

**5 MONTHS (MAY-SEP 2020) CURRENT AFFAIRS  
EXPECTED MCQS REVISION FOR PRELIMS**



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## **May Current affairs Multiple choice questions**

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Special 301 Report is a biennial report published by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).
2. India has been classified as “Priority Foreign Country” in the Special 301 Report, 2020.
3. China, Indonesia, Russia are on the Priority Watch List of Special 301 Report, 2020.

Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Special 301 Report:**

- It is prepared annually by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) that identifies trade barriers to United States companies and products due to the intellectual property laws, such as copyright, patents and trademarks, in other countries.
- The Special 301 Report is published pursuant to Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.
- By statute, the annual Special 301 Report includes a list of “Priority Foreign Countries”, that are judged to have inadequate intellectual property laws; these countries may be subject to sanctions.
- In addition, the report contains a “Priority Watch List” and a “Watch List”, containing countries whose intellectual property regimes are deemed of concern.
- India continues to be on the ‘Priority Watch List’ of the USTR for lack of adequate intellectual property (IP) rights protection and enforcement.
- Algeria, Argentina, Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Venezuela are also on the Priority Watch List.

2. Arrange the following rivers in ascending order of their length:

1. Mekong
2. Yangtze
3. Brahmaputra
4. Yellow River

- a. 3, 4, 1, 2
- b. 4, 3, 1, 2
- c. 3, 4, 2, 1
- d. 3, 1, 2, 4

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

Brahmaputra < Yellow River < Mekong < Yangtze

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 30 is called a Charter of Education Rights.
2. While all religious minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice, linguistic minorities do not enjoy such a right.
3. The term "Minorities" has been defined in the Constitution.

Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- Article 30 is called a Charter of Education Rights. This right is given to minorities to form and govern their own educational institutions.
- The term "Minorities" has not been defined in the Constitution.
- **Article 30(1):** All religious and linguistic minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- **Article 30(2):** The State should not, when granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language.

4. Consider the following statements with respect to Chinkaras:

1. Chinkaras can be found in India, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.
2. It is the state animal of Rajasthan.
3. It is classified as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- Indian gazelles, *Gazella bennettii*, are primarily found in the northwestern region of India in the state of Rajasthan.
- Their distribution extends from south of the Krishna River, as far east as central India, and into the north-central region of Iran (east of the Zagros Range and south of the Alborz).
- They are found in grasslands and desert areas in India, parts of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- IUCN Red List Classification: Least Concerned.
- Chinkara and Camel are both official state animals of Rajasthan.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Biological Oxygen Demand is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water.
2. A high value of dissolved oxygen (DO), BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) and COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) are all indicators of good river health.
3. A low value of Biological Oxygen Demand indicates low Dissolved Oxygen content of water.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Biological Oxygen Demand is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water. A high value of dissolved oxygen (DO) is an indicator of good river health. BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) and COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) are both indicators of the amount of oxygen necessary to break down organic and inorganic pollution. The lower these numbers are, the better is the river health. A higher value of Biological Oxygen Demand indicates low Dissolved Oxygen content of water.

**6. Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Development Bank:**

- 1. India is a founding member of Asian Development Bank.**
- 2. India and China hold the largest share in the bank.**
- 3. It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.**

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966.
- Headquarters – Manila, Philippines.
- Japan holds the largest share in ADB with 15.677%, followed by U.S.A (15.567%), China (6.473%), and India (5.812%).
- India is a founding member of the ADB.

**7. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

- 1. India is the largest producer of Saffron in the world.**
- 2. Saffron cultivation in India is limited to only Jammu and Kashmir.**
- 3. Kashmir saffron is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level.**

Options:

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

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

- Iran is the largest producer of saffron.
- Saffron in India is mainly cultivated in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Kashmir saffron, which is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m AMSL (above mean sea level).
- Kashmir saffron is grown in some regions of Kashmir, including Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar.

**8. Consider the following pairs: *International Borders Countries***

1. 17th parallel : North and South Vietnam
2. Hindenberg Line : France and Germany
3. McMohan Line : India and China

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

**Q 2.A**

• **McMahon Line:**

It is a boundary line between **India and China** more specifically It is between the Tibetan region of China and the North-east region of India. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**

**This boundary line was demarcated by Henry McMahon at the 1914 Simla Convention.** But China does not approve the Simla Accord and the McMahon Line. Because according to China Tibet was not an Independent State and for that reason, it had no power to sign a treaty.

• **Hindenberg Line:**

It is a demarcation line between **Germany and Poland**. Hence **pair 2 is not correctly matched**. During World War- I in March 1917 German soldiers retreated towards this line. And this retreat operation is known as Alberich.

• **17th Parallel:** It was the boundary line between **North Vietnam and South Vietnam**. They reunified on July 2, 1976. Hence **pair 1 is correctly matched**.

**9. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the One Nation One Ration card scheme?**

1. It is being implemented under the Ministry of Home affairs.
2. It is applicable throughout India.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The one nation one ration card scheme comes under the Ministry of Consumer affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Only 17 states and UT's have joined the national cluster under the Food Ministry's One Nation One Ration Card scheme.
  - Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

**10. Which of the following are the features of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme?:**

1. Providing at least 150 days of wage employment in a financial year to willing adults in rural areas.
2. Only people from BPL households are eligible for benefit under the scheme.
3. Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence.
4. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance.
5. Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory.

**Options:**



- a. 1,2,3 and 4
- b. 1,3,4 and 5
- c. 3,4 and 5
- d. 1,2,3,4 and 5

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Govt of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments
- The employment will be provided within a radius of 5 km: if it is above 5 km extra wage will be paid.
- Within 15 days of submitting the application or from the day work is demanded, wage employment will be provided to the applicant. Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought.
- Receipt of wages within fifteen days of work done.
- Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory, which lends to accountability and transparency.

**11. "Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID), 2020" was published recently by?**

**Options:**

- a. Amnesty International
- b. Institute for Economics & Peace
- c. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- d. International Organization for Migration

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Nearly five million people were displaced in India in 2019 – the highest in the world so far – according to a recent report from the **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)**, titled '**The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2020)**'.

- The centre is a part of the Norwegian Refugee Council. Globally, around 33.4 million people faced new internal displacements because of conflicts and disasters in about 145 countries in 2019.
- The displacements in India were prompted by increased hazard intensity, high population and social and economic vulnerability, the report stated.

**12. “Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai”, which was recently granted Geographical Indication (GI) Tag, belongs to which of the following states?**

**Options:**

- a. Kerala
- b. Karnataka
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The famous **Kovilpatti kadalai mittai** has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is manufactured in Kovilpatti and adjacent towns and villages in Thoothukudi district, **Tamil Nadu**.
- Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is a candy made of peanuts held together with glistening syrup, and topped with wisps of grated coconut dyed pink, green and yellow.
- Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is produced by using both groundnuts and jaggery (organic jaggery), in carefully selected quantities from selected specific locations in Tamil Nadu.
- The groundnuts are grown in the native black soil in and around Kovilpatti.
- After sourcing, the groundnuts are shelled and roasted, this gives it an unique traditional flavour.
- In Kovilpatti, it is sold as single rectangular chunks, or rather cuboids, sealed in packets.
- This product has a long shelf life and has a huge export potential.
- The tag will now help this brand reach an international audience.

**13. Which of the following countries border Venezuela?**

1. Colombia
2. Brazil
3. Ecuador
4. Suriname

5. Guyana
6. French Guiana
7. Panama

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2 and 5 only
- b. 3, 4, 5 and 7 only
- c. 1, 2 and 6 only
- d. 2, 5 and 7 only

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**



**14. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The US Commission of International Religious Freedom was created by the American International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.
2. The US Commission of International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommendations are binding on the U.S. administration.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF) in the State Department and the US Commission of International Religious Freedom were created by the American International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

- The U.S. State department hasn't always followed the USCIRF's recommendations and has followed its own procedure to designate states. The USCIRF's recommendations are non-binding on the State Department.

**15. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. **The Indian diaspora comprises the largest share of the global migrant population.**
2. **The United Arab Emirates houses the largest number of Indian diaspora.**
3. **India is the largest recipient of inward remittances in the world.**

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- According to the UN's International Migrant Stock 2019 compiled by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division, the count of the Indian diaspora currently stands at around 17.5 million making it the largest in the world. It now comprises 6.4% of the total global migrant population.
- The United Arab Emirates was the top destination for Indian migrants followed by the US and Saudi Arabia.
- India tops the list of countries with the largest inward remittances as per a new World Bank report.

**16. Arrange the following tiger reserves from east to west:**

1. **Namdapha Tiger Reserve**
2. **Pakke Tiger Reserve**
3. **Manas Tiger Reserve**
4. **Buxa Tiger Reserve**

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2, 3, 4
- b. 2, 1, 3, 4
- c. 4, 3, 2, 1
- d. 1, 2, 4, 3

Answer: a

Explanation:



17. Consider the following statements with respect to Chak-Hao

1. It is a scented glutinous rice variety popularly known as Black Rice, cultivated widely in Manipur.
2. For the first time in India, the rice variety has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag jointly for the seven North-Eastern states of India including Manipur.

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

Options:

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

**Manipur Black rice Chak-Hao gets GI tag**

- Incredible India Chak-Hao, scented glutinous rice popularly known as Black Rice which is cultivated in Manipur since centuries and popular to people apart from the State has got GI (Geographical Indications) registration after almost a yearlong battle for registration competing with other States of India.

**GI Tag**

- GI status is an indication that identifies goods as produced from a particular area, which has special quality or reputation attributable to its geographical origin and GI branded goods possess a recall value amongst consumers.
- Also GIs are covered as an element of IPRs under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property.
- **Geographical Indications Registry of Ministry of Commerce and Industries** will grant the GI tag for a product.

**18. Consider the following statements with respect to MSME Bank of Ideas, Innovation and Research' portal**

1. **The portal launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises gives access to all Schemes of Union, State and UT Governments.**
2. **The portal has unique features of not only crowd sourcing of Ideas, but also evaluation and rating the ideas by crowd sourcing.**

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

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Ministry of MSME has recently launched the **Bank of Schemes, Ideas, Innovation and Research portal** on MSMEs.
- The Portal gives access to all Schemes of Union, State and UT Governments.
- It has the provision for uploading Ideas, Innovations & Researches in the sector.
- The portal has unique features of not only crowd sourcing of Ideas, but also evaluation and rating the ideas by crowd sourcing.
- It can also facilitate inflow of venture capital, foreign collaboration etc.
- The portal has the facility to indicate the stage of Idea (Concept, Prototype or Commercialized) to make more user friendly.
- The portal will benefit the potential entrepreneurs as one stop compendium of Ideas, innovation and research ready for commercialization.
- The Rating of Ideas can be seen publicly which will help in decision making.
- Venture capitalists can interact with Person and MSME having Idea or innovation.

- Similarly options are available for adding Banks, Government Labs, Incubators, Accelerators, Foreign collaboration in future.

19) Consider the following statements with respect to Kisan Sabha App

1. It aims to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management system.
2. It was developed by CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Maharashtra.

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

**Explanation:**

- In present situation of COVID 19, farmers are looking for help in their harvest reaching the market, seed/ fertilizer procurement, etc.
- **Kisan Sabha App** was developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi.
- It aims to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management system was remotely launched recently.
- This portal acts as a one stop solution for farmers, transporters and other entities engaged in the agriculture industry and offered that ICAR can work together with CSIR and use the Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVK) networks for implementation.

20) Consider the following statements

1. It is located in the Aravalli Hills and is the first tiger reserve to have successfully relocated Royal Bengal tigers in India.
2. It is known for populations of tigers, leopards, Nilgai, Sambar, chital etc. and shelters a large population of Indian peafowl, crested serpent eagles.
3. The Reserve is strewn with ruins of ancient temples dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries including the ruins of the Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples.

Identify the Reserve that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Sariska Tiger Reserve

- b. Satkosia Tiger Reserve
- c. Amrabad Tiger Reserve
- d. Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Sariska Tiger Reserve**

- It is located in the Aravalli Hills, 35 km from Alwar, 250 km SW of Delhi and 110 km NE of Jaipur.
- The former hunting reserve of the Maharaja of Alwar, the Sariska valley is home to a variety of flora and fauna.
- The park has populations of tigers, leopards, Nilgai, Sambar, chital etc.
- The place is a paradise for bird lovers as it shelters a large population of Indian peafowl, crested serpent eagles, sand grouse, golden backed woodpeckers, great Indian horned owls, tree pies, vultures and many others.
- The sanctuary is strewn with ruins of ancient temples dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries.
- Some of the highlights are the ruins of the Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples.

**21) Consider the following statements**

1. He was one of the earliest and most significant modernists of twentieth century Indian art.
2. He was trained in the British academic style of painting in the early decades of the twentieth century and became well-known as a skilful portraitist.
3. From the end 1920s, He rejected the European oil medium and began to use the traditional pigments from vegetable and mineral sources.

**Identify the character who correctly matches with the above description:**

- a. Jamini Roy
- b. Nandalal Bose
- c. Amrita Sher-Gil
- d. Abanindranath Tagore

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**



## Jamini Roy

- He was one of the earliest and most significant modernists of twentieth century Indian art.
- His works collectively speak of the nature of his modernism and the prominent role he played in breaking away from the art practices of his time.

## British style of Painting

- Trained in the British academic style of painting in the early decades of the twentieth century, Jamini Roy became well-known as a skilful portraitist.
- He received regular commissions after he graduated from the Government Art School in what is now Kolkata, in 1916.
- The first three decades of the twentieth century saw a sea-change in cultural expressions in Bengal.
- The growing surge of the nationalist movement was prompting all kinds of experiments in literature and the visual arts.
- The Bengal School, founded by Abanindranath Tagore and Kala Bhavana in Santiniketan under Nandalal Bose rejected European naturalism and the use of oil as a medium and were exploring new ways of representation.
- Jamini Roy, too, consciously rejected the style he had mastered during his academic training and from the early 1920s searched for forms that stirred the innermost recesses of his being.
- He sought inspiration from sources as diverse as East Asian calligraphy, terracotta temple friezes, objects from folk arts and crafts traditions and the like.
- From the end 1920s, Jamini Roy rejected the European oil medium and began to use the traditional pigments from vegetable and mineral sources. The imagery was often drawn from village life.
- Jamini Roy invested in the portrayal of peasants, artisans, followers of religious cults, village women and adivasis with immense dignity.
- He represented in his paintings what they held sacred with references from folk tales and narratives that permeated the rural consciousness.
- In this particular painting titled 'Woman' the artist has painted the figure of a woman against a red background with thick, black contouring lines.
- The simplification of form suggests a sculptural quality, especially the structured drapery with an ornate border.

## 1924 Onwards

- From 1924 onwards, Jamini Roy experimented with a new idiom as he was looking for ways to simplify form.

- During this time his images for the most part became either monochromatic or the palette was limited to the use of one or two colours.
- He created contours of the form with fluid, calligraphic lines and during this phase, he painted seated female forms, mother and child figures, bauls, leaping deer, crawling infant.

22) Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The Suez Canal lies on the eastern part of the Sinai Peninsula.
  2. The Sinai Peninsula is bound by the Gulf of Suez on its eastern margin and by the Gulf of Aqba on its western margin.
- a. 1 only
  - b. 2 only
  - c. Both 1 and 2
  - d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Suez Canal lies on the western part of the Sinai Peninsula.
- The Sinai Peninsula is bound by the Gulf of Suez on its western margin and by the Gulf of Aqba on its eastern margin.



23) Consider the following statements with respect to National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)

1. It organizes theoretical and theme based academic programmes on Indian art and culture for teachers and students.
2. It is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture.
3. It also implements the Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme, aimed at promotion of social values and community engagement amongst the youth of the Country.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- **National Gallery of Modern Art** is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Department of Culture, **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
- The foremost responsibility of the National Gallery of Modern Art is **to ensure quality and to set and maintain standards of excellence**.
- **Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT)** organizes theoretical and theme based academic programmes on Indian art and culture for teachers and students.
- CCRT also implements the Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme, aimed at promotion of social values and community engagement amongst the youth of the Country.

24) Which of the following Indian states share a border with Bangladesh?

1. West Bengal
  2. Assam
  3. Meghalaya
  4. Tripura
  5. Mizoram
  6. Manipur
- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
  - b. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
  - c. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
  - d. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**



25) Consider the following statements with respect to the Empowered Group 6 (EG 6)

1. It is providing a unified platform for mobilising all the key stakeholders in synergising their sector specific efforts in COVID19 response
2. It has been set up under the Disaster Management Act and chaired by CEO of NITI Aayog.

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

**Explanation:**

**The Empowered Group 6 (EG 6)**

- It is providing a unified platform for mobilising all the key stakeholders in synergising their sector specific efforts in COVID19 response with not only the State and district administration where the action lies but also at a **macro level by linking the UN agencies**, CSOs, NGOs, start-ups and the industry partners for a coordinated and effective response.
- The EG-6 is headed by the **CEO of NITI Aayog**.
- The EG 6 has shared with all stakeholders the Government's response so far-procurement of PPEs and ventilators, role of MEA, communication to CSs of all States, engagement with 92,000 CSOs, putting the stakeholders in touch with each other, immediate solutions to the bottlenecks being faced by the private sector in coordinating response.
- Further, collaborations have been created by linking the specific issues raised by connecting the industry to other Empowered Groups dealing with procurement (EG 3), logistics (EG 5) and several other EGs.

## Empowered Groups

- The government had recently constituted **11 empowered groups** under the **Disaster Management Act** to suggest measures to ramp up healthcare, put the economy back on track and reduce misery of people as quickly as possible post the 21-day lockdown imposed to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

## 26) Consider the following statements with respect to Sardar Patel National Unity Award

1. It shall not be conferred posthumously except in very rare and highly deserving cases.
2. Not more than three Awards shall be given in a year.
3. Only individuals would be eligible to apply for this Award.

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

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

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation:**

## Sardar Patel National Unity Award

### Objective

- The Award seeks to recognize notable and inspiring contributions to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India.
- The award will be announced on the occasion of the National Unity Day, i.e. the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31st October.

### About the award

- The Award shall consist of a medal and a citation. No monetary grant or cash award shall be attached to this Award.
- Not more than three Awards shall be given in a year.
- It shall not be conferred posthumously except in very rare and highly deserving cases.

### Eligibility

- Any citizen of India without distinction of religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, age or occupation and any institution/organization shall be eligible for the Award.
- Only individuals/institutions/organizations would be eligible to apply for this Award.

27) Consider the following statements with respect to Global Press Freedom Index, 2020

1. It was released by France based NGO Reporters without Borders.
2. Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka ranked above India in the index.

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

**Explanation:**

- The Global Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking of countries compiled and published by Paris based **Reporters without Borders** based upon the organization's own assessment of the countries' press freedom records in the previous year.
- It intends to reflect the degree of freedom that journalists, news organizations, and netizens have in each country, and the efforts made by authorities to respect this freedom.
- Reporters without Borders is careful to note that the index only deals with press freedom and does not measure the quality of journalism nor does it look at human rights violations in general.
- It also includes violations of the free flow of information on the Internet.
- A smaller score on the report corresponds to greater freedom of the press as reported by the organization.
- According to recent report findings India dropped two places on the global press freedom index ranking to **142nd place** in the list of 180 countries.
- **India's neighbors Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka are ranked higher in the list.**
- Norway is ranked first in the Index for the fourth year running and China at 177, is just three places above North Korea, which is at 180.

28) Consider the following pairs

1. Etalin Hydropower Project – Andhra Pradesh
2. Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary – Telangana

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer : d

- **Etalin Hydropower Project** is a planned project in **Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley**.
- Yet to be cleared by the environment ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), the project will require the felling of over 250,000 trees.
- The project's foundation stone was laid by Manmohan Singh in 2008.
- **Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park** is a protected area located in the Western Ghats of South India, in Sanguem taluk of **Goa State**.

29) The Directive Principles of State Policy are directed towards which of the following?

1. Parliament of India
2. Municipalities
3. ONGC
4. District Boards

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1, 2 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- The phrase 'Directive Principles of State Policy' denotes the ideals that the State should keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws.
- These are the constitutional instructions or recommendations to the State in legislative, executive and administrative matters.

- According to Article 36, the term 'State' in Part IV has the same meaning as in Part III dealing with Fundamental Rights.
- Article 12 has defined the term for the purposes of Part III.

According to it, the State includes the following:

1. Government and Parliament of India, that is, executive and legislative organs of the Union government.
  2. Government and legislature of states, that is, executive and legislative organs of state government.
  3. All local authorities, that is, **municipalities, panchayats, district boards, improvement trusts, et**
  4. All other authorities, that is, **statutory or non-statutory authorities** like LIC, ONGC, SAIL, etc.
- Thus, State has been defined in a wider sense so as to include all its agencies.
  - According to the Supreme Court, even a private body or an agency working as an instrument of the State falls within the meaning of the 'State' under Article 12.

**30) Consider the following statements with respect to Rath Yatra:**

1. **The Puri Rath Yatra is also called the Gundicha Yatra.**
2. **Rath Yatra is included in the UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.**

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Rath Yatra is a festival dedicated to Lord Jagannath (Lord Krishna), Goddess Subhadra (his sister) and Lord Balaram (his elder brother).
- Rath Yatra is widely celebrated and is one of the biggest festivals of India.
- The term especially refers to the annual Rath Yatra in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and other East Indian states, particularly, the Odia festival.
- The Puri Yatra to the maternal uncle's place is also called the Gundicha Yatra, named after Gundicha Devi, the maternal aunt of Lord Jagannath.



- It is not included in the UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage.

**31) Consider the following statements with respect to Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF) scheme**

1. It is a two-week window in which the RBI will lend money to banks at the repo rate for 90 days.
2. The funds that banks borrow under this window can be used only for meeting the liquidity needs of mutual funds.
3. Loans by banks to mutual funds under this facility would not be considered as part of their capital market exposure and adjusted non-bank food credit.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently announced a Rs.50,000-crore **Special Liquidity Facility For Mutual Funds** to calm investor sentiment in the aftermath of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund winding up six debt funds.

**Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF) scheme**

- It is a two-week window in which the RBI will lend money to banks at the repo rate for 90 days.
- The funds that banks borrow under this window can be used only for meeting the liquidity needs of mutual funds.
- This could be either through outright purchase of certain debt instruments held by them, or lending to them using their bonds as collateral.
- The debt instruments so acquired can only be investment-grade corporate bonds, commercial papers, debentures and certificate of deposit.
- The total amount that the RBI promised to lend through the SLF-MF is Rs.50,000 crore, but this is subject to change in the future.
- The RBI has allowed banks to categorise the money borrowed using this facility as part of their held-to-maturity portfolio.
- Loans by banks to mutual funds under this facility would also not be considered as part of their capital market exposure and adjusted non-bank food credit.

- The latter is used to calculate banks' achievement of priority lending targets.

### Recent Developments

- The Reserve Bank of India has recently decided to **extend the** regulatory benefits announced under the Standing Liquidity Facility-Mutual Fund (SLF-MF) scheme **to all banks**, irrespective of whether they avail funding from it or deploy their own resources under this scheme.

32) Operation Samudra Setu, sometimes seen in the news recently was launched recently by?

- a. Indian Navy
- b. Border Roads Organisation
- c. National Highways Authority of India
- d. None of the above

**Answer: a**

### Explanation:

- **Indian Navy** has recently launched **Operation "Samudra Setu"** - meaning "Sea Bridge", as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
- Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Magar are presently enroute to the port of Male, **Republic of Maldives** to commence evacuation operations from 08 May 2020 as part of Phase-1.

33) With respect to GARUD portal, which was launched recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a grievances redressal interactive platform that aims to bring a smooth flow in air travel after the end of COVID-19 lockdown.
2. The portal was designed, developed, and beta-tested jointly by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

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: d**

**Explanation:**

**Government Authorisation for Relief Using Drones (GARUD)**

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have launched the GARUD portal.
- It aims for **providing fast track conditional exemptions to government agencies for COVID-19 related RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft System)/ drone operations.**
- In a short period of eight days after getting the go-ahead, the portal was **designed, developed, beta-tested, and launched** by **National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi.**

**34) Which of the following is true regarding Happy Hypoxia, sometimes seen in the news recently?**

- a. It is a form of oxygen deprivation that is harder to detect than regular hypoxia
- b. Under the condition, patients will have oxygen levels below 80 or 70% and appear extremely ill
- c. At acutely low oxygen levels, there was a high risk of acute respiratory distress (ARDS) and organ failure
- d. None of the above

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Many medical practitioners have reported a condition called **'Silent' or 'Happy' Hypoxia** during Covid-19 treatment, in which **patients have extremely low blood oxygen levels, yet do not show signs of breathlessness.**
- The condition has puzzled medical practitioners, and many are now advocating for its early detection as a means to avoid a fatal illness called **Covid Pneumonia.**

**Hypoxia**

- Hypoxia is a condition wherein there is not enough oxygen available to the blood and body tissues.
- Hypoxia can either be generalised, affecting the whole body, or local, affecting a region of the body.
- Normal arterial oxygen is approximately 75 to 100 millimetres of mercury (mm Hg), and normal pulse oximeter readings usually range from **95 to 100 per cent. Values under 90 per cent are considered low.**

- **When levels fall below 90 per cent, patients could begin experiencing lethargy, confusion, or mental disruptions** because of insufficient quantities of oxygen reaching the brain.
- Levels below 80 per cent can result in damage to vital organs.

### Covid pneumonia

- It is a serious medical condition found in severe Covid-19 patients preceded by 'silent hypoxia'.

### Silent/Happy Hypoxia

- **It is a form of oxygen deprivation that is harder to detect than regular hypoxia.**
- In 'silent' or 'happy' hypoxia, patients appear to be less in distress.
- Many Covid-19 patients, **despite having oxygen levels below 80 per cent, look fairly at ease** and alert, according to multiple reports.
- In emergency wards, doctors have reported patients having oxygen levels below 80 or 70 per cent, in some cases even lower than 50 per cent.
- Those with such low levels of oxygen would ordinarily appear extremely ill, but not in silent hypoxia cases; patients have been reported sitting up in bed talking or operating mobile phones.
- In many cases, Covid-19 patients with silent hypoxia did not exhibit symptoms such as shortness of breath or coughing until their oxygen fell to **acutely low levels, at which point there was a risk of acute respiratory distress (ARDS) and organ failure.**

**35) The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently gave emergency approval to use the drug Remdesivir for critical COVID-19 patients. Remdesivir was originally developed to treat for?**

- a. Malaria
- b. Tuberculosis
- c. Haemophilus Influenza
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

### **Explanation:**

### **Remdesivir**

- It was manufactured in 2014 to treat for **Ebola Virus Disease**, by US-based biotechnology firm Gilead Sciences.

- It has since been used to treat for MERS and SERS, both caused by members of the coronavirus family. This was, however, not with much success.

**36) Consider the following statements with respect to Qutb Minar:**

1. It is named after Qutub-ud-din-Aibak who laid the foundation of the monument.
2. It was completed by Firoz Shah Tughlaq.
3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Qutub-ud-din-Aibak laid the foundation of the Qutb Minar in Delhi.
- It was named after a Sufi saint Khwaja Qutb-ud-din Bakhtiyar Kaki.
- Qutb Minar was completed by Aibak's successor and son-in-law Iltutmish.
- Firoz Shah Tughlaq replaced the top storey which was damaged in a lightning and also added one more storey.
- Qutub Minar is a centrally-protected monument under the ASI, and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**37) Dekho Apna Desh, sometimes seen in the news recently is an initiative of which of the following ministries?**

- a. Ministry of Culture
- b. Ministry of Tourism
- c. Ministry of External Affairs
- d. Ministry of Human Resources Development

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**DekhoApnaDesh**

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Tourism**

- This initiative of the Ministry of Tourism is in line with the appeal of the Honorable Prime Minister made from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August 2019 in his speech asking every citizen to visit at least 15 destinations by the year 2022, to promote domestic tourism in India which is intended to enhance tourist footfalls in places of tourist interest so as to help develop the local economy.
- During the lockdown period, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India as part of its ongoing engagement with industry and its audiences is organising webinars on the overall theme of 'DekhoApnaDesh'.
- The objective of this webinar series is to create awareness about and promote various tourism destinations of India – including the lesser known destinations and lesser known facets of popular destinations.

**38) With respect to the Northern part of the Western Ghats, consider the following statements:**

1. The northern part of the Western Ghats along with the Konkan region, is characterized as well precipitated and having an extended rainy season compared to its southern and central counter parts.
2. A notable geographical feature of the Northern Western Ghats is the presence of forests that display maximum endemic species unlike plateaus and cliffs which are not endemic.

**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: d**

**Explanation:**

- Scientists at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology have come up with plant data of the Northern Western Ghats which indicates that plateaus, in addition to the forests, should be prioritized for conservation of the Northern Western Ghats.
- It is the **plateaus and the cliffs that harbour most of the endemic species**, thus increasing their importance in conservation plans.

**Western Ghats**

- The Western Ghats of India is one of the global biodiversity hotspots owing to the endemism that is sheltered by a chain of mountains.

- The northern part of this biodiversity hotspot, along with the Konkan region, is considerably different from its southern and central counterparts on account of **lesser precipitation and extended dry season**.
- A **notable geographical feature of the Northern Western Ghats is the presence of plateaus and cliffs** that display maximum endemic species, unlike forests.
- Forests of the Northern Western Ghats harbour many species which are not endemic.

**39) Exercise 'Vande Bharat Mission', often seen in the news recently is?**

- a. A mission to double up the production of India's first semi-high speed train
- b. A military exercise that aims to demonstrate the operating capability of Indian tri-services
- c. A massive evacuation operation to bring back Indians stranded in different parts of the world due to the coronavirus pandemic
- d. None of the above

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- In an effort to bring back its stranded citizens abroad due to the spread of the novel coronavirus and the resulting lockdown thereof, India has rolled out massive evacuation plans called '**Vande Bharat Mission**' and '**Samudra Setu**' – perhaps one of the largest evacuation drills since the Kuwait airlift in 1990, will take place from May 7 to May 13, 2020.
- 'Vande Bharat Mission' will see 64 flights being operated from May 7 to May 13 to bring back around 15,000 Indian nationals stranded abroad. Approximately, 2,000 people from abroad will fly back to India daily.

**40) Consider the following statements with respect to Pulse Oximetry, sometimes seen in the news recently**

1. It is a test used to measure the oxygen level (oxygen saturation) in Red Blood Cells (RBCs).
2. The pulse oximeter can be attached to a person's fingers, toes, nose, feet and also ears.

**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

**Explanation:**

- It is said that a medical device called **Pulse Oximeter** - used to detect oxygen level in the blood- could help in the early detection of **Silent Hypoxia**.
- Using the device, those who have Covid-19 or those suspected of having it, can check their oxygen levels early on.

**Pulse Oximetry**

- It is a test used to measure the oxygen level (oxygen saturation) of the blood.
- It is an easy, painless measure of how well oxygen is being sent to parts of your body furthest from your heart, such as the arms and legs.
- The device is generally used to check the health of patients who have known conditions that affect blood oxygen levels, such as heart and lung conditions, and for those who show symptoms such as shortness of breath.
- The device measures the saturation of oxygen in red blood cells, and can be attached to a person's fingers, toes, nose, feet, ears, or forehead. It can be reused or disposed of after use.
- Based on the information from the blood oximeter, a healthcare provider can take a decision about whether a person needs extra oxygen.



**41) Consider the following statements**

1. He was popularly known as 'Gurudev'.
2. Between 1928 and 1940, he painted more than 2000 images.



3. He was the founder of a unique educational institution - Visva- Bharati.

Identify the character who correctly matches with the above description

- a. Jatin Das
- b. Narayana Guru
- c. Rabindranath Tagore
- d. None of the above

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

- **Rabindranath Tagore** (1861-1941), popularly known as '**Gurudev**', was born in an affluent Family.
- The maestro was fascinated by the worlds of literature, art, music and dance at an early age.
- In 1913, he became the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel 'Geetanjali'.
- He also wrote the National Anthems of India and Bangladesh.
- He left his imprint on art and played a role in transforming its practices and ushering into modernism.
- Rabindranath Tagore was primarily known as a writer, poet, playwright, philosopher and aesthetician, music composer and choreographer, **founder of a unique educational institution - Visva- Bharati** and a painter.
- **Tagore's emergence as a painter began in 1928 when he was 67 years old.**
- For him, it was as an extension to his poetic consciousness. Beginning with scratching and erasures on the pages of his manuscripts during the mid-20s of the 20th Century, he slowly moved to portraying independent images.
- Between 1928 and 1940, Rabindranath painted more than 2000 images.
- He never gave any title to his paintings. Fed by memories and the subconscious, Rabindranath's art was spontaneous and dramatic.
- His images did not represent the phenomenal world but an interior reality.
- His work of art were first exhibited in Paris in 1930 and then across Europe and America. Henceforth they gained international recognition.

42) Consider the following statements:

1. Plasma makes up more than 55% of blood in the human body.
2. Plasma carries hormones, nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body.
3. Plasma lacks clotting factor.

Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Plasma is the major part of the blood. Apart from RBC, WBC and platelets in the blood, all the other fluid content is referred to as Plasma. **It makes up more than 55% of blood in the human body.** The main role of plasma is to carry hormones, nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body. Composed of 90% water, salts, lipids and hormones, it is especially rich in proteins (including its main protein albumin), immunoglobulin, clotting factors and fibrinogen. **Plasma is composed of serum and clotting factor.**

**43) With respect to Styrene gas, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an organic compound with the formula  $C_8H_8$  and is a derivative of benzene ( $C_6H_6$ ).
2. It is stored in factories as a liquid and it evaporates easily.
3. Exposure to styrene gas will affect the Central Nervous System.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The gas that leaked from a chemical factory in Visakhapatnam recently is called **Styrene**.

**Styrene**

- Styrene is an organic compound with the formula  $C_8H_8$ .
- It is a **derivative of benzene ( $C_6H_6$ )**.

- It is stored in factories as a liquid, **but evaporates easily**, and has to be kept at temperatures under 20°C.

### Application of Styrene

- Styrene is the main raw material for synthesis of polystyrene, or (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>)<sub>n</sub>.
- Polystyrene, in turn, is a versatile plastic that is used to make parts of various appliances such as refrigerators or micro-ovens; automotive parts; and parts of electronics such as computers; and also to manufacture disposable cups and in food packaging.
- Styrene is also used as an intermediate to produce copolymers – which are polymers derived from one or more species of monomers such as styrene.

### Impacts of exposure

- Exposure to styrene gas affects the central nervous system.
- Breathlessness, respiratory problems, irritation in eyes, indigestion, nausea, transient loss of consciousness, unsteady gait, giddiness are caused by exposure to it.
- It is the mucous membrane that is mainly affected by exposure to styrene gas.
- Experts say that if people are exposed to the gas for a long period, there is a chance of their developing leukaemia and headaches.
- Studies on the effects on health due to occupational exposure to styrene have, however, been inconclusive.

**44) With respect to Darbar Move in Jammu and Kashmir, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is an annual event, introduced by the Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872.**
- 2. During the Darbar Move, civil secretariat would be shifted in summers from Srinagar to Jammu and in winters from Jammu to Srinagar.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- **First time in 144 years**, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has decided to **halt the annual shifting of capital, called 'Darbar Move'**, from Jammu to Srinagar due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

### Darbar Move

- It was introduced by **Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872.**
- The Darbar Move would see shifting of the Civil Secretariat **in summers from Jammu to Srinagar and in winters from Srinagar to Jammu.**
- In January 1987, the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had asked the then Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah to stop the practice.
- However, the Darbar Move was continued to allow it to act as a bridge between two diverse cultures of the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region.

### 45) Consider the following statements with respect to African Swine Fever

1. **It is a severe viral disease that affects wild and domestic pigs typically resulting in an acute haemorrhagic fever.**
2. **It is not a threat to human beings since it only spreads from animals to other animals.**
3. **At present, there is no approved vaccine for this disease.**

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

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

**Answer: d**

### **Explanation:**

### **African Swine Flu (ASF)**

- ASF is a highly contagious and fatal animal disease that infects domestic and wild pigs, typically resulting in an acute form of hemorrhagic fever.
- It was first detected in Africa in the 1920s.
- The mortality is close to 100 per cent, and since the fever has no cure, the only way to stop it spreading is by culling the animals.
- ASF is not a threat to human beings since it only spreads from animals to other animals.

- According to the FAO, its extremely high potential for transboundary spread has placed all the countries in the region in danger and has raised the spectre of ASF once more escaping from Africa.
- It is a disease of growing strategic importance for global food security and household income.
- Around 2,800 pigs have died in Assam since February due to African Swine Fever virus, making the state the epicenter of ASF in India.

**46) Consider the following statements with respect to AYUSH Sanjivani App**

1. It will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19.
2. It is developed by Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has recently launched the 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation.

**AYUSH Sanjivani App**

- The app will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19.
- It is developed by **Ministry of AYUSH and MEITY** and shall reach out to a target of 50 lakh people."

**47) Rial, Toman, sometimes seen in the news recently are currencies associated with which of the following countries?**

- a. Iran
- b. U.A.E
- c. Libya
- d. Saudi Arabia

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Iran's parliament has recently passed a bill allowing the government to slash four zeros from the rial after a sharp fall in the value of the currency as a result of crippling U.S. sanctions.
- **Iran's national currency** will be changed from **the Rial to the Toman**, which is equal to 10,000 rials, under the bill.
- The bill to remove four zeros from the national currency was approved by lawmakers and the bill needs to be approved by the clerical body that vets legislation before it takes effect.

**Background**

- The idea of removing four zeros has been floated since 2008, but gained strength after 2018, when U.S. President Donald Trump exited Iran's 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions, as the rial lost more than 60% of its value.
- Iran's weak currency and high inflation have led to sporadic street protests since late 2017.

**48) Consider the following statements with respect to Luhman 16:**

1. Luhman 16 is a binary star system.
2. It is a brown-dwarf system in the southern constellation Vela.
3. It is the second closest system to the Sun after Alpha Centauri.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Luhman 16 is a binary star system.
- It is the third closest system to the Sun after Alpha Centauri and Barnard's star.
- This pair of brown dwarfs referred to as Luhman 16A and Luhman 16B orbit each other, casting a dim light.
- They are at a distance of about 6.5 light years from the Sun.

49) The “Principle of Absolute Liability”, sometimes seen in the news recently is a part of which of the following?

- a. Article 13
- b. Article 19
- c. Article 21
- d. Article 32

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The **National Green Tribunal's** order in the Visakhapatnam gas tragedy has found LG Polymers prima facie liable under the 19th century English law **Principle of “Strict Liability”** and directed the company to deposit an initial amount of Rs. 50 crore and formed a fact-finding committee.
- But, the Principle of Strict Liability was made redundant in India by the Supreme Court in 1986.
- Lawyers say the term “**Absolute Liability**” should have been used instead.

**The Principle of Strict Liability**

- Under the “Strict Liability Principle”, a party is not liable and need not pay compensation if a hazardous substance escapes his premises by accident or by an “act of God” among other circumstances.

**The Principle of Absolute Liability**

- In 1986, the Supreme Court, while deciding the **Oleum gas leak case** of Delhi, found strict liability woefully inadequate to protect citizens’ rights in an industrialised economy like India and **replaced it with the ‘Absolute Liability Principle’**.
- The court said a hazardous enterprise has an “absolute non-delegable duty to the community” to ensure that no harm results to anyone on account of hazardous or inherently dangerous nature of the activity which it has undertaken and therefore, **such corporations would be subjected to the limitations of right to life under Article 21 of the Indian constitution.**
- **The principle of absolute liability is a part of Article 21 (right to life).**

**Bhopal Gas Tragedy**

- The country was then reeling under the shock of the **1984 Bhopal gas tragedy**.
- The court under then Chief Justice P.N. Bhagwati stated that “If any harm results on account of such activity, the enterprise must be absolutely liable to compensate

for such harm irrespective of the fact that the enterprise had taken all reasonable care and that the harm occurred without any negligence on its part.

- So, under the absolute liability principle, the apex court held that **a company in a hazardous industry cannot claim any exemption**.
- It has to mandatorily pay compensation, whether or not the disaster was caused by its negligence.

### Strict Liability Vs Absolute Liability

- The court found that strict liability, evolved in an 1868 English case called **Rylands versus Fletcher**, provided companies with several exemptions from assuming liability.
- Absolute liability, on the other hand, provided them with no defence or exemptions.

50) With respect to the “COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project” sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. The project will be implemented by the National Health Mission (NHM), the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
2. The project will be jointly finance by the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with contribution of \$1 billion and \$500 million respectively.

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

### Explanation:

- The Union government and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) had recently signed a \$500 million “COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project” to help India to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.
- This is the first ever health sector support from the Bank to India.

COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project



- It aims to address the needs of infected people, at-risk populations, medical and emergency personnel and service providers, medical and testing facilities, and national and animal health agencies.
- It will be jointly finance by the World Bank and AIIB with contribution of \$1 billion and \$500 million respectively.
- The project which will be implemented by the National Health Mission (NHM), the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- The project will cover all states and union territories across India.
- World Bank has already approved \$1 billion funding for the project recently.
- The Asian Development Bank also recently approved \$1.5 billion loan for India to support the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

**51) Consider the following statements with respect to Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit**

1. **India is one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which was established in 1961 with 29 members.**
2. **Non-Aligned Movement Summit is the main meeting and are held every two years.**
3. **India had not participated in the last two summits held in 2017 and 2019.**

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- PM Modi has for the first time addressed the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit since assuming office in 2014.
- He skipped the last two NAM summits held in 2016 and 2019.

**Non Alignment Movement (NAM)**

- India is one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which was established in 1961 with 29 members.
- The conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, often referred to as Non-Aligned Movement Summit is the main meeting within

the movement and are held every few years. (No specific time interval between two summits)

- India had participated in both the summits held in 2017 and 2019 with delegations headed by the Vice-President Mr. Hamid Ansari and Venkaiah Naidu.

**52) Consider the following statements with respect to Project CARD (Consortium for Affordable & Rapid Diagnostics)**

1. The project uses Artificial Intelligence to trawl through data and identify existing drugs and food molecules that could benefit those with the infectious disease.
2. The project was launched jointly by the NITI Aayog and the Department of Biotechnology.

**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**

**Explanation:**

**Project CARD (Consortium for Affordable & Rapid Diagnostics)**

- It was launched jointly by the NITI Aayog and the Department of Biotechnology.
- It aims to scale up India's capacity to make coronavirus testing kits.
- The move comes after India faced quality issues with Chinese-made antibody testing kits, which are used for disease surveillance and to find out how many people have developed immunity to a disease.
- Project CARD's first goal is to roll out at least 10 million rapid antibody tests for Covid-19 by July.
- Additionally, capacity will be expanded to make reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and other paper-based tests for Covid-19 in the country.

**53) Consider the following statements with respect to Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme**

1. It has been designed for improving the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in India.
2. All Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs) offer the scheme.

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**

**Explanation:**

- Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has recently announced that, to boost research in the country various amendments have been carried out in Prime Minister's Research Fellowship Scheme.
- After the amendments, now for the students from any recognised institute/university (other than IISc/ IITs/NITs/IISERs/IIEST/CF IITs), the requirement of GATE Score is reduced to 650 from 750 apart from minimum CGPA of 8 or equivalent.
- It is also informed that now there will be two channels of entries, one direct entry and lateral entry.
- It is also highlighted that NITs, which appear in top 25 institutions as per NIRF Ranking (overall) can also become PMRF Granting institution.

**The Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme**

- It has been designed for improving the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country.
- With attractive fellowships, the scheme seeks to attract the best talent into research thereby realizing the vision of development through innovation.
- The scheme was announced in the Budget 2018-19.
- The institutes which can offer PMRF include **all the IITs, all the IISERs**, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and some of the top Central Universities/NITs that offer science and/or technology degrees.

**54) Which of the following countries are not members of the Gulf Cooperation Council?**

- 1. Oman
- 2. Yemen
- 3. UAE
- 4. Iraq
- 5. Saudi Arabia
- 6. Bahrain

7. Jordan
  8. Qatar
- a. 1,3,5,6 and 8
  - b. 1,2,3,5 and 6
  - c. 2,4 and 7
  - d. 2,4,7 and 8

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf originally known as the Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf except Iraq, namely: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- Despite the rift between Qatar and Saudi and its allies, Qatar continues to remain a member of the GCC.

**55. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Sal forest tortoise is widely distributed over eastern and northern India and Southeast Asia.
2. Sal forest tortoise has been recently assessed as critically endangered.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Sal forest tortoise has been recently assessed as critically endangered.
- According to the IUCN the population of the species may have fallen by about 80% in the last three generations (90 years). Once widely distributed the Sal tortoise is now no longer common over its habitat.
- Being widely distributed does not mean that it cannot be threatened.

56. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)?

1. EIA comes under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. EIA is compulsory for all industrial projects.
3. The environmental clearance for development projects based on EIA is given only by the Central government.

Options:

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

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

- EIA comes under Notification on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of developmental projects 1994 under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- EIA is only mandatory for 30 categories of projects. There are several projects that are exempted from EIA.
- Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 2006 has decentralized the environmental clearance projects by categorizing the developmental projects into two categories, i.e., Category A (national level appraisal) and Category B (state level appraisal).
  - Category A projects require mandatory environmental clearance.
  - Category B projects undergo screening process and are classified into two types.
    - Category B, projects (Mandatorily requires EIA).
    - Category B2 projects (Do not require EIA).

57. The places Kalapani and Susta are often in news with respect to which of the following countries?

Options:

- a. Bangladesh
- b. Bhutan

- c. Nepal
- d. Myanmar

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The boundary issue with respect to the two places- Kalapani and Susta is between India and Nepal.

**58. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. 2016 is the warmest year on record for Earth.
2. Apart from the earth's warming trend, the global temperatures in 2016 were majorly influenced by strong El Nino conditions that prevailed at the beginning of 2016.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- NOAA and NASA analyses both indicate that 2016 was the hottest year on record globally.
- The global temperatures in 2016 were majorly influenced by strong El Niño conditions that prevailed at the beginning of the year.
- Earth's warming trend continued in 2019, making it the second-hottest year in NOAA's 140-year climate record just behind 2016.

**59. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Schedule 10 of the Indian Constitution deals with Anti-defection provisions.
2. The 52nd amendment in 1985 added the tenth schedule of the Indian Constitution.
3. The 91st amendment in 2003 strengthened the anti-defection provisions in India by prescribing disqualification of defectors and barring them from being appointed as ministers for a period.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Self-explanatory.

**60. The Patriot Missile system has been developed by which of the following country?**

- a. United States of America
- b. Russia
- c. Israel
- d. China

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Patriot (MIM-104) is a long-range, all-altitude, all-weather air defence system to counter tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and advanced aircraft. It has been developed by the U.S.

**61) Consider the following statements with respect to Pratap Singh I**

1. He was the 13th king of Mewar, Rajasthan, popularly known as Maharana Pratap.
2. He ascended to the throne in 1572, with the help of Mughal Emperor Akbar.
3. He fought with Jahangir in the famous Battle of Haldighati in 1610.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- **Maharana Pratap Jayanti** is observed on May 9 every year to celebrate the birth of the 13th Rajput king of Mewar, Rajasthan - **Pratap Singh I**.

