EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (b)

   Explanation :

   Recently, the funeral of Nyima Tenzin, a soldier of the Special Frontier Force (SFF), was held in Leh, with BJP leader Ram Madhav among those present. While there have been reports about SFF being involved in the August 29-31 operation to occupy previously unoccupied heights in Chushul sector in eastern Ladakh, the Army has so far maintained an official silence. The SFF was raised by the Intelligence Bureau in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 China-India war. The covert outfit recruited Tibetan exiles (now it has a mixture of Tibetans and Gorkhas) and was initially named Establishment 22 (Major Gen Sujan Singh Uban, an Artillery officer who raised the group, named it after the 22 Mountain Regiment he commanded). Subsequently renamed SSF, it now falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat. It is commonly believed that the SFF was raised by India in coordination with US intelligence agencies.

2. Ans) (a)

   Explanation :

   Kerala metro phase 1 has been completed with the commissioning of the Thykoodam-Petta stretch. Thykoodam-Petta stretch of Kochi Metro was inaugurated by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi VIjayan.Phase-1 of the Kochi Metro is now complete at a cost of ₹6218 crores. The proposal for Phase-2 of Kochi Metro is under active consideration of Govt of India and would be approved soon. KMRL is all set to implement Kochi Water Metro Project at the cost of Rs 747 crore with the financial assistance of German Bank, KFW. Kochi is the first city in the country wherein water transport has been integrated as a feeder service to the metro.

3. Ans) (d)

   Explanation :

   Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways inaugurated three important bridges and two road improvement projects in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. He also laid foundation stones for four other major bridge projects across the rivers Wainganga, Bandiya, Perikota and Perimili. 855 metre major bridge across Pranahita river on Nizamabad – Jagdalpur Road (NH 63) at a cost of Rs 168 crores, 630 metre high level bridge across the Indravati River near Patagudam on Nizamabad – Jagdalpur Road (NH 63) at a cost of Rs 248 crores. 30 metre high level bridge near Lankachen on Bejurpalli – Aheri Road,

Improvement of Bejurpalli-Aheri Road (SH 275) between Watra and Moyabinpeta Improvement of Garanji – Pustola Road Wainganga river, which divides Gadchiroli & Chandrapur Districts is one of the important rivers in the State of Maharashtra. To eliminate hardships of the people, Union Minister proposed construction of an ambitious project to construct bridge on Wainganga river, along National Highway 353 B, at a total cost of Rs. 99 Crore, to be completed by NHAI and PWD.

4. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Inaugural run of South India's 1st and country's 2nd Kisan Rail between Anantapur and New Delhi was flagged off by Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare.On 7th August, the first Kisan Rail was flagged off between Devlali in Maharashtra and Danapur in Bihar as a weekly service, which was later made bi-weekly due to increasing demand. Now the 2nd Kisan Rail will benefit farmers of the states coming en route.Introduction of Kisan Rail is conceptualized to provide priority to the farming sector and facilitate transportation of perishable agricultural products to various market places across the country.India's second and South India's first Kisan Train commenced its inaugural run from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh to Adarsh Nagar in New Delhi. Anantapur is fast becoming the Fruit Bowl of Andhra Pradesh.South India's 1st Kisan Rail train service between Anantapur - New Delhi will cover a distance of 2150 kms in 40 hours.

5. Ans) (c)

Explanation :

Union Minister of Finance inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and participated in the awards ceremony to felicitate best performing banks on EASE Banking Reforms Index. As part of the EASE Reforms, Doorstep Banking Services is envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App. Customers can also track their service request through these channels. The services shall be rendered by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 centres across the country. The services can be availed by customers of Public Sector Banks at nominal charges. EASE Banking Reforms Index: A common reform agenda for PSBs, EASE Agenda is aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking. It was launched in January 2018. PSBs have shown a healthy trajectory in their performance over four quarters since the launch of EASE 2.0 Reforms Agenda. Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce were felicitated for being the top three in the 'Top Performing Banks' category according to the EASE 2.0 Index Results. Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India and erstwhile Corporation Bank were awarded in the 'Top Improvers' category basis EASE 2.0 Index.

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

The Supreme Court has stayed reservation for Maratha community in government jobs and educational institutions in Maharashtra. A three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao referred the case to a larger bench to consider the constitutional validity of 2018 Maharashtra government law providing reservation to Marathas in the State.Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act originally provided 16 per cent reservation for Maratha community in educational institutions and government jobs. The law was challenged before Bombay High Court which in June 2019 upheld its validity but reduced the quota to 12 per cent in educational institutions and 13 per cent in jobs. Appeals were filed before Supreme Court stating that the reservation would lead to breach of the 50 per cent cap laid down by the Apex Court in its 1992 judgment of Indra Sawhney versus Union of India. Maharashtra government had on August 26th asked the Court to place the matter before a larger bench considering the fact that it involves determination of substantial legal questions.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation :

On the occasion of Himalayan Day (September 9), the Vice President of India called for making nature's conservation a people's movement. Himalayan Day is celebrated on the 9th of September every year so as to sensitize the people on the importance of this fragile ecosystem as also to highlight the various issues concerning it. Himalayan Day was first observed in Uttarakhand in 2010 as an initiative of a group of noted environmentalists including Sunderlal Bahuguna, Anil Prakash Joshi and Radha Behen. Himalaya plays an important role to save and sustain nature and protect the country from adverse weather conditions. The Himalayan range is also responsible for rain besides being a rich repository of floral and faunal biodiversity.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation

The word Rogan means "Oil" in Persian. With origins in Persia, it came to Kutch around 300 years ago. Hence, statement 1 is correct. This rare craft is practised by a lone Muslim family, the Khatris of Nirona Village, Gujarat. Rogan is a form of textile painting which uses a rich, brightly coloured paint made from castor oil and natural colors. Castor is a crop commonly grown in the Kutch region of Gujarat and the artists source it from the local farmers.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation

In 2019, the Pink city, Jaipur (Rajasthan), was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Jaipur became

the second city of the country after Ahmedabad to get the recognition. India has 38 world heritage sites, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site. The construction of Patrika Gate was in keeping with Jaipur having recently been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. But it is not yet a heritage site. The Patrika Gate has been constructed by the Rajasthan Patrika Group of Publications (media conglomerate).It is an iconic gate built as a monument under Mission Anupam of the Jaipur Development Authority.

10. Ans) (a)

Explanation

'Sanskrit Grams' (Sanskrit villages) are the model villages where the people will communicate with each other in the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit on a daily basis. The Uttarakhand Government has decided to develop 'Sanskrit Grams' across the state.