   Which of the above statement is/ are correct?
   a) Only 1
   b) Only 3
   c) 1 and 2
   d) All of the above

7

4. Consider the following statements regarding Har Shikhar Tiranga (HST) Mission:
   1. It is a unique expedition to hoist the national flag on the highest point of every state of India for the first time.
   2. The highest peak under Indian control is Nanda Devi (7,816 m) in Uttarakhand.

   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. Consider the following statements with reference to UDAN 5.1 scheme:
   1. It will allow routes where one of the origin or destination locations is in a priority area.
   2. Airfare caps have been completely removed to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.

   Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   a) Only 1
   b) Only 2
   c) 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Consider the following statements with reference to AIRAWAT PSAI:
   1. It is India's largest and fastest AI supercomputing system.
   2. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

   Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   a) Only 1
   b) Only 2
   c) 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

7. Which of the following statements are correct with reference to People's Biodiversity Register(PBR)?
   1. It serves as a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity.
   2. There is a plan to set up PBR in every village across the country under Mission LiFE.

   Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   a) Only 1
   b) Only 3
   c) 1 and 2
   d) All of the above

8. Jaisamand Wildlife Sanctuary, lies in which state?
   a) Gujarat
   b) Assam
   c) Rajasthan
   d) Odisha

9. Which one of the following is the best description of NASAMS that was in the news recently?
   a) It is an anti- tank missile.
   b) It is a group – based air defense system
   c) It is a satellite communication technology
   d) It is a stealth destroyer.

10. Which of the following statement regarding FLOPs in computing is in correct?
    a) FLOPs is Floating-Point Operations per Second.
    b) It is a commonly used metric to measure the computational performance – processing power and efficiency
    c) The FLOPs metric is most often represented in terms of billions (giga), trillions (tera), or even quadrillions (peta) of operations per second (GFLOPs, TFLOPs, PFLOPs, respectively).
    d) None of the above.

8