### Pratap Singh I

- Pratap Singh I, who was popularly known as Maharana Pratap, was born to King Udai Singh II and Queen Jaiwanta Bai.
- In 1572, he ascended to the throne after the demise of his father.

### Battle of Haldighati

- Soon after his coronation, Mughal emperor Akbar came to Mewar to establish a safe route to Gujarat through Rajasthan.
- Akbar offered him a chance to become a vassal but Maharana Pratap refused to surrender to him.
- The disagreement between the two rulers led to the famous **Battle of Haldighati**.
- Maharana Pratap's army was outnumbered and after a gruelling fight in a narrow mountain pass, the Mughals won the battle.
- Despite the victory, the Mughals failed to capture Maharana Pratap or any other member of the royal family, and it remained a fruitless battle for the Muslim king.
- Maharana Pratap went on to reclaim his lost territories later in life and was succeeded by his eldest son Amar Singh I.

### 62) Consider the following statements

1. He toured the whole India, mobilising public opinion in support of the Indians in South Africa.
2. He presided over the Benaras session of the Indian National Congress in 1905.
3. He was a part of Sudharak, a periodical which spoke against untouchability and the caste system.
4. He also proposed the Lightning conductor Theory.

### Identify the personality, who correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Lala Lajpat Rai
- b. Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- c. Rajani Palme Dutt
- d. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation:**

**Lightning Conductory Theory - G.K.Gokhale**



- The theory states that, If A.O.Hume and other English liberals hoped to use Congress as a Safety Valve, the Congress leaders hoped to use Hume as a Lightning Conductor.

### **Sudharak**

- Gopal Ganesh Agarkar (1856-1895) was an educationist and social reformer from Maharashtra.
- He was also the first editor of Kesari, the journal started by Lokmanya Tilak.
- Later, he started his own periodical, Sudharak, which spoke against untouchability and the caste system.

**63) River Nila, sometimes seen in the news recently is located in which of the following states?**

- a. Goa
- b. Kerala
- c. Jharkhand
- d. Himachal Pradesh

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Ministry of Tourism has released the 17th session of Dekho Apna Desh webinar recently, titled '**Exploring River Nila**'.

### **River Nila**

- The Bharathappuzha (Indian River), also known as Nila, & the Nile of Kerala.
- It is the second-longest river in Kerala, after the Periyar River.
- It originates in the Anaimalai hills.

**64) Consider the following pairs**

- 1. Nathu La - Sikkim**
- 2. Jelep La - Arunachal Pradesh**
- 3. Lipulekh Pass - Himachal Pradesh**

**Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Union Ministry of Defence has recently inaugurated the Link Road to Kailash Mansarovar recently.
- The link road connects Dharchula to Lipulekh, China Border which is known as Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route.

**Mount Kailash**

- It is a 6,638 m (21,778 ft) high peak in the Kailash Range, which forms part of the Trans Himalaya in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
- The mountain is located near Lake Mansarovar and Lake Rakshastal.

**Routes for Yatra**

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is undertaken by two routes:

1. **Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand** – This route passes through a very mountainous area.
2. **Nathu La in Sikkim**– This route opened a few years ago in Sikkim is fully motorable.

**65) DB Shekatkar Committee sometimes seen in the news recently was constituted for which of the following purposes?**

- a. To review the implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord
- b. To enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces
- c. To review levies, including Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC), and promote ease of doing business
- d. To review the regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework of Core Investment Companies (CIC)

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has recently approved the abolition of 9,304 posts in the Military Engineering Service.

- An official statement said that there was a proposal of Engineer-in-Chief of Military Engineering Services (MES) for optimisation of more than 9,300 posts in the basic and industrial workforce.
- It is in line with the recommendations of the **DB Shekatkar Committee**.
- The Committee of Experts (CoE) constituted by the Ministry of Defence under the chairmanship of **Lt. Gen (Retd) DB Shekatkar** was mandated to recommend measures to **enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure** of the armed forces.
- It submitted its report in December 2016.

**66) Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Pangong Tso lake?**

- 1. It lies in the western Ladakh region of India.**
  - 2. It is the origin for the Shyok river.**
- a. 1 only
  - b. 2 only
  - c. Both 1 and 2
  - d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is an endorheic lake in the Himalayas situated in Eastern Ladakh region.
- An endorheic basin is a limited drainage basin that normally retains water and allows no outflow to other external bodies of water, such as rivers or oceans.
- It is not a part of the Indus river basin area and forms a separate geographically landlocked river basin.
- It extends from India to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, China. Approximately 60% of the length of the lake lies within the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

**67. Consider the following statements:**

1. Article 23 of the Indian Constitution provides for the right against forced labour.
2. Article 42 of the Indian Constitution that deals with ensuring just human conditions of work is legally enforceable by law.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- **Article 23 of the Indian Constitution provides for the right against forced labour.**
- **Article 42** of the Indian Constitution deals with ensuring just human conditions of work and maternity leaves.
- It is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy and is **not legally enforceable by law.**

**68. Consider the following statements with respect to Rajya Sabha:**

1. It is a permanent body.
2. Rajya Sabha came into being in 1952.
3. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was the first Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
4. A no-confidence motion against the Union Government can be initiated only in the Rajya Sabha.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 and 4 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 4 only
- d. 1 and 3 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- **Rajya Sabha was constituted for the first time on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1952.**
- It is a **permanent body.**
- **Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was the first Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.**
- A no-confidence motion against the Union Government can be initiated **only in the Lok Sabha.**

**69. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Nathu la - Sikkim

2. Lipulekh Pass – Himachal Pradesh
3. Jelep la – Arunachal Pradesh

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Nathu la – Sikkim
- Lipulekh Pass – Uttarakhand
- Jelep la – Sikkim

**70. Consider the following statements with respect to “Kalapani region”:**

1. It is manned by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
2. River Mahakali flows through the region.
3. China has ongoing claims to the Kalapani territory.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Since 1962, Kalapani has been manned by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- River Mahakali, earlier known as river Kali (also known as Kali Ganga in Uttarakhand), flows through Kalapani.
- Nepal has ongoing claims to Kalapani territory, which is controlled by India.

**71.) “SwasthVayu”, often seen in the news recently, is a BiPAP Non-Invasive ventilator developed by?**

- a. CSIR-National Physical Laboratory
- b. CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories
- c. CSIR-Centre for Cellular Molecular Biology
- d. CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation

Answer : b

- **CSIR–National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore**, a constituent of lab of CSIR has developed a Non Invasive BiPAP Ventilator, “**Swasth Vayu**” in a record time of 36 days to treat COVID-19 patients.
- BiPAP Non-Invasive ventilator is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with a built-in biocompatible “3D printed manifold & coupler” with HEPA filter (Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter).
- These unique features help to alleviate the fear of the virus spread.
- The major advantage of this machine is that it is simple to use without any specialized nursing, cost effective, compact and configured with majority of indigenous components.
- This is ideal for treating COVID -19 patients in Wards, Make shift Hospitals, dispensaries and home in current Indian COVID 19 scenario.

**72.) With respect to Mission Sagar, which was launched recently, consider the following statements:**

1. The mission aims at providing food items, Ayurvedic medicines related to COVID-19, HCQ tablets to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros.
2. The operation is being conducted under close cooperation of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs.
3. It is inspired by India’s Visionary programme Sagar Mala of Ministry of Shipping.

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

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

Answer : b

**Mission SAGAR**

- India has recently launched “**Mission Sagar**” recently as part of the government’s outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) in a statement said, Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams embarked.
- The operation is being progressed in close coordination with the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs, and other agencies of the Government of India.
- The deployment is in consonance with the Prime Ministers' vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region ‘SAGAR’ promulgated in March 2015.
- SAGAR highlights the importance accorded by India to relations with her neighbouring countries and further strengthens the existing bond.

73) Consider the following statements with respect to **CHAMPIONS Portal**

1. The portal aimed at assisting Indian MSMEs march into big league as National and Global CHAMPIONS.
2. The portal was launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).

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

**Explanation:**

- Union Ministry of MSME has recently launched the CHAMPIONS Portal.

**CHAMPIONS Portal**

- The CHAMPIONS (Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength) is a Technology driven Control Room-Cum-Management Information System.
- The system utilising modern ICT tools is aimed at assisting Indian MSMEs march into big league as National and Global CHAMPIONS.
- The portal is basically for making the smaller units big by solving their grievances, encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding.
- It is a real one-stop-shop solution of MSME Ministry.

- It is also fully integrated on real time basis with GOI's main grievances portal CPGRAMS and MSME Ministry's own other web based mechanisms.

### Hub & Spoke Model

- As part of the system a network of control rooms is created in a Hub & Spoke Model.
- The Hub is situated in New Delhi in the Secretary MSME's office. The spokes will be in the States in various offices and institutions of Ministry.

### 74) Consider the following statements with respect to Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)

1. It has been established by comprising all the Pharma CPSUs under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
2. It is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

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

### Explanation:

- To support government in its fight against COVID-19, Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) has recently contributed Rs. 25 Lakh to PMCARES fund.

### Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)

- BPPI is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- It was established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- It has been registered as an independent society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a separate independent legal entity.

### 75) The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the year 2020 as?

- a. The Year for Disabled Persons



- b. The Year of Family and Social Welfare
- c. The Year of the Nurse and the Midwife
- d. The Year for Health and Medical Research

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The World Health Assembly, a forum through which the World Health Organization is governed, has designated 2020 the **International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife**.
- Nurses and midwives play a vital role in providing health services.
- These are the people who devote their lives to caring for mothers and children; giving lifesaving immunizations and health advice; looking after older people and generally meeting everyday essential health needs.
- The world needs 9 million more nurses and midwives if it is to achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

76) With respect to **Global Nutrition Report**, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual report released by Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).
2. The report was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013.

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**

**Explanation:**

- India is among 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025, according to the **Global Nutrition Report 2020** released recently.

**Global Nutrition Report**

- It is the world's leading independent assessment of the state of global nutrition.
- It is data-led and **produced independently each year** to cast a light on where progress has been made and identify where challenges remain.

- The report aims to inspire governments, civil society and private stakeholders to act to end malnutrition in all its forms.
- The Global Nutrition Report was conceived following the first **Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G)** in 2013 as a mechanism for tracking the commitments made by 100 stakeholders spanning governments, aid donors, civil society, the UN and businesses.
- The following year, the first of these annual reports was published.
- The Global Nutrition Report is a **multi-stakeholder initiative**, consisting of a Stakeholder Group, Independent Expert Group and Report Secretariat.

### Global Nutrition Report 2020

- In 2012, the World Health Assembly identified six nutrition targets for maternal, infant and young child nutrition to be met by 2025.
- These require governments to reduce stunting by 40% in children under five and prevalence of anaemia by 50% among women in the age group of 19-49, ensure 30% reduction in low-birth weight and no increase in childhood overweight, increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months up to at least 50% and reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.
- According to the Global Nutrition Report 2020, India will miss targets for all four nutritional indicators for which there is data available – stunting among under-five children, anaemia among women of reproductive age, childhood overweight and exclusive breastfeeding.
- It also identified the country as one with the highest rates of domestic inequalities in malnutrition.

77) Recently, Hyderabad based, Research Centre Imarat (RCI) has developed an automated contactless UVC sanitisation cabinet, DRUVS and an automated UVC currency sanitising device, called NOTESCLEAN. Research Centre Imarat (RCI) is a premier laboratory of which of the following?

- a. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- b. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- c. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- d. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

**Answer: d**

#### **Explanation:**

- Hyderabad based **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) premier lab, Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, has developed an automated contactless UVC sanitisation cabinet, called **Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS)**.

## DRUVS

- It has been designed to sanitise mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, cheque leaves, challans, passbooks, paper, envelopes, etc.

## NOTESCLEAN

- The RCI has also developed an automated UVC currency sanitising device, called NOTESCLEAN.
- Bundles of currency notes can be sanitised using DRUVS, however disinfection of each currency notes using it will be a time consuming process.
- For that purpose, a sanitising technique has been developed, where one has to just place the loose currency notes at the input slot of the device. It picks the notes one by one and makes them pass through a series of UVC lamps for complete disinfection.

### 78) Arrange the following from North to South:

1. Tso Kar
2. Tso Moriri
3. Kiagar Tso
4. Pangong Tso

### Choose the correct option:

- a. 4, 1, 3, 2
- b. 4, 3, 1, 2
- c. 1, 2, 3, 4
- d. 2, 3, 1, 4

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**



79) Consider the following statements

1. Madhya Pradesh has the worst infant mortality rate in India while Nagaland has the best.
2. Chhattisgarh has the highest death rate, while Delhi has the lowest.
3. Bihar remains at the top of list in birth rate while Andaman and Nicobar is at the bottom.

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**

**Explanation:**

- Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin was released recently by the Registrar General of India.

According to the bulletin based on data collected **for 2018:**

- Against the National Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 32, Madhya Pradesh has an IMR of 48 and Nagaland 4.
- Chhattisgarh has the highest death rate at 8 and Delhi, an almost entirely urban state, has a rate of 3.3, indicating better healthcare facilities.
- Bihar has the highest birth rate at 26.2 and Andaman and Nicobar Islands has a birth rate of 11.2.

- The National Birth rate in 2018 stood at 20, and Death and Infant Mortality rates stood at 6.2 and 32, respectively.
- The rates are calculated per one thousand of the population.

### Sample Registration System (SRS)

- The SRS is a demographic survey for providing reliable annual estimates of infant mortality rate, birth rate, death rate and other fertility and mortality indicators at the national and sub-national levels.
- Initiated on a pilot basis by the Registrar General of India in a few states in 1964-65, it became fully operational during 1969-70.
- The field investigation consists of continuous enumeration of births and deaths in selected sample units by resident part-time enumerators, generally anganwadi workers and teachers; and an independent retrospective survey every six months by SRS supervisors.
- The data obtained by these two independent functionaries are matched.

### 80) Article 142 of the Indian Constitution, often seen in the news recently, dealt with which of the following?

- a. Seat of Supreme Court
- b. Ancillary powers of Supreme Court
- c. Special leave to appeal by the Supreme Court
- d. Enforcement of decrees and orders of Supreme Court

**Answer: d**

### Explanation:

- Recently, the Supreme Court has stated that, 'Sabarimala case review Bench had the power to frame questions on religious freedom'.

### Background

- In 2019, a five-judge Bench led by then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi did not complete its assigned task of reviewing the apex court's original Sabarimala judgment of 2018, which allowed women of every age to enter and worship at the temple.
- Instead, it had framed "larger issues" concerning essential religious practices of various religions and clubbed other pending cases on subjects as varied as female genital mutilation among Dawoodi Bohras to entry of Parsi women who married inter-faith into the fire temple and Muslim women into mosques and referred them all to a larger Bench.

- Chief Justice Bobde, who succeeded Justice Gogoi as top judge, set up a nine-judge Bench to hear the reference.
- In February 2020, it decided to go ahead and examine “larger issues” of religious freedom across multiple faiths in connection with the Sabarimala review.

### Recent Developments

- A nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has recently declared that **superior courts enjoy untrammelled power to take up any cause to do complete justice.**
- Being a superior court of record, it is for this court to consider whether any matter falls within its jurisdiction or not.
- Unlike a court of limited jurisdiction, the superior court of record is entitled to determine for itself questions about its own jurisdiction.
- The nine member bench also invoked Article 142 of the Constitution.

### Article 142

- **Article 142 of the Constitution allows the Supreme Court to pass any order necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.**
- This is not the first time that the Supreme Court has invoked Article 142.
- The apex court has in the past used this constitutional provision in cases between jaypee and homebuyers, in a marriage case, Bhopal gas tragedy, Ayodhya case and others.

### 81) Mastcam-Z, often seen in the news recently, is?

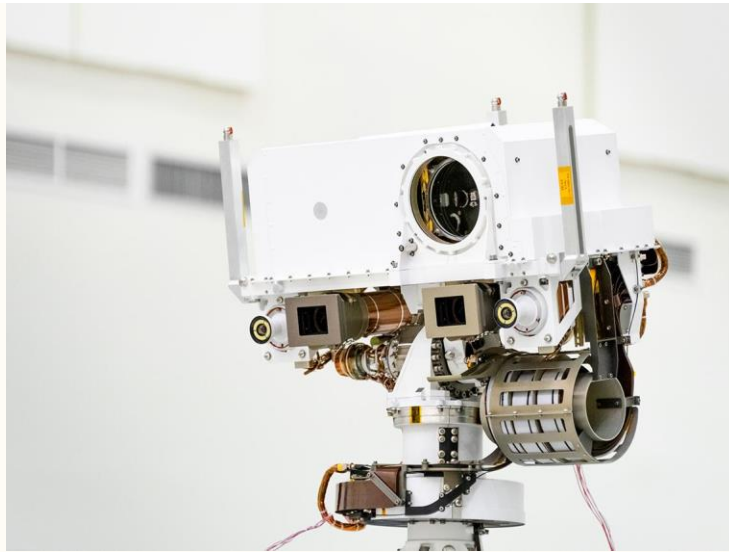
- a. A camera device used to identify the corona patients in a crowd using thermal imaging technology
- b. A State of the art indigenous drone technology used by India to supply medicines to the needy
- c. A mast-mounted camera system that is equipped with a zoom function on the Perseverance rover
- d. None of the above

**Answer: c**

### **Explanation:**

- **Mastcam-Z** is a mast-mounted **camera system** that is equipped with a zoom function on the **Mars 2020 Rover: Perseverance.**
- It is the most advanced pair of “eyes” ever sent to Mars.
- Its Mastcam-Z instrument packs a next-gen zoom capability that will help the mission make 3D imagery more easily.

- The Mastcam-Z is located on Perseverance's head, it is a more advanced version of the Mastcam that helped the Curiosity Mars rover to produce panoramas of the Martian surface.
- The Mastcam-Z will not only produce images that enable the public to follow the rover's daily discoveries, but it will also provide key data to help engineers navigate and scientists choose interesting rocks to study.
- The Z in Mastcam-Z stands for 'zoom'.
- Mastcam-Z will provide 'superhuman vision' to view the landscape in a variety of colours (wavelengths of light), including some that can't be detected by the human eye.



82) Consider the following with respect to Sohrai Khovar Painting

1. It is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women in the area of Mahbubnagar district of Telangana.
2. The paintings were practised during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area.

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**

**Explanation:**

- Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar Painting was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently by the Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai.

### Sohrai Khovar Painting

- The Sohrai Khovar painting is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.
- The Sohrai Khovar painting is primarily being practised only in the district of Hazaribagh.
- However, in recent years, for promotional purposes, it has been seen in other parts of Jharkhand.
- Traditionally painted on the walls of mud houses, they are now seen on other surfaces, too.
- The style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography.
- In recent years, the walls of important public places in Jharkhand, such as the Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi, and the Hazaribagh and Tatanagar Railway Stations, among others, have been decorated with Sohrai-Khovar paintings.



**83. Telia Rumal cloth, which was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently by the Geographical Indications Registry belongs to which of the following states?**

- a. Odisha
- b. Telangana
- c. Jharkhand
- d. West Bengal

**Answer: b**



### Explanation:

- Telangana's Telia Rumal was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently by the Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai.

### Telia Rumal

- Telia Rumal cloth involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours – red, black and white.
- Telia Rumal can only be created using the traditional handloom process and not by any other mechanical means as otherwise, the very quality of the Rumal would be lost.
- During the Nizam's dynasty, Puttapaka, a small, backward village of the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh had about 20 families engaged in handloom weaving, who were patronised by rich Muslim families and the Nizam rulers.
- The officers working in the court of the Nizam would wear the Chituki Telia Rumal as a symbolic representation of status.
- Telia Rumals are offered at the dargah of Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan, with some devotees offering 50 or even 100 cloths.
- Telia Rumals were worn as a veil by princesses at the erstwhile court of the Nizam of Hyderabad; and as a turban cloth by Arabs in the Middle East.



### 84. President can remove the UPSC members without consultation with Supreme court only on the grounds of

1. Infirmary of mind or body
2. Adjudged as insolvent
3. Misbehavior
4. Paid employment outside the duties of the office

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4**

**Answer : C**

- **The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** is the central recruiting agency in India. **Articles 315 to 323** in Part XIV of the Constitution contain elaborate provisions regarding the composition, appointment, and removal of members along with the independence, powers, and functions of the UPSC.

- The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India. The Constitution, without specifying the strength of the Commission has left the matter to the **discretion of the president, who determines its composition.**
- The President can remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC from the office under the following circumstances:

If he is **adjudged an insolvent** (that is, has gone bankrupt); If he engages, during his term of office, in any **paid employment outside the duties of his office**; or  
If he is, in the opinion of the president, unfit to continue in office by reason of **infirmity of mind or body**. In addition to these, the President can also remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC for **misbehaviour**. However, in this case, the president **has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an inquiry**. If the Supreme Court, after the enquiry, upholds the cause of removal and advises so, the president can remove the chairman or a member. Under the provisions of the Constitution, **the advice tendered by the Supreme Court in this regard is binding on the president**. During the course of an enquiry by the Supreme Court, the president can suspend the chairman or the member of UPSC.

**85) Consider the following statements with respect to Project SAMRATH**

- 1. It is an Open Standard Open Source Architecture, Secure, Scalable and Evolutionary Process Automation Engine for Universities and Higher Educational Institutions.**
- 2. It is a project under the National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme (NMEICT) of Ministry of Human Resources Development.**

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

**Explanation:**

- The ERP, SAMARTH, has been implemented at National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, a participating unit under the World Bank supported Technical Education Quality Improvement Program (TEQIP).

**Project SAMARTH**

- **Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD)** has developed an e-Governance platform, **SAMARTH (Enterprises Resource Planning) ERP**, under **National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme (NMEICT)**.
- ERP, SAMARTH, is an Open Standard Open Source Architecture, Secure, Scalable and Evolutionary Process Automation Engine for Universities and Higher Educational Institutions.
- It caters to faculty, students and staff at a University/Higher Educational Institutions.
- The objective of this initiative is to automate the processes of the Institute.

86) Consider the following statements with respect to COBAS 6800

1. It is a fully automated, high end machine for performing real time PCR testing COVID-19.
2. It can also detect other pathogens like Viral Hepatitis B & C, HIV, Papilloma, Chlamydia, Neisseria etc.

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

**Explanation:**

- **Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has recently dedicated the COBAS 6800 testing machine to the nation.**
- This is the first such testing machine that has been procured by the Government for testing of COVID-19 cases and is installed at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

**COBAS 6800**

- It is a fully automated, high end machine for performing real time PCR testing COVID-19 in the service of nation.
- COBAS 6800 will provide quality, high-volume testing with a high throughput of test around 1200 samples in 24 hours.
- It will largely increase the testing capacity with reduction in pendency.
- It is a sophisticated machine enabled with robotics that minimizes the chance of contamination as well as the risk of infection to the health care workers since it can be operated remotely with limited human intervention.
- As the machine requires a minimum BSL2+ containment level for testing, it cannot be placed at just any facility.
- COBAS 6800 can also detect other pathogens like Viral Hepatitis B & C, HIV, MTb (both rifampicin and isoniazide resistance), Papilloma, CMV, Chlamydia, Neisserreia etc.

**87) Consider the following statements with respect to One Nation, One Ration Card System**

- 1. Under the scheme, eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any fair-price shop in India.**
- 2. The scheme intends primarily to benefit migrant workers and it will also help to cut down corruption in public distribution systems.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

### National Food Security Act, 2013

- Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, about 81 crore persons are entitled to buy subsidized foodgrain – rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg, and coarse grains at Re 1/kg – from their designated Fair Price Shops (FPS) of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- In the present system, a ration cardholder can buy foodgrains only from an FPS that has been assigned to her in the locality in which she lives.
- However, this will change once the ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ system becomes operational nationally.

### One Nation, One Ration Card

- Under the existing condition, if a beneficiary lives in the district of Basti in Uttar Pradesh and migrates to Mumbai for work, she is no longer able to purchase subsidised foodgrains from a PDS shop in her new locality in Mumbai.
- However, under the ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ system, the beneficiary will be able to buy subsidised foodgrains from any FPS across the country.
- The new system, based on a technological solution, will identify a beneficiary through biometric authentication on electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices installed at the FPSs, and enable that person to purchase the quantity of foodgrains to which she is entitled under the NFSA.
- The measure, intended **primarily to benefit migrant workers**, will also help to **cut down on corruption** in public distribution by reducing beneficiaries’ dependence on particular shops in particular areas and also eliminating the practice of people holding more than one ration card so as to be able to draw rations from multiple shop or state.

### 88) Consider the following statements with respect to Sahel Region

1. It is a region running across the breadth of the African continent, between the Sahara in the north and the Sudanian Savanna in the south.
2. It stretches across the south-central latitudes of Northern Africa between the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea.

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

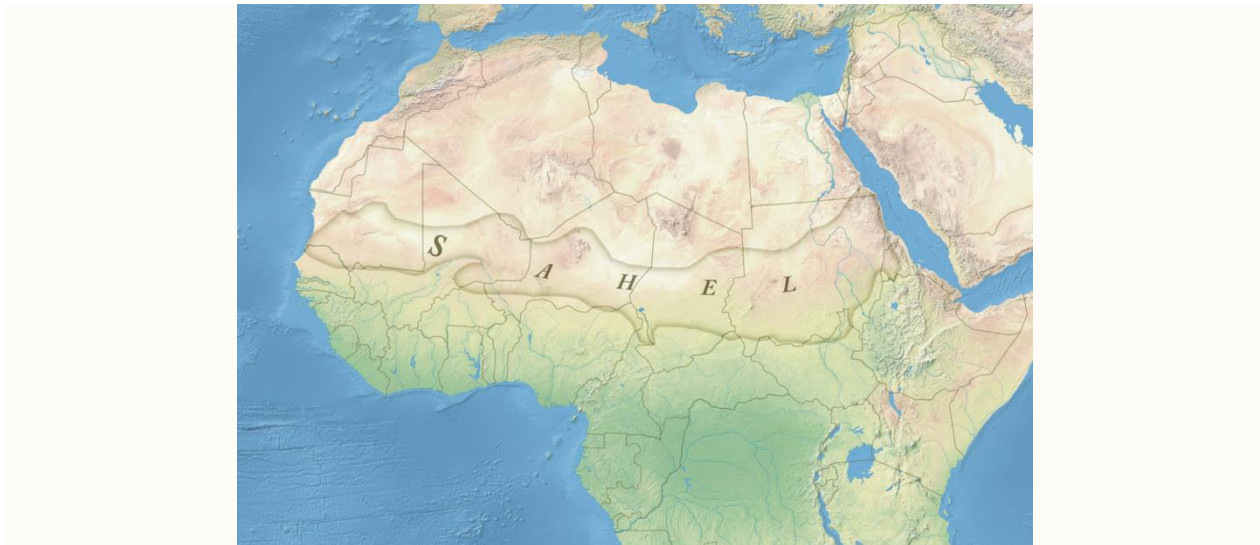
**Answer: c**

### Explanation:

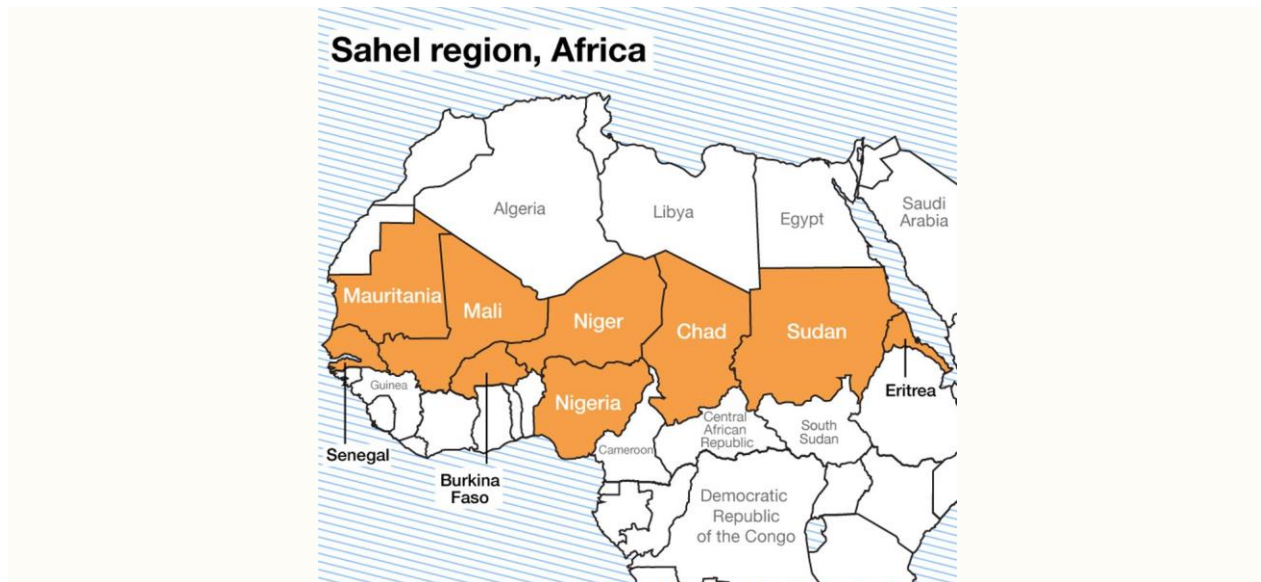
- **Africa's Sahel**, a region running across the breadth of the continent, between the Sahara in the north and the Sudanian Savanna in the south, has become the latest battleground in the ongoing war between the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.
- Just like the other conflicts that the two terrorist groups have been engaged in over the past few years, this latest battle is also for more influence, access to resources and potential recruits.

### Sahel Region

- The Sahel region of Africa is a 3,860-kilometre arc-like land mass lying to the immediate south of the Sahara Desert and stretching east-west across the breadth of the African continent.
- A largely semi-arid belt of barren, sandy and rock-strewn land, the Sahel marks the physical and cultural transition between the continent's more fertile tropical regions to the south and its desert in the north.
- Geographic definitions of the Sahel region vary.
- Commonly, the Sahel stretches from Senegal on the Atlantic coast, through parts of Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Sudan to Eritrea on the Red Sea coast.
- Culturally and historically, the Sahel is a shoreline between the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.
- This means it is the site of interaction between Arabic, Islamic and nomadic cultures from the north, and indigenous and traditional cultures from the south.







**89) Consider the following statements with respect to PM CARES Fund:**

1. Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund.
2. Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
3. The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals or organizations and does not get any budgetary support.
4. It is exempt from the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- b. 1, 3 and 4 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3 only

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund.
- Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
- The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals or organizations and does not get any budgetary support.
- It is exempt from the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened. This enables PM

CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.

**90) Consider the following statements with respect to Polavaram Project:**

1. Polavaram Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project across the Godavari River.
2. It was accorded national status in 2014.
3. Its reservoir backwater spreads into parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Polavaram Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project across the Godavari River. It was accorded national status in 2014. It is a national project which implies that its implementation is monitored by the Central Water Commission. The dam across the Godavari River is under construction, located in West Godavari District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh state and its reservoir spreads into parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha States also.

**91. Which of the following would qualify as advantages of Contract farming?**

1. Farmers can have improved access to technology, credit, marketing channels and information.
2. Farmers can have an assured market for their produce.
3. It reduces the risk of price fluctuations for both the seller and the buyer.
4. It ensures a consistent supply of agricultural produce with quality, at the right time and lesser cost for the buyers.

**Options:**

- a. 1 and 2
- b. 2 and 3
- c. 1,2 and 3
- d. 1,2,3 and 4



**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Contract farming can be defined as agricultural production carried out according to an agreement between a buyer and farmers, which establishes conditions for the production and marketing of a farm product or products.
- Contract farming is beneficial for both the farm-producers as well as the buyers.
  - Makes small scale farming competitive – small farmers can access technology, credit, marketing channels and information while lowering transaction costs
  - Assured market for their produce at their doorsteps, reducing marketing and transaction costs
  - It reduces the risk of production, price and marketing costs.
  - Contract farming can open up new markets which would otherwise be unavailable to small farmers.
  - It also ensures higher production of better quality, financial support in cash and /or kind and technical guidance to the farmers.
  - In case of firms, it ensures consistent supply of agricultural produce with quality, at right time and lesser cost.

**92. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaramman Committee.
2. NABARD is a statutory body.
3. The Government of India and Reserve Bank of India hold equal shares in NABARD.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- NABARD is one of the premier agencies providing developmental credit in rural areas. NABARD is India's specialised bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in India.
- NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee. It is a statutory body based on the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.
- It replaced the Agricultural Credit Department (ACD) and Rural Planning and Credit Cell (RPCC) of Reserve Bank of India, and Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC).
- Consequent to the revision in the composition of share capital between Government of India and RBI, the Government of India holds 100% share in NABARD.

**93. Which of the following factors affect Monsoon arrival in India?**

1. Western Disturbances
2. Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal
3. Summer temperatures over North India
4. Jet streams
5. Cross-equatorial flow of winds

**Options:**

- a. 1,2 and 3
- b. 1,2,3,4 and 5
- c. 1,3 and 5
- d. 2,3 and 4

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The high summer temperatures over north India creates a Low Pressure zone which helps pull in moisture laden winds.
- Western disturbances bring rainfall into north Indian region which helps cool the temperatures. This impacts the formation of a low pressure zone over Indian landmass.
- The shifting of the jet stream north of the Himalayas leads to the sudden burst of Monsoons in India.
- The cross-equatorial flow of winds is another factor which is responsible for the onset of Monsoon. The significant cross equatorial flow of winds wherein winds from the Southern Hemisphere cross to the Equator becoming southwesterly. A significant cross equatorial wind pattern is quite capable of bringing a strong Monsoon surge towards the Indian mainland.

94. The Ship 'Sachet' recently inducted into service is a :

- a. Offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard
- b. Interceptor boats of the Indian Coast Guard
- c. Frigate of the Indian Navy
- d. Guided Missile destroyer of the Indian Navy

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Ship ICGS Sachet is the first in a series of five offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) being built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
  - It is designed to carry a twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats and one inflatable boat for swift boarding and search and rescue operations.
  - The ship is also capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to undertake oil spill pollution response at sea.
  - The ships will be deployed extensively for Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance, coastal security and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard charter of duties, to safeguard the maritime interests of the nation.

95) Rosewood Inlay and Channapatna Toys are crafts that have been thriving for centuries, belongs to which of the following states?

- a. Karnataka
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. West Bengal
- d. Andhra Pradesh

Answer : a

**Channapatna toys**

- These are a particular form of wooden toys (dolls) that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna in the Ramanagara district of Karnataka state, India.
- This traditional craft is protected under the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

**Rosewood inlay**

- Rosewood Inlay is unique to Mysuru, Karnataka.
- It is a GI-tagged craft that uses rose wood as the base and inserts different-coloured wood, ivory or mother of pearl to produce a picture.

96) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020) was released recently by?

- a. Global Forest Watch
- b. Global Forest Coalition
- c. UN Environment Programme
- d. Food and Agriculture Organization

Answer : d

- The **Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020)** was released recently by the United Nations **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
- According to the report, while forest area has declined all across the world in the past three decades, the rate of forest loss has decline due to the growth of sustainable management.
- The rate of forest loss in 2015-2020 declined to an estimated 10 million hectares (mha), down from 12 million hectares (mha) in 2010-2015.
- The world lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya, according to the report.
- However, the rate of net forest loss decreased substantially during 1990–2020 due to a reduction in deforestation in some countries, plus increases in forest area in others through afforestation and the natural expansion of forests, it added.
- The FRA 2020 has examined the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990–2020.

97. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1. The Department of Military Affairs is headed by the Chief of the Defence Staff.
2. The Defence Planning Committee headed by the National Security Adviser (NSA).

Options:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Self explanatory

98. Which of the following country is not part of the RCEP negotiations?

Options

- a. Australia
- b. Japan
- c. US
- d. South Korea

Answer: c

Explanation:

- There were 16 countries involved in RCEP: the 10 members of ASEAN – Brunei-Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam plus the six countries with which ASEAN has free trade agreements – Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand. However India has pulled out of the negotiations.

99. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)?

1. India aims to reduce its emission intensity by 33-35% by 2030 below 2015 levels.
2. India aims to have an installed renewable energy capacity of 175 GW by 2030.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- India aims to reduce its emission intensity by 33-35% by 2030 below 2005 levels.
- India aims to have a installed renewable energy capacity of 175 GW by 2022.

100. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct :

1. The Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949.
2. India is not a member country of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Commonwealth of Nations, generally known as the Commonwealth is a political association of 54 member states, nearly all former territories of the British Empire.
- The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which modernised the community and established the member states as “free and equal”.
- The Commonwealth comprises 54 countries, across all continents. The members have a combined population of 2.4 billion people, almost a third of the world population, of whom 1.37 billion live in India or 94% live in Asia and Africa combined.

101. Which of the following factors affect **Monsoon arrival** in India?

1. Western Disturbances
2. Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal
3. Summer temperatures over North India
4. Jet streams
5. Cross-equatorial flow of winds

Options:

- a. 1,2 and 3
- b. 1,2,3,4 and 5
- c. 1,3 and 5
- d. 2,3 and 4

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- The high summer temperatures over north India creates a Low Pressure zone which helps pull in moisture laden winds.
- Western disturbances bring rainfall into north Indian region which helps cool the temperatures. This impacts the formation of a low pressure zone over Indian landmass.
- The shifting of the jet stream north of the Himalayas leads to the sudden burst of Monsoons in India.
- The cross-equatorial flow of winds is another factor which is responsible for the onset of Monsoon. The significant cross equatorial flow of winds wherein winds from the Southern Hemisphere cross to the Equator becoming southwesterly. A significant cross equatorial wind pattern is quite capable of bringing a strong Monsoon surge towards the Indian mainland.

102. The **Ship 'Sachet'** recently inducted into service is a :

**Options:**

- a. Offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard
- b. Interceptor boats of the Indian Coast Guard
- c. Frigate of the Indian Navy
- d. Guided Missile destroyer of the Indian Navy

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Ship ICGS Sachet is the first in a series of five offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) being built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
  - It is designed to carry a twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats and one inflatable boat for swift boarding and search and rescue operations.
  - The ship is also capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to undertake oil spill pollution response at sea.
  - The ships will be deployed extensively for Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance, coastal security and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard charter of duties, to safeguard the maritime interests of the nation.

103) Consider the following statements with respect to National Migrant Information System (NMIS)

1. It is an online portal that would maintain a central repository on migrant workers.
2. It was developed by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

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**

**Explanation:**

- Government of India has allowed the movement of migrant workers by buses and 'Shramik' special trains to enable them to travel to their native places.
- In order to capture the information regarding movement of migrants and facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States, **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has developed an online Dashboard - **National Migrant Information System (NMIS)**.

**National Migrant Information System (NMIS)**

- It is an online portal that would maintain a central repository on migrant workers and help in speedy inter-State communication/co-ordination to facilitate their smooth movement to native places.
- It has additional advantages like contact tracing, which may be useful in overall COVID-19 response work.

**Highlights of the portal**

- The key data pertaining to the persons migrating has been standardized for uploading such as name, age, mobile no., originating and destination district, date of travel etc., which States are already collecting.
- States will be able to visualize how many people are going out from where and how many are reaching destination States.
- The mobile numbers of people can be used for contact tracing and movement monitoring during COVID-19.

**104) Consider the following statements with respect to the state of Sikkim**



1. After Indian Independence, Sikkim became a 'protectorate' of India, whereby the Indian Government assumed responsibility for the defence, external affairs and communications of Sikkim.
2. In 1975, Sikkim became an integral part of India through a referendum.

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**

**Explanation:**

- Sikkim has recently celebrated its Statehood day.

**SIKKIM**

- Till 1947, Sikkim was an Indian princely state ruled by Chogyal.
- In 1947, after the lapse of British paramountcy, Sikkim became a 'protectorate' of India, whereby the Indian Government assumed responsibility for the defence, external affairs and communications of Sikkim.
- In 1974, Sikkim expressed its desire for greater association with India.
- Accordingly, the 35th Constitutional Amendment Act (1974) was enacted by the parliament.
- This amendment introduced a new class of statehood under the constitution by conferring on Sikkim the status of an 'associate state' of the Indian Union.
- For this purpose, a new Article 2-A and a new schedule (10th Schedule containing the terms and conditions of association) were inserted in the Constitution.
- This experiment, however, did not last long as it could not fully satisfy the aspirations of the people of Sikkim.
- In a referendum held in 1975, they voted for the abolition of the institution of Chogyal and Sikkim becoming an integral part of India.
- Consequently, the 36th Constitutional Amendment Act (1975) was enacted to make Sikkim a full-fledged state of the Indian Union (the 22nd state).
- This amendment amended the First and the Fourth Schedules to the Constitution and added a new Article 371-F to provide for certain special provisions with respect to the administration of Sikkim.
- It also repealed Article 2-A and the 10th Schedule that were added by the 35th Amendment Act of 1974.

105) Which of the following is/are not the five pillars mentioned for an Atmanirbhar Bharat?

1. System
2. Demand
3. Production
4. Infrastructure
5. Foreign Exchange

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 3 only
- b. 1 and 5 only
- c. 3 and 5 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Indian Prime Minister has recently announced a special economic and comprehensive package of Rs 20 lakh crore - equivalent to 10% of India's GDP and gave a clarion call for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

**Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)**

A self-reliant India will stand on five pillars:

1. **Economy**, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change
2. **Infrastructure**, which should become the identity of India
3. **System**, based on 21st century technology driven arrangements
4. **Vibrant Demography**, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India
5. **Demand**, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity.

106) Which of the following species has been recently discovered on a social media platform and named after it?

- a. Siemaszkoa Weibo
- b. Troglomyces Twitteri
- c. Googlean Zygomycota
- d. Nycteromyces Youtubu

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- A new species of fungus has been discovered recently in an image of Millipede on Twitter post and named after it as **Troglomyces twitteri**.

**Troglomyces twitteri**

- It belongs to an order called Laboulbeniales – tiny fungal parasites that attack insects and millipedes.
- Look like tiny larvae, these fungi live on the outside of host organisms.

107) Consider the following statements with respect to International Day of Light (IDL)

1. It is an annual initiative held globally to raise awareness on the critical role played by light-based technologies in everyday life.
2. The IDL is administered from the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO.
3. The day marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The United Nations marks the International Day of Light (IDL) – an annual initiative held globally to raise awareness on the critical role played by light-based technologies in everyday life – on May 16.
- The IDL highlights the contribution of such technologies in various avenues such as science, technology, art, and culture, thus helping achieve the UNESCO goals of education, equality, and peace.
- The day selected, May 16, marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman.
- The laser is a perfect example of how a scientific discovery can yield revolutionary benefits to society in communications, healthcare and many other fields.

- The IDL is administered from the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO, and its Secretariat is located at the Abdus Salam International Centre of Theoretical Physics (ICTP) at Trieste, Italy.

**108) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)?**

- 1. It is a statutory body.**
  - 2. It organizes the Lok Adalats for speedy resolution of cases.**
  - 3. The Chief Justice of India is the executive Chairman of NALSA.**
- a. 1 and 2 only
  - b. 1, 2 and 3
  - c. 1 and 3 only
  - d. 3 only

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) was formed on 9 November 1995 under the authority of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- Its purpose is to provide free legal services to eligible candidates and to organize Lok Adalats for speedy resolution of cases. The prime objective of NALSA is speedy disposal of cases and reducing the burden of the judiciary.
- The Chief Justice of India is patron-in-chief of NALSA while the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of India is the Executive-Chairman.

**109) Often referred as Dev Bhoomi (The Land of Gods), it is a multi-faceted destination ranging from religious Hemkhund Sahib to natural site of Valley of Flowers National Park and adventurous river rafting at Pittoragarh and innumerable options for trekking available at Chopta and Pindari Glacier.**

**The above paragraph describes about which of the following States?**

- a. Punjab
- b. Uttarakhand
- c. Himachal Pradesh
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The 20th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series titled “**Uttarakhand Simply Heaven**” highlighted the potential of tourism in Uttarakhand’s two regions namely Kedar Khand (Garhwal Region) and Manu Khand (Kumaon Region).

### Highlight of Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand is often referred as ‘Dev Bhoomi’ ,the Land of Gods.
- It is a mesmerizing destination for tourists of all tastes.
- It is a multi-faceted destination, i.e. from being a **sacred and religious** site to be an **adventure land with rich biodiversity in its purest form**.
- The popular destination in Uttarakhand are **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Hemkhund Sahib** and the UNESCO World Heritage **Site of Valley of Flowers**.
- It is also known for its Adventure Tourism Potential such as river rafting at **Rishikesh and Pittoragarh**, winter sports and skiing in Auli, Paragliding at Tehri Dam and Kaushani, innumerable options for trekking available such as **Chopta and Pindari Glacier** and India’s highest bungee jumping facility in Rishikesh.
- Besides adventure activities, it is also renowned for its oldest national park of the country- **Jim Corbett National Park, Rajaji Tiger Reserve** and UNESCO site of **Nanda Devi National Park**.

### 110) Consider the following statements with respect to AMPHAN Cyclone

1. Amphan is a tropical cyclone originated during the pre-monsoon period which is most favourable for the formation of tropical cyclones.
2. It is designated as a super cyclonic storm for which the wind speed on surface level should be 220 Knots and above.

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: d**

**Explanation:**

## Amphan

- It is a tropical cyclone originated over the Bay of Bengal.
- It is recently designated as **Super Cyclonic Storm**.
- It is the second pre-monsoon cyclone to form in the Bay of Bengal in two years.
- The **pre-monsoon period is generally considered to be unsupportive for the formation of tropical cyclones.**

## Classification of Cyclonic Storm

- **Cyclonic Storm** - In which the wind speed on surface level is in between 34 - 47 Knots.
- **Severe Cyclonic Storm** - In which the wind speed on surface level is in between 48 - 63 Knots.
- **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm** - In which the wind speed on surface level is in between 64 - 119 Knots.
- **Super cyclonic storm** - In which the wind speed on surface level is **120 Knots** and above (**Over 220 kmph**)

111) Consider the following pairs

Schemes	-	Objectives
1. National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission	-	To unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education and enable multi-mode access to education.
2. Manodarpan Initiative	-	To provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing.
3. PM eVidya	-	To provide students a single window electronic platform for Scholarships and Educational Loans.

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?

- 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**



1. National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission – To ensure every child achieves learning levels and outcomes by the time they pass grade 5 in 2025.
2. Manodarpan Initiative – To provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing.
3. PM eVidya – To unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education and enable multi-mode access to education.

**Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** 

**Technology Driven Education with Equity post-COVID**

- **PM eVIDYA- A programme for multi-mode access to digital/online education to be launched immediately; consisting of:**
  - DIKSHA for school education in states/UTs: e-content and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform)
  - One earmarked TV channel per class from 1 to 12 (one class, one channel)
  - Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and Podcasts
  - Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired.
  - Top 100 universities will be permitted to automatically start online courses by 30th May, 2020.
- **Manodarpan- An initiative for psychosocial support of students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing to be launched immediately.**
- **New National Curriculum and Pedagogical framework for school, early childhood and teachers will be launched: integrated with global and 21st century skill requirements**
- **National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission for ensuring that every child attains Learning levels and outcomes in grade 5 by 2025 will be launched by December 2020**

 [FinMinIndia](https://twitter.com/FinMinIndia)  [/Finminn.goi](https://www.facebook.com/Finminn.goi)  [www.finmin.nic.in](http://www.finmin.nic.in)

112) With respect to *Pinanga Andamanensis*, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It resembles the areca palm to which it is closely related.
2. It is a critically endangered species and one of the least known among the endemic palms of the Andaman Islands.

