Answers

1) B

- The Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has recently approved the release of Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 for States and Union Territories of India.
- The Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs including key levers that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement.
- The PGI for States and Union Territories was first published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18.
- The PGI : States/UTs for 2019-20 is the third publication in this series.
- The PGI exercise envisages that the index would propel States and UTs towards undertaking multi-pronged interventions that will bring about the much-desired optimal education outcomes.
- The PGI helps the States/UTs to pinpoint the gaps and accordingly prioritise areas for intervention to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level.
- Five states and Union territories, Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala have scored more than 90% for the first time and reached Level-2 or Grade I++ in the performance grading index (PGI) for 2019-20.
- However, for the third year in a row, none of the states or Union territories reached Level-1.

2) C

NTPC Ltd, India's largest power utility Under Ministry of Power has become a signatory to the prestigious UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.

CEO Water Mandate

- It is a UN Global Compact initiative to demonstrate commitment and efforts of companies to better their water and sanitation agendas as part of long term Sustainable Development Goals.
- The CEO Water Mandate is designed to assist companies in the development, implementation, and disclosure of comprehensive water strategies and policies.
- It also provides a platform for companies to partner with like-minded businesses, UN agencies, public authorities, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders.

3) D

The Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act of 2021 was introduced in the US House of Representatives. It will remove the per-country cap on permanent residency visas, or green cards.

4) C

- World Environment Day (WED) is an annual event celebrated across the Globe to create awareness on Environmental issues.
- It was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972, to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on Humans interfering with the Environment.
- The sustainability and conservation of our aquatic ecosystem which constitutes of various freshwater habitats, with oceans and seas covering more than 70 percent of the Earth, has gained a lot of attention in recent times at national and international forums.
- PMMSY is one of the major initiative of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- It is a scheme to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector.
- The Scheme will be implemented during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.
- The scheme aims to address the critical gaps in the fisheries sector and realize its potential by improving availability of certified quality fish seed and feed, traceability in fish and including effective aquatic health management.
- It also promises to create direct gainful employment opportunities to about 15 lakh fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, fish vendors and other rural/urban populations in fishing and allied activities and about thrice this number as indirect employment opportunities including enhancement of their incomes.

5) C

The global minimum tax rate would apply to companies' overseas profits.

If countries agree on a global minimum, governments could still set whatever local corporate tax rate they want.

But if companies pay lower rates in a particular country, their home governments could "top-up" their taxes to the agreed minimum rate, eliminating the advantage of shifting profits to a tax haven.

It has been supported by the organisation for economic co-operation and development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and group 20 major economies.

6) C

- India has been recently elected to the UN Economic and Social Council for the 2022-24 term.
- India was elected in the Asia-Pacific States category along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman.
- India is currently serving the 2021-22 term as a non-permanent member of the powerful UN Security Council and will assume the Presidency of UNSC in August, 2021.

UN ECOSOC

- The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.
- ECOSOC's 54 members are elected for three-year terms by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
- Seats on the Council are allotted based on geographical representation with 14 allocated to African states, 11 to Asian states, six to eastern European states, 10 to Latin American and Caribbean states and 13 to western European and other states.
- The 54-member Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.
- It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.
- It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

7) C

The Interpol has recently launched a new global database named I-Familia.

I-Familia

- It was launched to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.
- The platform applied cutting-edge scientific research and used the DNA of relatives to identify missing persons or unidentified human remains around the world.
- I-Familia has three components:
- A dedicated global database to host the DNA profiles provided by relatives, held separately from any criminal data
- DNA matching software called Bonaparte, developed by Dutch company Smart Research Interpretation guidelines developed by Interpol

8) C

9) C

- It is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia.
- The objective is to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.
- The member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- It also acts as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, which comes under the purview of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.
- India has signed a MoU with SACEP for cooperation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region.