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**

**Explanation:**

- A rare palm endemic to the South Andaman Island is finding a second home at Palode by the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI).

**Pinanga Andamanensis**

- It resembles the areca palm to which it is closely related.
- At one point it was written off as extinct, but its entire population of some 600 specimens naturally occurs only in a tiny, evergreen forest pocket in South Andaman's **Mount Harriet National Park**.
- It is a critically endangered species and one of the least known among the endemic palms of the Andaman Islands.
- The name is derived from 'Penang', the modern-day Malaysian state.
- "Penang itself has its origins in 'Pulau Pinang', which means "Island of the Areca Nut Palm".





**113) Mount Harriet National Park is located in which of the following?**

- a. Goa
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Lakshadweep
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Mount Harriet National Park is located in **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.

**114) The severe cyclonic storm 'AMPHAN' is associated with which of the following regions?**

- a. East coast of India
- b. West coast of India
- c. South east Asia
- d. West Asian region

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The severe cyclonic storm 'AMPHAN' over southeast Bay of Bengal is very likely to move nearly northwards slowly during the next 24 hours and then re-curve north-north-eastwards.
- Odisha is bracing for heavy rain under the influence of severe cyclonic storm Amphan, which is set to skirt away from the State's northern coast to make landfall between West Bengal and Bangladesh.

**115) Consider the following statements with respect to Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities Ranking**

1. It aims to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.
2. The Star Rating Protocol was launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in 2018.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- The results of the **Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities** was released recently.
- According to the results, during the assessment year 2019-2020, a total of six cities have been certified as 5-Star (Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysuru, Indore and Navi Mumbai), 65 cities as 3-Star and 70 cities as 1-Star.
- The Ministry also launched the revised protocol for the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities Initiative.

**Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities Initiative**

- The Star Rating Protocol was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** in January 2018 to **institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.**

## Background

- **Swachh Survekshan (SS)** is an annual cleanliness survey for urban India.
- It has been proven immensely successful when it comes to improving urban cleanliness through a spirit of healthy competition.
- However, since it is a ranking system, several of India's cities, despite doing exceptionally well, were not being recognized appropriately.
- The Ministry, therefore, devised the Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities - a comprehensive framework where each ward in every city must achieve a certain standard **across 24 different components of solid waste management (SWM)** and is graded based on overall marks received.
- The performance of cities under the Star Rating Protocol is crucial as it **carries significant weightage when it comes to their final assessment in Swachh Survekshan.**

116) With respect to eCovSens, often seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Bio-sensor used to detect the presence of novel coronavirus antigens in human saliva samples.
2. It was developed by the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad, which was established by the Department of Biotechnology.

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**

### **Explanation:**

- Researchers from the **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad**, have developed a biosensor eCovSens.
- NIAB was established by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

### **eCovSens**

- The new portable device named **eCovSens**, can be used to detect the presence of novel coronavirus antigens in human saliva within 30 seconds using just 20 microlitres of the sample.

- The in-house built biosensor consists of a carbon electrode and the coronavirus antibody.
- The antibody is capable of binding with the spike protein found on the outer layer of the virus.
- An electrical signal is generated when the antigen and antibody binds.

**117) Which one of the following best describes the term “Syndemic”?**

- a. It is a situation when two or more epidemics interact to produce an increased burden of disease in a population
- b. It is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations
- c. It is a situation in which a disease affects 90% of the region’s population and the people in the region learn to live with the disease
- d. It is declared when the presence or usual prevalence of its infectious agent is constant within a given geographical area or population group

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- World Health Organization (WHO) has recently announced that the Covid-19 would less likely to be eliminated (i.e. may become endemic).
- The possibilities of Covid-19 being **syndemic** have been raised in the backdrop of the announcement.

**Classification of Diseases based on spread and occurrence**

- **Epidemic** - An epidemic is a large outbreak, one that spreads among a population or region. It is less severe than pandemic due to a limited area of spread.
- **Endemic** - A disease is called endemic when the presence or usual prevalence of its infectious agent is constant within a given geographical area or population group.
- **Pandemic** - A pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations.
- **Syndemic** - A Syndemic is a situation when two or more epidemics interact synergistically to produce an increased burden of disease in a population.
- The least possibility of elimination of Covid-19 pandemic and warning about the second wave of Covid-19 infections worldwide have reinforced the presence of Covid-19 for the long term.
- Meanwhile, the alarm is being raised about **diseases like dengue and malaria emerging with the upcoming monsoon season in tropical South Asia.**
- Thus, there is a possibility that the world will face increased burden of the diseases and thus the situation of syndemic.

- The second wave of infection due to Covid-19 is suspected to be seen in those with weakened immunity.
- At the same time, the world already faces antibiotic resistance and if Covid-19 deepens as a syndemic in populations with antibiotic resistance, the world will face **comorbidities (Co-morbidity is the presence of one or more additional conditions co-occurring with a primary condition)**

118) "Operation Greens" is run by which of the following Ministries?

- a. Ministry of Rural Development
- b. Ministry of Science and Technology
- c. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- d. Ministry of Agricultural and Farmers Welfare

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

- Union finance minister has recently announced that **Operation Greens** will be expanded with an additional fund of Rs 500 crore and extended from tomatoes, onions and potatoes to all fruits and vegetables.
- Operation Greens is run by **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI)**.
- The Scheme would provide 50% subsidy on transportation from surplus to deficient markets, 50% subsidy on storage, including cold storages and will be launched as pilot for the next 6 months and will be extended and expanded.
- This will lead to better price realization to farmers, reduced wastages, and affordability of products for consumers.

119) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

1. It will be launched for integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries.
2. It will be launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

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

**Explanation:**

- Under the Special economic and comprehensive package of Rs 20 lakh crores, the central government will launch the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.
- It will be launched by the **Ministry of Fisheries**.

#### **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**

- It will be launched for integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries.
- Rs 11,000 crore for activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and Rs. 9000 crore for Infrastructure - Fishing Harbors, Cold chain, Markets etc shall be provided.
- Cage Culture, Seaweed farming, Ornamental Fisheries as well as New Fishing Vessels, Traceability, Laboratory Network etc. will be key activities.
- There will be provisions of Ban Period Support to fishermen (during the period fishing is not permitted), Personal & Boat Insurance.
- The focus will be on Islands, Himalayan States, North-east and Aspirational Districts.

#### **120) Cyclone Amphan is named by:**

- a. India
- b. Thailand
- c. Bangladesh
- d. Oman

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Amphan is the first tropical cyclone of the 2020 North Indian Ocean cyclone season.
- According to the India Meteorological Department forecast, it will make landfall as a very severe cyclone between the Sagar islands of West Bengal and the Hatiya islands of Bangladesh.
- It has been named by Thailand.

#### **121) Consider the following statements with respect to Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade**

1. Under this Protocol, Inland vessels of the signing countries can ply on the designated protocol route and dock at Ports of Call in each country.



2. It was first signed between India and Sri Lanka in 2009, immediately after the end of the Sri Lankan Civil War.

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

**Explanation:**

- Bangladesh and India have recently extended the Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol by signing the the second addendum on Protocol.
- The decision to add new protocol routes and inclusion of new routes and addition of new ports of call to facilitate trade between the two countries was taken in October 2018 which has now been operationalized.

**Protocol on Transit and Trade through Inland Waterways**

- It is a protocol between People’s Republic of **Bangladesh** and the Republic of **India**.
- The Protocol was **first signed in 1972 (immediately after independence of Bangladesh)**.
- It was last renewed in 2015 for five years with a provision for its **automatic renewal for a further period of five years** giving long term assurance to various stakeholders.
- The agreement will allow Inland vessels of both the countries to ply on the designated protocol route and dock at Ports of Call in each country, notified for loading and unloading of cargo.
- It will help boost bilateral trade and connectivity between the two countries.

**Recent Developments**

- **Routes** - The second addendum on protocol states that the number of Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) routes are being increased from **eight to ten**.
- **Ports of Call** - Currently, there are six Ports of Call each in India and Bangladesh under the Protocol.
- Five more Ports of Call and two more extended Ports of Call have been added, increasing the number to eleven Ports of Call and two extended Ports of Call in each country.

- **Shallow draft mechanized vessels** - As a path-breaking development, both sides have agreed to introduce trade between Chilmari (Bangladesh) and Dhubri (India) through the use of shallow draft mechanized vessels.
- This initiative will allow export of stone chips and other Bhutanese and North East cargo to Bangladesh and easy access for the traders to the hinterland of Bangladesh, enhancing the local economy in Bangladesh and the lower Assam region of India.

**122) Consider the following statements with respect to Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)**

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the expenditure will be shared between Centre and States in the ration of 60:40.
2. The scheme focuses on unorganized sector on an all India basis and aims for transition to formal sector.
3. The Scheme will be implemented over a 5 year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet had recently gave its approval to the "**Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)**".
- It is a scheme for the **Unorganized Sector on All India basis** with an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore.

**Salient features:**

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- Expenditure to be shared by **Government of India and States at 60:40.**
- 2,00,000 micro-enterprises are to be assisted with credit linked subsidy.
- Scheme will be implemented over a **5 year period** from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- Cluster approach.
- Focus on perishables.

**Objectives of the Scheme:**



- **Increase in access to finance by micro food processing units.**
- Increase in revenues of target enterprises.
- Enhanced compliance with food quality and safety standards.
- Strengthening capacities of support systems.
- **Transition from the unorganized sector to the formal sector.**
- Special focus on women entrepreneurs and Aspirational districts.
- Encourage Waste to Wealth activities.
- Focus on minor forest produce in Tribal Districts.

**123) Consider the following statements with respect to Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**

- 1. The Scheme will provide Farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with funding up to Rs. 3 lakh crore in the form of a fully guaranteed emergency credit line.**
- 2. The entire funding provided under Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line facility shall be provided with a 100% credit guarantee by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet had recently approved additional funding of up to Rupees three lakh crore to MSMEs through introduction of **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**.

**Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**

- It has been formulated as a specific response to the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19 and the consequent lockdown, which has severely impacted manufacturing and other activities in the **MSME sector**.
- The Scheme aims at **mitigating the economic distress being faced by MSMEs** by providing them **additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore** in the form of a fully guaranteed emergency credit line.
- The main objective of the Scheme is to provide an incentive to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), i.e., Banks, Financial Institutions (FIs) and Non-Banking

Financial Companies (NBFCs) to increase access to, and enable availability of additional funding facility to MSME borrowers.

- The entire funding provided under Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) shall be provided with a 100% credit guarantee by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) under ECLGS.
- No Guarantee Fee shall be charged by NCGTC from the Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) under the Scheme.

**124) Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana is an income support programme for farmers by which of the following States/UT?**

- a. Punjab
- b. Jharkhand
- c. Puducherry
- d. Chhattisgarh

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- **Chhattisgarh government** will launch a new income support programme: **Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana**, during 19th death anniversary of the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

**The Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana**

- The scheme would cover rice, maize and sugarcane farmers and would expand to other crops later.
- Rice and maize farmers would get Rs.10,000 an acre while sugarcane farmers would get Rs.13,000. The money would be distributed in four instalments.
- The first instalment of Rs.1,500 crore would be distributed among 18 lakh farmers, more than 80% of them small and marginal.
- The annual cost of the scheme would be Rs.5,700 crore.

**125) Consider the following pairs**

1. Naku La - Sikkim
2. River Galwan - Ladakh

**Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- China has recently accused the Indian Army of crossing into its territory and of “blocking” its patrols and “attempting to unilaterally change the status” on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries in Sikkim and Ladakh.
- Both sides has increased troop strength at points of conflict along the LAC.
- **Sikkim’s Naku La** is one of four areas that had seen aggressive action between the Chinese and Indian troops (including the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel) since mid-April 2020.
- Similar skirmishes, including jostling, and fisticuffs between the soldiers had been reported along a stretch in **eastern Ladakh at the Pangong Tso lake, Demchok** and the the **Galwan river nalah**.

**126) ‘Kunduz’, frequently seen in the news, is in which country?**

- a. Israel
- b. Iran
- c. Afghanistan
- d. Kyrgyzstan

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Kunduz is a strategic city in northern Afghanistan, which serves as the capital of Kunduz Province.

**127. The Treaty of Sugauli of 1816 was signed between the East India Company and which other of the following?**

**Options:**

- a. Marathas
- b. Kingdom of Nepal
- c. Rajputs
- d. Kingdom of Myanmar

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Treaty of Sugauli, which established the boundary line of Nepal, was signed in 1815 between the East India Company and King of Nepal following the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16.

**128. Which of the following health conditions are considered under Metabolic syndrome?**

1. High blood pressure
2. Abdominal obesity
3. Elevated triglycerides
4. Low HDL cholesterol
5. High blood sugar

**Options:**

- a. 1 and 5
- b. 1,2 and 3
- c. 1,2,3,4 and 5
- d. 2 and 4

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Metabolic syndrome is defined as a cluster of five conditions: high blood pressure, abdominal obesity, elevated triglycerides, low HDL cholesterol, and high blood sugar.

**129. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the Open skies Treaty?**

1. It is a treaty involving only Russia and the U.S.
2. It envisages the right to freedom of passage of domestic flights over each other's territories without prior approval.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Open Skies Treaty was signed in 1992 and came into effect in 2002.

- The agreement allows its 34 signatories to conduct unarmed reconnaissance flights over the territory of treaty countries to monitor signatories' arms development activities.

130. The term Dongfeng-41 is associated with:

- a. Nuclear submarine
- b. Intercontinental ballistic missile
- c. Aircraft carrier
- d. Heavy lift cryogenic engine

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- China's Dongfeng-41 is an advanced intercontinental ballistic missile with an estimated 14,000 km range.

## **JUNE Current affairs Multiple choice questions**

1) With respect to Responsible AI for Youth Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It act as a one stop digital platform for AI related developments in India such as sharing of resources, integrating companies and educational institutions related to AI in India.
2. The programme has been jointly implemented by the National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and NASSCOM from the IT industry.

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: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has recently launched a National Program for the youth: “**Responsible AI for Youth**”.

### **Responsible AI for Youth Programme**

- The National Programme is **open to students of classes 8 - 12** from Central and State government-run schools (including KVS, NVS, JNV) from across the country - all 28 States and 8 Union Territories.
- The aim of this Program is to give the young students of our country a platform and empower them with appropriate new age tech mind-set, relevant AI skill-sets and access to required AI tool-sets to make them digitally ready for the future.
- The Program has been created and launched by the **National e-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics & IT** in collaboration with **Intel India**, with support from **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Human Resource Development**.

DoSE&L will help reach-out to State Education Departments to nominate teachers as per eligibility criteria.

**2) Ameri Ice Shelf, often seen in the news recently, is located in which of the following regions?**

- a. Canada
- b. Antarctica
- c. Greenland
- d. Russian Arctic

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation:**

- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa has recently predicted that there would be a 24 per cent increase in the expansion of the **Ameri Ice Shelf (AIS)** boundaries in **Antarctica** by 2021 and another 24 per cent by 2026 from its 2016 positions.
- The prediction made by NCPOR is based on a 16-year-long satellite-based observation that covered an area of 60,000 sq km across the AIS.
- This study would help understand the ongoing changes in the ocean and atmospheric forcing better.
- NCPOR carried out this study based on the satellite data collected from 2001-2016.

**Ameri Ice Shelf (AIS)**

- The AIS is one of the largest glacier drainage basins in the world, located on the east coast of Antarctica.
- The AIS dynamics and mass balance help in understanding the changes in the global climate scenario.

3) With respect to a report released recently, Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint report of International Energy Agency, World Bank and World Health Organization.
2. The 7th Sustainable Development Goal aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

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

**Explanation:**

**Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report**

- The Energy Progress Report was released by the **International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and the World Health Organization.**
- The United Nations-mandated SDG 7 is aimed at **ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030.**
- According to the report, the global electrification rate progressed steadily from 2010 to 2018, rising to 90 per cent of the world's population in 2018 from 83 per cent in 2010.
- But the effort made since 2016 has not been sufficient, between 2016 and 2018, electrification grew by just 0.82 percentage points per year.
- According to the report, it is believed that to achieve the target of universal access of electricity by 2030, the world needed to do electrification with an increase of 0.87 percentage points a year, This was required to be done before COVID-19 era.
- In 2018, India was among top three countries with largest deficits regarding access to electricity. Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and India had the three largest deficits: 85 million, 68 million and 64 million people respectively.

- The world needed progress with three percentage points to achieve the goal of universal access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking since 2010, the report said.
- But it progressed at an annualized average of just 0.8 percentage points.
- The latest data on SDG 7 progress, before the onset of the pandemic, demonstrated that there was a need to accelerate efforts towards targets at urgent basis.

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to National Artificial Intelligence Portal of India**

1. It is a platform that aims to empower the young students of India with relevant AI skill-sets to make them digitally ready for the future.
2. It will be jointly run by the National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and Intel India, with support from Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L).

**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: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has recently launched the **National Artificial Intelligence Portal of India**.

**National Artificial Intelligence Portal**

- This portal has been jointly developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and IT Industry.
- **National e-Governance Division** of Ministry of Electronics and IT and **NASSCOM** from the IT industry will jointly run this portal.
- This portal shall work as a one stop digital platform for AI related developments in India, sharing of resources such as articles, startups, investment funds in AI, resources, companies and educational institutions related to AI in India.
- The portal will also share documents, case studies, research reports etc.
- It has section about learning and new job roles related to AI.

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**



1. It is an Indian research and development institution, situated in Magadan Oblast, Russian Arctic.
2. It is an autonomous Institution under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

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: d

**Explanation:**

**National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**

- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, (NCPOR) formerly known as the **National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR)** is an Indian research and development institution, situated in **Vasco da Gama, Goa**.
- It is an autonomous Institution of the **Department of Ocean Development (DOD), Ministry of Earth Sciences** which is responsible for administering the Indian Antarctic Programme and maintains the Indian government's Antarctic research stations, Bharati and Maitri.
- NCPOR complex is a home to a special low-temperature laboratory and is setting up a National Antarctic Data Centre and a Polar Museum.

Apart from this the NCPOR operates in different fields or tasks:

1. Operating the Himadri and IndARC Arctic research stations in Svalbard, Norway.
2. Managing the oceanic research vessel ORV Sagar Kanya, the flagship of India's fleet of oceanographic study vessels.

**6) Consider the following statements with respect to G-7 Group**

1. The G-7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters.
2. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.

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

**Explanation:**

- Recently, US President says he wants to include India, Russia, South Korea, and Australia in the G7 group.
- Last year, the G-7 summit was held on August at Biarritz in southwestern France, where Prime Minister of India was invited as a special guest of French President.
- The G-7 or 'Group of Seven' are **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US.**
- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** that was formed in 1975 by the top economies of the time as an informal forum to discuss pressing world issues.
- Canada joined the group in 1976, and the European Union began attending in 1977.
- The G-7 was known as the 'G-8' for several years, **Russia was expelled** as a member in 2014 following the latter's annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine.
- The G-7 nations meet at **annual summits** that are presided over by leaders of member countries on a rotational basis and the summit is an **informal gathering.**
- The **G-7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters.**
- The **decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.**

7) Consider the following pairs

Research stations      - Locations

1. Bharati                      - Arctic
2. Himadri                     - Antarctica
3. IndARC                      - Indian Ocean

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

Research Stations - Location

1. Himadri - Arctic
2. IndARC - Arctic
3. Bharati - Antarctica
4. Maitri - Antarctica

- **IndARC** is India's first **underwater moored observatory** in the Arctic region.
- It was deployed in 2014 at Kongsfjorden fjord, Svalbard, Norway which is midway between Norway and North Pole.
- Its research goal is to study the Arctic climate and its influence on the monsoon.

8) Jyeshtha Ashtami is a festival celebrated in which of the following states?

- a. Odisha
- b. Mizoram
- c. Rajasthan
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently extended his wishes to the Kashmiri Pandit community on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami.

**Jyeshtha Ashtami Festival**

- Jyestha Ashtami is celebrated at the shrine of **Khair Bhawani** in Tullamula in honour of their patron goddess **Ragnya Devi** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- 'Kheer' (rice boiled in milk) is prepared on this day as a food offering.
- The annual Mela Kheer Bhawani is the biggest Hindu festival in Jammu & Kashmir after the Amarnath Yatra.

9) With respect to Kutch of Gujarat, consider the following statements:

1. It is a land of salt desert, grasslands and mangroves.
2. Dumhal is a renowned folk dance performed by the Watal tribes of Kutch.
3. Dholavira, the second largest Harappan site in India and an UNESCO's World Heritage Site is located in Kutch.

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: b**

**Explanation:**

- Kutch is a **land of salt desert, grasslands and mangroves**.
- Interestingly, the mangroves here are known for an amazing phenomenon of being world's only Inland Mangrove.
- The Rann of Kutch alone produces three-fourth of total salt supply of India.
- The place is also the home to the Kharai breed of camel which has the special ability to survive on both dry land as well as in the saline water.
- They can even swim in sea water and feed on saline water and plants.
- They are well-adapted to the extreme climate of the desert and high salinity of water.
- Banni grassland reserve is also located in the Kutch district of Gujarat.
- Dumhal is a dance performed in **Jammu and Kashmir** by the Watal tribes.

**10) Anupam Varma Committee, which is in news recently, related to which of the following?**

- a. Reforms in Agricultural marketing
- b. Tackling Non-Performing Assets in the banks
- c. Assessing the scenario of testing kids for COVID-19 across the country
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

**Anupam Varma Committee**

- It is an expert committee formed **to frame a policy for monitoring of pesticide residue in Fruits and Vegetables**.
- Based on its recommendation, Agriculture ministry has banned 18 pesticides in 2018.
- Union government recently has issued a draft order proposing a ban on import, manufacturing, sale, transport and distribution of 27 insecticides, a move that is likely to impact agro chemicals firms.

**11) With respect to Kharai Camels, consider the following statements:**

1. **It is a unique breed of camel found only in Kutch, which feeds on mangroves.**

2. They have the special ability to survive on both dry land as well as in the saline water.
3. The Kharai was recognised as a separate breed in 2015 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

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

**Explanation:**

- The **Kharai Camel**, also known as the “**Swimming Camel**”, is a unique breed of camel **found only in Kutch**, which feeds on mangroves.
- These camels are unique, because they have the special ability to survive on both, dry land and in the sea.
- They swim in seawater and feed on saline plants and mangroves.
- The Kharai was recognised as a separate breed in 2015 by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.

12) Consider the following statements with respect to Jal Jeevan Mission

1. It aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to all rural household by 2024.
2. Extra budgetary resources are made available for JJM and is allocated along with Gross Budgetary Support among States/ UTs as per the allocation criteria.

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

**Explanation:**

- The Government of India has approved Rs 445 crore for the implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission in Chhatisgarh** in 2020-21.
- The Chhattisgarh government has prepared a roadmap to achieve 100% Functional Tap Water Connection (FHTC) by year 2023-24 under which it will provide tap connections to 20 lakh households out of the total of 45 lakh households in the State.
- The mission aims to ensure HarGharJal (piped water supply), Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to all rural household by 2024.
- **Jal Shakti Ministry** is the nodal ministry for this mission.
- Water is the State subject. Thus, the implementation has to be done through the States.
- The fund released by Central Government to the State Governments is to be deposited in one Single Nodal Account (SNA) that will be maintained by SWSM.
- Public Finance Management System (PFMS) should be used for tracking the funds.
- **Extra budgetary resources are made available for JJM** and it is allocated along with Gross Budgetary Support among States/ UTs as per the allocation criteria.

**13) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC)**

1. The council was constituted under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.
2. Union Minister for Rural Development is the ex-officio chairperson of the CEGC.
3. It is responsible to establish a central evaluation and monitoring system, besides advising the government on the implementation of MGNREGA, 2005.

**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: d**

**Explanation:**

- The 21st Meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council was held recently under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar through Video-Conferencing.

**Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC)**

- It was constituted under Section 10 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005.
- Union Minister for Rural Development is the ex-officio chairperson of the CEGC.

### Functions of Council

- The Central Council shall perform and discharge the following functions and duties:
- Establish a central evaluation and monitoring system
- Advise the Central Government on all matters concerning the implementation of this Act
- Review the monitoring and redressal mechanism from time to time and recommend improvements required
- Promote the widest possible dissemination of information about the Schemes made under this Act
- Monitoring the implementation of this Act
- Preparation of annual reports to be laid before Parliament by the Central Government on the implementation of this Act
- Any other duty or function as may be assigned to it by the Central Government.

### 14) Bimal Julka Committee, sometimes seen in the news recently, was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- a. To review the extant Economic Capital Framework of the Reserve Bank of India
- b. To rationalize the Film Media Units and to review the Autonomous Bodies of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- c. To scrutinize the implementation of the lockdown and movement of migrants and the central government's coordination with the states
- d. None of the above

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation:**

- The Expert Committees on Rationalisation/Closure/Merger of Film Media Units under the aegis of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and on Review of Autonomous Bodies under the Ministry submitted their report to Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting recently.
- Both the Committees on review of autonomous bodies and Rationalisation/Closure/Merger of Film Media Units was **headed by Shri. Bimal Julka**.

### Recommendations

- The committee had recommended specific roadmaps for the development of National Film Development Corporation, Films division, Children's Film Society of

India, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Directorate of Film Festivals, and National Film Archives of India etc.

- The committee has found overlapping activities undertaken by multiple institutes and has suggested an umbrella configuration with 4 broad verticals under which institutes should work viz. Production, Festival, Heritage and Knowledge.
- These verticals would be headed by professionals. The report recommends creation of Film Promotion Fund to fund independent filmmakers for making commercial films.

**15) Which of the following States has recently provided industry status to sports?**

- a. Haryana
- b. Mizoram
- c. Manipur
- d. Maharashtra

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- To tap the potentials of players, **Mizoram** Cabinet has granted industry status to sports, a move aimed at generating employment.
- Mizoram government seek to invest more in sports for the generation of employment and increasing value.
- The industry status would help the state to meet the requirements of sportspersons and others involved in the sector.
- The State has a pool of footballers playing for premier clubs across the country.

**16) Consider the following statements about new definition of MSMEs**

1. For an enterprise to come under the category of MSME it has to fulfil both investment and turn over conditions.
2. Under the Investment definition, a firm up to investment of Rs 1 crore is to be called Micro unit, of Rs 10 crore is to be called as small unit and investment greater than Rs 20 crore will be called as medium unit.
3. Under the Turn-over definition a firm with turnover of Rs 5 crore is to be called a micro unit, of Rs 50 crore will be called as small unit and turn over greater than Rs 100 core is to be called as Medium unit.

**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**



**Explanation:**

- Previously, an enterprise with investment up to Rs 25 lakh was called a micro unit.
- Under the new Investment definition, a firm up to investment of Rs 1 crore is to be called Micro unit, of Rs 10 crore is to be called as small unit and investment greater than Rs 20 crore will be called as medium unit.
- Under the new Turn-over definition a firm with turnover of Rs 5 crore is to be called a micro unit, of Rs 50 crore will be called as small unit and turn over greater than Rs 100 core is to be called as Medium unit.
- It is to be noted that for an enterprise to come under the category of MSME it has to **fulfill both investment and turn over conditions**.
- Also, under the new definition, the differentiation between the manufacturing and service based MSMEs are being removed.
- The revision of the definition of MSME was done after 14 years since the MSME Development Act came into existence in 2006.

**17) Thaali Dance, a balancing dance performed to commensurate the celebrations of marriage and child birth, is a famous dance of which of the following regions?**

- a. Kutch, Gujarat
- b. Palakkad, Kerala
- c. Deogarh, Odisha
- d. Garo Hills, Meghalaya

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- **Thaali Dance**, a balancing dance performed to commensurate the celebrations of marriage and child birth is one of the salient attractions of Kutch, Gujarat.
- **Toofaan**, one of the famous wild dance of the ocean also known as “Samundar ki Masti” is also a famous dance of Kutch.

**18) Consider the following statements with respect to Kisan Credit Card**

1. It is implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives.
2. It does not cover the farmers engaged in Animal Husbandry & Fisheries.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- The government has set a target to provide **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** to one crore 50 lakh dairy farmers belonging to Milk Unions and Milk producing Companies under a special drive within next two months.
- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said, the card will be provided from June to 31st of July.
- The Kisan Credit Card scheme was announced in 1998 to fulfil the financial requirements of the farmers at various stages of farming through institutional credit.
- It is **implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives.**
- The Card is **valid for 5 years** subject to annual review.
- The **recent initiatives for KCC includes farmers engaged in Animal Husbandry & Fisheries.**

1) Consider the following statements with respect to PM-SVANidhi

1. It is a special micro-credit facility scheme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. It aims to provide affordable loans to street vendors to resume their work and earn livelihoods.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has recently launched a Special Micro-Credit Facility Scheme - **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).**

**About the Scheme**

- It aims for providing **affordable loans to street vendors.**
- This scheme will go a long way in enabling them to resume work and earn livelihoods.
- Urban Local Bodies will play pivotal role in the implementation of the scheme.

- The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.
- On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on six monthly basis.
- There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.

**20) The State has more than 1000 Archaeological Sites and the Culture is Agriculture based. The Folk Dances of the State are Ghangor, Jhoomar, chhati which showcases the Culture along with the Folk Music. It is a land of Museums, it has more than 20 Museums. It can also be known as the state of Festivals. The important aspect of the state in socializing are Community involvement, respectful, wearing pakhdi, sitting in Choupal and enjoying Hookhas. The state got its name by being the land of lord Shiva, and Lord Vishnu.**

**Which of the following Indian States had been mentioned in the above paragraph?**

- a. Gujarat
- b. Haryana
- c. Chhattisgarh
- d. Himachal Pradesh

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Ministry of Tourism has recently organized a webinar on “Haryana: Culture, Cuisine and Tourism” showcasing the rich and varied heritage of Haryana.

**Highlights**

- The information regarding Haryana is being divided into two parts namely, the **Deswali Belt** and the **Bagari Belt**.
- The session threw light into some lesser known information like divisions of the state into regions basis of Soil i.e. (Khadar, Nardak, Bagad, Bangar), Demographic basis i.e. (Ahirwal, Mewat, Braj) and on the basis of Eco Cultural Zones i.e. (Ahirwal, Mewat, Bagar, Nardak, Khadar).
- Haryana also is home to celebrity Sportspersons and Actors like Kapil Dev, Sushil Kumar, Mallika Sherawat, Meghana Malik, Randeep Hudda.
- This webinar session traced how the state got its name by being the **land of lord Shiva, and Lord Vishnu**.
- The Name of Haryana came from “**Hari ka aana**” from its History.
- Haryana was known by so many names due to its glorious history.
- Haryana has more than 1000 Archaeological Sites which depicts that the Culture of Haryana is.

- The three battles were fought in Panipat in 1526, 1556 and 1761.
- The Culture of Haryana is Agriculture based.
- The Folk Dances of Haryana are Ghangor, Jhoomar, chhati showcases the Culture of Haryana along with the Folk Music.
- Haryana is a land of Museums, it has more than 20 Museums.
- It can also be known as the state of Festivals.
- The important aspect of Haryanv in socialising are Community involvement, respectful, wearing pakhdi, sitting in Choupal and enjoying Hookhas.

**21) Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) is a subordinate office under which of the following ministries?**

- a. Ministry of AYUSH
- b. Ministry of Home Affairs
- c. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- d. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Union Cabinet has recently approved the establishment of **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)** as Subordinate Office under **Ministry of AYUSH** by **merging into it** Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL)- the two central laboratories established at Ghaziabad since 1975.
- PLIM & HPL being the subordinate offices and PCIM&H- an autonomous organization under Ministry of AYUSH are going to be merged to establish PCIM&H, as a subordinate office of the Ministry with a common administrative control.
- The merger is aimed at optimizing the use of infrastructural facilities, technical manpower and financial resources of the **three organizations** for enhancing the standardization outcomes of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs towards their effective regulation and quality control.

**22) Consider the following statements with respect to SWADES Initiative**

1. **It aims to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme.**
2. **It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs.**
3. **NITI Aayog is the implementation agency for the project SWADES.**

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**SWADES Initiative**

- The Government of India has recently launched a new initiative **SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support)** to conduct a **skill mapping exercise** of the returning citizens under the **Vande Bharat Mission**.
- It is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs** which aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience to tap into and fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.
- The collected information will be shared with the companies for suitable placement opportunities in the country.
- The returning citizens are required to fill up an online SWADES Skills Card.
- The card will facilitate a strategic framework to provide the returning citizens with suitable employment opportunities through discussions with key stakeholders including State Governments, Industry Associations and Employers.
- MSDE's implementation arm **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** is supporting the implementation of the project.

**23) Global Economic Prospects (GEP), a semi-annual flagship publication on the state of the world economy is released by?**

- a. World Bank
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. International Monetary Fund
- d. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have “**severe**” short and long term effects on economic growth, the World Bank said in its Global Economic Prospects (GEP) June 2020 report released recently.
- EMDEs (Emerging Market and Developing Economies) are especially vulnerable, the report says.

### Global Economic Prospects

- It is a **World Bank Group’s** flagship report that examines global economic developments and prospects, with a special focus on emerging market and developing economies.
- It is issued twice a year, in January and June.

### 24) Consider the following

1. Maize
2. Linseed
3. Wheat
4. Paddy

### Which of these are Kharif Crops?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 4 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1 and 4 only

Answer: d

### Explanation:

- Recently, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has suggested that the government allow use of **Maize for production of ethanol** in the country, a move that could help growers fetch better prices.
- In its price recommendations for **Kharif 2020-21**, CACP said major policy changes were required for pricing, procurement and utilisation of maize in the country.
- The **main Kharif crops include paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, cotton, sugarcane, groundnut, pulses** etc.
- The **main Rabi crops include wheat, gram, oat, barley, potato, and seeds like mustard, linseed, sunflower, coriander, cumin, etc.**

### 25) Consider the following statements with respect to the Gulf of Mannar

1. The Gulf of Mannar region is enriched with productive habitats such as coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves.
2. The GEF-UNDP in collaboration with Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India had initiated, Conservation and sustainable use of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve's coastal bio-diversity, a project in securing the involvement of local communities in the conservation management in the area.

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

**Explanation:**

- The COVID-19 lockdown has had a positive impact on the coastal ecosystems of the **Gulf of Mannar**.
- A study conducted by the by the Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute in Thoothukudi, showed an increase in the number of fish species and a reduction in the levels of plastic pollution.
- The **Gulf of Mannar region is enriched with productive habitats such as coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves, estuaries, rocky shores and sandy beaches.**
- The diverse nature of ecosystems in the Gulf of Mannar supports a wide variety of significant species.
- The GEF-UNDP in collaboration with Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India initiated a new beginning under a project mode on "Conservation and sustainable use of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve's coastal bio-diversity".
- Its implementation is being coordinated by a special agency, The **Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust (GOMBRT)**, a registered Trust of the Government of Tamilnadu to ensure effective inter-sectoral co-ordination and facilitating main streaming of bio-diversity conservation issues into the productive sector and policy development.

26) Consider the following statements with respect to TULIP Program

1. It is a dedicated window to provide internship opportunities for fresh graduates in Urban Local Bodies and in smart cities.
2. It is an initiative of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Ministry of HRD, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

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**

**Explanation:**

- **The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP) is a program for providing fresh graduates experiential learning opportunities in the urban sector.**
- **The platform is a dedicated window to internship opportunities in Urban Local Bodies/smart cities.**
- **The platform will aggregate opportunities from across India for graduates on a single platform and allow them to apply for internships in the domain of urban governance.**
- **It is an initiative of AICTE, Ministry of HRD, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.**

27) Consider the following statements with respect to Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

1. **It aims to provide employment and unemployment data in the country and it is conducted by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.**
2. **The definition of employment does not include those engaged in unpaid family labour.**

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: d**

**Explanation:**

- **Recently, the government has released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Report (July, 2018 – June, 2019).**
- **PLFS is an initiative aimed at generating estimates of various labour force indicators.**



- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducts the survey.
- NSSO's definition of 'employment' includes in itself 'self-employment' as well as 'wage employment'.
- Within the category of 'self-employed', the survey also counts those engaged in 'unpaid family labour'.
- Both the locational and gender dimensions are considered.

28) Consider the following statements with respect to Starlink Network Project

1. It is joint initiative of SpaceX and NASA to provide a low-cost and reliable space-based Internet services to the world.
2. It intends to deploy Starlink satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

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

**Explanation:**

- SpaceX recently launched another 60 internet-beaming Starlink satellites, bringing the company's constellation to around 480.
- The project "Starlink network" of SpaceX, is to provide a low-cost and reliable space-based Internet services to the world.
- It intends to deploy constellation of Starlink satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in coming years.

29) Consider the following statements with respect to World Environment Day

1. The World Environment Day is hosted by a different country every year and India is set to host it in 2020.
2. The World Environment Day 2020's theme is beating plastic pollution.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are not correct?

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- World Environment Day is the most renowned day for environmental action.
- Since 1974, it has been **celebrated every year on 5th June**, engaging governments, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue.
- Every World Environment Day is hosted by a different country, in which official celebrations take place.
- **This year's host is Colombia in partnership with Germany with the theme 'Celebrate Biodiversity'.**
- **India hosted the 2018 World Environment Day with the theme beating plastic pollution.**

**30) Consider the following statements with respect to Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**

- 1. It is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament.**
- 2. The chairman of SERB is the ex-officio Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.**

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**

- It was established through an Act of Parliament, viz. the Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008.
- The mandate is to support basic research in emerging areas of Science & Engineering.
- Promoting basic research in Science and Engineering and to provide financial assistance to persons engaged in such research, academic institutions, research and development laboratories, industrial concerns and other agencies for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto are the primary and distinctive mandate of the Board.

- SERB aims to build up best management systems which would match the best global practices in the area of promotion and funding of basic research.

### Objectives

- Serve as a premier agency for planning, promoting and funding of internationally competitive research in emerging areas.
- Identify major inter-disciplinary research areas, and individuals, groups or institutions and funding them for undertaking research.
- Assist in setting up infrastructure and environment for scientific pursuit.
- Enable in order to achieve synergy between academic institutions, research and development laboratories and industry for promoting basic research in science and engineering.
- Evolve a system of approach to expeditiously provide funding for research, including monitoring and evaluation, by adopting modern management practices.

**31) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme**

- 1. It promotes decentralised solar power production.**
- 2. It aims to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 202**
- 3. It is being implemented through the State Nodal Agencies of MNRE.**

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

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

**Answer: d**

### **Explanation:**

- Recently, the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has cautioned people against fraudulent websites claiming to be registration portals for **PM-KUSUM Scheme**.
- MNRE has recently noticed that few new websites have cropped up as registration portal for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme.
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the PM KUSUM Scheme for farmers **for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants** in the country.

- The scheme **aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022** with total central financial support of Rs. 34,422 Crore including service charges to the implementing agencies.
- **State Nodal Agencies(SNAs) of MNRE** will coordinate with States/UTs, Discoms and farmers **for implementation of the scheme.**
- It promotes **decentralised solar power production.**
- The Scheme consists of **three components:**
  1. Component A: 10,000 MW of **Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable** Power Plants of individual plant size up to 2 MW.
  2. Component B: Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.
  3. Component C: Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.

**32) Consider the following statements with respect to Genome India Project**

1. **It aims to ultimately build a grid of the Indian reference genome, to understand the genetic nature of Indo-Aryan people in the Indian population.**
2. **It is being spearheaded by the IISc's Centre for Brain Research institute.**
3. **A genome is an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes.**

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

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, Scientists at **Genome India** propose study of COVID's genetic dimension
- The team wants to study and develop more insights into how this new viral disease, resistance to it and susceptibility might have a genetic component.
- The Government of India has launched a **gene-mapping project called "Genome India"**.
- **It aims to build a grid of the Indian "reference genome", to understand fully the type and nature of diseases and traits that comprise the diverse Indian population.**
- This is **spearheaded by the Centre for Brain Research** at Bengaluru-based **Indian Institute of Science** as the **nodal point of about 20 institutions.**

- Each of these institutions will do their bit in collecting samples, doing the computations, and then the research.
- A **genome** is defined as an **organism's** complete set of **Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid (DNA)**, including all of its genes.
- Each genome contains all of the information needed to build and maintain that organism.
- In humans, a copy of the entire genome more than 3 billion DNA base pairs is contained in all cells that have a nucleus.

**33) Consider the following statements with respect to Near-Earth Objects (NEOs)**

- 1. These are comets and asteroids that have been nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits that allow them to enter the Earth's neighborhood.**
- 2. It is composed mostly of water ice with embedded dust particles.**

**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**

**Explantion:**

- NASA announced that a giant asteroid is expected to pass Earth (at a safe distance) on June 6.
- The asteroid is estimated to be between 250-570 meters in diameter, according to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).
- A **Near-Earth Object (NEO)**, the asteroid is called 163348 (2002 NN4) and is **classified as a Potentially Hazardous Asteroid (PHA)**.
- NEOs occasionally approach close to the Earth as they orbit the Sun.
- **NEOs as comets and asteroids** nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits which allows them to enter the Earth's neighbourhood.
- These objects are **composed mostly of water ice with embedded dust particles**.
- The scientific interest in comets and asteroids is largely due to their status as relatively unchanged remnant debris from the solar system formation process over 4.6 billion years ago.
- Therefore, these NEOs offer scientists clues about the chemical mixture from the planets formed.
- **Potentially Hazardous Asteroid (PHA)**, which means the asteroid has the potential to make threatening close approaches to the Earth.

34) Consider the following

1. Egypt
2. Chad
3. Eritre
4. Ethiopia
5. Central African Republic

Which of these Countries share it's border with Sudan?

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- **Sudan-Ethiopia border tensions** escalate despite government efforts.
- Diplomatic efforts to diffuse a security crisis on the border between Sudan and Ethiopia have been ongoing, but the situation on the ground has escalated in recent days, with **Sudanese troops and Ethiopian militias assembling forces in the area.**
- **Sudan** is a sovereign nation situated in the northeast part of **Africa.**
- **Sudan shares its expansive border with 7 countries:** Egypt, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Libya.

35) Consider the following statements with respect to Elections to Rajya Sabha

1. Members of a state's Legislative Assembly directly vote for each seat.
2. NOTA option is not available in Rajya Sabha elections.

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

**Explanation:**

- The elections to 18 Rajya Sabha seats that were deferred owing to the lockdown to be held on June 19.
- **MLAs don't vote for each seat directly**, they have to give their order of preference for each candidate, in what is called **proportional representation with the single transferable vote (STV) system**. Each MLA's vote is counted only once.
- To win a Rajya Sabha seat, a candidate should get a required number of votes.
- The number is found out using the formula,

1. **Required vote = Total number of votes / (Number of Rajya Sabha seats + 1) + 1.**

- Every candidate in the race requires one-fourth of the total number of votes plus one to get elected.
- Each voter ranks his preferences and if the candidate who is the first choice has enough votes already or no chance of being elected, the vote is transferred to the second choice and so on.
- The **Supreme Court, ruled out that NOTA will not be allowed in Rajya Sabha elections** and the Legislative Council election.

36) Consider the following statements with respect to Aerosol Radiative Forcing (ARF)

1. **ARF is the effect of anthropogenic aerosols on the radiative fluxes at the top of the atmosphere and at the surface and on the absorption of radiation within the atmosphere.**
2. **ARF is larger than the global averages over the trans-Himalayas in spite of the clean atmosphere.**

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**

**Explanation:**

- Researchers at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital have recently found that **Aerosol Radiative Forcing larger than the global averages**, implying some amount of radiative effects, in spite of the clean atmosphere over the **trans-Himalayas**.

- The paper under publication in the journal Science of the Total Environment shows that monthly-mean atmospheric radiative forcing of aerosols **leads to heating rates** of 0.04 to 0.13 C per day.
- Further, the temperature over the Ladakh region is increasing 0.3 to 0.4 degrees Celsius per decades from the last 3 decades.

### **Radiative Forcing**

- Also called as the **Climate Forcing**, it is the difference between insolation (sunlight) absorbed by the Earth and energy radiated back to space.
- Changes to Earth's radiative equilibrium, that cause temperatures to rise or fall over decadal periods, are called climate forcings.
- Positive radiative forcing means Earth receives more incoming energy from sunlight than it radiates to space. This net gain of energy will cause warming.
- Conversely, negative radiative forcing means that Earth loses more energy to space than it receives from the sun, which produces cooling.
- A system in thermal equilibrium has zero radiative forcing.

### **Aerosol Radiative Forcing (ARF)**

- The atmospheric aerosols play a key role in the regional/global climate system through scattering and absorption of incoming solar radiation and by modifying the cloud microphysics.
- The effect of aerosols on climate is normally quantified in terms of aerosol radiative forcing.
- Aerosol radiative forcing is defined as the effect of anthropogenic aerosols on the radiative fluxes at the top of the atmosphere (TOA) and at the surface and on the absorption of radiation within the atmosphere.
- The effect of the total (anthropogenic + natural) aerosols is called aerosol radiative effect or total aerosol forcing.

**37. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- 1. Insulin is a hormone secreted by the pancreas.**
  - 2. Type 1 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes and accounts for around 90% of all diabetes cases.**
- a. 1 only
  - b. 2 only
  - c. Both 1 and 2
  - d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b**



**Explanation:**

- Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when the pancreas is no longer able to make insulin, or when the body cannot make good use of the insulin it produces.
- Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas. Insulin helps glucose get into the cells.
- Not being able to produce insulin or use it effectively leads to raised glucose levels in the blood (known as hyperglycaemia). Over the long-term high glucose levels are associated with damage to the body and failure of various organs and tissues.
- There are three main types of diabetes – type 1, type 2 and gestational.
  - **Type 1 diabetes** can develop at any age, but occurs most frequently in children and adolescents. When you have type 1 diabetes, your body produces very little or no insulin, which means that you need daily insulin injections to maintain blood glucose levels under control.
  - **Type 2 diabetes** is more common in adults and accounts for around 90% of all diabetes cases. When you have type 2 diabetes, your body does not make good use of the insulin that it produces. The cornerstone of type 2 diabetes treatment is healthy lifestyle, including increased physical activity and healthy diet. However, over time most people with type 2 diabetes will require oral drugs and/or insulin to keep their blood glucose levels under control.
  - **Gestational diabetes (GDM)** is a type of diabetes that consists of high blood glucose during pregnancy and is associated with complications to both mother and child. GDM usually disappears after pregnancy but women affected and their children are at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

**38. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. **TRAFFIC was founded as a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).**
  2. **TRAFFIC's headquarters is located in Cambridge, United Kingdom.**
  3. **TRAFFIC promotes sustainable wildlife trade and combats wildlife crime and trafficking.**
- a. 1 and 2 only
  - b. 2 and 3 only
  - c. 1 and 3 only
  - d. 1,2 and 3

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on the trade of wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity and sustainable development.
- It was founded in 1976 as a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The organisation's aim is to 'ensure that trade in wild plants and animals are not a threat to the conservation of nature'. It states that through research, analysis, guidance and influence, it promotes sustainable wildlife trade (the green stream work) and combats wildlife crime and trafficking (the red stream work).
- Founded in 1979, TRAFFIC's headquarters is located in Cambridge, United Kingdom, with offices located in 15 strategically important locations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and Oceania.

**39. Which of the following pairs is not a converging system of plates?**

- a. Eurasian Plate and the Indian Plate
- b. Australian Plate and the Pacific Plate
- c. Eurasian and North American Plate
- d. Nazca Plate and the South American Plate

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) is a mid-ocean ridge, a divergent or constructive plate boundary located along the floor of the Atlantic Ocean, and part of the longest mountain range in the world.
- In the North Atlantic, it separates the Eurasian and North American plates, and in the South Atlantic, it separates the African and South American plates.
- Some examples of converging plates:
  - The collision between the Eurasian Plate and the Indian Plate that is forming the Himalayas.
  - The collision between the Australian Plate and the Pacific Plate that formed the Southern Alps in New Zealand
  - Subduction of the Nazca Plate beneath the South American Plate to form the Andes.

**40. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?**

1. River Vamsadhara is an east flowing river, with its basin spread over the states of Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh states.
2. River Vamsadhara lies to the south of the Rushikulya river.

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- River Vamsadhara is an important east-flowing river between Rushikulya and Godavari, in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states in India.

**41. The State of India's Environment in Figures, 2020 Report was published recently by?The State of India's Environment in Figures, 2020 Report was published recently by?**

- a. Sanctuary Asia
- b. World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- c. Centre for Science and Environment
- d. Jointly by A and C

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The State of India's Environment in Figures 2020 Report is an annual publication from **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** and **Down To Earth** Environment Magazine.

**State of India's Environment 2020 in Figures' report**

- The report outlines the status of sustainable development, livestock, forests, water, waste, air, land, wildlife and other natural resources, environmental crimes and global economic risk.
- It states that India had around 50 lakh internal displacements caused by disasters and extreme weather conditions like floods, cyclones and drought in 2019.
- According to it, the internal displacements in India were the highest in the world in 2019.
- Internal Displacement refers to the forced movement of people within the country they live in, due to conflict, violence, development projects, natural disasters and climate change.
- It refers to the number of movements, not people, as individuals can be displaced several times.

**Major Factors of Internal Migration in India are as follows:**

- Natural Disasters (such as cyclones, flood and droughts)
- Forced Migration
- Impact of Covid-19

**42. Consider the following statements with respect to Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**

- 1. It is one of the leading research Institutes which specializes in observational Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences.**
- 2. It is a part of National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).**

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**

- It is an **autonomous research institute** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- It is one of the leading research Institutes which specializes in observational Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences.
- It is situated adjacent to the picturesque hill town of Nainital, Himachal Pradesh.
- The unique position of ARIES (79° East), places it at almost in the middle of 180° wide longitude band, between Canary Island (20° West) and Eastern Australia (157° East), and therefore complements observations which might not be possible from either of these two places.

**43) Consider the following statements with respect to Nagar Van Scheme**

- 1. The Scheme aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years.**

2. These urban forests will primarily be on the existing forest land in the City or any other vacant land offered by local urban local bodies.

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**

**Explanation:**

- Union government has recently announced the implementation of the Nagar Van Scheme on the occasion of the World Environment Day (5th June).

**Nagar Van Scheme**

- The Nagar Van (Urban Forests) aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years.
- Warje Urban Forest in Pune (Maharashtra) will be considered as a role model for the Scheme.
- The Scheme enforces people's participation and collaboration between the Forest Department, Municipal bodies, NGOs, Corporates and local citizens.
- These urban forests will primarily be on the existing forest land in the City or any other vacant land offered by local urban local bodies.
- The finances for the scheme will be paid for by the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016) funds.

**44) Consider the following statements with respect to Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)**

1. It has been created to encourage deployment of Point of Sale (PoS) infrastructure, both physical and digital, in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states.
2. The fund will be managed and administered by an advisory council constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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

**Explanation:**

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the creation of a Rs. 500-crore Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF).

**Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)**

- PIDF has been created **to encourage deployment of Point of Sale (PoS)** infrastructure, both physical and digital, in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states.
- The setting of PIDF is in line with the measures proposed by the vision document on payment and settlement systems in India 2019-2021.
- It is also in line with the RBI's proposal to set up an Acceptance Development Fund which will be used to develop card acceptance infrastructure across small towns and cities.
- It has a **corpus of Rs. 500 crore** in which the RBI has made an initial contribution of Rs. 250 crore.
- The remaining will come from the card-issuing banks and card networks operating in the country.
- The PIDF will also receive recurring contributions to cover operational expenses from card-issuing banks and card networks. RBI will also contribute to yearly shortfalls, if necessary.
- **The fund will be governed through an advisory council but will be managed and administered by the RBI.**

**45) Consider the following statements with respect to Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative**

1. It was launched by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
2. The initiative aims to address the challenges of retrofitting existing buildings and air conditioning systems so that they are both healthy and energy efficient.

**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

**Explanation:**

### Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings

- The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) MAITREE program, launched the "Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings" initiative that will pioneer ways to make workplaces healthier and greener.
- The initiative was launched on the occasion of the World Environment day (5th June).
- This initiative is to address the challenges of retrofitting existing buildings and air conditioning systems so that they are both healthy and energy efficient.
- The initiative, implemented by the EESL in its office, will pave the way for other buildings to take appropriate steps to be healthy and energy efficient.
- This will help in developing specifications for future use in other buildings throughout the country, as well as aid in evaluating the effectiveness and cost benefits of various technologies and their short and long-term impacts on air quality, comfort, and energy use.

#### 46) Consider the following statements with respect to MAITREE program

1. It is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Ministry of Power and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
2. The program aimed at accelerating the adoption of cost-effective energy efficiency as a standard practice within buildings, and specifically focuses on cooling.

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**

**Explanation:**

#### Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE)

- It aimed at accelerating the adoption of cost-effective energy efficiency as a standard practice within buildings, and specifically focuses on cooling.
- It is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Ministry of Power and U.S. Agency for International Development.

#### 47) Consider the following statements about Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme

1. The programme aims to engage 20 students with postgraduate degrees for a period of one year through an open, transparent, online competitive process to support biodiversity conservation projects.
2. It is implemented by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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

**Explanation:**

- Recently Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had launched “Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme” towards conservation of biodiversity.
- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the programme.
- It proposes to engage 20 students with postgraduate degrees for a period of one year through an open, transparent, online competitive process.
- It wishes to engage dynamic and creative students, who are willing to learn about natural resource management and biodiversity conservation and to support the projects of NBA in various State and Union Territories and to technically assist the State Biodiversity Boards/UTs Biodiversity Council in discharge of their mandates.
- It will be an open, transparent, online competitive process.

48) iCommit initiative which was in news recently is

- a. To create a robust and resilient energy system in the future
- b. An e-commerce marketing platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products
- c. To develop urban forest and conservation of environment
- d. None of the above

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

- **Ministry of Power** has initiated the ‘iCommit’ campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day.



- The initiative is a clarion call to all stakeholders and individuals to **continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.**
- The initiative is driven by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, under the administration of the **Ministry of Power.**

**49) Government of India has recently set up a Task Force headed by Ms. Jaya Jaitly for which of the following purposes?**

- a. To examine the Inter-sectoral issues relating to the Tribal Development
- b. To examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR
- c. To assess the effectiveness of gender budgeting and suggest specific measures to ensure the fund/benefits flow to women
- d. To make a study on the status of women since 1989 and give recommendations based on the present needs of women

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Government of India has recently set up a Task Force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues.

**Terms of Reference:**

- To examine the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with
  1. Health, medical well-being and nutritional status of mother and neonate/infant/child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter
  2. Key parameters like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), Child Sex Ratio (CSR) etc.
  3. Any other relevant points pertaining to health and nutrition in this context.
- To suggest measures for promoting higher education among women.
- To suggest suitable legislative instruments and/or amendments in existing laws to support the recommendations of the Task Force.

**Background**

- Union Finance Minister, during her Budget Speech for 2020-21 in the Parliament stated that “Women’s age of marriage was increased from fifteen years to eighteen years in 1978, by amending erstwhile Sharda Act of 1929.

- As India progresses further, opportunities open up for women to pursue higher education and careers.
- There are imperatives of lowering MMR as well as improvement of nutrition levels.

**50) Consider the following statements**

1. The national park is also known as tiger's heaven and captures the scenic beauty of around 32 hills.
2. Apart from the tigers, this national park is a home for butterflies which are smaller than a thumbnail and Indian Bison which is one of the largest bovine species in the world.
3. Influenced by the natural habitat of this National Park, a group of elephants migrated from Odisha to this national park and are living here since October, 2018.

**Identify the National Park using the above information:**

- a. Simlipal National Park
- b. Sunderban National Park
- c. Bandhavgarh National Park
- d. Guru Ghasidas National Park

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- To showcase the mesmerizing natural beauty and eco-system of Madhya Pradesh, Ministry of Tourism presented a webinar on 'Wild Wonders of Madhya Pradesh' under Dekho Apna Desh webinar series.
- The webinar provided an immersive virtual safari experience to one of the most biodiversity rich hotspots in the world: The State of Madhya Pradesh, which is also known as the heart of Incredible India.
- Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.

**Madhya Pradesh**

- The state is an amalgamation of natural wildlife, history and mythology.

**Bandhavgarh National Park**

- It is also known as tiger's heaven.
- This national park captures the scenic beauty of around 32 hills.

- Bandhav means brother and Garh means fort, which revolves around the mythological story of Lord Ram who gifted the fort (which is situated at the top of the national park) to his brother Laxman and that's how this national park got its name as Bandhavgarh National Park.
- Apart from the tigers, this national park is a home for many other wonderful species such as butterflies which are smaller than a thumbnail and Indian Bison which is one of the largest bovine species in the world.
- Influenced by the natural habitat of Bandhavgarh National Park, a group of elephants migrated from Odisha to this national park and are living here since October, 2018.

#### Other salient features

- Apart from Bandhavgarh National Park, there are other places in the heart of India that are showcasing the bio-diversity of our country such as Sanjay Dubri National Park, Panchmari Biosphere Reserve which is famous for its scenic views and waterfalls.
- **Satpura National Park which is the only national park in India where walking safari is permitted.**
- Apart from the natural bio-diversity Madhya Pradesh is also home to many UNESCO World Heritage sites such as Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, Sanchi Stupa and Khajurao Group of temples which is next to Panna Tiger Reserve.
- One can also witness the endangered species such as Gharial at the unexplored Son river & National Chambal River Sanctuary.

**51) Which of the following is the only National Park in India where walking safari is permitted?**

- a. Satpura National Park
- b. Gorumara National Park
- c. Bandhavgarh National Park
- d. Mathikettan Shola National Park

**Answer: a**

#### **Explanation:**

**4) Consider the following statements with respect to Gavi Covax AMC**

- 1. It is a new financing instrument aimed at incentivizing vaccine manufacturers to produce sufficient quantities of eventual COVID-19 vaccines, and to ensure access for developing countries.**
- 2. It was launched by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance at Global Vaccine Summit 2020.**

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**

**Explanation:**

**Gavi Covax AMC**

- Gavi Advance Market Commitment for COVID-19 Vaccines
- It is a new financing instrument aimed at incentivising vaccine manufacturers to produce sufficient quantities of eventual COVID-19 vaccines, and to ensure access for developing countries.
- It was launched by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance at the Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
- It will not be a stand-alone financing instrument but rather represents the first building block in broader efforts to develop a COVID-19 Global Vaccine Access Facility (Covax Facility) aimed at ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for all countries, at all levels of development, that wish to participate.

**52) NAIMISHA 2020, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an event organized by?**

- a. Sangeet Natak Akademi
- b. National School of Drama
- c. National Gallery of Modern Art
- d. Indian Council for Cultural Relations

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi will organize online NAIMISHA 2020- Summer Art Program from 8th June 2020 to 3rd July 2020, to reach its audiences during the Covid-19 outbreak.
- It is an initiative to provide a chance to participants and art enthusiasts to create and learn from practicing artists.
- The programme includes online workshops sessions on painting, sculpture, printmaking and indrajaal (an interdisciplinary creative workshop).
- The exhibition of selected artworks from the program will be displayed on So'ham, the cultural media platform of NGMA.

### So'ham

- It is the first cultural media platform of India, under the banner of NGMA.
- The platform aims to develop a dialogue between NGMA, artists and art enthusiasts.
- It is inspired by the Vedic philosophy of So'ham, which stands for one's identity and its connection to the universe.

### National Gallery of Modern Art

- NGMA was established in 1954, at the Jaipur House, New Delhi.
- It is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- The NGMA has two branches, one at Mumbai and the other at Bengaluru.
- One of its objectives is to acquire and preserve works of modern art from the 1850s onward.

### 53) Consider the following statements with respect to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

1. It applies to companies and as well as individuals.
2. Under IBC, either the creditor or the loaner can initiate insolvency proceedings.

### 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

### Explanation:

- The Central government has issued an **Ordinance to suspend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for 6 months**, and it can be extended up to an year.
- The pandemic has created uncertainty and stress for business for reasons beyond their control.
- Insolvency and bankruptcy code 2016 was introduced to resolve the bankruptcy crisis in corporate sector.
- It **applies to companies and individuals**. It provides for a time-bound process to resolve insolvency.
- When a default in repayment occurs, creditors gain control over debtor's assets and must take decisions to resolve insolvency within a 180-day period.

- Under IBC, either the creditor (banks) or the loaner (defaulter) can initiate insolvency proceedings.

54) With respect to Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT), sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. This pod will be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude area, isolated and remote places.
2. It was designed and developed by the Indian Air Force.
3. Supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat call, only indigenous materials have been used to fabricate this pod.

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

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- The **Indian Air Force** has designed, developed and inducted an Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT).

**Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT)**

- This pod will be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude area, isolated and remote places.
- Supporting the “Atmanirbhar Bharat” call, only indigenous materials have been used to fabricate this pod.
- This indigenously designed system has been developed at a cost of Rs Sixty Thousand only, which is very less as compared to the imported systems costing up to Rs Sixty Lakh.

**Specific features**

- The system has been developed as a lightweight isolation system made from aviation certified material.
- It has a transparent and durable cast Perspex for enhanced patient visibility which is larger, higher and wider than the existing models.

- The isolation system caters for suitable number of air exchanges, integration of medical monitoring instruments, and ventilation to an intubated patient.
- In addition, it generates high constant negative pressure in the isolation chamber for prevention of infection risk to aircrew, ground crew and health care workers involved in air transportation.
- The ARPIT utilises **High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) H-13** class filters and supports invasive ventilation using Transport Ventilator.
- The design integrates life support and monitoring instruments (defibrillator with multipara monitor, pulse oximeter, Infusion pumps etc), long arm gloves for use by health care professionals and power pack with high endurance.



55) Consider the following statements with respect to Heeng (asafoetida)

1. Heeng is a perennial plant and it produces oleo-gum resin from the roots after five years of plantation.
2. It can be grown in unutilized sloppy land of cold desert region.

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

**Explanation:**

- **Saffron** and **Heeng (asafoetida)** are the most valuable spices of the world and widely used in Indian cuisine since time immemorial.
- In India, the annual demand for Saffron spice is 100 tons per year but its average production is about 6-7 tons per year.
- Hence a large amount of Saffron is being imported.
- Similarly, there is no production of heeng in India and currently about 1200 tons of raw heeng worth Rs 600 crore is being imported from Afghanistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan.
- To increase the production of these two spices in India, **the Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh, have forged strategic and implementation partnership** based on their mutual strengths.
- This partnership is expected to provide immense benefits to Himachal Pradesh by way of increased farm income, livelihood promotion, and rural development.
- To facilitate this development, a number of steps will be undertaken such as transfer of innovations by means of capacity building, skill development, and other extension activities of prospective farmers and officers of the Department of Agriculture.
- A state-of-the-art tissue-culture lab will be established for large-scale production of quality planting material of these crops.

### Heeng

- **Heeng (asafoetida)** is a perennial plant and it produces oleo-gum resin from the roots after five years of plantation.
- It can be grown in unutilized sloppy land of cold desert region.

### 56) Turant Customs' Scheme is a flagship programme of which of the following?

- a. Central Board of Direct Taxes
- b. Goods and Services Tax Council
- c. Central Economic Intelligence Bureau
- d. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

**Answer: d**

### **Explanation:**

- The **Central Board of Customs and Indirect Taxes (CBIC)** has recently rolled out its facelless assessment groups (FAGs) and the "Turant Suvidha Kendras" in Bengaluru.
- FAGs and the Kendras are part of the reforms in the customs clearance process under the umbrella of '**Turant Customs' (immediate customs) scheme**, with the



objectives of **speedy clearance, transparency in decision-making and ease of doing business.**

### Faceless Initiatives

- They will carry out a 'faceless assessment' of imported goods falling under Chapter 84 (Machinery & parts) and Chapter 85 (Electronic goods) at any Customs Station in Chennai or Bengaluru Zones.
- The Kendras have been set up to facilitate the importers/ customs brokers to submit bonds/bank guarantees; register any scheme scripts, carry out any verification of documents, permit licenses etc.
- The scheme includes self-registration of goods by importers; automated clearances of bills of entry; digitisation of customs documents; paperless clearance by eOOC and eGatepass; online amendment of BE facility, etc.
- All these initiatives are extremely useful to ensure much-needed physical distancing in wake of Covid-19.

### 57) Consider the following statements with respect to Central Administrative Tribunal

1. It had been established under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution.
2. Unlike National Green Tribunal (NGT), CAT is guided by the procedure prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code in deciding cases and is not bound by the principles of natural justice.

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: d**

### **Explanation:**

- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has recently inaugurated the 18th Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh through a Video Conference.

### Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

- It had been established under **Article 323-A** of the Indian Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and

conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.

- The Central Administrative Tribunal has been established as a specialist body comprising of Administrative Members and Judicial Members who by virtue of their specialized knowledge are better equipped to dispense speedy and effective justice.
- The Tribunal is **guided by the principles of natural justice** in deciding cases and is **not bound by the procedure, prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code**.
- The Central Administrative Tribunal is empowered to frame its own rules of procedure and practice.

#### Article 324

- Article 324 in the Indian Constitution gives power to the Election Commission to direct, control, and conduct elections to all Parliament, to the Legislature of every state and of elections to the offices of the President and Vice President held under the Constitution.

**58) Consider the following statements with respect to ANANYA - a Nano-technology based disinfectant spray, sometimes seen in the news recently**

- 1. This spray can be used on contaminated surfaces such as medical instruments, PPEs, hospital linens, as well as masks.**
- 2. This Nano-technology assisted formulation will not only stop the novel coronavirus from entering human body, but it will also kill the virus.**

**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**

#### **Explanation:**

- Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, a Deemed University, Pune has recently developed a Nano-technology based disinfectant spray, named as **ANANYA**, to combat COVID-19 by disinfecting all types of surfaces.

**ANANYA**

- This can be used by anyone, from a common man to a healthcare worker, for individual as well as large scale use.
- This spray can be used on masks, PPEs, hospital linens, as well as other likely contaminated surfaces such as medical instruments, elevator buttons, door knobs, corridors and rooms.
- This Nano-technology assisted formulation will not only stop the novel coronavirus from entering human body, but it will also kill the virus when the virus comes in contact with this formulation layer on masks and PPEs.
- This is a water based spray and will be effective for more than 24 hours after spray.
- This formulation adheres very effectively to fabric, plastic and metallic objects, and its toxicity to humans is negligible.
- The shelf life of the spray is said to be more than 6 months.

59) Consider the following statements with respect to Challenger Deep

1. It is the deepest point on Earth located in the Pacific ocean.
2. They are formed with the collision of tectonic plates.

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

**Explanation:**

- Recently, **Astronaut and Oceanographer Kathy Sullivan**, who was the first American woman to walk in space in 1984, became the first woman and the fifth person in history to descend to the deepest known spot in the world's oceans.
- It is called the **Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench**, which is seven miles **below the surface of the Pacific Ocean**.
- According to NOAA, the deepest part called the **Challenger Deep**, which is **located below the surface of the western Pacific Ocean** is approximately 36,200 feet deep.
- The Mariana Trench is part of a global network of deep troughs that cut across the ocean floor. **They form when two tectonic plates collide**.
- At the collision point, one of the plates dives beneath the other into the Earth's mantle, creating an ocean trench.

60) Consider the following

1. Tribes - Gonds, Madiya, Muria
2. Karkabhat - Megalithic burial site
3. Dipadih - Temple complex dating back to the 7th Century
4. Ghotul - It is both an ancient tribal system of education as well as the campus with its own system of hierarchs.
5. Sonabai - Famous bas relief ornamentation works

Which one of the following States is associated with the above pairs?

- a. Odisha
- b. Jharkhand
- c. Chhattisgarh
- d. West Bengal

Answer: c

#### Explanation:

- The 30th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series titled “**Hidden Treasures of Chhattisgarh**” was released recently.

#### Highlights of Chhattisgarh

- It is the 9th largest state in India.
- Being Central Eastern state of India, it borders 7 states, 44% of land covered by forest, 34% of tribal population.
- With 3 National parks, 11 Wildlife sanctuaries, 1 Bio-sphere reserve it is one of India’s greenest state and well connected with rest of the country by air, rail and road network.
- Some of the best waterfalls of country are in Chhattisgarh, few of them are Chitrakote, Amritdhara, Pawai, Machli etc.,
- Chhattisgarh is also blessed with three shaktipeeths Champaranya, Rajim and Sheorinarayan.
- Wrought iron, bell metal and terracotta are famous handicrafts of Chhattisgarh.

#### Places and Experiences

- **Karkabhat** - Megalithic burial site generally ignored by tourists. Studies conducted in the area have identified 3 types of menhirs- Conical, pointed obliquely and bifurcated like a fish tail.
- **Dipadih** - Temple complex dating back to the 7th Century is probably the best kept archaeological secret of Chhattisgarh. Excavated stone pillars have been erected along the path next to the entrance on which are exhibited the mythological creatures.

- **Ghotul** – It is both an ancient tribal system of education as well as the campus with its own system of hierarchs.
- **Sonabai** – Famous bas relief ornamentation works of Chhattisgarh got its roots when Sonabai made little toys for her son Daroga Ram to lull him to sleep.

### **Bastar**

- It is one of the unexplored destinations which is in south of Chhattisgarh.
- Bastar region has spectacular scenic views, roads and hidden waterfalls.
- Kotumsar caves, which are largest series of caves after Meghalaya are in Chhattisgarh.
- Bastar Dussehra world's longest festival which is celebrated for 75 days has a different story related to goddess Dhanteswari.
- Gond's, Madiya, Muriaya's are some of the tribes making Bastar as the land of indigenous tribes.
- Handicrafts history dates back to Harappan civilization the technique used is lost wax technique.
- Third largest lord Ganesha statue in the world which made of a single sand stone. Cave paintings with 12000 years of history are in Bastar region.

### **61) Consider the following statements with respect to Quality Council of India (QCI)**

- 1. It is an autonomous body of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).**
- 2. Its objective is to establish and operate national accreditation structure and to monitor and administer the National Quality Campaign.**

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

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

**Answer: d**

### **Explanation:**

- National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), the two accreditation boards of the Quality Council of India (QCI) has recently organized a Webinar to commemorate the World Accreditation Day (WAD).

- The World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated on 9th June every year to highlight as well as promote the role of accreditation in trade & economy.
- The theme for WAD 2020 is “**Accreditation: Improving Food Safety**”, as decided by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

### Quality Council of India (QCI)

- It is an autonomous body of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Govt. of India.
- It has been created jointly with Indian industry represented by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) & Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM).
- The main objectives of QCI are (a) to establish and operate national accreditation structure (b) to monitor and administer the National Quality Campaign.

### 62) Consider the following statements with respect to Asiatic Lions

1. The population estimation of Asiatic Lions is conducted at an interval of four years.
2. The number of Asiatic Lions in Gir forest in Gujarat has increased recently by nearly 30%, the highest rise between the two census years.

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**

### **Explanation:**

- The population of Asiatic Lions has shown a steady increase with a population of 674 individuals with an **increase rate of 28.87%** (one of the highest growth rate so far) from the previous growth of 27% during 2015 (523 lions).
- The distribution of the lions has increased from an area of 22000 sq. km in 2015 to 30000 sq. km in 2020 thus **increasing the distribution area by 36%**.
- Multiple strategies and interventions have been implemented in the Asiatic Lion Landscape that have majorly contributed to the current conservation success of the Asiatic lions viz. people’s participation, use of modern technology, wildlife health care including as import of CDV vaccine, habitat management, increase in prey base, human-lion conflict mitigation, etc.

## Background

- Asiatic lions are present in Protected Areas and agro-pastoral landscape of Saurashtra covering nine districts in a sprawling expanse of over 30000 sq. km which is termed as the Asiatic Lion Landscape.
- The population estimation of Asiatic Lions is conducted at an interval of **five years**.
- The last population estimation exercise was conducted in May 2015 which pegged the lion numbers at 523, a 27% increase from the estimation of 2010.

### 63) Consider the following statements with respect to Food Safety Index 2019-20

1. It was released by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
2. It was released on World Food Safety Day under the theme: Food Safety is everyone business.

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**

#### **Explanation:**

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India recently launched food safety index of the year 2019-20.
- The states of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have topped the ranking.
- Among the smaller states, Goa topped the ranking followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Among Union Territories Chandigarh, Delhi and Andaman islands topped the ranking.
- The Food Safety Index was released on World Food Safety Day under the theme **Theme: Food Safety is everyone business.**

The index was prepared based on five parameters as follows

1. Training

2. Capacity
3. Compliance
4. Food Testing Facilities
5. Human Resource and Institutional Data

**64) Operation Desert Chase, sometimes seen in the news recently, is related to which of the following?**

- a. Anti-espionage
- b. Prevent Infiltration
- c. Elimination of Tropical disease
- d. None of the above

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Rajasthan Police has recently arrested two civil defence employees in Jaipur based on Military Intelligence inputs passed under the Operation Desert Chase.

**Operation Desert Chase**

- It is an **anti-espionage operation** that was started by the Military Intelligence in 2019.
- The Directorate of Military Intelligence (M.I.) is the Intelligence arm of the Indian Army.

**65) Consider the following statements with respect to the Coral Reefs**

1. **The Coral Triangle Day is a multilateral partnership of six countries including India to shed light on ocean conservation and the numerous ways to protect and conserve the Coral Triangle.**
2. **World's Largest 3D-Printed Reef was installed in the Maldives to repopulate the coral reefs.**

**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**



**Explanation:**

- The **Coral Triangle Day**, held every **June 9** is a massive celebration of the **Coral Triangle**, the world's epicentre of marine biodiversity.
- It is envisioned to be an **annual, open-sourced event** that brings together individuals, organizations, and establishments on one special day of the year to **shed light on ocean conservation and the numerous ways to protect and conserve the Coral Triangle**.
- The first **Coral Triangle Day** was celebrated on **June 9, 2012** in conjunction with **World Oceans Day** which is celebrated every year on **June 8**.
- It is a **multilateral partnership of six countries** which includes **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste**.
- The **Coral Triangle**, the world's epicentre of marine diversity, is **one of the 3 mega ecological complexes on our planet**, together with the **Congo Basin** and the **Amazon Rainforest**.
- World's Largest **3D-Printed Reef** was installed in the **Maldives** to repopulate the coral reefs.
- Live corals were transplanted within the reefs with the expectation that these corals will repopulate within few years.



66) Consider the following statements with respect to Genetically Modified (GM) Crops

1. In GM, a selected individual genes has been transferred from one organism into another, also between nonrelated species.
2. Herbicide tolerance is achieved through the introduction of a gene from a virus conveying resistance to some herbicides.
3. Bt cotton is the only GM crop that is allowed in 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: b

**Explanation:**

- The **farmers' union** Shetkari Sanghatana (Maharashtra) **announced** fresh plans in its **agitation for use of genetically modified seeds**.
- In the current kharif season, **farmers would undertake mass sowing of GM seeds** for maize, soyabean, mustard brinjal and herbicide tolerant (Ht) cotton, **although these are not approved**.
- Farmers had carried out a similar movement last year, too.
- GM is a technology that involves **inserting DNA into the genome of an organism**. To produce a GM plant, new DNA is transferred into plant cells.
- It **allows selected individual genes to be transferred from one organism into another, also between nonrelated species**.
- The **alien gene** could be from a **plant, an animal** or even a **soil bacterium**.
- **Herbicide tolerance** is achieved **through** the introduction of a gene from a **bacterium** conveying resistance to some herbicides.
- **Virus resistance** is achieved **through** the introduction of a gene from certain **viruses** which cause disease in plants.
- **Bt cotton is the only GM crop that is allowed in India**.

67) Consider the following statements with respect to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

1. It brings together member countries and a range of partners that collaborate on key global issues at national, regional and local levels.
2. Colombia was the most recent country to join the OECD.
3. International Migration Outlook report is released by OECD.

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

**Explanation:**

- **World economy to contract** at least 6% in 2020, according to **OECD economic outlook**.
- It also stated that **India's economy could contract** by as much as 7.3% in FY21 in the event of second Covid outbreak.
- **OECD is an international economic forum** which brings together **Member countries and a range of partners that collaborate on key global issues at national, regional and local levels**.
- Today, it has **37 Member countries** as well as with **more than 70 non-member economies** to promote economic growth, prosperity, and sustainable development.
- The **most recent country to join** the OECD was **Colombia**, in **April 2020**.
- **International Migration Outlook, Government at a Glance** report are released by OECD.

68) Consider the following statements with respect to the International Criminal Court (ICC)

1. It is a permanent autonomous court established to investigate, prosecute and try individuals accused of committing the serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.
2. The Court has a jurisdiction with respect to any person who was under the age of 18 when the crimes concerned were committed.

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

**Explanation:**

- The US President authorizes sanctions on International Criminal Court (ICC) officials.
- The decision comes in response to the court's decision to open an investigation into war crimes in Afghanistan carried out by all sides, including the US.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a permanent autonomous international court established to investigate, prosecute and try individuals accused of committing the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, namely the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.
- 
- The ICC prosecutes individuals, not groups or States.
- The ICC is a permanent autonomous court and not an organ of UN.
- The ICC does not replace national criminal justice systems, rather, it complements them.
- The ICC has jurisdiction only with respect to events which occurred after the entry into force of its Statute on 1 July 2002.
- The Court has no jurisdiction with respect to any person who was under the age of 18 when the crimes concerned were committed.

69) Athirappilly hydroelectric project which was in news recently is proposed in?

- a. Kerala
- b. Andhra Pradesh
- c. Telangana
- d. Karnataka

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

- Recently, the Kerala government has given its nod for the Athirappilly hydroelectric project.
- The government's NOC permitting the Athirappilly hydroelectric project has evoked strong response from tribes people and ecologists who have been campaigning against it.
- A dam is also proposed in this project, to be built on the Chalakudy River.
- The Chalakudy River is a tributary of River Periyar and it originates in the Anamalai region of Tamil Nadu.

70) Consider the following pairs

Boundary Lines

- Countries

1. 17th Parallel

- USA and Canada

- |                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2. 38th Parallel | - North Korea and South Korea |
| 3. 49th Parallel | - North and South Vietnam     |

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- Recently, North Korea announced it was cutting off all communication with Seoul, calling South Korea the enemy.
- According to experts, these moves may have been a result of North Korea's frustrations at South Korea's inability to revive, under US pressure, inter-Korean economic projects that had been beneficial to Pyongyang.
- 38th parallel, popular name given to latitude 38° N that in East Asia demarcates North Korea and South Korea.
- The 17th Parallel was the provisional military demarcation line between North and South Vietnam established by the Geneva Accords of 1954.
- The 49th Parallel is the line between the US and Canada and it is the longest undefended international boundary in the world.

71) India Rankings 2020 for Higher Educational Institutions was launched recently by?

- a. University Grants Commission
- b. Ministry of Human Resource Development
- c. National Assessment and Accreditation Council
- d. None of the above

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- Ministry of Human Resource Development has recently released "India Rankings 2020" of Institutions of Higher Education in various categories on the basis of their performance on five broad categories of parameters.
- The Rankings 2020 was released virtually in 10 categories.
- This is the fifth consecutive edition of India Rankings of the institutions of higher education in India.

- In 2020, an addition to nine rankings i.e one domain “Dental” has been introduced for the first time bringing the total tally to 10 categories / subject domains.

**72) Consider the following statements with respect to Sahakar Mitra Scheme**

- 1. It will help cooperative institutions access new and innovative ideas of young professionals while the interns will gain experience of working in the field to be self-reliant.**
- 2. It is an initiative of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.**

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

**Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP)**

- It is an initiative of **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.
- It will provide the young professionals an opportunity of practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC and cooperatives as a paid intern.
- NCDC has also introduced a complementary scheme to promote start-up cooperative ventures.
- Sahakar Mitra would also provide an opportunity to professionals from academic institutions to develop leadership and entrepreneurial roles through cooperatives as Farmers Producers Organizations (FPO).
- Sahakar Mitra scheme is expected to assist cooperative institutions access new and innovative ideas of young professionals while the interns gain experience of working in the field giving confidence to be self-reliant.
- It is expected to be a win-win situation both for cooperatives as well as for the young professionals.
- Under the scheme, professional graduates in disciplines such as Agriculture and allied areas, IT etc. will be eligible for internship.
- Professionals who are pursuing or have completed their MBA degrees in Agri-business, Cooperation, Finance, International Trade, Forestry, Rural Development, Project Management, etc. will also be eligible.

73) Consider the following statements with respect to Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)

1. It is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament to look after the implementation of National Agriculture Market Scheme on e-platform.
2. The Society is governed by Board of Management which is chaired, ex-officio, by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as the President.

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

**Explanation:**

**Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**

- It is an Autonomous Society promoted by Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.
- It was registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 on 18th January, 1994
- The Society is governed by Board of Management which is chaired, ex-officio, by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as the President and the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, is the ex-officio Vice-President.
- SFAC is implementing the central schemes of Government of India namely VCA, EGCGS for economic inclusion of small and marginal farmers in agribusiness activities.
- Society is pioneer in organising small and marginal farmers as Farmers Interest Groups, Farmers Producers Organisation and Farmers Producers Company for endowing them with bargaining power and economies of scale.
- It provides a platform for increased accessibility and cheaper availability of agricultural inputs to small and marginal farmers and in establishing forward and backward linkages in supply chain management.
- This initiative has triggered mobilization of farmers for aggregation across the country with ultimate aim of sustainable business model and augmented incomes.
- The Society has been entrusted with the task of implementation of the critically important Delhi Kisan Mandi and National Agriculture Market Scheme on e-platform to progressively free agricultural trade and offer price discovery to farmers.



74) Consider the following statements

1. It is a World Heritage Site.
2. It spreads across four valleys-Sainj valley, Jiwa Nal valley, Tirthan Valley and Parvati valley.
3. Four of its mammal species and three of its bird species are globally threatened, including the musk deer and the western horned tragopan.
4. The ambient temperature of the park can vary from  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  in January to  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  in June.

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

- a. Kaziranga National Park
- b. Silent Valley National Park
- c. Khangchendzonga National Park
- d. None of the above

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

**Great Himalayan National Park**

- It is a **UNESCO's World Heritage Site** located in the Kullu region of Himachal Pradesh.
- Great Himalayan National Park is spread across four valleys-Sainj valley, Jiwa Nal valley, Tirthan Valley and Parvati valley.
- The park protects over 1,000 plant species, including many medicinal herbs, 31 mammal species and 209 bird species, as well as amphibians, reptiles and insects.
- Four of GHNP's mammal species and three of its bird species are globally threatened, including the musk deer and the western horned tragopan.

75) Consider the following statements with respect to Seismic Zones in India

1. India has been classified into five seismic zones on the basis of historical seismic activity.
2. National Centre for Seismology is responsible for classifying India into different seismic zones.

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: d**

**Explanation:**

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards** has classified regions in India into **four seismic zones** on the basis of historical seismic activity.
- These are zones II, III, IV and V.
- Among these, Zone V is the most seismically active region and zone II is the least active.
- According to Modified Mercalli scale, the seismic zone intensity are classified as zone II (low intensity zone), zone III (moderate intensity zone), zone IV (severe intensity zone) and zone V (very severe intensity zone).

**76) Consider the following statements with respect to Data Lakes, often seen in the news recently.**

- 1. It is a centralized repository that allows you to store all your structured and unstructured data at any scale.**
- 2. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is the first construction sector organisation to go 'Fully Digital' using this platform.**

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- As one of the biggest reform, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has gone 'Fully Digital', with the launch of unique cloud based and Artificial Intelligence powered Big Data Analytics platform - Data Lake and Project Management Software.
- The entire project management work flow of NHAI is transformed from manual to online portal based, wherein the complete project execution operations including 'workflow with time lines' and 'alert mechanism' have been configured.
- All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through portal only.

- With advance analytics, the **Data Lake software will forecast the delays, likely disputes and will give advance alerts.**
- Thus apart from expediting the decision making, it will also facilitate in taking correct and timely decisions as the system is likely to predict financial impacts of different alternatives based on the historical data. This will reduce a lot of disputes.

### Data Lakes

- A data lake is a centralized repository that allows you to store all your structured and unstructured data at any scale.
- You can store your data as-is, without having to first structure the data, and run different types of analytics – from dashboards and visualizations to big data processing, real-time analytics, and machine learning to guide better decisions.

77) Consider the following statements with respect to Sedition Law (Section 124A) in India

1. **Sedition includes an attempt to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India, where disaffection includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.**
2. **It is a non-bailable offence and a person charged under this law is barred from a government job, have to live without passport.**

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**

### **Explanation:**

- A student-activist, jailed for **sedition** for allegedly raising slogan at an anti-CAA rally, was released on bail recently.
- The **Indian Penal Code (IPC) defines sedition (Section 124A) as an offence committed when** "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or **excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India**".
- **Disaffection includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.**

- However, comments without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, will not constitute an offence under this section.
- Sedition is a **non-bailable offence**. Punishment under the Section 124A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which fine may be added.
- **A person charged** under this law is **barred from a government job**.
- They **have to live without their passport** and must produce themselves in the court at all times as and when required.

**78. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct about Sant Dnyaneshwar?**

- 1. He was a 13th-century saint philosopher from the Matura region.**
- 2. He authored Dnyaneshwari which is a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita.**
- 3. He is regarded as one of the founders of the Varkari Bhakthi movement.**

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Sant Dnyaneshwar also referred to as Jnaneshwar was a 13th-century Indian Marathi saint, poet, philosopher and yogi of the Nath Vaishnava tradition.
- He authored Dnyaneshwari (a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita) and Amrutanubhav. These are the oldest surviving literary works in the Marathi language, under the patronage of the Yadava dynasty of Devagiri, and these are considered to be milestones in Marathi literature.
- Dnyaneshwar's ideas reflect the non-dualistic Advaita Vedanta philosophy. He was an ardent devotee of Lord Vitthala (a form of Lord Vishnu) of Pandharpur.
- His legacy inspired saint-poets such as Eknath and Tukaram, and he has been regarded as one of the founders of the Varkari (Vithoba-Krishna) Bhakti movement tradition of Hinduism in Maharashtra.

**79. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the Attorney General?**

- 1. He/she is appointed by the President of India on the advice of Union Cabinet and holds office during the pleasure of the President.**
- 2. He/she must be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court.**

3. The Attorney General has the right of audience in all Courts in India as well as the right to participate in the proceedings of the Parliament, though not to vote

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Attorney General for India is the Indian government's chief legal advisor and is a primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India.
- They are appointed by the President of India on the advice of Union Cabinet under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- They must be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court. (They must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President and must be a citizen of India.)
- The Attorney General has the right of audience in all Courts in India as well as the right to participate in the proceedings of the Parliament, though not to vote.

**80. The RECOVERY trial is associated with which of the following?**

- a. It is the experiment conducted by ISRO to test the efficacy of its pad abort system.
- b. It is the experiment involving the study of novel bacteria in absorbing oil spill in the Russian Arctic region.
- c. It is a large randomised controlled trial to test the efficacy of potential drugs for treating COVID-19 patients.
- d. It is a mock drill conducted by the NDRF to check its preparedness to the landfall of severe cyclones

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- • The RECOVERY trial is a large randomised controlled trial to test five drugs, including hydroxychloroquine and convalescent plasma therapy for treating COVID-19 in patients in U.K. hospitals.

**81. Which of the following correctly describes the goal of the Jal Jeevan Mission?**

- a. It envisages providing piped drinking water to all rural households by 2024.
- b. The scheme aims to provide piped water to every household within the next 5 years
- c. It is envisaged as a demand-driven and community centred program to provide sustainable access to drinking water to people in rural areas.
- d. It envisages providing piped drinking water to all BPL households by 2022.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Jal Jeevan Mission envisages providing piped drinking water to all rural households by 2024.

82) Consider the following statements with respect to *Exotic Species*

1. It is an invasive, non-indigenous species of plants or animals that are growing in a non-native environment.
2. According to the new advisory in India, the exotic live species includes only the animals named under the Appendices I of the CITES.

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

- The **Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC)** has issued an **advisory** saying people **importing “exotic live species” will have to make a voluntary disclosure.**
- **Exotic species**, often referred to as **alien, non-native, non-indigenous**, or introduced species, are those that **occur in areas outside of their natural geographic range.**
- It includes **an animal or plant species moved from their original range to a new one.**
- **According to the new advisory, the phrase “exotic live species” includes “animals named under the Appendices I, II and III of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.**
- It does not include species from the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

**83) Consider the following statements about *Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)***

1. It was started by UNESCO to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems.
2. It has recently designated 4 tea cultivation sites in Asia as GIAHS.
3. Assam Tea cultivation is one of designated tea cultivation sites.

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

- Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by the FAO to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems.
- GIAHS are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
- Three recognized GIAHS sites in India:
  1. Kuttanad below Sea Level Farming System of Kerala
  2. Koraput Traditional Agriculture of Odisha.
  3. Pampore Saffron Heritage of Kashmir.
- Recently FAO has designated 4 tea cultivation sites in China, Korea and Japan as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.
  1. Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem (China)
  2. Fuzhou Jasmine and Tea Culture System (China)
  3. Traditional Tea-grass Integrated System (Japan)
  4. Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem, Hwagae-myeon (Republic of Korea)

**84) Consider the following statements with respect to Forex Reserves**

1. They are external assets in the form of Gold, Special Drawing Rights of World Bank and Foreign Currency Assets accumulated.
2. Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance functions as the custodian and manager of these forex reserves.
3. A rise in forex reserve may help in strengthening the rupee against dollar.

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: a**

**Explanation:**

- India's foreign exchange reserves are rising and are slated to hit the \$500 billion mark soon.
- The level of foreign exchange reserves has steadily increased by 8,400 per cent from \$5.8 billion as of March 1991 to the current level.

**Forex Reserves**

- They are external assets in the form gold, SDRs (special drawing rights of the **IMF**) and foreign currency assets (capital inflows to the capital markets, FDI and external commercial borrowings) accumulated by India.
- The Reserve Bank functions as the custodian and manager of forex reserves, and operates within the overall policy framework agreed upon with the government.

**Objectives**

- The International Monetary Fund says official foreign exchange reserves are held in support of a range of objectives like **supporting and maintaining confidence in the policies for monetary and exchange rate management** including the capacity to intervene in support of the national or union currency.
- It will also limit external vulnerability by maintaining foreign currency liquidity to absorb shocks during times of crisis or when access to borrowing is curtailed.
- Reserves will provide a level of confidence to markets that a country can meet its external obligations, demonstrate the backing of domestic currency by external assets, assist the government in meeting its foreign exchange needs and external debt obligations and maintain a reserve for national disasters or emergencies.

**85) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently constituted a five-member Internal Working Group headed by P K Mohanty for which of the following purposes?**

- a. To review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian Private Sector Banks
- b. To review prices for customers on ATM transactions, with a broader objective to improve rural penetration of teller machines
- c. To propose long term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSMEs
- d. None of the above

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The RBI has recently constituted an internal working group to review bank licensing norms, guidelines on promoter ownership and corporate structure for private sector banks.
- The five-member panel will be headed by **Dr P K Mohanty**.
- The committee will review licensing guidelines and regulations relating to ownership and control in private banks and suggest appropriate norms shedding light on excessive concentration of ownership and control.
- Importantly, the committee will look into promoter shareholding norms at the initial licensing stage and later, along with the timelines for stake dilution.

**86) Consider the following statements with respect to Aarogyapath**

1. It is a National Healthcare Supply Chain Information Platform developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies for manufacturers, suppliers and customers.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- Union Government has recently launched a National Healthcare Supply Chain Information platform **AarogyaPath**.
- It is an initiative of **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)**.
- It aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies for manufacturers, suppliers and customers.

**87) Consider the following statements with respect to Raja Parba festival**

1. It is a three-day-long festival celebrated in the state of Odisha.
2. The festival is dedicated to Mother Earth and people do not undertake any construction works or tilling during the festival.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- Apart from the world-famous Ratha Yatra, which takes place in June, Odia people of **Odisha** also celebrate a unique festival called **Raja or Raja Parba**.

**Raja Parba**

- It is a three-day-long festival dedicated to Mother Earth (Bhuma Devi) and womanhood at large.
- The festivities begin a day before Mithuna Sankranti and conclude two days after that.
- The first day of the festival is called Pahili Raja, the second is Mithuna Sankranti and the third Bhu daha or Basi Raja.
- During the Parba, Odia people do not undertake any construction works or tilling that requires the earth to be dug.
- And by not doing such activities, they pay ode to the Mother Earth who needs a break from routine work.
- This festival is also associated with the end of the summer season and the arrival of the monsoon. And therefore, it is also associated with agriculture and cultivation related communities and activities.

**88) Consider the following statements with respect to World Food Prize, 2020**

1. It aims to recognise scientists and others who have improved the quality and availability of food.
2. It has been awarded annually by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
3. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the father of India's green revolution, was the first recipient of this award in 1987.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Indian-American soil scientist - Dr. Rattan Lal - has been declared the winner of the World Food Prize 2020.

**World Food Prize 2020**

- It is the foremost international honor recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world.
- The World Food Prize was created in 1986 with sponsorship by General Foods Corporation.
- It is presented by the **World Food Prize Foundation (USA)**, which has over 80 companies, individuals, etc. as donors.
- It is also known as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture".
- It is an **annual award** that recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply including plant, animal and soil science; food science and technology; nutrition, rural development, etc.
- It is open for any individual without regard to race, religion, nationality or political beliefs.
  
- In addition to the cash award of \$2,50,000, the laureate receives a sculpture designed by the noted artist and designer, Saul Bass.
- The Prize is presented each October on or around UN World Food Day (16th October).
- Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in global agriculture, conceived the Prize. He is also known as the Father of the Green Revolution.
- **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the father of India's green revolution, was the first recipient of this award in 1987.**

**89) Consider the following statements with respect to Goods & Services Tax (GST) Council**

- 1. Every decision of the GST Council shall be taken at a meeting, by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.**
- 2. The Council is a Statutory body under GST Act.**

**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

**Explanation:**

- Recently, Union **Finance Minister chaired** the **40th GST Council meet**.
- This was the first meeting of the GST Council during lockdown in which the impact of Covid-19 on revenue collection was discussed.
- The **GST Council is a constitutional body established under Article 279A** of Indian Constitution.
- It **makes recommendations to the Union and State Government** on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- The GST Council is **chaired by the Union Finance Minister** and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.
- **Every decision of the GST Council** shall be taken at a meeting, **by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes** of the **members present and voting**, in accordance with the following principles, namely: —
  1. the vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one third of the total votes cast, and
  2. the votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.
- The GST Council shall determine the procedure in the performance of its functions.

90) Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

1. It is the only organ of the United Nations that has the power to make decisions that member states are obligated to implement.
2. Each year the UN General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for UNSC, out of 10 in total, for a two-year term.

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

**Explanation:**

- The 193-member United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) votes for contenders to five non-permanent seats at the UN Security Council for 2021-22.
- **India is standing unopposed as the nominee for the Asia-Pacific seat**, and needs two-thirds of UNGA members, or 129 votes, to be confirmed.
- Mexico is also unopposed in its bid for the Latin American and Caribbean seat, while there is a straight contest between Kenya and late entrant Djibouti for the African seat.

### UN Security Council

- The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council.
- UN gives UNSC, the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.
- All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.
- While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, **only the Security Council** has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

### Non-Permanent Members

- Each year the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of 10 in total) for a two-year term.
- The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis as follows: five for African and Asian States; one for Eastern European States; two for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and two for Western European and other States.

**91) Which of the following countries are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)?**

1. **India**
2. **Ireland**
3. **Norway**
4. **Portugal**

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a. 3 and 4 only
- b. 2 and 4 only
- c. 2, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

- **Ireland** has a **unique position** as a member of the European Union that is not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance.

92) Consider the following statements with respect to Solar Eclipse

1. A solar eclipse occurs on a full moon day when the Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun and when all the three objects are aligned.
2. An annular solar eclipse occurs when the apparent size of the Moon is slightly less than that of the Sun, which leaves the outer rim of the latter uncovered, giving the appearance of a “ring of fire”.

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

**Explanation:**

- An annular solar eclipse will occur on 21 June, 2020.
- It is the deepest annular solar eclipse of this century, with the Sun appearing as a necklace of pearls.
- From India annular phase will be visible in the morning from some places within a narrow corridor of northern part of the country (parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttarakhand) and it will be seen as partial solar eclipse from the rest part of the country.

**Solar Eclipse**

- A **solar eclipse** happens on a **new moon day**, whereas the lunar eclipse happens on a full moon day.
- A solar eclipse occurs on a new moon day when the Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun and when all the three objects are aligned.
- An annular solar eclipse occurs when the apparent size of the Moon is slightly less than that of the Sun, which leaves the outer rim of the latter uncovered, giving the appearance of a “ring of fire”.

93) Consider the following statements with respect to Pashupatinath Temple Complex

1. It is the largest temple complex in Cambodia and a UNESCO's World Heritage Site.
2. The temple complex is dedicated to Lord Shiva and stretches on both sides of the Bagmati River.

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

**Explanation:**

- India has recently pledged to construct Rs 2.33 crore sanitation facility at the iconic **Pashupatinath Temple complex** to improve the infrastructure in the holy shrine for the pilgrims.
- The project would be constructed under the **Nepal-Bharat Maitri: Development Partnership** as a high impact community development scheme by India.

**Pashupatinath Temple Complex**

- It is the largest temple complex in **Nepal** and stretches on both sides of the **Bagmati River** and sees thousands of worshippers from Nepal and India every day.
- The temple complex is also listed under the UNESCO World Heritage site.
- The temple built in the 5th century and later renovated by Malla kings is **dedicated to Lord Shiva**.

94) India Mobile Payments Market Report, 2020 was released recently by?

- a. State Bank of India
- b. S&P Global Market Intelligence
- c. Moody's Banking India Association
- d. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- Mobile payments and card transactions exceeded cash withdrawals from automated teller machines (ATMs) for the first time in 2019, indicating that the country's push towards digital payments was bearing fruit, according to **S&P Global Market Intelligence's 2020 India Mobile Payments Market Report**.
- Mobile payments, initiated by payment apps comprising account-to-account transfers and payments made from stored-value accounts, rose 163% to \$287 billion in 2019.
- By comparison, point-of-sale transactions completed using debit and credit cards, including online and in apps, rose 24% to \$204 billion, S&P said.
- Also, according to the report, India ranked favourably among countries that built instant payment schemes, processing at least five times more transactions than the second-largest market based on an analysis of real-time payment volumes.

**95) Consider the following statements with respect to Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**

- 1. It is released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.**
- 2. Primary articles component carries the highest weightage in WPI.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- May month **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** at -3.21%, has turned negative for the first time in four and a half years.
- The **government had suspended the release of WPI data last month** due to the nationwide lockdown.
- The biggest contributor to WPI deflation was crude, petroleum and natural gas, which showed a fall of 46.21%.
- The **Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry Of Commerce & Industry** is releasing index.
- **Manufactured Products** has the **highest weightage (64.23%)**
- Primary Articles (Weight 22.62%), Fuel & Power (Weight 13.15%), Wpi Food Index (Weight 24.38%).

**96) With respect to Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE), consider the following statements:**

1. They are being established to strengthen India's pursuit for excellence in Olympics.
2. They will be established under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport's Khelo India Scheme.

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

**Explanation:**

- The Sports Ministry is all set to establish Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE).

**Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE)**

- They are established under the ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport's flagship, Khelo India Scheme.
- One KISCE will be identified in each state and union territory, with an effort to create a robust sporting ecosystem in the entire country.
- In the first leg, the Ministry has identified state-owned sports facilities in eight states of India, including, Karnataka, Odisha, Kerala, Telengana and the north east states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland which will be upgraded into Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE).
- The Khelo India State Centre of Excellence are being established to strengthen India's pursuit for excellence in Olympics.

97) Consider the following statements with respect to Galwan River

1. The Galwan River flows from Ladakh in to the Aksai Chin region.
2. It flows westwards to join the Shyok River, one of the main tributaries of Sutlej River.

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: d

**Explanation:**

- The Galwan River flows **from the disputed Aksai Chin region to Ladakh of India.**
- It originates in the area of Samzungling on the eastern side of the Karakoram range and flows west to join the Shyok River, one of the upstream tributaries of the **Indus River.**



98) In the Indian Constitution, the Political Reservation has been provided for which of the following Communities?

1. Scheduled Castes
2. Women Community
3. Anglo-Indian Community
4. Scheduled Tribes

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a. 1 and 4 only
- b. 1, 2 and 4 only
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- Article 243D (2) of the constitution states that: Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under 243D(1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.
- Article 243(D) (3) states that: Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.
- Article 330(1) states that seats shall be reserved in the House of the People for
  1. the Scheduled Castes;
  2. the Scheduled Tribes except the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam
  3. the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam
- In January 2020, the Anglo-Indian reserved seats in the Parliament and State Legislatures of India were abolished by the 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019.

**99) Consider the following pairs**

1. Neera - Health drink obtained from the Neem Tree
2. Palmgur - Jaggery obtained from the Palm Tree

**Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently rolled out a unique project to produce **Neera and Palmgur (jaggery)** which has huge potential to create employment in the country.
- The project that aims at promoting Neera as a substitute to soft drinks while also creating self-employment to Adivasis and traditional trappers was launched

recently at Dahanu in Palghar district of Maharashtra, a state with more than 50 lakh **palm trees**.

- The project has been rolled out on the initiative of Ministry of MSME.

### Neera

- They are **extracted from the palm trees** before sunrise.
- It is a nutrient-rich health drink consumed in many Indian states.
- However, due to lack of institutionalized market technique, the commercial production and large scale marketing of Neera has not commenced yet.
- Neera is organic and rich in nutrients and thus a complete health drink.
- Neera has high export potential as it is also consumed in countries like Sri Lanka, Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Myanmar.
- India has an abundance of palm fields in states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar that can make India a leading producer of Neera globally.

**100) Consider the following statements with respect to the special features of Coir Geo-textiles?**

- 1. It has an impermeable, natural and strong fabric with high durability.**
- 2. It is naturally resistant to rot, molds and moisture, and free from any microbial attack hence it needs no chemical treatment.**

**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**

### **Explanation:**

- Coir is a 100% natural fiber, obtained from a renewable source – the coconut husk.
- Coir Geo Textile is naturally resistant to rot, molds and moisture, and free from any microbial attack hence it needs no chemical treatment.
- It has a **permeable**, natural and strong fabric with high durability.
- It protects the land surface and promotes quick vegetation.
- It is totally biodegradable, and helps in soil stabilisation.
- It can dissipate the energy of flowing water and absorb the excess solar radiation.

- It has been accredited for construction of rural roads.

101) Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

1. It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
2. The UNCCD COP 14 has adopted the Delhi Declaration.

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

**Explanation:**

- UNGA acknowledged June 17 as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
- The day was officially declared by the UNGA in the year December 1994 as, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the **drylands**, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.
- The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands.
- The UNCCD COP 14 ended on 13 September 2019, has adopted the Delhi Declaration in which parties expressed commitment for a range of issues, including gender and health, ecosystem restoration, taking action on climate change, private sector engagement, Peace Forest Initiative and recovery of 26 million hectares of degraded land in India.

102. Consider the following statements:

1. Largest reserves of coal in the world is found in India.
2. India is the second largest producer of coal.
3. India is the second largest importer of coal.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Largest reserves of coal in the world is found in the U.S.
- India is the second largest producer of coal.
- India is the second largest importer of coal.

**103. "Rule of Law Index" is released by:**

- a. International Court of Justice
- b. World Justice Project
- c. International Criminal Court
- d. European Court of Justice

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- World Justice Project (WJP) releases Rule of Law Index.
- The Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool by the World Justice Project (WJP) designed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice.
- The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law worldwide.
- It engages advocates from across the globe and from diverse interests and disciplines to advance the rule of law.
- The Index measures countries' rule of law performance across eight factors:
  1. Constraints on Government Powers,
  2. Absence of Corruption,
  3. Open Government,
  4. Fundamental Rights,
  5. Order and Security,
  6. Regulatory Enforcement,
  7. Civil Justice, and
  8. Criminal Justice.

**104. Consider the following statements:**

1. References of Megalithic culture can be found in ancient Tamil Sangam literature.
2. Majority of megalithic sites are found in Peninsular India.
3. A Menhir is a burial monument, or tomb, of the megalithic age.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Megalithic culture finds several references in ancient Tamil Sangam literature.
- Megaliths are spread across the Indian subcontinent.
- The majority of megalithic sites are found in Peninsular India, concentrated in the states of Maharashtra (mainly in Vidarbha), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- A menhir is a burial monument, or tomb, of the megalithic age.

**105. Consider the following statements with respect to International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC):**

1. It is a multi-modal transportation established in 2015.
2. The corridor connects Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran.
3. Russia, India and Iran are the founding member states of INSTC.
4. Syria, Oman and Azerbaijan are the members of INSTC.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 2 and 3 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d. 2, 3 and 4 only

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transportation **established in 2000** for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.
- This corridor connects Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and is then connected to Saint Petersburg and North Europe via Russia.
- Russia, India and Iran are the founding member states of INSTC.
- Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Turkey, Syria and Ukraine are the other members.

**106. With reference to the *Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)*, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It was originally registered under Section 25 of Companies Act, 1956, as a Company not for profit.**
- 2. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.**
- 3. It is the only CPSU dedicated to the solar energy sector.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : B

**"Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd" (SECI) is a CPSU under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), set up on 20th Sept, 2011 to facilitate the implementation of JNNSM and achievement of targets set therein. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

**It is the only CPSU dedicated to the solar energy sector. Hence, statement 3 is correct. It was originally incorporated as a section-25 (not for profit) company under the Companies Act, 1956. However, through a Government of India decision, the company has recently been converted into a Section-3 company under the Companies Act, 2013. The mandate of the company has also been broadened to cover the entire renewable energy domain. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

**107. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Recently, the annual Ganges river Dolphin census was undertaken by the World Organisation for Animal Health in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department.**
- 2. Gangetic River dolphin is listed on CITES Appendix-I.**

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

Correct Answer : B

The Gangetic River dolphin is primarily found in the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers and their tributaries in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. Recently, the annual Ganges river Dolphin census was undertaken by the World Wide Fund for Nature- India in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department along about 250 km. long riverine stretch of Upper Ganga river basin between Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary and Narora Ramsar site. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.** It is listed on CITES Appendix-I. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**108) With respect to Sickle-Cell Disease, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an auto immune disorder that affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body.
2. It is characterized by a modification in the shape of the red blood cell from a smooth, donut-shape into a crescent or half-moon shape.

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**

**Explanation:**

- **World Sickle Cell Day** was first organised by the United Nation General Assembly in the year 2008 to recognise sickle cell disease as a public health problem.
- After that, the UN designated **19 June** to be observed as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day globally.

**Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)**



- SCD is a group of **inherited** disorders that affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body. **(Not an auto-immune disorder)**
- Healthy red blood cells are round, and they move through small blood vessels to carry oxygen to all parts of the body.
- People with SCD have atypical hemoglobin molecules called hemoglobin S, which can distort red blood cells into a sickle, or crescent, shape.
- The sickle cells die early, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells.
- Also, when they travel through small blood vessels, they get stuck and clog the blood flow.
- This can cause pain and other serious problems such infection, acute chest syndrome and stroke.
- Signs and symptoms of sickle cell disease usually begin in early childhood.
- Characteristic features of this disorder include a low number of red blood cells (anemia), repeated infections, and periodic episodes of pain.

**109) SATYABHAMA Portal was launched recently by which of the following Ministries?**

- a. Ministry of Mines
- b. Ministry of Law and Justice
- c. Ministry of Science and Technology
- d. Ministry of Human Resources and Development

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- **Ministry of Mines** has recently launched SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal for Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines.

**Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement Portal**

- The portal has been designed, developed and implemented by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Mines Informatics Division.
- In contrast to present system where research proposals are submitted physically by the Scientists / Researchers, SATYABHAMA Portal allows online submission of project proposals along with monitoring of the projects and utilization of funds / grants.
- The researchers can also submit progress reports and Final Technical Reports of the projects in the electronic format in the portal.
- A User Manual is also available on the Portal where the stepwise procedures for submission of project proposals have been highlighted.
- The Portal is integrated with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog.

**110) Consider the following statements with respect to Science and Technology Scheme of Ministry of Mines**

1. It is a scheme launched by the Indian Bureau of Mines in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and Department of Space for monitoring of Mining activity through satellite.
2. Under the Scheme, Ministry of Mines provides funds to Academic institutions, universities and national institutes recognized by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

**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: d**

**Explanation:**

**Science and Technology Scheme of Ministry of Mines**

- **Ministry of Mines** provides funds to Academic institutions, universities, national institutes and R&D institutions **recognized with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research**, Government of India for implementing R&D projects under Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines.
- The Scheme is being implemented with the vision to promote research in applied geosciences, mineral exploration, mining and allied areas, mineral processing, optimum utilization and conservation of the mineral resources of the country, for the benefit of the nation and its people.
- The SATYABHAMA Portal, which was launched recently, will increase efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the Scheme.

**111) Which of the following indices are compiled by the Central Statistics Office of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation?**

1. CPI – Rural
2. CPI – Urban
3. CPI – Rural Labourers
4. CPI – Industrial workers
5. CPI – Agricultural Labourers

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a. All except 1 and 2

- b. All except 1 and 3
- c. All except 3, 4 and 5
- d. None

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The **CPI – Industrial Workers** and **CPI – Agricultural & Rural Labourers** are occupation specific and centre specific and are compiled by **Labour Bureau of Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- Since these indices pertain to specific segment of population and does not cover all segments of population, it is difficult to ascertain the true variations in the price level.
- To overcome this problem, **CPI – Urban** and **CPI – Rural** is being computed with a wider coverage by **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** under **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

**112) With respect to Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:**

- 1. Only regional countries are eligible for its membership.**
- 2. India is one of the founding members of this regional development bank.**
- 3. Asian Infrastructure Finance Report is an annual flagship report of Asian Development Bank (ADB).**

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Asian Development Bank**

- ADB is a **regional development bank** established in 1966, headquartered in **Manila, Philippines**.
- It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.
- From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 68 members—of which **49 are from within Asia and the Pacific (Regional Members) and 19 outside (Non-Regional Members)**.
- **India** is one of the **founding members** of ADB.

- Japan holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB followed by the USA.
- **Asian Development Outlook (ADO)** is an annual flagship report of Asian Development Bank.
- ADO was released recently and some of the highlights of recent report are as follows:
  1. According to report the Indian economy is expected to contract by 4% during the current financial year (2020-21).
  2. Earlier, in April 2020, ADB had projected India's economy to grow at 4% in 2020-21.
  3. The report also highlighted India's GDP slowed to 1% in the last quarter (Jan-March) of the financial year 2019-20, it is the slowest since early 2003.
  4. Growth of Developing Asia is expected around 0.1%, this is down from the 2.2% forecast in April 2020 and would be the slowest growth for the region since 1961.
  5. Developing Asia refers to a group of over 40 countries, including India that are members of the ADB.
  6. However, China is expected to record a positive growth of 1.8% in 2020-21.
- Asian Infrastructure Finance Report is a report of **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.

**113) Consider the following statements with respect to United Nations Security Council Presidency**

1. **The Presidency of the UN Security Council is held by each of the members in rotation for one year, following the English alphabetical order of the member states' names.**
2. **The Presidency rotates among both the Permanent and Non-Permanent member states.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- India was elected to the UNSC's Non-Permanent membership recently and **India to serve as UNSC President for August 2021.**
- The **Presidency of the UN Security Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the member states' names.**

- The **Presidency** rotates among both the **Permanent** and **Non-Permanent** member states.

**114. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The **State Election Commissioner** is appointed by the **Governor**.
2. The **conditions of service and tenure of office** of the **State Election Commissioner** shall be such as the **Governor** may determine.
3. The **State Election Commissioner** shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like ground as a **Judge of a High Court**.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**Under Article 243(K) of the Indian Constitution:**

- The **superintendence, direction and control** of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the **Panchayats** shall be vested in a **State Election Commission** consisting of a **State Election Commissioner** to be appointed by the **Governor**
- Subject to the provisions of any law made by the **Legislature** of a State, the **conditions of service and tenure of office** of the **State Election Commissioner** shall be such as the **Governor** may by rule determine: Provided that the **State Election Commissioner** shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like ground as a **Judge of a High Court** and the **conditions of service** of the **State Election Commissioner** shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

**115. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The **decision of the Central Information Commission** can be challenged in the **Supreme Court**.
2. The **Central Information Commission** shall consist of the **Chief Information Commissioner** and not more than **2 Central Information Commissioners**.
3. **Chief Information Commissioner** shall hold office for a term of **three years** and shall not be eligible for **reappointment**.

**Options:**

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Central Information Commission has been constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.
- The Commission has certain powers and functions mentioned under the RTI Act, 2005.
  - These broadly relate to adjudication in second appeal for giving information; direction for record keeping, suo motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI, etc.; imposition of penalties and Monitoring and Reporting including preparation of an Annual Report. The decisions of the Commission are final and binding.

The Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and such number of Central Information Commissioners not exceeding 10 as may be deemed necessary.

The committee for recommendation of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Central Information Commissioners shall consist of:

- The Prime Minister as the Chairperson of the committee
- The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
- A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister

Section 13 of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

Section 13(5)(a) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the salaries and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chief Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner.

**116. Which of the following pairs of glacier and the state/UT is wrongly matched?**

- a. Lonak glacier: Ladakh
- b. Kangto glacier: Arunachal Pradesh
- c. Zemu glacier: Sikkim

d. Pindari glacier: Uttarakhand

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Lonak glacier: Sikkim

**117. Arrange the following battles fought by the British in chronological order:**

1. First Anglo-Mysore battle
2. First Anglo-Maratha battle
3. First Anglo-Afghan battle
4. Anglo-Nepalese war

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2, 4, 3
- b. 1, 2, 3, 4
- c. 2, 1, 3, 4
- d. 2, 1, 4, 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- First Anglo-Mysore battle (1767-69)
- First Anglo-Maratha battle (1775-82)
- First Anglo-Afghan battle (1839-42)
- Anglo-Nepalese war (1816)

**118. The central government's 'Swamitva yojana' deals with:**

- a. Empowering Panchayats
- b. Rural land ownership records
- c. Skill development programme
- d. Refinancing MSMEs

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Under the Centre's 'Swamitva yojana' rural areas would be surveyed to help prepare land records.

- Swamitva Yojana is aimed to create property ownership record of land in villages and empower rural population with grant of official document confirming their ownership of land titles.

**119. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect with respect to the National Career Service project?**

1. It is a project under the Ministry of Electronics.
2. It involves revamping the existing nation-wide set-up of Employment Exchanges into IT-enabled Career Centers.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The National Career Service project is a Mission Mode Project launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (India) Government of India for establishing quick and efficient career related services across the country by revamping the existing nation-wide set-up of Employment Exchanges into IT-enabled Career Centers.

**120. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

4. **The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor.**
5. **The conditions of service and tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as the Governor may determine.**
6. **The State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like ground as a Judge of a High Court.**

**Options:**

- e. 3 only
- f. 1 and 3 only
- g. 1, 2 and 3
- h. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: c**



**Explanation:**

**Under Article 243(K) of the Indian Constitution:**

- The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor
- Subject to the provisions of any law made by the Legislature of a State, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as the Governor may by rule determine: Provided that the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like ground as a Judge of a High Court and the conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

**121. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

4. The decision of the Central Information Commission can be challenged in the Supreme Court.
5. The Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and not more than 2 Central Information Commissioners.
6. Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of three years and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

**Options:**

- e. 1 only
- f. 1 and 2 only
- g. 2 and 3 only
- h. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Central Information Commission has been constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.
- The Commission has certain powers and functions mentioned under the RTI Act, 2005.
  - These broadly relate to adjudication in second appeal for giving information; direction for record keeping, suo motu disclosures receiving

and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI, etc.; imposition of penalties and Monitoring and Reporting including preparation of an Annual Report. The decisions of the Commission are final and binding.

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- e. Lonak glacier: Ladakh
- f. Kangto glacier: Arunachal Pradesh
- g. Zemu glacier: Sikkim
- h. Pindari glacier: Uttarakhand

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Lonak glacier: Sikkim

**123. Arrange the following battles fought by the British in chronological order:**

5. First Anglo-Mysore battle
6. First Anglo-Maratha battle
7. First Anglo-Afghan battle
8. Anglo-Nepalese war

**Options:**

- e. 1, 2, 4, 3
- f. 1, 2, 3, 4
- g. 2, 1, 3, 4
- h. 2, 1, 4, 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- First Anglo-Mysore battle (1767-69)
- First Anglo-Maratha battle (1775-82)
- First Anglo-Afghan battle (1839-42)
- Anglo-Nepalese war (1816)

**124. The central government's 'Swamitva yojana' deals with:**

- e. Empowering Panchayats
- f. Rural land ownership records
- g. Skill development programme
- h. Refinancing MSMEs

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Under the Centre's 'Swamitva yojana' rural areas would be surveyed to help prepare land records.
- Swamitva Yojana is aimed to create property ownership record of land in villages and empower rural population with grant of official document confirming their ownership of land titles.

**125. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect with respect to the National Career Service project?**

- 3. It is a project under the Ministry of Electronics.
- 4. It involves revamping the existing nation-wide set-up of Employment Exchanges into IT-enabled Career Centers.

**Options:**

- e. 1 only
- f. 2 only
- g. Both 1 and 2
- h. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

The National Career Service project is a Mission Mode Project launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (India) Government of India for establishing quick and efficient career related services across the country by revamping the existing nation-wide set-up of Employment Exchanges into IT-enabled Career Centers.

**126) Agneeprastha, sometimes seen in the news recently, is a?**

- a. Missile Park to be setup by the Ministry of Defence
- b. New laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation
- c. Fire and Rescue Operation held by the National Disaster Response Force
- d. Super Computer Complex established by the Ministry of Electronics and IT

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Foundation Stone for a Missile Park "AGNEEPRASTHA" was recently laid at INS Kalinga.
- The Missile Park 'AGNEEPRASTHA' once completed will be dedicated to all the Officers, Sailors and Support Staff of INS Kalinga, who have served in this premier op-support Base of the ENC since its establishment in 1981.
- The Park also commemorates the award of the prestigious Unit Citation to INS Kalinga for the year 2018-19.

**AGNEEPRASTHA**

- It aims to capture glimpses of Missile History of INS Kalinga since 1981 till date.
- The Missile Park has been set up with a replica of missiles and Ground Support Equipment (GSE) that showcase the evolution of missiles handled by the unit.
- The exhibits have been created from scrap/obsolete inventory which have been reconditioned in-house.
- It will also provide a one-stop arena for motivation and stimulation of inquisitive minds regarding the missiles and related technologies, from school children to Naval personnel and their families.

**127) Consider the following statements about Kalapani, a disputed territory between India and Nepal**

1. The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.

2. The Treaty of Sugauli signed by the Kingdom of Nepal and British India (after Anglo-Nepalese War) in 1816 located the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India.

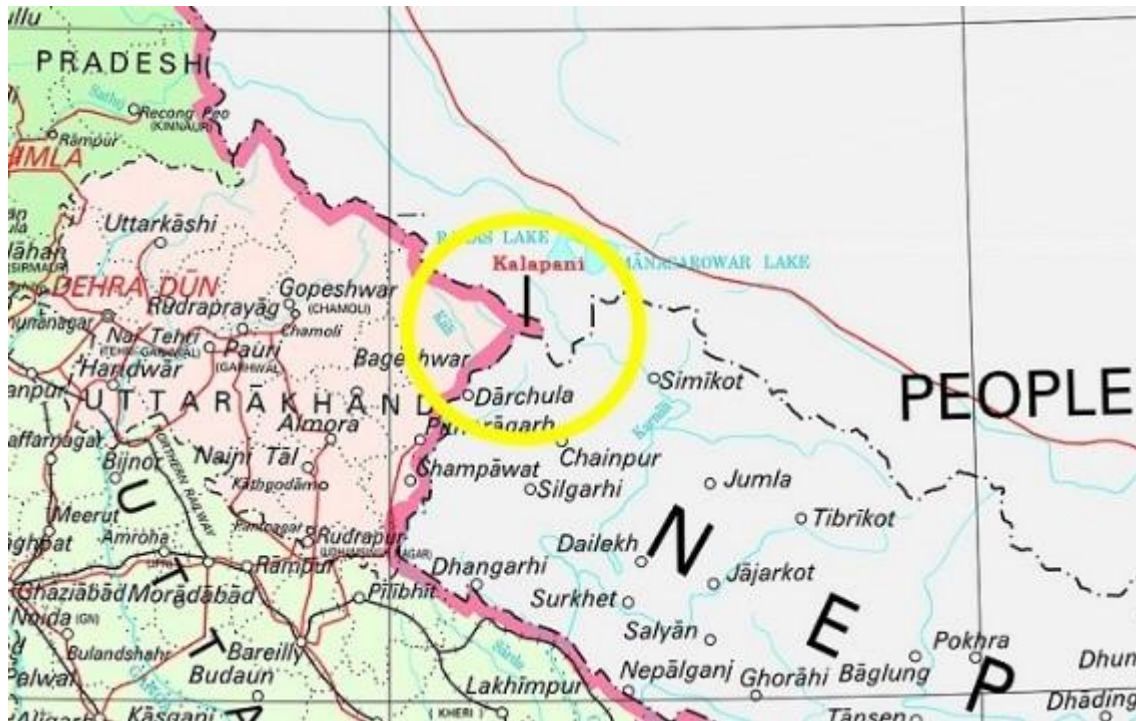
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Kali River is also known as Sharda river or Kali Ganga in Uttarakhand. It joins Ghagra river in Uttar Pradesh, which is a tributary of Ganga.
- River Projects includes Tanakpur hydro-electric project, Chameliya hydro-electric project, Sharda Barrage.
- Kalapani is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
- It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.
- The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.
- The Treaty of Sugauli signed by the Kingdom of Nepal and British India (after Anglo-Nepalese War) in 1816 located the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India.
- The discrepancy in locating the source of the river led to boundary disputes between India and Nepal, with each country producing maps supporting their own claims.
- In the latest political map of India, India reiterated its claims on the region that Nepal considers its own territory in Darchula district.
- According to India, the historic Kalapani region forms part of the state of Uttarakhand.
- Recently India hit out at Nepal for releasing a new political map that includes Kalapani, a bone of contention between the two countries, as well as other disputed spots.



128) Major Suman Gawani, an Indian Army officer has been recently selected for the prestigious Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019). With respect to the award, consider the following statements:

1. The award was created in 2016 and will be awarded by the United Nations.
2. The award honours the dedication and effort of individual military peacekeepers in promoting the UN principles on Women, Peace and Security.
3. This is the first time that an Indian peacekeeper is being given the Military Gender Advocate award.

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

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

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- Major Suman Gawani of the Indian Army, a Military Observer formerly deployed with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan** (UNMISS) and Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo, a **Brazilian Naval officer** have been chosen for the “Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award”.

### United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

- It was created in 2016.
- It recognizes the dedication and effort of an individual military peacekeeper in promoting the principles of UN Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in a peace operation context.
- For the first time, two peacekeepers will receive **the award jointly** for their contribution to this important cause.
- This is the first time that an **Indian peacekeeper** is being given the Military Gender Advocate award.

**129) India's first dolphin observatory was planned to setup in which of the following states?**

- a. Bihar
- b. Assam
- c. Uttar Pradesh
- d. Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: a**

#### **Explanation:**

- **Bihar government** is setting up India's first observatory for the mammals in Bhagalpur district at the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS).
- The structural design of the observatory is such that it will promote eco-tourism.
- The observatory is being built on the Sultanganj-Aguwani Ghat bridge over the Ganga, it will be in the middle of the river, where bridge's width will be nearly 100 feet.
- The four-storey observatory will be 40 feet high, with the bridge passing through its middle.
- The observatory building will be transparent, with glass from all sides to ensure people can watch the dolphins.
- It will give people an incentive to visit the place and see dolphins in the sanctuary without disturbing them.
- There would be no bad or adverse impact on the river's ecology as the observatory is being constructed on a bridge over the Ganga.
- There are also suggestions to build another dolphin observatory at the confluence of the Ganga and Punpun rivers near Fatuha in Patna, about 5-15 dolphins are visible at the site at all times of the year.

**130) Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**



1. Dredging activity is a routine necessity in waterways for movement of ships and boats.
  2. Dredging is also performed to reduce the exposure of fish, wildlife, and people to contaminants.
- a. 1 only
  - b. 2 only
  - c. Both 1 and 2
  - d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Dredging is the removal of silt, sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbours and other water bodies.
- Dredging is a routine necessity in waterways because sedimentation—the natural process of sand and silt washing downstream—gradually fills channels and harbors.
  - Dredging often is focused on maintaining or increasing the depth of navigation channels, anchorages, or berthing areas to ensure the safe passage of boats and ships.
  - Dredging is also performed to reduce the exposure of fish, wildlife, and people to contaminants and to prevent the spread of contaminants to other areas of the water body.
    - This environmental dredging is often necessary because sediments in and around cities and industrial areas are frequently contaminated with a variety of pollutants.

## **JULY Current affairs Multiple choice questions**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana**

1. It aims at ensuring sufficient food only for the people who are below the poverty line.
2. It excludes the beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Priority Household (PHH) ration cardholders.



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: d**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, Prime Minister announced the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till the end of November.
- It aims at ensuring sufficient food for the poor and needy during the COVID 19 lockdown.
- 80 crore individuals, i.e, roughly two-thirds of India's population would be covered under this scheme.
- Each one of them would be provided double of their current entitlement over next three months.
- Part of the scheme, the food needs to be provided to all the beneficiaries under Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Household (PHH) ration cardholders.

**2) Consider the following statements with respect to National Anti Doping Agency (NADA)**

- 1. It acts as an independent Anti-Doping Organization for India, having a vision of dope free sports.**
- 2. It implements the Anti Doping Code to achieve compliance by all sports organization in the country, except the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which has its own code.**

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**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) launches mobile app to educate athletes on doping.
- It is a virtual learning platform to educate athletes on the consumption of banned substances that enhance performance.
- NADA was set up as registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860, on 2005.
- It acts as an independent Anti-Doping Organization for India, with the mandate of Dope free sports in India.
- The primary objectives are to implement anti-doping rules as per WADA code, regulate dope control programme.
- It implements the Anti Doping Code to achieve compliance by all sports organization in the country.
- After years of resistance, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) came under the ambit of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) in August 2019.

**3) Consider the following statements with respect to REDD+**

- 1. It creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for countries to reduce emissions from forested lands.**
- 2. It incentivizes developed countries by offering results-based payments for results-based actions.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, Uganda has become the first African country to submit results for Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) to the UNFCCC.
- REDD+ is a mechanism developed by the parties to the UNFCCC.
- It aims to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, plus the sustainable management of forests, and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
- It creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development.

- It incentivizes developing countries by offering results-based payments for results-based actions.
- It encourage developing countries to contribute to climate change mitigation efforts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

**4) Narcondam Island recently seen in news is located in?**

- a. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- b. Munroe Island, Kerala
- c. Lakshadweep Islands
- d. None of the above

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- A wildlife photographer tracks the endangered Narcondam hornbill to its natural habitat in the Andamans.
- An endangered species, Narcondam hornbill is endemic to the Narcondam Island in Andamans.
- Narcondam Island is a oceanic island of volcanic origin located northeast of Port Blair in the Andaman Islands.

**5) Consider the following statements with respect to the Central Zoo Authority (CZA)**

1. It is a statutory body constituted under Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.
2. Exchange of animals between Indian and foreign zoos is approved by the CZA.
3. It can recognize a zoo but it does not have the power to derecognize a zoo.

**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: a**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, the Environment Ministry has reconstituted the Central Zoo Authority (CZA).

- It is to include an expert from the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, and a molecular biologist.
- The CZA is a statutory body chaired by the Environment Minister and tasked with regulating zoos across the country.
- The authority lays down guidelines and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.
- Zoos are regulated as per the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and are guided by the National Zoo Policy, 1992.
- The Wild Life Protection Act was amended to establish the CZA.
- It can recognize or derecognize a zoo.

**6) Birbal Nath committee recommendations are associated with which of the following?**

- a. Formation of Special Protection Group (SPG).
- b. Allowing private train operators in Indian Railways.
- c. Establishment of Central Zoo Authority.
- d. Launch of Special Liquidity Scheme to help low rated finance companies to raise debt.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

SPG was formed in 1985 after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as an executive body on the recommendation of the Birbal Nath committee. The SPG Act was enacted by Parliament in 1988.

**7) "Prerak Dauur Samman" is a new category of awards launched by which of the following Ministries?**

- a. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- b. Ministry of Human Resource Development
- c. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- d. Ministry of Mirco, Small and Medium Enterprises

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- A new category of awards titled '**Prerak Dauur Samman**' as part of **Swachh Survekshan 2021** was recently launched by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**.
- The Prerak Dauur Samman has a total of five additional sub- categories -Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze), Aaroahi (Aspiring) - with top three cities being recognized in each.
- In a departure from the present criteria of evaluating cities on 'population category', this new category will categorize cities on the basis of six select indicator wise performance criteria which are as follows:
  1. Segregation of waste into Wet, Dry and Hazard categories
  2. Processing capacity against wet waste generated
  3. Processing and recycling of wet and dry waste
  4. Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste processing
  5. Percentage of waste going to landfills
  6. Sanitation status of cities

**8) Consider the following statements:**

1. **He believed in the fundamental oneness of God and said, "For our own motherland a junction of the two great systems, Hinduism and Islam, is the only hope.**
2. **His mission was to bridge the gulf between paramartha (service) and vyavahara (behaviour), and between spirituality and day-to-day life.**
3. **Envisaging a new culture for the whole world, he called for a blend of the materialism of the West and the spiritualism of the East into a new harmony to produce happiness for mankind.**

Identify the personality who correctly matches the above description:

- a. Guru Nanak
- b. Aurobindo Gosh
- c. Swami Vivekananda
- d. None of the above

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- **Narendranath Datta** (1862-1902), who later came to be known as **Swami Vivekananda** spread Ramakrishna's message and tried to reconcile it to the needs of contemporary Indian society.
- He emerged as the preacher of **neo-Hinduism**.

- Certain spiritual experiences of Ramakrishna, the teachings of the Upanishads and the Gita and the examples of the Buddha and Jesus are the basis of Vivekananda's message to the world about human values.
- He subscribed to the Vedanta which he considered a fully rational system with a superior approach.
- His mission was **to bridge the gulf between paramartha (service) and vyavahara (behaviour)**, and between spirituality and day-to-day life.
- Vivekananda believed in the **fundamental oneness of God**.
- He said, **"For our own motherland a junction of the two great systems, Hinduism and Islam, is the only hope."**
- At the **Parliament of Religions held at Chicago in 1893**, Swami Vivekananda made a great impression on people by his learned interpretations.
- Envisaging a new culture for the whole world, he called for a blend of the materialism of the West and the spiritualism of the East into a new harmony to produce happiness for mankind.

9) Indian Railways had recently operated its longest freight train. What is the name of the train?

- a. Kaalamban
- b. Shesh Naag
- c. Viswa Bharat
- d. Lifeline Express

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- In the history of Indian Railways, the national transporter has for the first time run a 2.8 km long **"SheshNaag"** train.
- It is the longest train ever to run on the Indian Railways network.
- According to details shared by the Railway Ministry, the South East Central Railway zone of Indian Railways recently operated the SheshNaag Train service, a 2.8 km long train amalgamating four empty BOXN rakes.
- The SheshNaag Train was powered by four sets of electric locomotives.

10) "Bon Bibi'r Palagaan" is a centuries-old folk theatre form in which of the following regions?

- a. Sunderbans
- b. Western Ghats
- c. Western Himalayas
- d. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

- **Bonbibí'r Palagaan** is a dramatic performance tradition connected with the worship of the cult **goddess Bonbibi**.
- It is a popular performance-ritual **exclusively practised in the Sundarbans** in lower delta region West Bengal (India) and Bangladesh.
- The word 'pala' means a 'long narrative verse' and 'gaan' means 'song' in Bengali.

**Bon Bibi**

- Shrines to Bon Bibi and her twin brother Shah Jongoli dot the landscape of the Sundarbans.
- The followers of Bon Bibi are fishermen, crab-collectors and honey-gatherers – a large chunk of the population of the islands, many of them impoverished – who go into the wild mangroves, teeming with wild animals such as tigers and crocodiles, to earn a livelihood.
- They believe that only Bon Bibi protects them when they enter the forest.
- One of the important ways in which people express their belief in Bon Bibi is through Bon Bibi'r Palagaan, a dramatic storytelling form that is enacted throughout the island.

**How it helps Sunderbans survive?**

- The Bon Bibi faith is a check on human greed and acquisition.
- An unwritten code prohibits islanders from carrying guns or weapons into the forest.
- They must enter the forest only if they absolutely need to earn a livelihood and not take more – honey or crabs, fish or prawns – than they need.
- They must not desecrate the forest in any way, by smoking, defecating or washing utensils.
- According to local lore, poachers, pirates and those who disobey Bon Bibi are attacked by tigers as punishment.

**11) "Mount Rushmore", often seen in the news recently, is located in?**

- a. Japan
- b. Russia
- c. North Korea
- d. United States of America

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- The US President Mr. Donald Trump had recently delivered his Independence Day Speech for the year 2020 at **Mount Rushmore National Memorial**.

**Mount Rushmore**

- It is a memorial situated in South Dakota.
- It features 60-foot face carvings of four US Presidents – **George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln**.

**12) Consider the following statements with respect to the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

- 1. Membership in the Bank is open to members and associate members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.**
- 2. ADB's Country Partnership Strategy (2018-2022) aims to accelerate India's inclusive economic transformation.**

**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

**Explanation:**

- Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).
- NGFS was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit in 2017.
- NGFS is a group of central banks and supervisors willing to share best practices and contribute to the development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector.
- ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.
- Membership in the Bank is open to members and associate members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.



- ADB's Country Partnership Strategy, 2018–2022 for India aims to accelerate the country's inclusive economic transformation.
- The strategy focuses on building industrial competitiveness to create more jobs, extending infrastructure and services to low-income states, and addressing environmental and climate change concerns.

**13. Which of the following initiatives is/are established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)?**

1. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
2. International Seabed Authority
3. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

1. **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS):** Established by the UNCLOS, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is an independent judicial body that adjudicates disputes arising out of the convention.
2. **International Seabed Authority:** It was formed in 1994 under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) for regulating the exploration and exploitation of marine non-living resources of oceans in international waters.
3. **Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS):** Established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, CLCS is responsible for facilitating the implementation of UNCLOS with respect to the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.

**14. Consider the following statements with respect to UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT):**

1. It aims to prevent torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment around the world.
2. India has signed and ratified the convention.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT)) is an international human rights treaty, under the review of the United Nations, that aims to prevent torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment around the world.
- India signed the convention in 1997 but it remains among a handful of countries including Pakistan and China which are yet to ratify the convention.

**15) Consider the following statements with respect to CogX 2020**

- 1. It is a prestigious Global Leadership Summit and Festival on World Environment and Wildlife.**
- 2. It is an annual event held in London.**
- 3. The Cogx Awards are given to the best-of-the-best governments in protecting the environmental ecosystem.**

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

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

**Answer : a**

- AI enabled **MyGov Corona Helpdesk** bagged two awards under categories **“Best Innovation for Covid-19 – Society”** and **“People’s Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner”**, at the recently held CogX 2020.
- The awards were won by Technical Partner of Mygov, JioHaptik Technologies Limited.

**CogX 2020**

- It is a prestigious Global Leadership Summit and Festival of **AI & Emerging Technology** held **annually in London.**

- **Cogx Awards** are given out to the best-of-the-best in AI and emerging technologies across the world.
- After a rigorous evaluation, Indian chatbot 'MyGov Corona Helpdesk' was chosen among hundreds of entries that made a difference to society during the pandemic.

### MyGov

- It is the world's largest citizen engagement platform, which facilitates two-way communication between the Government and Citizen and facilitates participatory governance in India, the world's largest democracy.
- In the fight against Covid-19, MyGov, JioHaptik Technologies Limited and WhatsApp team collaborated to develop AI enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk in the record time of 5 days including weekend.

### 16) Consider the following statements:

1. All medical devices have been notified as Drugs and have come under regulatory regime of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs (Prices (Control Order), 2013 from 1st April 2020.
2. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has been entrusted with the task of fixation/revision of prices of pharmaceutical products and enforcement of provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.

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

- All the medical devices have been notified as Drugs and have come under regulatory regime of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs (Prices (Control Order), 2013 w.e.f. 1st April 2020.

### *National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)*

- It was constituted vide Government of India Resolution dated 29th August, 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers as an *independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.*

- The Authority, inter alia, has been entrusted with the task of fixation/revision of prices of pharmaceutical products (bulk drugs and formulations), enforcement of provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order and monitoring of the prices of controlled and decontrolled drugs in the country.

***Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)***

- Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, CDSCO is responsible for *approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs*, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- Further CDSCO along with state regulators, is jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

**17) Consider the following statements with respect to *Current Account Deficit***

- 1. The Current Account of a country is the money it receives and pays for goods and services, investments, and other things such as salaries, and pensions.**
- 2. It factors in the payments from domestic capital deployed overseas.**
- 3. A current account deficit is always detrimental to a nation's economy.**

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

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer : a**

- India records First Quarterly *Current Account Surplus* in 13 years.
- India recorded a Current Account Surplus of \$0.6 billion, or 0.1% of GDP, for the January-March period.
- Lower trade deficit was one of the prime reasons for the improvement in the current account balances.
- A current account deficit indicates that a country is importing more than it is exporting.
- Current Account Deficit is slightly different from Balance of Trade (BoT).
- BoT measures only the gap in earnings and expenditure on exports and imports of goods and services.

- Whereas, the Current Account also factors in the payments from domestic capital deployed overseas.
- For example, rental income from an Indian owning a house in the UK would be computed in Current Account, but not in Balance of Trade.
- A current account deficit is not always detrimental to a nation's economy, external debt may be used to finance lucrative investments.

**18) Consider the following statements with respect to *Accelerate Vigyan***

1. It is an initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
2. It is to provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops to encourage high-end scientific research across the country.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are not correct?**

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

**Answer : a**

- Recently, *SERB* launches, *Accelerate Vigyan scheme* to strengthen scientific research mechanism.
- The Science and Engineering Research Board (*SERB*) has launched it to provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops across the country.
- It is an inter-ministerial scheme to encourage high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower, which can lead towards research careers and knowledge-based economy.

**19. Consider the following statements with respect to Nagarhole National Park:**

1. It is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
2. It is also a tiger reserve.
3. It is a UNESCO world heritage site.
4. River Kabini separates Bandipur National Park from Nagarhole National Park.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 2 and 3 only
- b. 3 only
- c. 1 and 4 only
- d. 2 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Nagarhole National Park is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- In 1999, it was declared as the 37<sup>th</sup> tiger reserve of India.
- The Nilgiri subcluster and the whole of Nagarhole park are still under consideration by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for selection as a World Heritage Site.
- River Kabini separates Bandipur National Park from Nagarhole National Park.

**20. Consider the following statements with respect to the Tiwa tribe:**

1. They are recognized as Scheduled Tribes in Assam and Meghalaya.
2. They follow the "Slash and Burn" method of farming.
3. Wanchuwa festival is one of the most important celebrations for the Tiwa tribe.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Tiwas are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the state of Assam. But they still do not have the ST status in the state of Meghalaya.
- They follow the "Slash and Burn" method of farming.

- Wanchuwa festival is one of the most important celebrations for the Tiwa tribe.

**21) Consider the following statements with respect to *Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967***

- 1. Under the act, only organizations could be designated as terrorist organizations.**
- 2. The Act will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if the crime is committed on foreign land, outside India.**

**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

**UAPA**

- It is applicable to the entire territory of India.
- Any Indian or foreign national charged under UAPA is liable for punishment under this Act, irrespective of the location of crime/offense committed.
- UAPA will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if the crime is committed on foreign land, outside India
- The Central Government had amended the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 in August 2019, to include the provision of designating an individual as a terrorist.
- Prior to this amendment, only organizations could be designated as terrorist organizations.

**22) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Blood contains Red blood cells, White blood cells, Nitrogen bases and Plasma.**
- 2. In plasma donation, only plasma is extracted and the other components of blood are returned to the body.**

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

- Delhi Chief Minister has recently inaugurated **India's first plasma bank** at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) to ease access to plasma that is being used as a trial to treat Covid-19 patients.
- The bank will coordinate with patients who have recovered from Covid-19, and are eligible to donate plasma.

### Plasma Bank

- A plasma bank functions like a blood bank, and has been created specifically for those who are suffering from Covid-19, and have been advised the therapy by doctors.
- The facility has been set up at the ILBS, which will be the nodal centre for collection of plasma.
- In plasma therapy, the antibody rich plasma from a recovered patient is extracted and administered to a patient.

### Plasma donation Vs Blood donation

- In plasma donation, as opposed to blood donation, only plasma is extracted and the other components of blood are **returned to the body**.
- Blood contains several components, including **red blood cells, platelets, white blood cells, and plasma**.
- During a whole blood donation, donors typically donate a pint (about a half litre) of blood.
- During automated donation (apheresis), you will be connected to the apheresis machine using a fully disposable one-time use apheresis kit.
- The process uses a single needle. The machine will selectively retain the plasma and return all red blood cells and other components of blood.
- All plasma proteins lost by you due to donation will be formed again in 24-72 hours.