10) C

11) B

(Senior care Ageing Growth Engine) SAGE Initiative has been launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E)

Initiative has been launched with an aim to provide "one-stop access" for elderly care. The portal will provide access to all elderly care products and services developed by credible start-ups

12) C

13) A

- It is the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative
- On 12 September 2017, the UN Global Compact instituted a new exclusion for tobacco companies. This decision recognizes that tobacco products are in direct conflict with UN

goals, particularly with the right to public health, and undermines the achievement of SDG 3. This product-based exclusion is strictly limited to companies that produce and/or manufacture tobacco or are part of a joint venture, have a subsidiary or affiliate stake in a company that produces and/or manufactures tobacco

- Global Compact Initiative was announced by the then UN Secretary-General in 1999. It was officially launched at UN Headquarters in New York City in 2000.

14) B

UN Sec Gen is appointed by UNGA on the recommendation of UNSC. To be selected as a UN Secretary-General, a candidate must receive the votes of at least 9 (60%) members of the United Nations Security Council, with no vetoes from permanent members.

15) D

National Green Tribunal

The NGT, established in 2010, as per the National Green Tribunal Act is a specialised judicial body equipped with expertise solely for the purpose of adjudicating environmental cases in the country. The NGT is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.

The principle bench is located in New Delhi. The Tribunal's orders are binding and it has power to grant relief in the form of compensation and damages to affected persons.

The Tribunal's orders are enforceable as the powers vested are the same as in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. The Tribunal is headed by the Chairperson who sits in the Principal Bench and has at least ten but not more than twenty judicial members and at least ten but not more than twenty expert members.

The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The Tribunal has powers to review its own decisions. If this fails, the decision can be challenged before the Supreme Court within ninety days.

16) C

Union Minister of State for space, Dr Jitendra Singh has recently said that ISRO will assist development projects in the Northeast through Space Technology and will contribute by offering optimum utilization of Satellite Imaging and other Space Technology applications for

better accomplishment of infrastructural projects in all the eight States of the North Eastern Region.

North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) at Shillong has received a number of proposals from North Eastern states.

It would be discussing the feasibility and desirability of all such projects, one by one with each of the States in the next fortnight. Once identified, all such projects are likely to be funded jointly by respective States and NESAC.

North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC)

- It is a joint initiative of Department of Space (DOS) and the North Eastern Council (NEC).
- It is a society registered under the Meghalaya Societies Registration Act, 1983.
- It is an autonomous organization under the Department of Space at Shillong.
- It provides dedicated service to the North Eastern Region (NER) of India comprising of eight states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.
- The Centre has provided more than 20 years of dedicated service to the eight states of North Eastern Region (NER) of India using space science and technology.

17) B

It is a global operation which targets the online sale of counterfeit and illicit medicines and medical device.

- In India it was coordinated by Interpol along with Central Bureau of Investigation that is the nodal body for the Interpol in the country.
- It is supported by the Pharmaceutical Security Institute, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime/World Customs Organization's Container Control Programme and Europol.

18) B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently chaired a high-level meeting to review the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)

It aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways.

It aims to strengthen the accessibility and equity of health services, including continuum of care with citizen as the owner of data, in a holistic healthcare program approach leveraging IT & associated technologies and support the existing health systems in a 'citizen-centric' approach. It will come under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

The National Health Authority has been entrusted with the role of designing strategy, building technological infrastructure, roll-out and implementation of the mission in India.

It comprises six key building blocks or digital systems namely

- HealthID
- DigiDoctor
- Health Facility Registry
- Personal Health Records
- e-Pharmacy
- Telemedicine

19) A

Department for promotion of Industry & Internal Trade has developed Industrial Information System (IIS) portal, a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters across the country to adopt a committed approach towards resource optimization, industrial up-gradation and sustainability.

Industrial Information System (IIS) aims to provide:

- -Information on available land for prospective investors looking at setting up units in the Country
- -GIS Mapping of Industrial Clusters
- -The system also holds the information about the existing External and Internal Infrastructure such as rail, road, air and port connectivity and other common facilities in and around the manufacturing clusters
- -Links to State GIS Portals and State Land Banks

At present, the database covers more than 3,350 parks/clusters covering about 475,000 hectares land across 31 States/UTs.

20) A