### Eligible Donors

- Those who had the disease, but have recovered at least 14 days before the donation can be considered – although doctors prefer a time of three weeks between recovery and donation.

### 23) Consider the following statements with respect to United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)

1. All the members of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) signed the USMCA.
2. The agreement focuses on a modernized, high-standard Intellectual Property (IP) that provides strong and effective protection and enforcement of IP rights.

### 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

- In 2018, NAFTA members renegotiated their agreement under a new United States-Mexico-Canada Comprehensive Agreement (USMCA).
- The USMCA agreement came into effect on July 1, 2020.
- The agreement focuses on a modernized, high-standard Intellectual Property (IP) chapter that provides strong and effective protection and enforcement of IP rights.
- It has the most Comprehensive Enforcement Provisions of any trade agreement.

### 24) Consider the following statements with respect to Dharma Chakra Day

1. It commemorates Lord Buddha's first sermon to his disciples.
2. The day is also observed as Guru Poornima by both Buddhists and Hindus.
3. It is organized by the International Buddhist Confederation, under the aegis of Union Ministry of Culture.

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

- Dharma Chakra Day, Asaadh Poornima is celebrated on July 4.
- The celebrations are being organized by International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), under the aegis of Union Ministry of Culture.
- Dharma Chakra Day commemorates Lord Buddha's first sermon to his first five ascetic disciples at the Deer Park in Rsipatana in the present day Sarnath near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- The day is also celebrated by Buddhists all over the world as the day of Dharma Chakra Parvattana or "Turning of the Wheel of Dharma".
- This day is also observed as Guru Poornima by both Buddhists and Hindus as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.

25. Which of the following statement/sis/are correct?

1. Infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of deaths per 1,000 live births of children under five years of age.
2. India's average IMR for rural areas is higher as compared to urban areas.
3. Madhya Pradesh has the highest IMR among Indian states.

Options:

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

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- Infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of deaths per 1,000 live births of children under one year of age.

- India's average IMR has dropped by one point to 32. The country's average stands at 36 deaths for rural and 23 for urban areas.
- The infant mortality rate (IMR) in Madhya Pradesh has increased to 48 in 2018, stymying an improving annual trend for at least six years. Madhya Pradesh has the country's worst IMR.
- Kerala which has the lowest IMR among the bigger states has decreased its IMR by three points to 7.

**26. The Logistics performance index is released by which of the following?**

- a. World Bank
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. World Trade Organization
- d. UNCTAD

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Logistics Performance Index (LPI) is a benchmarking tool created by the World Bank to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance.
- It is the weighted average of the country scores on six key dimensions: efficiency of the clearance process by border control agencies; quality of trade and transport related infrastructure; ease of arranging competitively priced shipments; competence and quality of logistics services (e.g., transport operators, customs brokers); ability to track and trace consignments; timeliness of shipments in reaching destination within the scheduled or expected delivery time.
- The Logistics Performance Index is reported by the World Bank in every two years.
- The LPI is based on a worldwide survey of stakeholders on the ground providing feedback on the logistics "friendliness" of the countries in which they operate and those with which they trade.

**27. The Kanger Valley National Park is situated in which of the following state?**

- a. Jharkhand
- b. Madhya Pradesh
- c. Chhattisgarh
- d. Uttarakhand

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

- Kanger Ghati National Park (also called Kanger Valley National Park) is located in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh.
- The park derives its name from the Kanger River, which flows through it.
- The Kanger Valley National Park is noted for its highly heterogeneous land formations ranging from low flat and gentle areas to steep slopes, plateaus, valleys and stream courses.

28. Which of the following correctly describes the term 'Ophicordyceps' ?

- a. Algae
- b. Arthropod
- c. Bacteria
- d. Fungi

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- Ophicordyceps are a type of fungi.

29. Which of the following statements is *not* correct about Fiscal Slippage?

- (a) It refers to a situation when the actual fiscal deficit is more than what was expected.
- (b) A hike in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) may cause Fiscal Slippage.
- (c) The government cannot put spending restrictions on the Ministries to contain Fiscal Slippage.
- (d) Fiscal Slippage in the current financial year is primarily due to lower tax revenue growth.

Answer (c)

**Explanation:** Fiscal Slippage refers to the missing of fiscal targets in the country's Budget. So, option (a) is correct.

The subsidies increase the burden on the Government, as they directly increase the Fiscal Deficit. A hike in MSPs increase the subsidies, which may increase the Fiscal Deficit, besides adding to inflationary pressures on the economy. Thus, it can be a reason for Fiscal Slippage. **So, option (b) is correct.**

The Finance Ministry has recently directed Central Government Departments and Ministries to limit expenditure in March 2020, to 10% of their Budget allocations for FY20 instead of 15% as was the practice earlier, to contain Fiscal Slippage. **So, option (c) is not correct.**

As per the latest Budget, the slippage in the fiscal deficit of 0.5% of GDP (3.3% → □3.8%) is primarily due to lower tax revenue growth rather than an increased expenditure compared to the previous budget. **So, option (d) is correct. Therefore, the answer is (c).**

**30. Which of the following best describes the term “Tax Terrorism”, that is often in the news?**

- (a) It refers to a process of tax evasion by terrorists.
- (b) It refers to the use of tax income by the government to fund terrorist activities in neighbouring countries.
- (c) It refers to the use of illicit money to finance terror activities by individuals.
- (d) It refers to the tax authorities' increased zeal to collect what is due to the State.

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** The term ‘tax terrorism’ describes the adversarial approach adopted by tax authorities to levy taxes using legal and extra-legal means. In recent days, business leaders have been vocal about the so-called ‘tax terrorism’, a reference to the **tax authorities' increased zeal to collect what is due to the State.**

With the aim of building trust between taxpayers and the administration, and with the objective of enhancing the efficiency of the delivery system of the Income Tax Department, the **Budget 2020** proposes that the provisions of the Income Tax Act are to be amended to mandate the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to **adopt a Taxpayers’ Charter. Therefore, the correct answer is (d).**

**31) “MSME Emergency Response Programme” that aims to support the increased flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India, was recently signed between India and?**

- a. World Bank
- b. New Development Bank
- c. Asian Development Bank
- d. International Monetary Fund

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

- 
- The **World Bank and the Government of India** have recently signed the 750 million dollar agreement for the **MSME Emergency Response Programme** to support the increased flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- The World Bank's MSME Emergency Response Programme will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 1.5 million viable MSMEs to help them withstand the impact of the current shock and protect millions of jobs.

**32) Consider the following statements with respect to the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO)**

1. It is the sole authority for depicting National framework data in the form of thematic maps and atlases.
2. It functions as a subordinate office under the Ministry of Science & Technology.

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

**Explanation:**

- **National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization** has recently published the 4th updated version of COVID-19 Dashboard on its official Portal.

**National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO)**

- It is a subordinate office under **Department of Science & Technology**, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- This organization was assigned with responsibility in the field of thematic cartography and geographical research at national level.

- It is the **sole authority for depicting National framework data in the form of thematic maps and atlases** to cater the actual picture of the development and planning initiatives of the country among the users.

**33) "World Drug Report" was released recently by which of the following organizations?**

- a. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- b. Intergovernmental Agency on World Trafficking
- c. Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
- d. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- According to the latest **World Drug Report** of the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, the fourth highest seizure of opium in 2018 was reported from India, after Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- In terms of heroin seizure (1.3 tonnes), India was at the 12th position in the world.
- Heroin is manufactured from the morphine extracted from the seed pod of opium poppy plants.
- Outside Asia, the largest total quantity of heroin and morphine was seized in Europe (22% of the global total in 2018).

**34) Consider the following statements with respect to Zardozi**

- 1. It is a form of embroidery, native to Western Europe that came to India via British invasion.**
- 2. The embroidery, also known as Pukhoor, appears like a woven cloth but is made with the use of red and black threads with a white cotton cloth background.**

**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: d**

**Explanation:**

- **Zardozi** is a form of embroidery that came to India **from Persia**.
- Done with metal wire and metal pieces or sequins on velvet, satin and heavy silk bases, Zardozi is one of the most famous and elaborate techniques in **metal embroidery**.
- The **original embroidery of Zardozi** was done with pure silver wires coated with real gold, and was known as **Kalabatun**.
- Though silver and gold wires have now been replaced with synthetic threads, the art remains the same.

**Toda Embroidery**

- The Toda Embroidery, also locally known as **Pukhoor**, is an art work among the Toda pastoral people of Nilgiris, in Tamil Nadu, made exclusively by their women.
- The embroidery, which has a **fine finish, appears like a woven cloth but is made with use of red and black threads with a white cotton cloth background**.
- Both sides of the embroidered fabric are usable and the Toda people are proud of this heritage.
- Both men and women adorn themselves with the embroidered cloaks and shawls.
- This handicraft product is listed as a geographically tagged product and is protected under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act (GI Act) 1999 of the Government of India.

**35) "Natanz Nuclear Complex", often seen in the news recently, is one of the main uranium enrichment plants of which of the following countries?**

- a. Iran
- b. Israel
- c. North Korea
- d. Pakistan

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- An accident happened recently at a warehouse under construction at the **Natanz Nuclear Complex in Central Iran**.
- Natanz is one of Iran's main uranium enrichment plants.



36) Consider the following statements with respect to Winter Diesel

1. It loses its fluidity function in extreme winter conditions and has lower sulphur content.
2. It meets the Bureau of Indian Standards specification, BS-VI grade.

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

**Explanation:**

- Indian armed forces may soon be using Winter Diesel for operations in high altitude areas such as Ladakh.
- State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), has sought approval from the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) of the armed forces to approve winter diesel.
- Winter Diesel contains additives to maintain lower viscosity can be used in temperatures as low as -30°C.
- It has lower sulphur content, which would lead to lower deposits in engines and better performance.
- It does not lose its fluidity function even in extreme winter conditions, unlike the normal grade of Diesel which becomes difficult to utilize in such extreme winter conditions.
- It meets the Bureau of Indian Standards specification, BS-VI grade.

37) With respect to *Sitana Dharwarensis*, sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:

1. It is a new species of fan-throated lizard from the barren lands of northern Karnataka.
2. Its name has been derived from the Dharwar craton – a piece of the Earth's crust formed 3.6-5 billion years ago.
3. The species appears to be restricted to the area encompassed by the two major rivers Narmada and Tapi.

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

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

Answer : b

- *Sitana Dharwarensis* is a large-sized species when compared to other fan throated lizards.
- A species appears to be restricted to the area encompassed by the two major rivers Krishna and Tungabhadra.
- These rivers likely act as biogeographic barriers for terrestrial lizards.
- The new species is similar to a fan-throated lizard species *Sitana laticeps*.
- But *Sitana dharwarensis* bears a much larger throat fan or dewlap.
- Its distinctness was confirmed after comparing the DNA sequences and micro-CT-scans of the two species.
- Its name *Sitana dharwarensis* has been derived from the Dharwar craton – a piece of the Earth's crust formed 3.6-2.5 billion years ago.
- This is the second species to be discovered from the open scrub and rock terrain of northern Karnataka after *Hemidactylus vijayraghavani*, a gecko.
- Many of these newly described species occur outside protected areas and are at risk of being wiped out.

**38) Consider the following statements with respect to *Kawasaki Disease***

- 1. It is a rare illness which typically affects children aged under five.**
- 2. The symptoms of the disease includes red eyes, rashes, and a swollen tongue and an inflamed blood vessel system all over the body.**
- 3. The disease is caused by a plasmodium parasite, transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitoes.**

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

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

Answer : b

### *Kawasaki Disease*

- Around the world, children with Covid-19 infection have often shown some symptoms similar to those associated with a rare illness called Kawasaki disease
- It typically affects *children aged under five* with symptoms like red eyes, rashes, and a swollen tongue with reddened lips often termed strawberry tongue and an inflamed blood vessel system all over the body.
- There is constant high fever for at least five days, it also affects coronary functions in the heart.
- *The causes of the Kawasaki Disease are not yet known.*
- The strawberry tongue may or may not be present in those with Covid-19.
- In Covid-19 cases, even adolescents are presenting these symptoms.
- Steroids remain a key treatment to reduce inflammation.

### **39) Consider the following statements with respect to Article 164 (1A) of the Indian Constitution**

- 1. It states that the total number of Ministers, excluding the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State.**
- 2. The number of Ministers, including Chief Minister in a State shall not be less than twelve.**

**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

- The Congress party has alleged that strength of Madhya Pradesh Ministry exceeds the Constitutional limit.

- *Article 164 (1A) of the Constitution that prescribed, "The total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State."*
- *Provided that the number of Ministers, including Chief Minister in a State shall not be less than twelve.*

**40) Consider the following statements with respect to *North Eastern Region Community Resource and Management Programme (NERCORMP)***

- 1. It is a livelihood and rural development project.**
- 2. It aims to transform the lives of the poor and marginalized tribal families.**
- 3. It operates only in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya.**

**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**

- *Recently, Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, interacted with various self-help groups associated with the *North Eastern Region Community Resource and Management Programme (NERCORMP)*.*
- *NERCORMP is a livelihood and rural development project.*
- *It aimed to transform the lives of the poor and marginalized tribal families in North East India.*
- *It is a joint developmental initiative of the North Eastern Council(NEC), Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India and International Fund for Agricultural Development(IFAD).*
- *The project operates in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya.*

41) Consider the following statements with respect to *High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) Programme*

1. The project is signed between India and Afghanistan.
2. It focuses on developing the educational infrastructure in Afghanistan.

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

- Recently, India, Afghanistan ink 5 agreements to develop educational infra in Afghan provinces.
- The 5 MoUs were signed under the *High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) Programme*.
- It is being implemented by India to further strengthen the bilateral development partnership.
- It focuses on development of the educational infrastructure in Afghanistan.
- It includes the construction of classrooms, a higher education building and a road within the campus of Albironi University.

42) *Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)* that aims at taking punitive measures against which of the following countries?

1. Iran
2. Cuba
3. China
4. Russia
5. North Korea

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1 and 4 only
- b. All except 2 and 5

- c. All except 2 and 3
- d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Answer : c**

- The *Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) of United States of America (USA)*, aims at taking punitive measures against *Russia, Iran, and North Korea*.
- The Act primarily deals with sanctions on the Russian oil and gas industry, defence and security sector, and financial institutions, in the backdrop of its military intervention in Ukraine and its alleged meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections.
- The Act empowers the US President to impose at least five of 12 listed sanctions enumerated in Section 235 on persons engaged in a "significant transaction" with the Russian defence and intelligence sectors.

**43) Consider the following statements with respect to Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**

- 1. It is a pan India Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- 2. The fund will provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- 
- The Union Cabinet has recently given its approval to a new pan India **Central Sector Scheme-Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**.

**Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**

- The scheme shall provide a **medium - long term debt financing facility** for investment in viable projects for **post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets** through interest subvention and financial support.

- The Project by way of facilitating formal credit to farm and farm processing-based activities is expected to create numerous job opportunities in rural areas.

### **About the Scheme**

- Under the scheme, Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, Aggregation Infrastructure Providers and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public Private Partnership Project.
- Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore in the current year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in next three financial years.
- All loans under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore.
- This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.
- Further, credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore.
- The fee for this coverage will be paid by the Government.
- In case of FPOs the credit guarantee may be availed from the facility created under FPO promotion scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DACFW).
- The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).
- Agri Infra fund will be managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform.
- It will enable all the qualified entities to apply for loan under the fund.
- The online platform will also provide benefits such as transparency of interest rates offered by multiple banks, scheme details including interest subvention and credit guarantee offered, minimum documentation, faster approval process as also integration with other scheme benefits.
- The National, State and District level Monitoring Committees will be set up to ensure real-time monitoring and effective feed-back.

**44) Assertion (A): No star has been found with high lithium content so far.**

**Reason (R): Stars, as per known mechanisms of evolution, actually destroy lithium as they evolve into red giants.**

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

- b. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A
- c. A is true but R is false
- d. A is false but R is true

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Stars, as per known mechanisms of evolution, actually destroy lithium as they evolve into red giants.
- Planets were known to have more lithium than their stars – as is the case with the Earth-Sun pair.
- However, leading to a contradiction, some stars were found that were lithium-rich.
- This puzzle has been solved by Indian researchers through a study which has been published in the journal Nature Astronomy.

**Lithium's interesting story**

- Lithium, a light element commonly used today in communication device technology.
- It was first produced in the Big Bang, around 13.7 billion years ago when the universe came into being, along with other elements.
- While the abundance of other elements grew millions of times, the present abundance of lithium in the universe is only four times the original [Big Bang] value.
- It is actually destroyed in the stars.
- The Sun, for instance, has about a factor of 100 lower amount of lithium than the Earth.
- **About 40 years ago, a few large stars were spotted that were lithium-rich.**
- This was followed by **further discoveries of lithium-rich stars**, and that posed a puzzle – if stars do not produce lithium, how do some stars develop to become lithium rich?
- The team has shown that **when stars grow beyond their Red Giant stage into what is known as the Red Clump stage, they produce lithium in what is known as a Helium Flash and this is what enriches them with lithium.**
- They set a lower limit for helium abundance which will classify the star as “lithium-rich”.
- This value is about 250 times lower than the previous limit.

**45) Consider the following statements**



1. Match-fixing is not an independent offence in India and there are no laws covering it.
2. Sri Lanka is the first South Asian country to pass a law against offences related to match-fixing.

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

**Explanation:**

- The Mohali police had recently arrested alleged match-fixer Ravinder Dandiwal, who has been linked to two betting scandals exposed over the last fortnight.
- But, Dandiwal has been charged with cheating under Section 420 of the IPC.
- **Match-fixing is not an independent offence in India and there are no laws covering it.**

How, then, have alleged match-fixers been punished in the past?

- Those punishments were handed out by the cricket board under its anti-corruption rules and not by law enforcement (these punishments, too, were later reduced or overturned by courts).
- In fact, lawyers use these cases to illustrate the need to have separate, foolproof laws for match-fixing.

**Srilanka**

- In November 2019, **Sri Lanka** became the **first South Asian country** to pass a law against offences related to match-fixing.
- So, apart from a fine, a player could also land himself in jail for participating in corrupt practices.
- In 2013, the **Indian Sports Ministry** drafted the **Prevention of Sporting Fraud Bill**, which suggested a jail term for offenders. That Bill has died a slow death.

46) Who among the following can avail the facility of Postal Voting in India?

1. Absentee Voters
2. President of India

3. Members of Armed Forces
4. Person under Preventive Detention

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

**Postal Voting**

- A restricted set of voters can exercise postal voting.
- Through this facility, a voter can cast her vote remotely by recording her preference on the ballot paper and sending it back to the election officer before counting.

**Who can avail this facility?**

- **Members of the armed forces** like the Army, Navy and Air Force, members of the armed police force of a state (serving outside the state), **government employees posted outside India** and their spouses are entitled to vote only by post. In other words, they can't vote in person.
- **Voters under preventive detention can also vote only by post.**
- Special voters such as the **President of India, Vice President, Governors, Union Cabinet ministers, Speaker of the House and government officers on poll duty** have the option to vote by post.
- But they have to apply through a prescribed form to avail this facility.
- Recently, the Law Ministry, at the Election Commission's behest, introduced a new category of '**absentee voters**', who can now also opt for postal voting.
- These are voters employed in essential services and unable to cast their vote due to their service conditions.

**47) Which of the following Cabinet committees are chaired by the Prime Minister?**

1. Political Affairs committee
2. Economic Affairs committee
3. Appointment committee
4. Parliamentary Affairs committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Four Cabinet committees which are headed by the Prime Minister are:

1. Committee on Political Affairs
2. Cabinet Committee on Security
3. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
4. Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs

The Committee on Parliamentary Affairs and the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation are headed by the Union Home Minister.

**48) Consider the following statements with respect to the Steppe**

1. These are semi-arid, grassy plain, occurs in temperate climates.
2. These regions have distinct seasonal temperature changes, with cold winters and warm summers.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, NASA captured Shifting seasons on Russian Steppe.
- Significant seasonal changes have been observed in southwestern Russia's Kulunda Steppe.

- A Steppe is a dry, grassy plain, which occur in temperate climates, which lie between the tropics and polar regions.
- Temperate regions have distinct seasonal temperature changes, with cold winters and warm summers.
- Steppes are semi-arid, as they receive 25 to 50 centimeters (10-20 inches) of rain each year.

**49. Consider the following statements with respect to Malabar Exercise:**

1. It is a biannual trilateral naval exercise between the navies of India, Japan and the USA.
2. It began as a bilateral exercise between India and Japan and included the US in 2015.
3. Australia has participated in the exercise as a non-permanent member in the past.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- It is an annual exercise between the navies of India, Japan and the U.S.
- It began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S.
- Then it got permanently expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.
- Past non-permanent participants are Australia and Singapore.

**50. Consider the following statements with respect to Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC):**

1. It was established in 2017 as an institutional mechanism for consultation and coordination for the management of India – China border areas.
2. It is headed by joint secretary-level officials from India and China.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

The WMCC was established in 2012 as an institutional mechanism for consultation and coordination for management of India – China border areas, as well as to exchange views on strengthening communication and cooperation, including between the border security personnel of the two sides. It is headed by joint secretary-level officials from both sides. They are entrusted to help the special representative for boundary talks, a position currently held by NSA Ajit Doval.

**51. “Mongolian Kanjur” recently in the news is:**

- a. A Buddhist canonical text which is the most important religious text in Mongolia.
- b. Critically Endangered ground squirrels endemic to Mongolia.
- c. A Mongolian percussion instrument found in Buddhist monasteries.
- d. A form of performing art involving ritual singing, drumming and dancing performed in Buddhist monasteries.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- a. Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes, is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia.
- b. In the Mongolian language ‘Kanjur’ means ‘Concise Orders’- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.

**52) With respect to Malabar exercise, consider the following statements**

- 1. Malabar began as a bilateral naval exercise between India and Japan in 1992.
- 2. Currently, it was expanded into a quadrilateral format with the inclusion of U.S.A and Australia.

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 : d

- India will take a key decision on whether to include Australia in the Malabar exercises with Japan and the U.S. at a Defence Ministry meeting early next week.
- The Malabar exercise, which has been delayed this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, should take place towards the end of 2020.
- The inclusion of Australia in the Malabar exercises would mark a major shift for India's Indo-Pacific plans.
- The decision, if taken, could bring all Quad countries together as part of the annual war games.

### About Malabar Exercise

- Malabar began as a bilateral naval exercise between **India and the U.S.** in 1992.
- It was expanded into a **trilateral format** with the **inclusion of Japan** in 2015.

53) Consider the following statements with respect to Sovereign Wealth Funds

1. It is a state-owned investment fund or entity which comprises of pools of money derived from a country's reserves.
2. The primary functions of a sovereign wealth fund are to stabilize the country's economy.
3. The National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) is India's Sovereign Wealth Fund.

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

- Recently, Income tax department notifies exemption for Sovereign Wealth Funds.
- This move is aimed at attracting more investments into the country.
- A sovereign wealth fund is a state-owned investment fund that is used to benefit the country's economy and citizens.
- Funding comes from central bank reserves, currency operations, privatizations, transfer payments, and revenue from exporting natural resources.
- These funds generally invest in financial instruments such as bonds, stocks, gold, and real estate.
- Their primary objective is to generate good returns over a long-term duration.

- The National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) is India's first-ever Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF).

**54) Consider the following statements with respect to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India**

1. The Paris Principles was the focal point for the development for the development of NHRC.
2. The complaint to NHRC should only be in Hindi or in English language.
3. It can intervene in any proceeding involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court with the approval of such court.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer : c**

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has constituted an 11-member expert committee to assess the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on human rights.
- The Paris Principles was the focal point for the development for the development of NHRC to many countries in the world.
- The complaint to NHRC can be in any language included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- NHRC can intervene in any proceeding involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court with the approval of such court.

**55. Consider the following statements:**

1. Golden Triangle is located in the area where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong Rivers.
2. Golden Crescent overlaps between the mountain ranges of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
3. Golden Crescent is much older than the Golden Triangle.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 1 only

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Golden Crescent overlaps between the mountain ranges of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan whose mountainous peripheries give the network its eponymous name.
- The Golden Triangle is located in the area where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong Rivers.
- The Golden Crescent is much older than its counterpart in Southeast Asia. While the Golden Triangle began as an opium-producing entity during the 1980s, the Golden Crescent has been doing the same since the 1950s.

**56. Consider the following statements:**

1. Zardozi is an art patronised by the Mughals that involves weaving metallic threads on fabric to create intricate patterns.
2. Bhopal Zardozi has a Geographical Indication tag.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Zardozi is an art patronised by the Mughals that involves weaving metallic threads on fabric to create intricate patterns.
- It flourished during the reign of Mughal Emperor Akbar.
- Lucknow Zardozi has a Geographical Indication tag.



**57. Consider the following statements with respect to Humayun's tomb:**

1. Humayun's garden-tomb is an example of the charbagh.
2. It is the first garden-tomb built in India.
3. It is included in UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites in India.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Humayun's tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent.
- Humayun's garden-tomb is an example of the charbagh (a four quadrant garden with the four rivers of Quranic paradise represented), with pools joined by channels.

**58) Consider the following statements with respect to *Quorum For Standing Committee Meetings in the Parliament***

1. Two-third of the total members of the committee is required for the quorum to constitute a sitting of the committee.
2. If at anytime during a meeting of a committee there is no quorum, it shall be the duty of the Chairperson, to adjourn the meeting.

**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, Rajya Sabha Secretariat told that, Standing committees of Parliament can hold discussions without quorum.
- Rajya Sabha secretariat added that *quorum was essential only when the committees are taking decisions or adopting reports.*
- *One-third of the total members of the committee is required for the quorum to constitute a sitting of the committee.*
- Quorum for these meetings is generally 11 out of 30 members.
- If at anytime during a meeting of a committee there is no quorum, it shall be the duty of the Chairperson, either to adjourn or suspend the meeting.
- According to the reports that out of 281 meetings of the 8 department-related standing committees that are headed by Rajya Sabha members, 16% were held without quorum.

**59) Consider the following statements with respect to *Apache Helicopters***

1. It is an advanced multi-role combat helicopter inducted into IAF from Russia.
2. It is day and night, all weather capable, and have high agility and survivability against battle damage.

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, India gets final batch of *Apache attack helicopters.*
- *Apache* is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world manufactured by *US aerospace giant, Boeing.*
- It is day and night, all weather capable, and have high agility and survivability against battle damage.
- It's modern capabilities includes, fire-and-forget, anti-tank missiles, air-to-air missiles, rockets, and other ammunition.

- It has their ability to operate at much higher altitudes, unlike the aging Russian Mi-24/Mi-35 attack helicopters.

**60) Consider the following statements with respect to *Criminal Laws in India***

1. Crimes are generally referred to as offenses against the state.
2. Criminal law, including all matters included in the Indian Penal Code are in Concurrent List.
3. Criminal laws are governed only by Indian penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

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

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

Answer : a

- A committee was constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to introduce reforms in *Criminal Law*.
- Judges, lawyers and academicians, in a letter, suggest including more experts in the committee.
- Crimes are generally referred to as offenses against the state.
- *Criminal law, including all matters included in the Indian Penal Code at the commencement of this Constitution,*
  1. *but excluding offences* against laws with respect to any of the matters specified in List I or List II and
  2. *excluding* the use of naval, military or air forces or any other armed forces of the Union in aid of the civil power are in *Concurrent List*.
- Criminal law is governed by Indian penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, Evidences Act, etc.

**61) Itolizumab is a drug that has been granted Restricted Emergency Use for moderate to severe COVID-19 patients recently by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). Itolizumab is a drug used to treat?**

- a. Malaria

- b. Psoriasis
- c. Hepatitis
- d. Tuberculosis

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- **Itolizumab** (rDNA origin), a monoclonal antibody which was already approved for severe chronic plaque **Psoriasis**, has recently been granted Restricted Emergency Use authorisation by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) based on clinical trials data.
- Biocon has been manufacturing and marketing this drug for the treatment of patients with moderate to severe chronic plaque psoriasis since 2013 under brand name Alzumab.
- This indigenous drug has now been repurposed for COVID-19.

**62) Consider the following statements with respect to Family Planning 2020 Movement**

1. The movement is an outcome of the 2012 Brazil Summit on Family Planning.
2. India is a fundamental part of the global FP2020 movement.
3. The movement, hosted by the United Nations Foundation, is based on the principle that all women, no matter where they live should have access to lifesaving contraceptives.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**Family Planning 2020**

- It is an outcome of the **2012 London Summit** on Family Planning where more than 20 governments made commitments to address the policy, financing,

delivery and socio-cultural barriers to women accessing contraceptive information, services and supplies.

- The movement is led by a 23-member Reference Group, operated daily by a Secretariat, and **hosted by the United Nations Foundation**.
- FP2020 is based on the principle that all women, no matter where they live should have access to lifesaving contraceptives.
- The vision is for FP2020 to serve as an inclusive and results-oriented partnership that is working with a diverse group of stakeholders and experts to accelerate action and to address the most significant global and country-level barriers to progress against FP2020 goals.
- **India is a fundamental part of the global FP2020 movement.**
- The Government of India has invested substantial domestic funding to achieve the ambitious FP2020 goals.

### Steps taken by India and its Achievements

- The major initiatives under Family Planning include Mission Parivar Vikas, Injectable Contraceptive MPA, Family Planning – Logistics Management Information System (LMIS), Family Planning Communications Campaign.
- The National Family Planning Program has introduced the Injectable Contraceptive in the public health system under the “Antara” program.
- This contraceptive is highly effective and will meet the changing needs of couples and help women space their pregnancies.
- All this investment has paid us rich dividends in terms of averting nearly 5.5 crore unintended pregnancies, 1.1 crore total births, 18 lakh unsafe abortions and 30,000 maternal deaths as a result of contraceptive use in 2019 alone, as per Track 20 Estimates.

### 63) With respect to Tiger Estimation in India, consider the following statements

1. **The All India Tiger Estimation is a survey conducted once in every 5 years.**
2. **The estimation is steered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority with technical backstopping from the Wildlife Institute of India.**
3. **India has achieved its target of doubling its tigers, made at St. Petersburg in 2010, much before the target year of 2022.**

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The fourth cycle of the **All India Tiger Estimation 2018**, results of which were declared to the nation on Global Tiger Day last year by the Indian Prime Minister has recently entered the Guinness World Record for being the **world's largest camera trap wildlife survey**.
- It is 4th such tiger survey since 2006.
- India has fulfilled its resolve to double the tiger numbers four years before the target.
- The country now has an estimated 2967 tigers as per the latest census.
- With this number, India is home to nearly 75% of the global tiger population and has already fulfilled its resolve of doubling tiger numbers, made at St. Petersburg in 2010, much before the target year of 2022.

**All India Tiger Estimation**

- It is a gargantuan exercise and is conducted once in **4 years**.
- The All India Tiger Estimation is steered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority with technical backstopping from the Wildlife Institute of India and implemented by State Forest Departments and partners.

**64) With respect to *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*, also known as the "Himalayan Viagra", sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a fungus endemic to Himalayan and Tibetan Plateau.**
- 2. It has been listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- ***Ophiocordyceps sinensis***, also known as **Himalayan Viagra, Chinese Caterpillar fungus** has recently entered the International Union for Conservation

of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species.

- The list placed the fungus in the **Vulnerable** category.

### Himalayan Viagra

- It is the world's costliest **fungus**, which sells in international markets for upwards of Rs 20 lakh per kg.
- The fungus is known for its aphrodisiac and rejuvenation properties.
- The fungus, also known as **keeda jadi** in Uttarakhand because of its caterpillar-like appearance, is endemic to the Himalayan and Tibetan plateau and is found in China, Bhutan, Nepal and India.
- In India, it is primarily found in Uttarakhand in the higher reaches of districts like Pithoragarh and Chamoli.
- The reason cited for this inclusion is its spread has declined by at least 30% over the past 15 years as a result of overharvesting.



65) Consider the following statements with respect to *Tetrasigma Freyae*, sometimes seen in the news recently

1. It is a new species of marine invertebrate found along the regions of Northern Tripura.
2. It feeds on dead and decaying material and helps to recycle nutrients in coastal and deep water sediments.

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**

**Explanation:**

**Tetrastemma Freyae**

- Recently, researchers have identified a new species of marine invertebrate i.e. 'Tetrastemma Freyae', found along the **coast of Tamil Nadu**.
- It feeds on dead and decaying material and helps to recycle nutrients in coastal and deep water sediments.
- It is associated with sediments and is predatory as it has a role in maintaining the food chain.
- It uses its proboscis, similar to a butterfly which does to collect nectar.
- It has neurotoxins in its proboscis which could lead to developing drugs.



**66) Consider the following statements with respect to The Apollo Missions**

1. It is the NASA's first unmanned mission to the Moon.
2. It aimed to carry out a scientific exploration of the Moon.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- It marks the 51st anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing.
- The Apollo program was designed to land humans on the Moon and bring them safely back to Earth by the US.



- Apollo 8 was the first Apollo mission to go around the Moon.
- Apollo 11 was man's first landing on the Moon.
- Its mission is to, carrying out a program of scientific exploration of the Moon.
- To develop human capability to work in the lunar environment.

67) Consider the following statements with respect to India Voluntary National Review Report 2020

1. It is the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on sustainable development submitted by India.
2. The Report is prepared and presented by NITI Aayog.

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

**Explanation:**

- NITI Aayog had recently presented India's **second** Voluntary National Review (VNR) report titled **Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local** at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020.
- India presented its VNR along with other second time presenters like Bangladesh, Georgia, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria and Uganda.
- The VNRs presented by Member States at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development are a critical component of the review of progress and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- The reviews are voluntary and state-led and are aimed at facilitating the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned.
- The process of preparation of a country's VNR provides a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of various relevant stakeholders.
- NITI Aayog prepared and presented India's first VNR in 2017.

**India VNR 2020**

- India's VNR this year has undertaken a paradigm shift in terms of **embodying a "whole-of-society" approach** in letter and spirit.

- NITI Aayog engaged with sub-national and local governments, civil society organizations, local communities, people in vulnerable situations and the private sector.

68) With respect to the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, consider the following statements:

1. It replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had met annually since 1993.
2. The forum plays a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.
3. The forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly.

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

**Explanation:**

- NITI Aayog presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) report titled **Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local** at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020.

**UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**

- The establishment of the HLPF was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want".
- The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.
- The Forum meets **annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council** for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and **every four years** at the level of Heads of State and Government **under the auspices of the General Assembly** for two days.
- The Forum **replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development**, which had met annually since 1993.

69) Chusul, sometimes seen in the news recently, share its border with which of the following countries?

- a. India and China
- b. China and Nepal
- c. China and Bhutan
- d. None of the above

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

- The Commander-level talks between India and China began recently at **Chushul Border post** in Eastern Ladakh.
- This is the fourth round of talks between the Indian Army and People's Liberation Army of China, since June.
- The Army sources said that the talks mainly focus on the second phase of disengagement at the friction point along the Line of Actual Control.



70) World Wildlife Crime Report, 2020 was released recently by?

- a. TRAFFIC
- b. UN Environment Programme
- c. UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- d. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

- **UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** has recently released its **World Wildlife Crime Report**.
- The threat that wildlife trafficking posed to nature and biodiversity was cited by the report.
- It outlined how trafficking of wild species, their butchering and subsequent illegal sale increased the transmission of zoonotic diseases from animals to humans.
- According to the report, Pangolins are the most trafficked wild mammals in the world, with the seizure of their scales increasing tenfold between 2014 and 2018.
- The animals have, recently, been vilified because of reports that linked them to the emergence of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes the COVID-19 disease.
- The past few years, however, illustrate how much the wild species has been of use to mankind, for which they are trafficked across the world.
- There has been a jump in pangolin seizures since 2014.

**71) Consider the following statements**

1. **In India, the category of Persons with disabilities are also socially backward.**
2. **They are entitled to the same benefits of relaxation as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in public employment and education.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- The Supreme Court, in a significant decision, confirmed that persons with disabilities are also **socially backward**.
- The decision highlighted Divyangjan are **entitled to the same benefits** of relaxation as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in public employment and education.
- SC upheld a 2012 judgment of the Delhi High Court in **Anamol Bhandari vs. Delhi Technological University**.

**72) Consider the following statements with respect to the Competition Act, 2002**

1. The Act prohibits, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates acquisition which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition only within India.
2. Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002

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**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition in Kubota Agricultural Machinery India Pvt Ltd by Escorts.
- The Competition Act 2002, prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.
- The objectives of the Act are sought to be achieved through the Competition Commission of India, which has been established by this Act.

**73. Consider the following statements:**

1. Cytokine storm is an overproduction of immune cells and their activating compounds.
2. Cytokines can be pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Cytokines are small proteins secreted by immune cells to communicate and alter the actions of other immune cells. They can be pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory, thus promoting or inhibiting the proliferation and functions of other immune cells. Cytokine storm is an overproduction of immune cells and their activating compounds.

**74. Consider the following statements:**

1. The lake is located in the Zabarwan mountain valley.
2. It is surrounded by Shankaracharya hills on three sides.

**The lake being talked about is:**

- a. Tso Moriri Lake
- b. Dal Lake
- c. Loktak Lake
- d. Chilika Lake

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Self-explanatory.

**75. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect about Kaziranga National Park:**

1. It is a "Mixed World Heritage Site" on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
2. It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species.
3. It has been declared a tiger reserve.

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim is the only “Mixed World Heritage Site” in India to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- Kaziranga National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site (Natural site).
- It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species.
- It was declared a tiger reserve in 2006.

**76. "PRAGYATA Guidelines" refer to the recently released:**

- a. Guidelines for obtaining collateral-free MSME loans, as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- b. Guidelines on digital education.
- c. Set of procedural guidelines for use in India in cases of sexual harassment.
- d. Guidelines regarding the preparation of coal blocks before bidding.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The PRAGYATA guidelines include eight steps of online/digital education that is, Plan- Review- Arrange- Guide- Yak(talk)- Assign- Track- Appreciate.
- The guidelines on Digital/Online Education provide a roadmap or pointers for carrying forward online education to enhance the quality of education.

**77. Consider the following statements:**

- (1) In the Forest Survey of India-2019, this State has the highest forest cover as a percentage of its total geographic area.
- (2) The latitude that passes through Rajasthan also passes through this State.
- (3) It has the highest concentration of tribal population among all States.

Which of the following States best describe the characteristics mentioned above?

- (a) Chhattisgarh
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Madhya Pradesh**

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** The above-given characteristics describe the Mizoram State.

Recently, biennial “India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019” published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI). In this Report, Mizoram showed a decline in forest cover of 180 sq. km along with Manipur (499 sq. km), Arunachal Pradesh (276 sq. km)

In terms of forest cover as a percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are **Mizoram (85.41%)**, Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%). While Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the most extensive forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

**Tropic of Cancer** (23.5 North latitude) passes through from west to east - Gujarat, **Rajasthan**, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, and **Mizoram**.

As per census 2011 - the UT of Lakshadweep (94.8%) has the highest percentage of Scheduled tribes of its total population, followed by Mizoram (94.5 %). So, among all States, Mizoram has the highest concentration of the tribal people.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

**78. Consider the following statements about the National Infrastructure Pipeline:**

(1) It seeks to lay down a CNG/LPG gas pipeline connecting all the major industrial hubs.

(2) It endeavours to make India a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

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**

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** The Government unveiled Rs.102 lakh crore of infrastructure projects, under the National Infrastructure Pipeline, that will be implemented in the next 5 years as part of the government’s spending within the infrastructure sector. It is estimated that India would need to spend \$4.5 trillion on infrastructure by 2030 to sustain its growth rate. The **NIP endeavours to make this happen efficiently**.

The National Infrastructure Pipeline will enable a forward outlook on infrastructure projects, and it will create jobs, improve ease of living, and provide equitable access to infrastructure for all, thereby making growth more inclusive. **So, statement (1) is not correct.** Following **the Government's vision to make India a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25**, the Government unveiled the Rs.102 lakh crore of infrastructure projects under NIP. So, **statement (2) is correct.**

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).



79) Which of the following is the theme for World Youth Skills Day, 2020?

- a. Skills for a Resilient Youth
- b. Skills for the Future of Work
- c. Youth Skills for Sustainability and Innovation
- d. Improving the image of Technical & Vocational Education and Training

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

**World Youth Skills Day**

- In December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring 15th July as World Youth Skills Day.
- The goal is to achieve better socio-economic conditions for today's youth as a means of addressing the challenges of unemployment and under employment.
- The theme for 2020 World Youth Skills Day is "*Skills for a Resilient Youth*".
- This year marks the fifth anniversary of the launch of Skill India Mission.

80) With respect to India Energy Modelling Forum, which was launched recently, consider the following statements

1. It provides a platform to examine important energy and environmental related issues in India.
2. Bureau of Energy Efficiency will initially coordinate the activities of the forum and finalizing its governing structure.

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

**Explanation:**

- Sustainable Growth Pillar is an important pillar of India-US Strategic Energy Partnership co-chaired by NITI Aayog and USAID.
- The SG pillar entails energy data management, energy modelling and collaboration on low carbon technologies as three key activities.

- In the joint working group meeting of the Sustainable Growth Pillar held recently, an India Energy Modeling Forum was launched.

#### India Energy Modeling Forum

- There exist energy modelling forums in different parts of the World. The Energy Modelling Forum (EMF) in USA was established in 1976.
- In India, there was no formalized and systematic process of having a modeling forum.
- Even then, various think-tanks/research organizations like TERI, IRADe, CSTEP, CEEW, NCAER, etc., have been consistently developing scenarios and contributing through modelling studies and analyses to provide required inputs to MoEF&CC and other relevant ministries, including NITI Aayog.
- The India Energy Modelling Forum will accelerate this effort and aim to:
  1. Provide a platform to examine important energy and environmental related issues;
  2. Inform decision-making process to the Indian government;
  3. Improve cooperation between modelling teams, government, and knowledge partners, funders;
  4. Facilitate exchange of ideas, ensure production of high-quality studies;
  5. Identify knowledge gaps at different levels and across different areas;
  6. Build capacity of Indian institutions.
- NITI Aayog will initially coordinate the activities of the forum and finalizing its governing structure.
- The forum would include knowledge partners, data agencies and concerned government ministries.

**81) Trans-shipment Hub is the terminal at the port which handles containers, stores them temporarily and transfers them to other ships for the onward destination.**

***India's first trans-shipment hub was developed at which of the following states?***

- a. Tamil Nadu
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Andhra Pradesh
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

#### **Explanation:**

- Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) has recently reviewed the development activities of **Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port, Kerala.**

- It is envisaged as **first trans-shipment port of India**, managed by DP World.

### **Trans-shipment Hub**

- It is the terminal at the port which handles containers, stores them temporarily and transfers them to other ships for the onward destination.
- The Kochi International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT), locally known as the Vallarpadam Terminal is located strategically on the Indian coastline.
- It successfully fulfills all the criteria which are needed to develop it as trans-shipment hub which include:
  1. It is best positioned Indian port with regard to proximity to International sea routes;
  2. It is located at least average nautical distance from all Indian feeder ports;
  3. It entails a connectivity which has multiple weekly feeder connections to all ports on West & East Coast of India, From Mundra to Kolkata;
  4. It has proximity to key hinterland markets of India;
  5. It has the infrastructure to manage large ships and capacity to scale it up as per requirement.
- Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port is proposed to be developed as most preferred gateway for South India and leading trans-shipment hub of South Asia.

### **82) Kris Gopalakrishnan Committee, sometimes seen in the news recently, was constituted for which of the following purposes?**

- a. To study the flaws in food processing policy of India
- b. To study various issues relating to Non-Personal Data
- c. To suggest the feasibility of transit oriented development in Indian cities
- d. To make specific suggestions to strengthen the grass root primary health centres

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation:**

- The government of India has constituted a committee of experts in last September under the chairmanship of *Shri Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-Founder Infosys*, to deliberate on a Data Governance Framework and recommend measures relating thereto.

### **Terms of Reference of the Committee**

1. *To study various issues relating to Non-personal Data.*
  2. To make specific suggestions for consideration of the Central Government on regulation of Non-Personal Data.
- The committee has recently suggested that non-personal data generated in the country be allowed to be harnessed by various domestic companies and entities.
  - It has also suggested setting up of a new authority which would be empowered to monitor the use and mining of such non-personal data.

### **What is Non-Personal Data?**

- In its most basic form, non-personal data is any set of data which does not contain personally identifiable information.
- This in essence means that no individual or living person can be identified by looking at such data.
- For example, while order details collected by a food delivery service will have the name, age, gender, and other contact information of an individual, it will become non-personal data if the identifiers such as name and contact information are taken out.
- The government committee has classified non-personal data into three main categories, namely *public non-personal data, community non-personal data and private non-personal data.*
- Depending on the source of the data and whether it is anonymised in a way that no individual can be re-identified from the data set, the three categories have been divided.

### **Public Non-Personal Data Sets**

- All the data collected by government and its agencies such as census, data collected by municipal corporations on the total tax receipts in a particular period or any information collected during execution of all publicly funded works has been kept under the umbrella of public non-personal data.

### **Community Non-Personal Data Sets**

- Any data identifiers about a set of people who have either the same geographic location, religion, job, or other common social interests will form the community non-personal data. For example, the metadata collected by ride-hailing apps, telecom companies, electricity distribution companies among others have been put under the community non-personal data category by the committee.

### **Private Non-Personal Data Sets**

- Private non-personal data can be defined as those which are produced by individuals which can be derived from application of proprietary software or knowledge.

83) *Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)* is a free trade agreement between India and ?

- a. UK
- b. USA
- c. Russia
- d. European Union

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- *15th India-European Union (Virtual) Summit* was held recently.

**Highlights of the summit**

- The two sides issued a joint political statement, a five-year roadmap for the India-E.U. strategic partnership, a civil nuclear research and development cooperation agreement between EURATOM and the Department of Atomic Energy, a declaration on “resource efficiency and circular economy” to exchange best practices in range of areas and the renewal of their science and technology agreement for another five years.

**Bilateral trade and Investment Agreement**

- In a new initiative to **revive talks** on a free trade agreement that have been **suspended since 2013**, the two sides announced a “high level dialogue” between Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and E.U. Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan to try and take the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) forward.

**EU and India**

- EU is India’s largest trading partner, while India is the E.U.’s ninth biggest trading partner.

84) Consider the following statements with respect to *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*

1. All members of UN General Assembly are the members of ECOSOC.
2. The decisions taken at the council are taken by simple majority vote.

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**

**Explanation:**

- On UN's 75th anniversary, Indian PM to virtually address ECOSOC.
- This High-Level Segment is held annually by ECOSOC.
- It convenes a diverse group of high-level representatives from the Government, the private sector, civil society and academia.
- The theme of the High-level Segment is "Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary".
- *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*, one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- It has 54 Members, elected by the UN General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.
- The membership is based on geographic representation.
- Decisions taken at the council are taken by simple majority vote.
- Four of the five permanent members of the Security Council have been continuously reelected because they provide funding for most of ECOSOC's budget.
- The council was designed to be the UN's main venue for the discussion of international economic and social issues.

**85) An announcement was recently made that the Poba Reserve Forest would be upgraded to a Wildlife Sanctuary. Poba Reserve Forest is located in which of the following states?**

- a. Assam
- b. Mizoram
- c. Maharashtra
- d. Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Assam Chief Minister has recently announced that the Poba Reserve Forest in Dhemaji district of Assam would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary.

- The Reserved Forest (RF) was created in the year 1924 and covers an area of 10,221 hectares.
- Poba is one of the richest rain forests of North-East India in terms of the flora and fauna found in it and can be very well termed a biodiversity hotspot.

**86) With respect to the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive, consider the following statements**

- 1. It is a central sector scheme launched by the Ministry of Tourism.**
- 2. The main objective of the scheme is to identify circuits that have immense tourist potential and develop it in a planned and prioritized manner.**

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Union Minister of State(IC) for Tourism Sh. Prahlad Singh Patel has recently inaugurated the **Project “Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath, Gujarat”** recently.
- The project “Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath, Gujarat” sanctioned under the PRASHAD scheme in March 2017 has been successfully completed with the cost of Rs. 45.36 crores.
- High quality world class facilities for Parking, Tourism Amenities Centre and Solid Waste Management have been developed under the project.

**PRASHAD Scheme**

- The ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive’ (PRASHAD) Scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Tourism** in the year 2014-15.
- Its main objective is **integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.**
- The scheme aimed at **infrastructure development such as entry points, last mile connectivity, basic tourism facilities,** etc.
- This scheme is proposed to be implemented as a **Central Sector Scheme** during the 12th Five Year Plan and beyond.

### Swadesh Darshan Scheme Objectives

1. To position tourism as a major engine of economic growth and job creation.
2. **Develop circuits having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner.**
3. Promote cultural and heritage value of the country to generate livelihoods in the identified regions.

### 87) Consider the following statements with respect to ZyCoV-D

1. **It is an indigenous vaccine for COVID-19 under the National Biotechnology Mission.**
2. **It was designed and developed by Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).**

### 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: d

### Explanation:

- Vaccine Discovery Programme, **supported by the Department of Biotechnology** under the **National Biopharma Mission**, implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) moves into clinical trials.
- BIRAC has recently announced that **ZyCoV-D** has initiated Phase I/II clinical trials in healthy subjects, making it **the first indigenously developed vaccine for COVID-19** to be administered in humans in India.

### ZyCoV-D Vaccine

- It is a plasmid DNA vaccine **designed and developed by Zydus** and partially funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.
- **Zydus Cadila** is an innovative, global pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of healthcare therapies, including small molecule drugs, biologic therapeutics, and vaccines.
- The adaptive Phase I/II dose escalation, multi-centric study will assess the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the vaccine.

### 88) Consider the following statements with respect to National BioPharma Mission



1. It is an **Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission** implemented by the **National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA)**.
2. The mission is co-funded by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

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: d

**Explanation:**

**National BioPharma Mission**

- It is an **Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission of Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** for Accelerating Early Development for Biopharmaceuticals.
- It is being implemented by the **Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)** - a Public Sector Undertaking of DBT.
- The National Biopharma Mission was approved by the Cabinet for implementation in May 2017 with a total cost US\$ 250 million which is **co-funded World Bank 50%**.
- This program is dedicated to deliver affordable products to the nation with an aim to improve the health standards of India's population.
- Vaccines, medical devices and diagnostics and biotherapeutics are few of its most important domains, besides, strengthening the clinical trial capacity and building technology transfer capabilities in the country.

**89) Consider the following statements with respect to Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**

1. It is an **Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.**
2. It is a **not-for-profit Public Sector Enterprise set up by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.**

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

- a. 1 only

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**

- BIRAC is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.
- It is an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

**90) Consider the following statements with respect to Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

1. The changes in the CPI are used to assess price changes associated with the cost of living.
2. CPI also takes into account the online prices of products while computing retail inflation.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- The actual inflation is 90 bps higher than imputed inflation of NSO, according to the SBI's Ecowrap.
- NSO under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) released the CPI for June 2020.
- SBI's Economic Research Department (ERD), in its report titled 'Ecowrap', observed that the Covid-19 pandemic has introduced an outlet bias.

- It states that online prices of products should take into account while computing retail inflation as more and more people are relying on online stores, especially after the outbreak of COVID-19.
- As per SBI Computed COVID CPI, the actual headline inflation is much higher than the imputed inflation.

91) Consider the following statements with respect to *National Pension System (NPS)*

1. Both resident and Non-resident citizen of India in the age group of 18-65 years can join NPS.
2. The money invested in NPS is managed by Life Insurance Corporation of India.

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

**Explanation:**

- The National Pension System's corporate subscriber base has registered a growth of 30% during Q1FY21.
- The *National Pension System (NPS)*, is a pension scheme of Government of India.
- The Scheme is regulated by *Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)*.
- *National Pension System Trust (NPST)* established by PFRDA is the *registered owner of all assets under NPS*.
- Both resident and Non-resident citizen of India in the age group of 18-65 years can join NPS, an NRI can also open an NPS account.
- The money invested in NPS is managed by PFRDA.

92) Consider the following statements with respect to *5G Technology*

1. The 5G network uses spectrum of radio frequencies and the millimeter-wave frequency.
2. It will provide high speed with high latency connectivity to enable a new generation of Internet of Things (IoT).

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**

**Explanation:**

- Reliance Industries announced that Jio has designed, developed a complete indigenous *5G solution* ready for deployment.
- 5G or Fifth Generation is the latest upgrade in the long term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks.
- The *5G spectrum is a range of radio frequencies* in the sub-6 GHz range and the *millimeter-wave frequency* range that is 24.25 GHz and above.
- The speed and latency of which improved with 4G networks.
- The 5G networks will have even faster speeds with *low latency* between 1-10 milliseconds.
- Latency is the time a device takes to communicate with the network, which stands at an average of up to 50 milliseconds for 4G networks across the world.

**93) Consider the following statements with respect to *Paracel Islands***

- 1. It is a group of coral islands and reefs in the South China Sea.**
- 2. It is a disputed territory between China, Taiwan and Vietnam.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, China sends Flanker Fighter Jets to *South China Sea*, as the USS Ronald Reagan carrier battle group sails into Sea.
- The *Paracel Islands* and the *Spratly Islands* are disputed territories located in South China Sea.
- *Paracel Islands* is a disputed territory between China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

94) Jaigaon-Ahllay trade route recently seen in news is between,

- a. India - Myanmar
- b. India - Nepal
- c. India - Bhutan
- d. None of the above

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- *India and Bhutan recently launched a new trade route.*
- *The new route will operate between Jaigaon in West Bengal and Ahllay in Bhutan.*
- *It will enable smoother trade of goods and strengthening of sub-regional cooperation amid Chinese inroads into South Asia.*
- *It will also lead to decongestion of vehicular traffic along the Jaigaon-Phuentsholing route.*

95) Consider the following statements with respect to *Ebola Virus*

1. It is a viral disease transmitted to people from wild animals.
2. The human-to-human transmission is through direct contact with body fluids of a infected person.

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**

**Explanation:**

- *Recently, there was a second deadliest Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).*
- *Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans.*
- *The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals.*

- The virus spreads to people initially through direct contact with the blood, body fluids and tissues of animals.
- *Human to Human transmission* is through direct contact with body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from EVD.

96) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*):

1. It is the only species of pangolin occurring in India.
2. It is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. It is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

**Explanation:**

- Of the eight extant species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) occur in India.
- It is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

97) Consider the following statements with respect to U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP)

1. India had elevated the India-US Energy dialogue into a Strategic Energy Partnership in 2018.
2. Under the Partnership, India can store its crude oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserves of the United States of America (USA).

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

- The second **India-US strategic energy partnership (SEP) Ministerial Meet** was held recently.
- The ministerial was co-chaired by India's petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan and US energy secretary Dan Brouillette.
- During the meeting, the two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to begin cooperation on Strategic Petroleum Reserves operation and maintenance, including exchange of information and best practices.
- They also **discussed the possibility of India storing oil in the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve** as part of its energy security strategy to increase their nation's strategic oil stockpile.
- Such an arrangement will help India, the world's third-largest oil importer, to tackle emergency situations and help it tide over short-term supply disruptions.
- India has an existing storage capacity of 5.3 million tonnes – **Visakhapatnam** (1.33 mt), **Mangaluru** (1.5 mt) and **Padur** (2.5 mt).
- This is operational and can support 9.5 days of net imports.
- The Indian government has also approved the construction of an additional 6.5 mt of strategic crude oil reserves at **Chandikhol** (4 mt) in Odisha and **Padur** (2.5 mt) in Karnataka.
- The SEP also supports USG (US government) efforts under the AsiaEDGE initiative, which establishes India as a strong energy partner in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **India-U.S. Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP)**

- In February 2018, India had elevated the India-US Energy dialogue into a Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).
- The first ministerial meet was held in New Delhi on April 17, 2018.
- The United States and India share an all-of-the-above approach to energy security and energy access.
- The SEP organizes inter-agency engagement on both sides across four primary pillars of cooperation:
  1. Oil and Gas
  2. Renewable Energy
  3. Sustainable Growth
  4. Power and Energy Efficiency

98) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Council of Agricultural Research

1. It is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).
2. The Council is the apex body for co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

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

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated its 92nd foundation day recently.

### Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- It is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
- It was established on 16 July 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- The Council is the apex body for co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.
- With 102 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.

99) Consider the following statements with respect to Plea Bargaining

1. It is a process whereby the accused may bargain with the prosecution for a lesser punishment.
2. The Indian code makes plea bargaining can be initiated only by the accused.
3. It is available only to those accused of civil offences in India.

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

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



Answer : c

- Many members of the Tablighi Jamaat belonging to different countries have obtained release from court cases in recent days by means of Plea Bargaining.
- It refers to a person charged with a criminal offence negotiating with the prosecution for a lesser punishment than what is provided in law by pleading guilty to a less serious offence.
- It was introduced in 2006 as part of a set of amendments to the CrPC, containing Sections 265A to 265L.
- In the U.S. and other countries, the prosecutor plays a key role in bargaining with the suspected offender.
- The Indian code makes plea bargaining a process that can be initiated only by the accused.

100) Consider the following statements with respect to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

1. It is a UN specialized agency, established to manage the administration and governance of Chicago Convention.
2. The Convention on International Civil Aviation shall not be applicable to State aircraft.

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

- Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE had challenged the authority of the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) to adjudicate on the legality of the air blockade against Qatar in ICJ.
- ICAO is a UN specialized agency, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).
- The Convention shall be applicable only to civil aircraft, and shall not be applicable to State aircraft.
- Aircraft used in military, customs and police services shall be deemed to be state aircraft.

101) Consider the following statements with respect to Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone

1. This zone is an interwoven interdependent fragile Ganga- Himalayan basin, located in the upper Himalayas.
2. The Eco-Sensitive Zones are fragile areas notified under Environment Protection Act 1986.

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**

- The Union Environment Ministry has approved the Zonal Master Plan for the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone.
- The approval of ZMP will give a boost to conservation and ecology of the area.
- It will help to undertake developmental activities as permitted under ZMP and it will pave way for faster execution of the Chardham Project.
- This zone is an interwoven interdependent fragile Ganga- Himalayan Basin, located in the upper Himalayas.
- Geographically the area falls under Garhwal lesser Himalayas and Higher Himalayas.
- The Eco-Sensitive Zones are fragile areas notified by MoEFCC under Environment Protection Act 1986.

**102. With reference to the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The provisions of this Act apply to citizens of India outside India.
2. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in a maximum of 90 days after the arrests.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests:

**103) Consider the following statements with respect to NISHTHA Programme**

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme under the Samagra Shiksha Mission.
2. It is a capacity building programme that aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.
3. The program is being organized by constituting both National and State Resource Groups at the National and the State level respectively.

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

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

**Answer : b**

- The **first on-line NISHTHA programme** for 1200 Key Resources Persons of **Andhra Pradesh** was launched recently by the Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriya 'Nishank' in New Delhi.
- Keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic situation, it is now planned to organise SRG and Teachers training in online mode.

**National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)**

- The **Department of School Education and Literacy** has launched a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA under the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of **Samagra Shiksha** in 2109-20.
- It is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".
- It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.
- The functionaries (at the state, district, block, cluster level) shall be trained in an integrated manner on learning outcomes, school based assessment, learner – centred pedagogy, new initiatives in education, addressing diverse needs of children through multiple pedagogies, etc.
- This is being organized by constituting **National Resource Groups (NRGs) and State Resource Groups (SRGs)** at the National and the State level.

- A robust portal/Management Information System (MIS) for delivery of the training, monitoring and support mechanism has been infused with this capacity building initiative.

**104) Consider the following statements with respect to Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration**

1. The award aims to recognize the performance of the District Collectors towards outcome indicators, economic development, peoples' participation and redressal of public grievances.
2. The award shall be conferred by the Prime Minister of India on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.
3. The award for the very first time seeks to recognize the efforts of District level officials in the Namami Gange Programme.

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**

- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has recently launched the restructured **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2020** scheme and web portal.

**About the Award**

- Government of India has instituted a scheme in 2006 namely, "The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration" - to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/ Organizations of the Central and State Governments.
- The Scheme was restructured in 2014 for recognizing the performance of District Collectors in Priority Programs, Innovations and Aspirational Districts.
- The Scheme has been restructured again in 2020, to recognize the performance of the District Collectors towards outcome indicators, economic development, peoples' participation and redressal of public grievances.
- Nominations have been called in for four major categories:
  1. District Performance Indicators Programme
  2. Innovation General Category
  3. Aspirational Districts Program

4. Namami Gange Program

- The award **for the very first time** seeks to recognize the efforts of District level officials in the Namami Gange Programme.
- The award under the restructured scheme shall be **conferred by the Prime Minister** on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas - October 31, 2020 at the Statue of Unity, Kevadia, Gujarat.

**105) ASPIRE is an e-portal launched recently to facilitate which of the following sectors to become self-reliant?**

- a. Machine Tools
- b. Automotive Sector
- c. Power Sector Equipment
- d. Manufacturing Technology

**Answer : b**

- Department of Heavy Industry (DHI), Govt of India, has embarked on a mission to promote innovation, R&D and product development in India for various sectors.
- A step towards this mission is the creation of technology platform e-portals where such technology development, information exchange and innovation can be facilitated.
- There are **five portals** being developed for specific sectors by different organizations viz:
  1. BHEL for power sector equipment
  2. HMT for machine tools
  3. CMFTI for manufacturing technology
  4. ICAT and ARAI for automotive sector
- The objective of these portals is to create an ecosystem which will bring solution seekers and problem solvers together.
- These include, industry, academia, research institutes, start-ups, professionals and experts.

**ASPIRE Portal**

- International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is developing technology platform for **automotive industry** called **ASPIRE - Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education**.
- The key objective of this portal is to facilitate the Indian Automotive Industry to become self reliant by assisting in innovation and adoption of global

technological advancements by bringing together the stakeholders from various associated avenues.

**106) RAISE Programme, which was launched recently by the Ministry of Power, is a joint initiative of which of the following?**

1. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)
2. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
3. US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer : b**

- Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh, has recently inaugurated **India's first public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging plaza** at Chelmsford Club in **New Delhi**.
- The charging plaza has been set up with a focus on enhancing energy efficiency and promoting e-mobility.
- This plaza will host 5 EV chargers of different specifications.

**RAISE Programme**

- The Minister also launched retrofit of air-conditioning to improve indoor air quality for safety and efficiency (RAISE) - a joint initiative of **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**.
- EESL has undertaken a retrofit of its office air-conditioning and ventilation system.
- This is a part of the larger initiative to "Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor air quality for Safety and Efficiency" developed for healthy and energy-efficient buildings, in partnership with USAID's **MAITREE programme**.
- EESL's corporate office in Scope Complex has been taken up as a pilot for this initiative.
- The pilot focuses on improving indoor air quality (IAQ), thermal comfort, and energy efficiency (EE) in the office's air conditioning system.

**107) The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), 2020 Report was produced by?**

- a. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- b. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- c. World Health Organization (WHO)
- d. All of the above

**Answer : d**

- The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 Report** was released recently on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.
- It is produced jointly by the
  1. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
  2. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
  3. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
  4. UN World Food Programme (WFP)
  5. World Health Organization (WHO)
- Its first edition was brought out in 2017.

**108) Consider the following statements with respect to the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**

1. It is an independent accounting and auditing regulator set up under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.
2. It oversee the quality of service of the auditors and suggest measures required to improve the quality of service.

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, Prof. R. Narayanaswamy appointed as Chair of Technical Advisory Committee of National Financial Reporting Authority.
- The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), is an independent accounting and auditing regulator set up by the Government of India under the Companies Act, 2013.

- It oversee the quality of service of the professionals, auditors and suggest measures required to improve the quality of service.
- It is different from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
- ICAI is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, viz. the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.
- ICAI would perform its role and shall submit its recommendations on Auditing Standards to the government through the NFRA.

**109) With respect to Maheswar/Mahismati, one of the serene and captivating destinations of Madhya Pradesh with historical significance, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It was the capital of Malwa during the Maratha Holkar reign till the capital was shifted to Indore by Malhar Rao Holkar III in 1818.**
- 2. The town lies on the north bank of the River Narmada.**
- 3. It served as the capital of the great Maratha Queen Rajmata Ahilya Devi Holkar during the late eighteenth century.**

**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: d**

**Explanation:**

**Maheshwar or Mahishmati**

- It is one of serene and captivating destinations of **Madhya Pradesh** with historical significance. It is located 90 kms away from Indore city.
- The Town lies on the **north bank of the Narmada River**.
- The city got its name after Lord Shiva/ Maheshwara, it also finds a mention in the epics Ramayana and Mahabharatha.
- It was the **capital of the Malwa during the Maratha Holkarreign** till 6 January 1818, when the capital was shifted to Indore by Malhar Rao Holkar III.
- In the **Ahilya Devi Holkar late eighteenth century, Maheshwar served as the capital of the great Maratha queen Rajmata.**

**Holkar Devi Ahilya Rajmata**



- The queen was known for her simplicity, this is evident to present day through Rajwada or the Royal Residence where the queen used to meet her people, a two-storied building.
- She was a generous patron of the arts.
- Textile is an important aspect that is developed by Ahilya Devi, she invited master weavers from Surat and South India to weave sarees that are unique from the existing ones.
- The designs used on these are inspirations from fort architecture and Narmada river. These were gifted to royal guests.
- Under the princely state the weavers arts flourished and specialized into the present day **Maheshwari cloth**.
- She embellished the city with many buildings and public works, and it is home to her palace, as well as numerous temples, a fort, and riverfront ghats.
- Ahilyeshwar temple, where Ahilya devi used to offer prayers, Vitthal temple near Ahileshwar temple were known for its architecture.
- There are around 91 temples that are built by the Rajmata.
- Baneshwar temple which is dedicated to Lord Shiva is also located Maheshwar.

**110) Consider the following statements with respect to Manodarpan Initiative**

- 1. It aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-being.**
- 2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- Union HRD Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank had recently launched the MANODARPAN initiative of HRD Ministry **to provide psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-being** in New Delhi.
- As part of Manodarpan initiative, the Ministry of HRD had also launched a National Toll-free Helpline (8448440632), a special web page of Manodarpan on the portal of HRD Ministry, and a Handbook on Manodarpan.

**ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN**

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, a stimulus package for revitalising the economy of India post COVID-19 outbreak.
- The 'Manodarpan' initiative has been included in the ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN, as a part of strengthening human capital and increasing productivity and efficient reform and initiatives for the Education sector.

**111) Neowise, often seen in the news recently is a/an?**

- a. Comet
- b. Asteroid
- c. Dwarf Planet
- d. Exo-planet

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The recently discovered comet called **C/2020 F3**, also known as **NEOWISE** after the NASA telescope that discovered it, will make its closest approach to the Earth on July 22, 2020.
- On July 3, the comet was closest to the sun at 43 million km.
- On this day, the comet cruised inside Mercury's orbit and, due to its proximity to the sun, its outer layer was released creating an atmosphere – referred to as coma – of gas and dust from its icy surface.
- This atmosphere sometimes leads to formation of a bright tail of debris that can extend for thousands or millions of kilometres.

**Comets**

- Comets or “dirty snowballs” are mostly made of dust, rocks and ice, the remnants from time the solar system was formed over 4.6 billion years ago.
- The word comet comes from the Latin word “Cometa” which means “long-haired” and the earliest known record of a comet sighting was made by an astrologer in 1059 BC.
- Comets can range in their width from a few miles to tens of miles wide. As they orbit closer to the sun, like in the case of C/2020 F3, they heat up and release debris of dust and gases that forms into a “glowing head” that can often be larger than a planet.

**112) Consider the following statements with respect to India Ideas Summit**

1. **The Summit is being hosted by the NITI Aayog in partnership with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.**

2. The theme for this year's event is 'Building a Better Future'.

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**

**Explanation:**

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate and deliver the keynote address at the India Ideas Summit scheduled to be held on 22nd July, 2020.

**India Ideas Summit, 2020**

- The Summit is being hosted by the **US-India Business Council**.
- It is a virtual summit featuring high-level presence from Indian and US government policymakers, state-level officials, and thought leaders from business and society.
- This year marks the 45th anniversary of the formation of the Council.
- The theme for this year's India Ideas Summit is '**Building a Better Future**'.
- The Summit will witness discussions on areas including India-US cooperation and future of the relation between the two countries in a post pandemic world.

**113) The Report on Household Social Consumption: Education Survey was released recently. The survey was conducted by?**

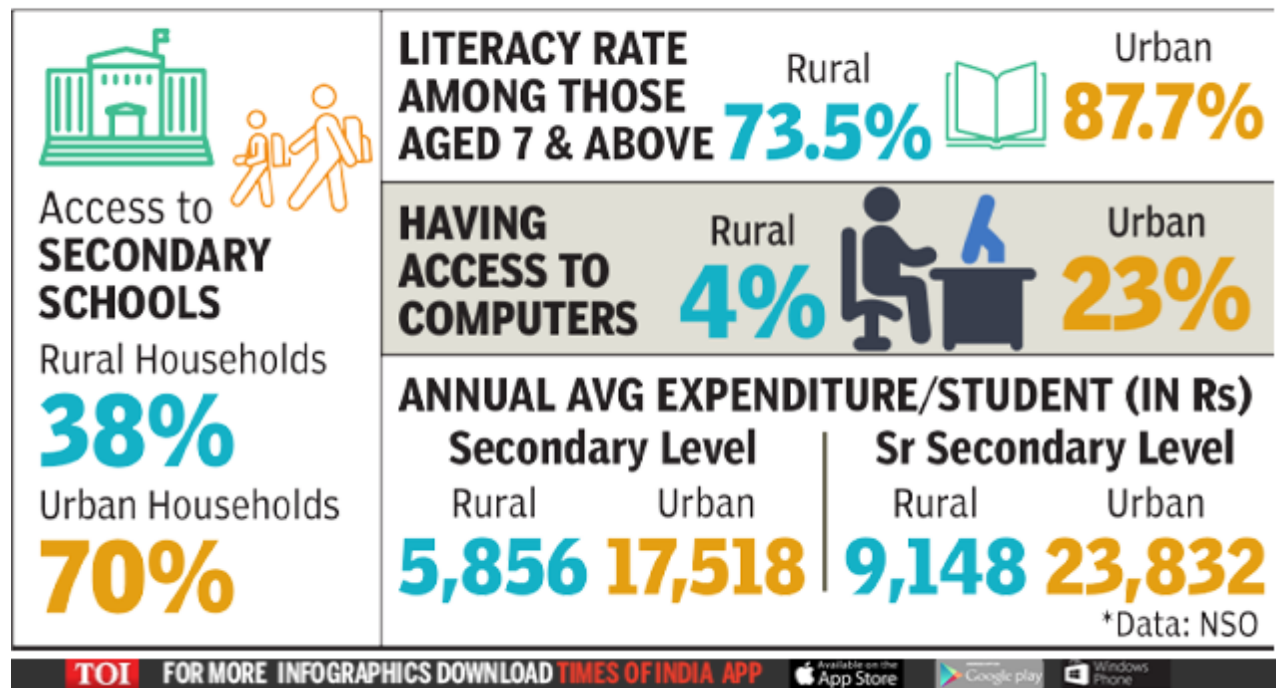
- a. NITI Aayog
- b. National Statistical Office
- c. Ministry of Human Resources and Development
- d. All of the above

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- A Report titled **Household Social Consumption: Education** was released recently.
- The survey was conducted by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- The report analyses the trends in rural-urban gap in education.

## STARK DIVIDE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION



114) Consider the following statements with respect to Consumer Protection Act, 2019

1. The consumers have to file complaints only at the location where the service or products were sold.
2. It includes a person who obtain goods for resale or for any commercial purpose, as a consumer.
3. It covers transactions through all modes including offline, online through electronic means, teleshopping, multi-level marketing or direct selling.

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

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 3 only
- d. None of the above

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

- The Consumer Protection Act,2019 came in to force from 20 July.

- It's salient features includes the establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers.
- A consumer is defined as a person who buys any good or avails a service for a consideration.
- It does not include a person who obtains a good for resale or a good or service for commercial purpose.
- The consumers can file complaints at a district or state consumer commission closest to their residence, rather than the location where the service or products were sold.
- It covers transactions through all modes including offline, and online through electronic means, teleshopping, multi-level marketing or direct selling.

**115) With respect to the International Union of Railways, consider the following statements**

1. It is the global platform for railway systems working on inter-operability, developing common technical standards for railways across the world.
2. India is a member to this organisation which is headquartered in Paris, France.

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

- Under the 96th **Union Internationale Des Chemins (UIC)** General Assembly, Shri Arun Kumar, DG/RPF has been nominated as **the Vice-Chairman** of the Security platform from July 2020 to July 2022.
- DG/ RPF will then take over as **Chairman** of the Security Platform from July 2022 to July 2024.

**International Union of Railways**

- Union Internationale Des Chemins (UIC) is a French word, the meaning of which in English is **International Union of Railways**.
- The UIC is the global platform for railway systems working on inter-operability, developing common technical standards for railways across the world and strengthening what is called "Rail Diplomacy".
- It is headquartered in **Paris, France**.

- The UIC Security Platform is empowered to develop and formulate analysis and policy positions on behalf of the rail sector in matters relating to security of persons, property and installations.
- The security platform promotes the exchange of information and experience among the security agencies of UIC members and proposes common interest projects and activities in the field of railway security as dictated by requirement of members or external events.
- **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**, on behalf of Indian Railways, has always been an **active member of the UIC** security platform and contributed to discussions, deliberations, exchange of ideas and best practices since long.
- It has also organized UIC Security Conferences in 2006 and 2015 in New Delhi.
- RPF involves itself in working groups, forums and meetings and its contribution in working of UIC security platform has been appreciated by UIC leadership since long.

**116) Consider the following statements with respect to Directorate General of Goods and Service Tax Intelligence (DGGI)**

1. It is an apex intelligence organization functioning under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs.
2. It has been entrusted with the task of collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence relating to evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and also duties of Central Excise and Service Tax on an all India basis.

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

- Acting on specific intelligence the Directorate General of Goods and Service Tax Intelligence, Headquarters (DGGI, Hqrs) has unveiled a racket of clandestine clearance of cigarettes through a factory run in Kota.

**Directorate General of Goods and Service Tax Intelligence (DCGI)**

- Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) was known as Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI) erstwhile.
- It is an apex intelligence organization functioning under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs**, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

- It has been entrusted with the task of **collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence relating to evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and duties of Central Excise and Service Tax** on an all India basis.

### History of the Organisation

- It was earlier known as Directorate General of Anti-Evasion (DGAE).
- It was established in the year 1979 as an independent wing under the control of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi with the Regional Units located at Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai.
- It became a full-fledged Directorate in 1983, headed by a Director.
- In 1988, the Directorate was upgraded to Directorate General under a Director General with four Zonal Units located at Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai, headed by Additional Director Generals.

### 117) Consider the following statements with respect to Venus

1. Venus is one of the two planets that rotate from East to West.
2. Venus doesn't have any moons similar to Mercury.
3. It has a thick atmosphere full of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and clouds made of sulfuric acid.

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

- An International group of researchers have recently identified 37 volcanic structures on Venus that were recently active and are likely still active today.
- The results, published in the Nature Geoscience, **overturn** the long-held assumptions that the second planet from the sun is largely **dormant**.

### What we thought?

- Unlike Earth, Venus doesn't have plate tectonics that are constantly moving and gradually shaping its surface, leaving many scientists to assume the planet had been inactive for perhaps the last half-billion years.
- But this assumption has never been truly tested, since the planet's incredibly thick atmosphere and scorching temperatures have made it very difficult to study.



### The new findings

- It focused around ring-like structures called coronae, upwells of volcanic material from the planet's interior, which are a sign of geological activity.
- The researchers developed simulations of what the planet's active coronae should look like based on thermal data collected by the European Space Agency's Venus Express orbiter (whose mission ended in 2014).
- Using these simulations, the researchers had an idea of what surface characteristics to look for to identify active coronae.
- Specifically, they would have trenches around their outer rings and protuberances around the trenches' edges.

### About Venus

- Even though Venus isn't the closest planet to the sun, it is still the hottest.
- It has a **thick atmosphere** full of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and **clouds made of sulfuric acid**.
- The gas traps heat and keeps Venus toasty warm. In fact, it's so hot on Venus, metals like lead would be puddles of melted liquid.
- Venus looks like a very active planet. It has mountains and volcanoes. Venus is similar in size to Earth. Earth is just a little bit bigger.
- Venus is unusual because it spins the opposite direction of Earth (i.e from East to West) and most other planets.
- And its rotation is very slow. It takes about 243 Earth days to spin around just once.
- Because it's so close to the sun, a year goes by fast.
- It takes 225 Earth days for Venus to go all the way around the sun. That means that a day on Venus is a little longer than a year on Venus.
- Since the day and year lengths are similar, one day on Venus is not like a day on Earth.
- Here, the sun rises and sets once each day. But on Venus, the sun rises every 117 Earth days. That means the sun rises two times during each year on Venus, even though it is still the same day on Venus.
- Because of its rotation, the sun rises in the west and sets in the east.
- **Just like Mercury, Venus doesn't have any moons.**

**118) With respect to "AZD1222", sometimes seen in the news recently, consider the following statements**

1. It is a recombinant viral vector vaccine developed by Oxford University for the COVID-19.
2. It uses weakened version of a common-cold virus that infects chimpanzees.



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

- The researchers recently announced the results of the first phase of a **Covid-19 vaccine, AZD1222**, developed by the **University of Oxford**.
- The vaccine appears safe and induces a strong immune response within the body, the results published in leading scientific journal The Lancet show.
- The results show they induced strong antibody and T-cell immune responses for up to 56 days after they were given.
- T-cells are crucial for maintaining protection against the virus for years.

#### **About the Vaccine**

- The shot, **AZD1222**, is a recombinant viral vector vaccine developed by Oxford University.
- It is licensed to British pharma giant AstraZeneca.
- It is a chimpanzee adenovirus viral vector (ChAdOx1) vaccine that expresses the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.
- The experimental vaccine uses weakened version of a common-cold virus that infects chimpanzees which are given encoded instructions for making proteins from the novel coronavirus to build immunity.
- It is likely to provide protection for about a year.
- Data from late-stage studies is expected by August to September and the Delivery of first dose expected between September and October 2020.

**119) The Ministry of Food Processing and Industries had recently operationalized the Zoram Food Park. It is the first Mega Food Park (MFP) of?**

- a. Odisha
- b. Mizoram
- c. Telangana
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

Answer : b

- Recently, Ministry of food processing industries has operationalized the first Mega Food Park (MFP) of Mizoram.

- The Zoram Mega Food Park has been set up under the 'Mega Food Park Scheme'.
- It will boost the North-East Region's potential to become the organic destination of the world due to its rich agricultural and horticultural produce.

### **Mega Food Park**

- A Mega food Park typically consists of supply chain infrastructure including
  1. Collection centers (CC),
  2. Primary processing centers (PPC)
  3. Central processing centers (CPC),
  4. Cold chain,
  5. Around 25-30 fully developed plots for entrepreneurs to set up food processing units.
- The Scheme is based on the "Cluster" approach and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined Agri/horticultural zone.
- The central government provides financial assistance up to Rs. 50 Crore per Mega Food Park (MFP) project.
- The MFP project is implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act, 2013.

### **120) Consider the following statements with respect to Insider Trading**

1. It involves trading in a public company's stock by someone who has non-public, material information about that stock.
2. It is prohibited under the Companies Act, 1956.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not** correct?

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

Answer : d

- Recently, SEBI amends Insider Trading Norms and it entities to maintain database on unpublished price-sensitive information.
- Insider trading involves trading in a public company's stock by someone who has non-public, material information about that stock for any reason.
- It is prohibited under the Companies Act, 1956.

- It is an unfair practice, wherein the other stock holders are at a great disadvantage due to lack of important insider non-public information.
- This form of insider trading is illegal and comes with stern penalties including both potential fines and jail time.

**121) With respect to India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme, consider the following statements**

1. The programme was launched by the Department of Science and Technology.
2. The programme, which is implemented by FICCI in India, will connect Indian, and Russian Science & Technology (S&T) led SMEs and Start-ups.

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

**Explanation:**

- The **Department of Science and Technology** has recently launched the **India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme** in partnership with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** and **Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE)** of the Russian Federation.
- The programme will connect Indian, and Russian Science & Technology (S&T) led SMEs and Start-ups for joint R&D for technology development and for cross-country technology adaptation.

**About the Programme**

- The programme will run through **two annual cycles** with up to five projects to be funded under each cycle.
- Projects are being sought on leading S&T focus areas, including but not limited to, IT & ICT (including AI, AR, VR), Medicine & Pharmaceuticals, Renewable Energy, Aerospace, Alternative Technologies, Environment, New Materials, Biotechnologies, Robotics and Drones.
- **On behalf of DST, FICCI will implement the program in India.**

- Over a period of two years, the Department of Science and Technology will fund up to INR 15 Crores to ten Indian SMEs/Start-ups and FASIE will provide similar funding to the Russian projects.
- The programme will provide access to partial public funding for jointly selected projects with the participation of at least one start-up/SME from India and one SME from Russia.
- The selected projects will be required to bear partial funding as well, either through own funds or alternate sources of funding.
- In addition to the financial support, the teams will also be supported through capacity building, mentorship and business development.

**122) DP Singh Committee was constituted recently for which of the following purposes?**

- a. To suggest ways to ensure more students stay and study in India
- b. To bring out a safety manual for the Central Public Works Department
- c. To assess key challenges, and suggest reforms in logistics development and associated commerce
- d. None of the above

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Ministry of Human Resources Development had constituted a committee recently for preparing guidelines and measures **to ensure more and more students stay in India and study in India.**
- **Prof. D P Singh**, Chairman of University Grant Commission (UGC) will be the head of the committee.
- The committee is also supposed to recommend a mechanism to increase the intake in well-performing universities.
- The Committee will submit the report in a fortnight.

**123) Consider the following statements with respect to Ind-CEPI Mission**

- 1. The Mission aims to strengthen the development of vaccines for the diseases of epidemic potential in India.**
- 2. Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a PSU under the Department of Biotechnology is the implementation agency of the Mission.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- A Vaccine Discovery Programme supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India under **Ind CEPI**, implemented by BIRAC will soon move into clinical trials.
- DBT-BIRAC has facilitated the establishment of ‘first-of-its-kind’ mRNA-based vaccine manufacturing platform in India.
- DBT has provided seed funding for the development of Gennova’s novel self-amplifying mRNA-based vaccine candidate for COVID19 – **HGCO19**.

**Ind-CEPI**

- The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India is supporting the implementation of the Ind-CEPI, which is **“Epidemic preparedness through rapid vaccine development: Support of Indian vaccine development aligned with the global initiative of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)”**, at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI).
- Ind-CEPI aims to and associated competencies/technologies developing countries and diseases that can potentially be a threat to populations build coordinated preparedness in the Indian public health system and vaccine industry to address existing and emergent infectious threats in India, and support the global initiative of CEPI through a dedicated Program Management Unit (PMU) at BIRAC.
- **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, a Public Sector Undertaking of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology has been entrusted the responsibility of implementing this Program.
- It will house the Program Management Unit (PMU) that would work as an operational and functional arm to oversee and monitor program implementation.

**124) Consider the following statements with respect to WHO Traditional Medicine (TM) Strategy 2014–2023**

1. **The strategy was developed in response to the UN General Assembly resolution on traditional medicine.**

2. The strategy seeks to build upon the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2002–2005, which reviewed the status of Traditional Medicine globally and in Member States.

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

**Explanation:**

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare digitally participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Health Minister's Digital Meet at Nirman Bhawan recently.
- The meet was chaired by Mr. Mikhail Murashko, Minister of Health of the Russian Federation.
- The ongoing COVID crisis was the key topic of discussion.
- During the meeting, India pointed out that “**there is currently no institutional mechanism within SCO to discuss cooperation in Traditional Medicine** that has the potential to fulfil the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023 and also reinforce the effective implementation of the Joint Statement on cooperation in combating epidemics signed at the Qingdao Summit in 2018.
- Finally, India proposes to set up a Sub-Group on Traditional Medicine under the existing Institutional Meetings of the SCO Health Ministers to fulfil the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023.

**Traditional medicine (TM)**

- It is an important and often underestimated part of health services.
- In some countries, traditional medicine or non-conventional medicine may be termed complementary medicine (CM).
- TM has a long history of use in health maintenance and in disease prevention and treatment, particularly for chronic disease.

**WHO Traditional Medicine (TM) Strategy 2014–2023**

- It was developed in response to the **World Health Assembly resolution on traditional medicine** (WHA62.13).
- The main goals of the strategy are to support Member States in:

1. Harnessing the potential contribution of TM to health, wellness and peoplecentred health care
  2. Promoting the safe and effective use of TM by regulating, researching and integrating TM products, practitioners and practice into health systems, where appropriate.
- The strategy aims to support Member States in developing proactive policies and implementing action plans that will strengthen the role TM plays in keeping populations healthy.
  - The strategy seeks to build upon the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2002–2005, which reviewed the status of TM globally and in Member States.

**125) Consider the following statements with respect to Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana**

1. It aims for the empowerment of potters community in the remotest of locations in the country.
2. It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC).

**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**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Home Minister had recently distributed 100 electric potter wheels to 100 trained artisans under the **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana**.

**Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Program**

- It is an initiative of the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** for **empowerment of potters community in the remotest of locations** in the country.

**126) Consider the following statements with respect to National Transit Pass System**

1. It is a pan India pass system launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways which enhances seamless movement of essential commodities across India.
2. The passes can be applied from mobile phones and it can be received as e-passes in mobile phones.

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**

**Explanation:**

- Ministry of Environment has launched piloting of the National Transit Pass System.
- It is a pan India pass system to enhances seamless movement of forest produce across India.
- The passes can be applied from mobile phones as well as it can be received as e-passes in mobile phones.

**127. Which of the following has a geographical indication (GI) tag?**

1. Kashmir saffron
2. Kandhamal Haladi
3. Tirur Betel Leaf
4. Tawlhlohpuan

**Options:**

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 4 only
- d. 1,2,3 and 4

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Tawlhlohpuan, is a fine quality fabric woven in Mizoram.



- Tirur betel vine, cultivated in Malappuram district of Kerala, is valued for its medicinal and cultural usages.

**128. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The governor has to always act as per the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.
2. The constitution has a provision for reservation of state bills by Governors for President's consideration.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Article 163(1): There shall be a council of Ministers with the chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is by or under this constitution required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion.
- The articles 200 and 201 of the Indian constitution provides for reservation of bills by Governors for President's consideration.

**129. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. The environmental clearance to projects can be given only by the Central Government.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified new EIA legislation in 2006. Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 2006 has decentralized the environmental clearance projects by categorizing the developmental projects in two categories, i.e., Category A (national level appraisal) and Category B (state level appraisal).

**130. Which of the following is/are general features of Nagara style of Temple architecture?**

1. Absence of water tanks.
2. Presence of Assembly halls/ mandapas
3. Presence of images of River goddesses

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : D

**Answer Justification :**

**All the above given statements are features of Nagara style of Temple architecture. Some of the features of Nagara style are: Presence of assembly halls or mandaps in front of the principal shrine. Outside the *garbhagriha*, images of the river goddesses, Ganga and Yamuna, were placed. There were no water tanks or reservoirs present in the temple premises.**

## **AUGUST Current affairs Multiple choice questions**

**1) Consider the following statements with respect to *Vermin***

1. It includes wild animals that are believed to be harmful to crops, farm animals or which carry disease.

2. States can send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

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**

### **Explanation**

- Recently, the Supreme Court accentuated the urgent need to find an alternative to killing marauding wild animals as *Vermin* even while protecting crops from them.
- These are wild animals that are believed to be harmful to crops, farm animals or which carry disease.
- As per Section 62 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, States can send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin for selective slaughter.
- The Central Government may by notification, declare any wild animal other than those specified in Schedule I and part 11 of Schedule H of the law to be vermin for any area for a given period of time.
- As long as the notification is in force, such wild animal shall be included in Schedule V of WPA, 1972.

### **2. Consider the following statements with respect to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**

1. It is a multilateral treaty adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution.
2. Certain rights enshrined in ICCPR are specifically enumerated in the Constitution of India.
3. India has signed the treaty but not yet ratified it.

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

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1 and 3 only

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

**Answer : a**

### **Explanation**

The UN Human Rights Committee, monitors implementation of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*.

- They have issued a comprehensive legal guidance, also known as 'general comment', on article 21 of ICCPR about fundamental right of peaceful assembly.
- ICCPR is a *multilateral treaty adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution*.
- There are *certain rights enshrined in ICCPR which are specifically enumerated in the Constitution of India*, like Right to life and personal liberty, Right to equality, Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion etc.
- India has not only signed the treaty but also ratified it.

### **3.Consider the following statements Kaladan Multimodal Project**

1. It connects India's Northeast with Thailand and other ASEAN members through Myanmar.
2. The project seeks to give last mile connectivity and port access for the landlocked North East regions of India.

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**

### **Explanation**

- Recently, the Supreme Court has cleared a major roadblock in the completion of a *Trilateral Highway Connectivity project between India, Myanmar and Thailand (IMT Trilateral Highway)*.
- *IMT Trilateral Highway* connects India's Northeast with Thailand and other ASEAN members through Myanmar.
- The *project seeks to give last mile connectivity and port access for the landlocked North East regions of India through Myanmar*.
- The *Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project* connects the Northeast with Myanmar as well as with West Bengal.

#### 4. Consider the following statements with respect to Perseverance Rover

1. It is a part of UAE Mission in exploring Mars with a rover.
2. The rover will seek signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples for possible return to Earth.
3. The mission includes first ever helicopter to fly on another planet.

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

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

**Answer : c**

#### **Explanation**

- *NASA is set to launch it's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover.*
- *Perseverance will carry a unique instrument, MOXIE or Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment.*
- *This is for the first time will manufacture molecular oxygen on Mars using carbon dioxide from carbon-dioxide-rich atmosphere.*
- *Perseverance will carry Ingenuity, the first ever helicopter to fly on Mars.*
- *This is the first time NASA will fly a helicopter on another planet or satellite.*
- *The rover will seek signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples for possible return to Earth.*

- It is with the goal of looking for biosignatures or signatures of present or past life.

**5. Consider the following statements with respect to *Aerial Seeding***

1. It is a fire and forget way of plantation where no attention is needed after the dispersal of seeds.
2. A surface that is loose and rough, with cracks or ample residue cover is best for aerial seeding.

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**

**Explanation**

- The Haryana Forest Department has started *Aerial Seeding* across the state on a pilot basis.
- This technique will allow plantation in sections of the Aravallis that are either difficult to access or inaccessible altogether.
- It is a technique where seed balls, seeds covered with a mixture of clay, compost, and other components are sprayed on the ground using aerial devices, including planes, helicopters or drones.
- It is a fire and forget way of plantation where no attention is needed after the dispersal of seeds.
- *A surface that is loose and rough, with cracks or ample residue cover, works best.*
- With a loose and rough surface the chances of a seed making soil contact and landing in areas with soil moisture is enhanced.

**6. Consider the following statements with respect to *Safeguard Duty***

1. It is a trade protection measure to safeguard the domestic manufacturing industries.
2. It can be imposed on items, over and above existing customs duties.

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**

### **Explanation**

- Finance Ministry extends *Safeguard Duty* on import of solar cells.
- It is a *trade protection measure* to protect domestic manufacturing by imposing in the form of a safeguard duty.
- Safeguard duties *can be imposed on items, over and above existing customs duties*, if it can be conclusively proved that a steep increase in imports over a period of time resulted in disruption for local businesses.

**Q7. Consider the following statements with respect to Gautama Buddha:**

1. He was born in Lumbini.
2. Gautama Buddha delivered his first Sermon at Sarnath.
3. He attained Mahaparinirvana at Bodh Gaya.
4. The first Buddhist Council was held in Kushinagar.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d. 1, 2 and 4 only

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation**

- Gautama Buddha was born in Lumbini.

- He delivered his first Sermon at Sarnath.
- He attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya and Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh).
- The first Buddhist Council was held at Rajgir.

**8. Consider the following statements with respect to the Government of India Act 1919:**

1. A bicameral legislature was set up at the Centre.
2. Dyarchy was introduced in the provinces.
3. It required that three of the six members of the Viceroy's Executive Council were to be Indian.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation**

All the statements are correct.

9. "MSME Emergency Response Programme" that aims to support the increased flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India, was recently signed between India and?

- a. World Bank
- b. New Development Bank
- c. Asian Development Bank
- d. International Monetary Fund

**Answer : a**

**Explanation**



- *The World Bank and the Government of India* have recently signed the 750 million dollar agreement for the **MSME Emergency Response Programme** to support the increased flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- The World Bank's MSME Emergency Response Programme will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 1.5 million viable MSMEs to help them withstand the impact of the current shock and protect millions of jobs.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to the *National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO)*

1. It is the sole authority for depicting National framework data in the form of thematic maps and atlases.
2. It functions as a subordinate office under the Ministry of Science & Technology.

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**

### **Explanation**

- *National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization* has recently published the 4th updated version of COVID-19 Dashboard on its official Portal.

*National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO)*

- It is a subordinate office under *Department of Science & Technology*, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- This organization was assigned with responsibility in the field of thematic cartography and geographical research at national level.

- It is the *sole authority for depicting National framework data in the form of thematic maps and atlases* to cater the actual picture of the development and planning initiatives of the country among the users.

Q11. Consider the following statements with respect to *Zardozi*

1. It is a form of embroidery, native to Western Europe that came to India via British invasion.
2. The embroidery, also known as Pukhoor, appears like a woven cloth but is made with the use of red and black threads with a white cotton cloth background.

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 : d

### Explanation

- *Zardozi* is a form of embroidery that came to India *from Persia*.
- Done with metal wire and metal pieces or sequins on velvet, satin and heavy silk bases, *Zardozi* is one of the most famous and elaborate techniques in *metal embroidery*.
- The *original embroidery of Zardozi* was done with pure silver wires coated with real gold, and was known as *Kalabatun*.
- Though silver and gold wires have now been replaced with synthetic threads, the art remains the same.

### Toda Embroidery

- The Toda Embroidery, also locally known as *Pukhoor*, is an art work among the Toda pastoral people of Nilgiris, in Tamil Nadu, made exclusively by their women.
- The embroidery, which has a *fine finish, appears like a woven cloth but is made with use of red and black threads with a white cotton cloth background*.

- Both sides of the embroidered fabric are usable and the Toda people are proud of this heritage.
- Both men and women adorn themselves with the embroidered cloaks and shawls.
- This handicraft product is listed as a geographically tagged product and is protected under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act (GI Act) 1999 of the Government of India.

**Q12 "Natanz Nuclear Complex", often seen in the news recently, is one of the main uranium enrichment plants of which of the following countries?**

- a. Iran
- b. Israel
- c. North Korea
- d. Pakistan

**Answer : a**

### **Explanation**

- An accident happened recently at a warehouse under construction at the *Natanz Nuclear Complex in Central Iran*.
- Natanz is one of Iran's main uranium enrichment plants.

**13) Consider the following statements with respect to Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)**

1. It is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.
2. It is being implemented under National Health Mission (NHM) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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**

**Explanation:**

**Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)**

- It is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.
- This is being implemented under **National Health Mission (NHM)** by **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- eVIN combines state-of-the-art technology, a strong IT infrastructure and trained human resource to enable real time monitoring of stock and storage temperature of the vaccines kept in multiple locations across the country.
- This robust system has been used with the requisite customization during the COVID pandemic for ensuring continuation of the essential immunization services and protecting our children and pregnant mothers against vaccine preventable diseases.
- eVIN has reached 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) and will soon be rolled-out in the remaining States and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Ladakh and Sikkim.
- The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network has helped create a big data architecture that generates actionable analytics encouraging data-driven decision-making and consumption based planning that helps in maintaining optimum stocks of vaccines leading to cost savings.
- Vaccine availability at all times has increased to 99% in most health centers.
- This strong platform has the potential to be leveraged for any new vaccine including COVID-19 vaccine, as and when available.
- To support the Government of India's efforts to combat COVID-19, eVIN India is helping the State/UT governments monitor the supply chain of COVID response material.

**14) Which one of the following is not an objective of the draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 which was released recently?**

- a. To achieve complete self-reliance in defence manufacturing by 2040
- b. To promote export of defence products and become part of the global defence value chains
- c. To create an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation, creates Indian IP ownership and promotes a robust and self-reliant defence industry
- d. None of the above

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- In order to provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing, multiple announcements were made under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package'.
- In implementing such framework and to position India amongst the leading countries of the world in defence and aerospace sectors, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has formulated a draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020) recently.

**Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020) Draft**

- It is envisaged as overarching guiding document of MoD to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.

The policy has laid out following **goals and objectives**:

1. To achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 Crores including export of Rs 35,000 Crore in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.
2. To develop a dynamic, robust and competitive Defence industry, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of Armed forces with quality products.
3. To reduce dependence on imports and take forward "Make in India" initiatives through domestic design and development.
4. To promote export of defence products and become part of the global defence value chains.
5. To create an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation, creates Indian IP ownership and promotes a robust and self-reliant defence industry.

**15) Which of the following had recently become the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy?**

- a. Iran
- b. U.A.E
- c. Kuwait
- d. Saudi Arabia

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Barakah Nuclear Plant's 1st Unit got operational (achieved its criticality) recently.
- Through this, UAE became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy.

### **Barakah Nuclear Power Plant**

- Barakah is the Arab world's first nuclear reactor started by UAE.
- Barakah, means "blessing" in Arabic, it was built by a consortium led by the Korea Electric Power Corporation.

### **Criticality of a nuclear power plant**

- A nuclear reactor is said to be critical when the nuclear fuel inside a reactor sustains a fission chain reaction.
- Each fission reaction releases a sufficient number of neutrons to sustain a series of reactions.
- Heat is produced in the event, which is used to generate steam that spins a turbine to create electricity.

### **16) Consider the following statements with respect to the State of Gujarat**

1. Lothal, Dholavira and GolaDhoro are some of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation Sites located in Gujarat.
2. The walled city of Ahmedabad which was founded by Sultan Ahmad Shah in 1411 AD on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati River is one of the UNESCO World heritage site located in Gujarat.

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**

**Explanation:**

- Ministry of Tourism's DekhoApna Desh Webinar Series titled, "Heritage tourism in Gujarat" was presented recently.
- The state encompasses some sites of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation, such as **Lothal, Dholavira and GolaDhoro**.
- Lothal is believed to be one of the world's first seaports.
- Gujarat's coastal cities, chiefly Bharuch and Khambhat, served as ports and trading centres in the Maurya and Gupta empires, and during the succession of royal Saka dynasties from the Western Satraps era.
- In the 1600s, the Dutch, French, English and Portuguese all established bases along the western coast of the region.
- Portugal was the first European power to arrive in Gujarat, and after the Battle of Diu, acquired several enclaves along the Gujarati coast, including Daman and Diu as well as Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- These enclaves were administered by Portuguese India under a single union territory for over 450 years, only to be later incorporated into the Republic of India on 19 December 1961 by military conquest.
- The webinar gave a virtual view of different aspects of Gujarat starting with the architectural trail in North Gujarat bordering the state of Rajasthan, showcasing the beautiful stepwells, lakes, Harvesting structure, Rani ki vav, Pathan, Kumbhariya Jain temple etc.
- Raniki Vav is an 11th century stepwell and has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.
- With regards to architecture, Gujarat entered a golden phase with the Solanki dynasty during the 11th & 12th century.
- The rulers of this dynasty had commissioned imposing forts and palaces at Jhinjwada and Dadbhoi, having exquisite carved gateways.
- Also, here are located few of the best Hindu temples of the country like Rudramalaya at Sidhapur, Sun Temple at Modhera, Jain Temples at Palitana, Taranga, Girnar, Mt. Abu and Kumbharyaji.
- The walled city of Ahmedabad was founded by Sultan Ahmad Shah in 1411 AD on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati River is now UNESCO World heritage site.

**17) Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**

1. It is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.
2. It is headquartered in Beijing, China.
3. Membership in AIIB shall be open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.

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**

**Explanation:**

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.
- Headquartered in Beijing, China.
- It began operations in January 2016 and have now grown to 103 approved members worldwide.
- By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond, we will better connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.
- AIIB is an open and inclusive multilateral financial institution. Our doors are always open to countries and regions dedicated to promoting economic and social development in Asia.
- Membership in AIIB shall be open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.

**18) Consider the following statements with respect to Groundnut production in India**

1. India is the second largest producer of groundnuts in the world.
2. It is one of the main Rabi crop.
3. It is an important protein crops grown mostly under rain-fed conditions.

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: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Groundnut sowing in this season has hit all-time high levels.
- Gujarat covers 20.4 lakh hectares as farmers shift from cotton, soyabean.



- India is the second largest producer of groundnuts in the world.
- It is one of the main kharif crop.
- It is an important protein crops grown mostly under rain-fed conditions.
- Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Uttar Pradesh are the major Groundnut growing states in India.

**19) Consider the following statements with respect to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**

1. It will be able to finance projects in the rural industrial cooperative sectors and for certain notified services in rural areas like water conservation and irrigation.
2. It was established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

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**

**Explanation**

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has recently launched the **Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel**, a new initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- He also launched guidance videos produced by NCDC on 'Formation and Registration of A Cooperative' for eighteen different states in Hindi and regional languages.
- The guidance videos in different languages covering 18 States would also strengthen and deepen the major initiatives of our Government to promote and form 10,000 FPOs.
- NCDC has a major role in formation of FPOs in cooperative mode.
- More states would be added to the collection of guidance videos on NCDC Sahakar Cooptube Channel in due course of time.

**National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**

- It was established by an **Act of Parliament** in 1963 as a statutory Corporation under the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.

### Functions

- Planning, promoting and financing programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, food stuffs, certain other notified commodities e.g. fertilisers, insecticides, agricultural machinery, lac, soap, kerosene oil, textile, rubber etc., supply of consumer goods and collection, processing, marketing, storage and export of minor forest produce through cooperatives, besides income generating stream of activities such as poultry, dairy, fishery, sericulture, handloom etc.

### Other functions

- NCDC Act has been further amended which will broad base the area of operation of the Corporation to assist different types of cooperatives and to expand its financial base.
- NCDC will now be **able to finance projects in the rural industrial cooperative sectors** and for certain notified services in rural areas like water conservation, irrigation and micro irrigation, agri-insurance, agro-credit, rural sanitation, animal health, etc.

### Achievements

- It has achieved tremendous success with cumulative financial assistance to cooperatives to the tune of Rs.1,54,000 crore.
- Beginning with meager disbursement of Rs.2.36 crores in 1963, NCDC disbursed around Rs.28,000 crore during 2019-20.
- NCDC has made an unprecedented progress in the last six years.
- It has achieved 83% of the cumulative financial assistance calculated since 1963, during these last six years alone.

### 20) Consider the following statements with respect to the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

1. It is a statutory, apex body to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in protected areas.
2. It is chaired by the Minister of Environment.

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**

### **Explanation**

- Recently, Railway projects, small-scale development works and under-25 MW capacity hydropower plants are exempted from the approval from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).
- There is no need of approval even if they are located within eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) of national parks or wildlife sanctuaries, the environment ministry.
- NBWL is a statutory body as it has been constituted under Section 5 A the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It is the apex body to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries i.e. Protected Areas.
- It is a 47-member board (including the chairman) which usually meets once a year. It is chaired by Prime minister.

### **21) Consider the following statements with respect to Pyrolysis**

1. It s the process of thermal conversion of organic matter using a catalyst in the presence of oxygen.
2. The process typically occurs at high temperature, under pressure and is an irreversible process.

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**

### Explanation

- Plastic from used personal protective equipment (PPE) can be transformed into renewable liquid fuels, according to a new study.
- The researchers call for PPE waste to be converted into bio-fuel using chemical a process called Pyrolysis.
- This breaks down plastic at high temperature between 300-400°C for an hour under pressure, without oxygen.
- It is an irreversible process.

### 22) Consider the following statements with respect to Genome Sequencing

1. A genome is the DNA, or sequence of genes, in a cell.
2. IndiGen project is to sequence whole genomes of diverse ethnic Indian population to develop public health applications.

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

### Explanation

- Recently, Union Health Minister, announced the completion of pan-India 1000 Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2.
- A genome is the DNA, or sequence of genes, in a cell.
- Genome sequencing is figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides, in a genome.
- IndiGen project of India is to sequence whole genomes of diverse ethnic Indian population to develop public health applications.

### 23. Consider the following statements with respect to Sir Creek:

1. It is a strip of water disputed between India and Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch marshlands.
2. The Creek opens up in the Arabian Sea.
3. The Creek was originally called Ban Ganga.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

### **Explanation**

All the statements are correct.

**24. Consider the following statements with respect to Cess**

1. It is a form of tax levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer.
2. The Corona Cess on liquor was imposed by Central government across India on liquor to compensate for the revenue deficit during Covid-19 lockdown.

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**

### **Explanation**

- The Liquor sales decline up to 60% in May-June in states with high Corona cess, according to a report.

- Several States have imposed Corona Cess on liquor to compensate for the revenue deficit during Covid-19 lockdown.
- A Cess is a form of tax charged/levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer.
- It is usually imposed additionally when the state or the central government looks to raise funds for specific purposes.

**25) With respect to ShadeSmart System, often seen in the news recently, consider the following statements**

1. It is a system where cooling is achieved through radiant heat transfer, as against regular convective air conditioning.
2. This technology will help to bring inside the buildings more daylight with less heat by changing its configuration depending upon the Sun's position.

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**

### **Explanation**

- **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in partnership with the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India** has developed a novel external shading solution for windows in residential and commercial buildings under the project **Habitat Model for Efficiency and Comfort**.
- The **shading system** named as **"ShadeSmart"** has been developed as an innovative and cost-effective solution for achieving indoor comfort with reduced electricity consumption in air conditioning and lighting.

### **ShadeSmart**

- External shading devices are not common in modern buildings, which are mostly glazed or buildings with curtain walls.

- The shading systems are usually permanent structures, posing challenges such as maintenance, obstruction of views, architecturally not meeting the aspirations of the client, and so on.
- In contrast, ShadeSmart changes its configuration depending upon the Sun's position.
- For example, when the Sun is in the East direction, East façade windows will be shaded, once the Sun is in South orientation during noon ShadeSmart configuration on East changes to provide unobstructed external views and glare-free daylight.
- This technology will help to bring inside the buildings more daylight with less heat, thus making occupants comfortable and also more productive and healthy.
- In the international market, many movable shading devices are available, however, since ShadeSmart is locally produced in India, it becomes an economically viable energy-efficient solution which every building may integrate in order to achieve energy efficiency.

### **Radiant Cooling**

- It is where cooling is achieved through **radiant heat transfer**, as against regular convective air conditioning.
- This technology is efficient and gives better quality of thermal comfort.
- At present, energy and comfort audits of existing radiant cooled buildings, energy simulations, and finally, construction of a Demonstration Habitat is being undertaken.
- Besides, the process to integrate radiant cooling in the National Building Code is being undertaken in India.
- Radiant cooled buildings have an extremely high potential of energy-saving (60-70%).
- Standard protocols for operation of radiant cooled buildings and adaptive thermal comfort standards for radiant cooled buildings in India will make it convenient for the masses to adopt radiant cooling technology.

### **26) Consider the following statements**

1. It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.
2. It is the global roadmap for reducing human and economic loss as a direct result of disasters.

3. UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction is tasked to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Agreement.

Identify the Agreement that correctly matches with the above description:

- a. Agenda 21
- b. Beijing Declaration
- c. Hongkong Convention
- d. None of the above

**Answer : d**

### **Explanation**

- **Sendai Framework** is the global roadmap for reducing human and economic loss as a direct result of disasters.

### **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

- It was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.
- The Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.
- UNDRR is tasked to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework.
- It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), and advocates for:
  - The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.
  - It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.
  - The Sendai Framework works hand in hand with the other 2030 Agenda agreements, including The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, and ultimately the Sustainable Development Goals.



**27) Consider the following statements with respect to Fluorosis**

1. It is a disease resulting from deposition of fluorides in the tissues of body due to excess intake of fluoride over a long period.
2. The fluorosis may be dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis, and non-skeletal fluorosis.

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**

**Explanation**

- Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, have developed an **equipment-free fluoride ion detection** and quantification in drinking water with the naked-eye.
- It can be operated by non-experts for household use to evade Fluorosis-based disorders.

**Fluorosis**

- It is a crippling disease resulting from deposition of fluorides in the hard and soft tissues of body due to excess intake of fluoride through drinking water/food products/industrial pollutants over a long period.
- It results in dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis, and non-skeletal fluorosis.
- Easy detection of fluorides in water can help preventing the public health hazards.
- Currently, one German company sells a paper-strip test kit for detection of HF with sensitivity of upto 20 ppm that too works only with hydrochloric acid (pH<1).
- This kit developed by INST can be used by non-expert, with high sensitivity up to 3 ppm and free of dangerous chemicals and equipments.

**28) Consider the following statements with respect to ATL Tinkering Marathon 2019**

1. It is a flagship national annual innovation Marathon challenge held at Atal Tinkering Labs across the country.
2. This year, the challenge was executed by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in partnership with MyGOV on its Innovate Platform.
3. The central theme of the event is “Research, Ideate, Innovate, Implement - Mindful Innovation for the greater good”.

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**

**Explanation**

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has recently declared the results of its flagship national annual innovation Marathon challenge ATL Tinkering Marathon 2019 held over 5000+ Atal Tinkering Labs across the country and announced 150 winners of the Marathon.
- This year, the challenge was executed by AIM in partnership with MyGOV on MyGov’s Innovate Platform.
- With the central theme as “Research, Ideate, Innovate, Implement - Mindful Innovation for the greater good”, this year’s marathon was uniquely designed by the students themselves.

**29) Consider the following statements with respect to the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**

1. It deals with flow of finance, financial products and services outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
2. It helps in fund-raising services for individuals, corporations and governments.

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**

**Explanation**

- Recently, Injeti Srinivas appointed as Chairman of International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
- The main function of the IFSCA is to regulate all financial products and financial institutions which have been previously approved by any appropriate regulator in an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- The IFSC deal with flows of finance, financial products and services outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
- It helps in fund-raising services for individuals, corporations and governments.
- It provide service in merger and acquisition activities among trans-national corporations.
- Recently, Injeti Srinivas appointed as Chairman of International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).

**30) Consider the following statements with respect to House Arrest**

1. The concept of house arrest is specifically mentioned in the criminal law manual.
2. The state is empowered to declare a building or a house as a sub-jail.
3. The resident of a sub-jail is automatically and undeniably under detention.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not** correct?

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

**Answer : a**

### Explanation

- A few human rights concerns have emerged in the Kashmir Valley over the House Arrest of the political leaders.
- The concept of house arrest is not specifically mentioned in the criminal law manual.
- The state is empowered to declare a building or house as a sub-jail.
- Through such declarations, residential accommodations of some political leaders have been converted into sub-jails.
- The resident of a sub-jail is automatically and undeniably under detention and what is commonly known as house arrest.

31) Consider the following statements with respect to Tsunami Ready Programme

1. It is a community performance-based programme initiated by the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
2. India is the first country to implement Tsunami Ready in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

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

### Explanation:

- The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), Odisha has now implemented the **Tsunami Ready programme** in two villages viz., Venkatraipur in Ganjam District, Noliasahi in Jagatsingpur District.
- Based on the National Board recommendations, UNESCO-IOC has approved the recognition of two communities viz., Venkatraipur and Noliasahi as Tsunami Ready Communities.
- With this recognition, **India is the first country to implement Tsunami Ready in the Indian Ocean Region** and Odisha is the first state.

**Tsunami Ready**

- It is a community performance-based programme initiated by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO**.
- It aims to promote tsunami preparedness through active collaboration of public, community leaders, and national and local emergency management agencies.
- The main objective of this programme is to improve coastal community's preparedness for tsunami emergencies, to minimize the loss of life and property and to ensure a structural and systematic approach in building community preparedness through fulfilling the best-practice indicators set by the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) of UNESCO-IOC.
- Fulfilment of the guidelines ensures communities have a strong end-to-end tsunami early warning and mitigation system with a particular focus on community awareness and preparedness to respond.
- To implement and monitor the implementation of Tsunami Ready and IOWave Exercises in India, Ministry of Earth Sciences established a National Board under the chairmanship of Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Centre (INCOIS).

**32) Which of the following is the nodal agency to provide tsunami advisories to India?**

- a. India Meteorological Department
- b. National Disaster Management Authority
- c. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), INCOIS is the nodal agency to provide tsunami advisories to India.
- Tsunami Early Warning Centre is a part of **Indian Nation Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- INCOIS is also providing tsunami advisories to Indian Ocean region (25 countries) as a Tsunami Service Providers as the responsibility assigned by IOC-UNESCO.

**33) With respect to National Handloom Day, consider the following statements**

1. **The first National Handloom Day was celebrated on 7th August 2015 in Chennai.**

2. The day was celebrated to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched in the year 1905.
3. The objective is to generate awareness about Handloom Industry amongst public at large and its contribution to the socio-economic development.

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**

**Explanation:**

- 6th National Handloom Day was celebrated on 07th August 2020.
- During the event, a Mobile App & Backend Website for Handloom Mark Scheme was launched.
- Also, My Handloom Portal and a Virtual Fair was launched.

**National Handloom Day**

- 7th August was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on the same date in the year 1905.
- The objective is to generate awareness about Handloom Industry amongst public at large and its contribution to the socio-economic development.
- The first National Handloom Day was held on 7th August 2015 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Chennai.

**34) The Kali River Valley of Kumaun Himalayas marks the international border between India and?**

- a. China
- b. Nepal
- c. Bhutan
- d. Pakistan

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Kali River Valley of Kumaun Himalayas marks the international border between **India and Nepal**.
- This region experiences intense seismic and landslide events.
- Recently, scientists carried out an integrated field, metamorphic modelling and geochronological investigation in the remote higher parts of the Kali River Valley.

**35) Consider the following statements with respect to Kisan Rail**

- 1. It will be the first ever multi commodity special train introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture from Devlali (Maharashtra) to Danapur (Bihar).**
- 2. The train will run on weekly basis and provide seamless supply chain of Perishable produce.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Indian Railways** is introducing first “Kisan Rail” from Devlali (Maharashtra) to Danapur (Bihar) on 07th August 2020.
- The train will run on weekly basis and provide seamless supply chain of Perishable produce.
- This train is a step towards realizing the goal of doubling farmers’ incomes by 2022.
- This train will help in bringing perishable agricultural products like vegetables, fruits to the market in a short period of time.
- The train with frozen containers is expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of fish, meat and milk.
- Indian Railways have earlier run single commodity special trains like Banana Specials etc.
- But this will be the **first ever multi commodity trains** and will carry fruits like Pomegranate, Banana, Grapes etc and vegetables like Capsicum, Cauliflower, Drumsticks, Cabbage, Onion, Chillies etc.
- Aggressive marketing is being done with local farmers, loaders, APMC and individuals.

- Demand is being aggregated. It is expected that the train will be patronised well and will be a great help to the farmers, as freight of this train will be charged as per parcel tariff of normal train (P Scale).

**36) Consider the following statements with respect to the relationship between Inflation and Interest Rates**

1. When interest rates are low, the economy grows and inflation increases.
2. To contain inflation the country's central bank typically nudges up the interest rates in the economy.

**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**

- Recently, the RBI, decided to keep the benchmark interest rates of the economy unchanged.
- In a fast-growing economy, incomes go up quickly and more and more people have the money to buy the existing bunch of goods.
- As more and more money chases the existing set of goods, prices of such goods rise.
- In other words, inflation which is nothing but the rate of increase in prices.
- To contain inflation, a country's central bank typically nudges up the interest rates in the economy.
- By doing so, it incentivises people to spend less and save more because saving becomes more profitable as interest rates go up.
- As more and more people choose to save, money is sucked out of the market and inflation rate moderates.
- In general, when interest rates are low, the economy grows and inflation increases.
- Conversely, when interest rates are high, the economy slows and inflation decreases.

**37. Consider the following statements with respect to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):**



1. The UNHRC has 47 members elected for two-year terms.
2. Members are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
3. Eastern European states are allotted the maximum number of seats amongst all the regional groups.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation**

- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is made of 47 Member States.
- The seats are distributed geographically and are awarded for a period of three years.
- Members are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
- Seats are distributed as follows:
  - African States: 13 seats
  - Asia-Pacific States: 13 seats
  - Latin American and Caribbean States: 8 seats
  - Western European and other States: 7 seats
  - Eastern European States: 6 seats

**38. Consider the following statements with respect to Uranium:**

1. All uranium isotopes are radioactive and fissionable.
2. Largest viable deposits of Uranium are found in Australia, Kazakhstan, and Canada.
3. Uranium is weakly radioactive and remains so because of its long physical half-life.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation**

All the statements are correct.

**39. Consider the following statements:**

1. An atomic bomb derives its explosive and destructive force from Nuclear Fusion.
2. Sun generates its energy by the nuclear fusion of hydrogen nuclei into helium.
3. Nuclear fusion is also called a thermonuclear reaction as it takes place at extremely high temperatures.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation**

- An atomic bomb derives its explosive and destructive force from Nuclear Fission.
- Sun generates its energy by nuclear fusion of hydrogen nuclei into helium.
- Nuclear fusion is also called a thermonuclear reaction because it takes place at extremely high temperatures and hence creates an enormous amount of energy. Example: reactions in the sun.

**40. Consider the following statements:**

1. Tsunami Ready is a community performance-based programme initiated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO to promote tsunami preparedness.
2. India is the first country to implement Tsunami Ready in the Indian Ocean Region.
3. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services is the nodal agency to provide tsunami advisories to India.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 2 only
- b. 3 only
- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

### **Explanation**

- Tsunami Ready is a community performance-based programme initiated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO to promote tsunami preparedness through the active collaboration of public, community leaders, and national and local emergency management agencies.
- The initiative is modelled after the US National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service's successful TsunamiReady program.
- Based on the National Board recommendations, UNESCO-IOC has approved the recognition of two communities viz., Venkatraipur and Noliasahi as Tsunami Ready Communities. The two communities are villages in Odisha.
- With this recognition, India is the first country to implement Tsunami Ready in the Indian Ocean Region and Odisha is the first state.
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services is the nodal agency to provide tsunami advisories to India.

**41. Consider the following statements with respect to India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS)**

1. It provides a single window solution for all water resources data and information in a standardized national GIS framework.

2. It is managed by the National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), a unit of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

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**

### **Explanation**

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has recently launched a new version of the India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) with new functionalities and features.

### **Water Resources Information System (WRIS)**

- The generation of a database and the implementation of a web enabled Water Resources Information System popularly known as India-WRIS was initiated through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2008 between the Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space.
- This project was funded by the Central Water Commission.
- Under the National Hydrology Project, a central sector scheme approved by the Cabinet in 2016 with the objective to improve the state of information on water resources, India WRIS has been fundamentally revised and improved, new modules and functionalities have been added and technologies have been updated.
- India-WRIS provides a single window solution for all water resources data and information in a standardized national GIS framework.
- It allows users to Search, Access, Visualize, Understand and Analyse comprehensive and contextual water data for the assessment, monitoring, planning and development of water resources in the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).
- India WRIS is managed by the **National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), a unit of the Ministry of Jal Shakti** which has been created upon

Cabinet approval by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (now Jal Shakti) in 2018.

**42. With respect to Food System Vision 2050 Prize, consider the following statements**

1. It is an initiative of Rockefeller Foundation which envisions regenerative and nourishing food futures for 2050.
2. Naandi Foundation, a Hyderabad based non-profit organization was selected as one of the Top 10 Visionaries in the world for the Food Vision 2050 Prize.

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**

**Explanation**

- Rockefeller Foundation has recently selected Naandi Foundation, Hyderabad-based non-profit, as one of the 'Top 10 Visionaries' in the world for the Food Vision 2050 Prize.
- The recognition fetches Naandi a prize money of \$200,000.
- Naandi's vision titled **Arakunomics**, a new integrated economic model that ensures profits for farmers and quality for consumers through regenerative agriculture, was based on work with tribal farmers in Araku for nearly 20 years.

**Food Vision 2050 Prize**

- The Food System Vision Prize is an invitation for organizations across the globe to develop a Vision of the regenerative and nourishing food system that they aspire to create by the year 2050.
- It is an initiative of Rockefeller Foundation, a New York based organization in partnership with SecondMuse and OpenIDEO.

**43. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Article 148 of the Indian Constitution provides for the office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
2. There are no qualifications prescribed for the post of CAG
3. CAG holds office for a period of 6 years or up to the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation**

- Article 148 of the Indian Constitution provides for the office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- Neither the Indian constitution nor the CAG's (Duties, powers and conditions of service) act, 1971 prescribe any qualifications for the post of CAG.
- CAG holds office for a period of 6 years or upto the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

**44. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Madhya Pradesh has the largest tribal population in India
2. Among the 75 listed Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) the highest numbers are found in Chhattisgarh.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation**

- Total population of Scheduled Tribes is 84,326,240 as per the Census 2001 which accounts for 8.2% of the total population of the country.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest Scheduled Tribe population.
- Among the 75 listed Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG's) the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).

**45. Which of the following statement is incorrect?**

1. The National Food Security Act, 2013 aims to provide subsidized food grains to all the citizens of the country.
2. Under the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013, beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System (or, PDS) are entitled to 5 kilograms of cereals per family per month at the subsidized prices.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation**

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two thirds of India's 1.2 billion people.
- The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA 2013) converts into legal entitlements the existing food security programmes of the Government of India. It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services scheme and the Public Distribution System.
- The Midday Meal Scheme and the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme are universal in nature whereas the PDS will reach about two-thirds of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas).
- Under the provisions of the bill, beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System (or, PDS) are entitled to 5 kilograms per person per month of cereals at the subsidized prices.

**46. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The core of the sun records the highest temperature for the sun, with temperature decreasing as one move outwards towards the photosphere and corona.
2. Magnetic reconnection contributes to the solar eruptions in the form of sun flares and coronal mass ejections.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation**

- The core of the Sun is at a temperature of about 15 million degrees, while its outer layer, the photosphere is only 5700 degrees hot. The sun's corona or outer atmosphere, which stretches up to several million kilometres beyond its surface, is much hotter than the surface (one million degrees or more). This is unusual given that while the surface is cooler than the interior, the atmosphere of the Sun (corona) rises substantially.
- Magnetic reconnection is a process where opposite polarity magnetic field lines connect and some of the magnetic energy is converted to heat energy and also kinetic energy which leads to the generation of heating, solar flares, solar jets, etc.

**47) Consider the following statements with respect to India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS)**

1. It provides a single window solution for all water resources data and information in a standardized national GIS framework.
2. It is managed by the National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), a unit of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

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

### Explanation

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has recently launched a new version of the India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) with new functionalities and features.

### Water Resources Information System (WRIS)

- The generation of a database and the implementation of a web enabled Water Resources Information System popularly known as India-WRIS was initiated through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2008 between the Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space.
- This project was funded by the Central Water Commission.
- Under the National Hydrology Project, a central sector scheme approved by the Cabinet in 2016 with the objective to improve the state of information on water resources, India WRIS has been fundamentally revised and improved, new modules and functionalities have been added and technologies have been updated.
- India-WRIS provides a single window solution for all water resources data and information in a standardized national GIS framework.
- It allows users to Search, Access, Visualize, Understand and Analyse comprehensive and contextual water data for the assessment, monitoring, planning and development of water resources in the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).
- India WRIS is managed by the **National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC)**, a unit of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** which has been created upon Cabinet approval by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (now Jal Shakti) in 2018.

**48) With respect to Food System Vision 2050 Prize, consider the following statements**

1. It is an initiative of Rockefeller Foundation which envisions regenerative and nourishing food futures for 2050.

2. Naandi Foundation, a Hyderabad based non-profit organization was selected as one of the Top 10 Visionaries in the world for the Food Vision 2050 Prize.

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**

### **Explanation**

- Rockefeller Foundation has recently selected Naandi Foundation, Hyderabad-based non-profit, as one of the 'Top 10 Visionaries' in the world for the Food Vision 2050 Prize.
- The recognition fetches Naandi a prize money of \$200,000.
- Naandi's vision titled **Arakunomics**, a new integrated economic model that ensures profits for farmers and quality for consumers through regenerative agriculture, was based on work with tribal farmers in Araku for nearly 20 years.

### **Food Vision 2050 Prize**

- The Food System Vision Prize is an invitation for organizations across the globe to develop a Vision of the regenerative and nourishing food system that they aspire to create by the year 2050.
- It is an initiative of Rockefeller Foundation, a New York based organization in partnership with SecondMuse and OpenIDEO.

### **49. Consider the following statements with respect to the Chicago Convention:**

1. The Convention establishes rules of airspace, aircraft registration and safety, and details the rights of the signatories in relation to air travel.
2. International Civil Aviation Organisation is a specialized agency of the UN established to manage the administration and governance of the Convention.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation**

Both statements are correct.

**50. Consider the following statements with respect to Melghat Tiger Reserve:**

1. It is located in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is among the first nine tiger reserves notified under the Project Tiger.
3. River Tapi flows through the Reserve.
4. It consists of Ambawarba and Narnala sanctuaries.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1 only
- c. 4 only
- d. 1 and 3 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation**

- Melghat Tiger Reserve is located in the northern part of the Amravati District of Maharashtra.
- It is among the first nine tiger reserves notified under the Project Tiger in 1973-74.
- The Tapi river flows through the northern end of the Melghat Tiger Reserve.
- It consists of the Gugamal National Park, Melghat wan, Ambawarba and Narnala sanctuaries.

**51. Consider the following statements with respect to Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**

1. It is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
2. Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans.

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**

### **Explanation**

- Prime Minister has recently launched a new **Central Sector Scheme** of financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore.

### **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**

- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee.
- The duration of the scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).
- Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE scheme for loans up to Rs. 2 Crore.
- The beneficiaries will include farmers, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, FPOs, SHGs, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Projects.
- These assets will enable farmers to get greater value for their produce as they will be able to store and sell at higher prices, reduce wastage, and increase processing and value addition.

**52) Which of the following is incorrect regarding the Union Public Service Commission?**

- a. The entire expenses including the salaries, allowances and pensions of the chairman and members of the UPSC are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India
- b. A member of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman of UPSC or a State Public Service Commission (SPSC), but not for any other employment in the Government of India or a state
- c. The chairman or a member of UPSC is (after having completed his first term) not eligible for reappointment to that office (i.e., not eligible for second term)
- d. None of the above

**Answer : d**

**Explanation**

- Prof (Dr.) Pradeep Kumar Joshi was recently appointed as the new Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the UPSC:

1. The chairman or a member of the UPSC can be removed from office by the president only in the manner and on the grounds mentioned in the Constitution. Therefore, they enjoy security of tenure.
2. The conditions of service of the chairman or a member, though determined by the president, cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.
3. The entire expenses including the salaries, allowances and pensions of the chairman and members of the UPSC are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus, they are not subject to vote of Parliament.
4. The chairman of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or a state.
5. A member of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman of UPSC or a State Public Service Commission (SPSC), but not for any other employment in the Government of India or a state.

6. The chairman or a member of UPSC is (after having completed his first term) not eligible for reappointment to that office (i.e., not eligible for second term).

**53) Consider the following statements with respect to Exoplanets**

1. An exoplanet is a planet that orbits a star outside the solar system.
2. Its orbit is wobbly because the gravitational of the star is not at its centre.

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**

**Explanation**

- In a first, scientists have been able to discover an exoplanet and a wobbly Star using just radio waves.
- In this method, scientists detect an exoplanet via auroras formed on it by the interaction of the star and a strong magnetic field around a planetary body.

**Exoplanets**

- An exoplanet is a planet that orbits a star outside the solar system.
- These exoplanets are hard to detect because they are hidden by the bright glare of the stars they orbit around.
- One of the key features of the exoplanet is that its orbit is wobbly because the gravitational of the star is not at its centre which makes the phenomenon possible.
- So far, over 4,000 exoplanets have been discovered by astronomers.
- But, the recent discovery may answer several questions as the previous ones were too difficult to detect.

**54) Consider the following statements with respect to Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)**

1. It is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. Its one of the objective is to serve as the National Reference Centre for the geology of Himalaya.

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**

### **Explanation**

- **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)** at Dehradun is an autonomous institution of **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, GoI, which came into being in 1968.
- It has been pursuing basic researches to unravel the orogeny of majestic Himalaya and provide improved understanding on seismogenesis, geodynamic processes, climate-tectonic interactions, evolution and extinction of life, ore formation, glaciology, river system, natural hazards (landslides, floods, and earthquakes), anthropogenic impact etc. towards the well-being of population and safe-guarding the properties and structures in the Himalaya and adjoining areas.

### **Objectives**

- To undertake, aid, promote, guide and coordinate researches in geology of the Himalaya and foster a tradition of scholarships.
- To carry-out research towards the development of new concepts and models concerning geodynamic evolution of the Himalaya through an integrated interdisciplinary approach.
- To serve as the National Reference Centre for the geology of Himalaya and to provide high level consultancy services to various institutions, public agencies and industries.

### **55. Consider the following classifications in the IUCN Red List:**

1. Asian Elephant - Critically Endangered
2. Bengal Florican - Critically Endangered

3. African Elephant – Vulnerable
4. Great Indian Bustard – Critically Endangered

**Which of these is/are correct?**

- a. 2, 3 and 4 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: a**

**Explanation**

- Asian Elephant – Endangered
- Bengal Florican – Critically Endangered
- African Elephant – Vulnerable
- Great Indian Bustard – Critically Endangered

**56. Tropical Cyclone “Nisarga” was named by:**

- a. India
- b. Sri Lanka
- c. Bangladesh
- d. Pakistan

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Bangladesh named Cyclone Nisarga.
- Cyclones that form in every ocean basin across the world are named by the regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs) and Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs).
- There are six RSMCs in the world, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD), and five TCWCs.
- As an RSMC, the IMD names the cyclones developing over the north Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, after following a standard procedure.



**57) Consider the following statements with respect to Exoplanets**

1. An exoplanet is a planet that orbits a star outside the solar system.
2. Its orbit is wobbly because the gravitational of the star is not at its centre.

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**

**Explanation**

- In a first, scientists have been able to discover an exoplanet and a wobbly Star using just radio waves.
- In this method, scientists detect an exoplanet via auroras formed on it by the interaction of the star and a strong magnetic field around a planetary body.

**Exoplanets**

- An exoplanet is a planet that orbits a star outside the solar system.
- These exoplanets are hard to detect because they are hidden by the bright glare of the stars they orbit around.
- One of the key features of the exoplanet is that its orbit is wobbly because the gravitational of the star is not at its centre which makes the phenomenon possible.
- So far, over 4,000 exoplanets have been discovered by astronomers.
- But, the recent discovery may answer several questions as the previous ones were too difficult to detect.

**58) Consider the following statements with respect to Mullaperiyar Dam**

1. It is located on the confluence of the Mullayar and the Periyar rivers, operated and maintained by Kerala.
2. Tamil Nadu was permitted to generate power from the dam.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not** correct?

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

**Answer : a**

**Explanation**

- The rising water levels in the Mullaperiyar Dam due to heavy rains and issuance of the first warning has triggered panic among people living downstream.
- Mullaperiyar dam issue is between two south Indian states that is between Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- It is located on the confluence of the Mullayar and the Periyar rivers in Kerala, and is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu.
- The dam is in the state of Kerala but it was given on lease to the Tamil Nadu on 29th October, 1886 for 999 years.
- Tamil Nadu was permitted to generate power from the dam, through an agreement in 1970.

**59) Mount Sinabung recently seen in news is located in?**

- a. Costa Rica
- b. Japan
- c. Philippines
- d. Indonesia

**Answer : d**

**Explanation**

- The Mount Sinabung volcano in Indonesia erupted recently.
- Mount Sinabung erupted in 2010 after a 400-year-long hiatus and has been continuously active since September 2013.

**60) With reference to the Nuclear Plants of India, Consider the following pairs**

**Power Stations**

**States**

1. Gorakpur - Haryana
2. Chukta - Madhya Pradesh
3. Mahi Banswara - Rajasthan
4. Mithi Viridi - Gujarat

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer : d**

**61. A Special Mention Account is:**

- a. An account that shows symptoms of bad asset quality before it is identified as a Non-Performing Asset.
- b. Account recording a nation's transactions with the rest of the world.
- c. An account with an overdraft limit to Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana account holder up to 10,000.
- d. An account that has been classified as a Non-Performing Asset.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Special Mention Accounts are those assets/accounts that show symptoms of bad asset quality before it is identified as Non-Performing Asset (NPA).
- SMA or special mention accounts are ones where the principle or interest payment is delayed. It is classified as SMA 0 for delays from 0 to 30 days, SMA 1 for 31 to 60 days and SMA 2 for 61 to 90 days. Payments not made beyond 90 days are classified as NPAs.
- It is a classification brought in by the RBI to detect early signs of stress among bank borrowers and monitor accounts that run the risk of turning into bad loans or NPAs.
- Special Mention Accounts are usually categorized in terms of duration. SMA loans – divided into three baskets (SMA-0, SMA-1 and SMA-2).

**62) Which of the following best describes the term *Profit After Tax (PAT)*?**

- a. It is defined as any profit that is received through the sale of a capital asset
- b. It is a measure of a company's profitability that looks at the profits made before any tax is paid
- c. The amount of money that remains with the taxpayer after all the necessary deductions have been made
- d. None of the above

**Answer : c**

### **Explanation**

- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power, GoI and the 'Central Transmission Utility (CTU)' of the country, has posted a Profit After Tax of Rs. 2,048 crore and Total Income of Rs. 9,817 crore on consolidated basis for Q1FY21.

### ***Profit After Tax***

- Profit after tax or a gain after tax is essentially the amount of money that remains with the taxpayer after all the necessary deductions have been made.
- It is like a barometer that tells you how much profit a business has really earned.

**63) Gandagi Mukh Bharat is a special campaign to promote which of the following?**

- a. Skill India
- b. Clean India
- c. Startup India
- d. Make in India

**Answer : b**

### **Explanation**

- The Prime Minister of India has recently launched the '**Gandagi Mukh Bharat**', a special week long campaign **for swachhata** in the run up to Independence Day, during which each day till 15th August will have

special swachhata initiatives in urban and rural India to re-enforce the jan andolan for swachhata.

**64) Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh Committee, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with?**

- a. Employee Social Responsibility
- b. Privatisation of Indian Railways
- c. Business Responsibility Reporting
- d. Efficacy of Public Private Partnership

**Answer : c**

**Explanation**

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has recently released the '**Report of the Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR)**'.
- Shri *Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh* is the chairman of the Committee on BRR.
- Mr. Singh highlighted the paradigm shift in the business operations from shareholder's perspective to stakeholders and importance of non-financial reporting.
- He also shared the key recommendations of the committee and acknowledge the efforts made by the committee members.

**65) Consider the following statements with respect to Ceres**

1. It is largest known object in the asteroid belt.
2. It is the only dwarf planet located in the outer solar system.

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**

**Explanation**

- Dwarf planet *Ceres* is an ocean world with salty water under the surface, NASA mission finds.
- *Ceres* is a dwarf planet and the largest known object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- It is the only dwarf planet located in the inner reaches of solar system.

**66) Consider the following statements with respect to *City of Junagadh***

1. A plebiscite was conducted in Junagadh through which it becomes a part of India.
2. It shares border with Pakistan along the Radcliffe Line.

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**

**Explanation**

- Recently, Pakistan unveiled a new political map that includes *Junagadh*.
- Junagadh was the princely state, *situated on the southwestern Gujarat*.
- *A plebiscite was conducted in February 1948*, in which people voted to join India.
- The plebiscite was not accepted by Pakistan then, but was overtaken by the first India-Pakistan war over Kashmir that began at the end of October 1947 and continued for over a year.
- Junagadh is a present day city in the state of Gujarat.

**67. "Great Hornbill" is the state bird of:**

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Kerala
4. Karnataka
5. Nagaland

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1, 2 and 5 only
- c. 2, 4 and 5 only
- d. 1 only

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

“Great Hornbill” is the state bird of both Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.

**68. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Absciscic acid?**

1. It is a plant hormone that modulates plant growth and development.
2. It is instrumental in increasing the tolerance of plants to different kinds of stress.
3. It is a plant growth promoter.

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation**

- Absciscic acid is a plant hormone that modulates plant growth and development.
- The plant growth regulator is instrumental in increasing the tolerance of plants to different kinds of stress.
- Plant growth hormones or regulators are of the following types:
  - Plant Growth Promoters
  - Plant Growth Inhibitors
- Absciscic acid is one of the plant growth inhibitors.

**69. Consider the following statements with respect to land boundaries of Nagaland::**

1. Arunachal Pradesh – North
2. Assam – South
3. Manipur – West

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: a**

### **Explanation**

Nagaland is a landlocked state in north-eastern India. It is bordered by the state of Arunachal Pradesh to the north, Assam to the west, Manipur to the south and Myanmar to the east.

**70. Which of the following is the theme for the International Youth Day, 2020?**

- a. Youth Building Peace
- b. Safe Spaces for Youth
- c. Transforming Education
- d. Youth Engagement for Global Action

**Answer : d**

### **Explanation**

- International Youth Day was designated by the United Nations (UN) in the year 1999, in an attempt to raise awareness regarding the cultural and legal issue concerning youth.
- The first IYD was observed on 12 August 2000 and has been observed annually ever since.



- Each year, the observance of International Youth Day is marked with a theme, relevant to the times.
- The theme for 2020 is '**Youth Engagement for Global Action**', and this has never been of more significance, than during the current conditions.

**71) Raman, often seen in the news recently, is?**

- a. 3-D printed rocket engine
- b. India's fastest Super Computer
- c. Under Barrel Grenade launcher
- d. First private Reusable Launch Vehicle

**Answer : a**

### **Explanation**

- Aerospace startup Skyroot Aerospace has successfully test fired an upper-stage rocket engine recently.
- Through this, it became the first Indian private company to demonstrate the capability to build a homegrown rocket engine.
- The **3-D printed rocket engine - Raman**, named after Nobel laureate CV Raman - has fewer moving parts and weighs less than half of conventional rocket engines with a similar capacity.

**72. Consider the following statements with respect to Seagrass**

1. They are marine flowering plants, found on all continents.
2. They are one of the most productive ecosystems in the world.

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**

### **Explanation**

- The UN environmental programme has released a report warning that Kenya's coast is losing huge amounts of Seagrass.
- Seagrasses are flowering marine plants that have adapted to survive in marine conditions.
- They are mostly found in shallow sandy bottom habitats and can form dense extensive meadows.
- They are found on all continents except Antarctica.
- They are one of the most productive ecosystems in the world.
- They provide shelter and food to an incredibly diverse community of animals.

**73. 'Island of Crete' is located in:**

- a. Eastern Mediterranean Sea
- b. South China Sea
- c. Indian Ocean
- d. Black Sea

**Answer: a**

### **Explanation**

Crete is the largest and most populous of the Greek islands. It is located in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

**74. Consider the following statements with respect to African Swine Fever:**

1. It is a respiratory disease of pigs.
2. It is caused by type A influenza virus.
3. It does not affect humans and spreads from animals to other animals only.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

### **Explanation**

- African Swine Fever (ASF) is different from swine flu. The virus does not affect people and there is no impact on human health.
- Swine influenza or swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs, which is caused by type A influenza virus.
- ASF is a severe viral disease that affects wild and domestic pigs typically resulting in an acute haemorrhagic fever.
- ASF is caused by a large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family.

**75. Nyishi tribes belong to which state?**

- a. Madhya Pradesh
- b. Assam
- c. Arunachal Pradesh
- d. Manipur

**Answer: c**

**Explanation**

- Nyishi Tribes (also called Bangni) are the tribal people of eastern Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Nyishi is a Scheduled Tribe.

**76. 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule of Indian Constitution consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in which of the following states?**

- a. Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura
- b. Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura
- c. Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura
- d. Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur

**Answer: a**

**Explanation**

The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

-

**77. Which of the following is the Nodal Ministry for Drug Demand Reduction in India under the National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 2012?**

- a. Ministry of Finance
- b. Ministry of Home Affairs
- c. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- d. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

**Answer : d**

**Explanation**

- As per the National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 2012, different Departments/Ministries have been allocated different roles.
- While the *Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the Nodal agency for Drug Demand Reduction*, the aspect of *supply reduction* is looked after by various enforcement agencies under *Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance* and State Governments and *harm reduction* by the *Ministry of Health and Family Welfare*.

**78. Consider the following statements with respect to Mauritius**

1. India shares maritime boundary with Mauritius along the Indian ocean region.
2. Mauritius is the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India.

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 : d**

**Explanation**

- Recently, there was an Oil Spill *Mauritius* coast in Indian Ocean.

- This endangers the corals, fish and other marine life around the Indian Ocean island.
- India does not shares maritime boundary with Mauritius.
- Mauritius is the second largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India after Singapore.

**79) Consider the following statements with respect to Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

1. The UAE is the member of OPEC and Israel is the member of OPEC Plus.
2. Israel does not have a diplomatic relations with any of the Arab country.

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 : d**

**Explanation**

- Recently, Israel and the United Arab Emirates, helped by the US, have arrived at an important peace agreement.
- The UAE is the member of OPEC and Israel is not a member of OPEC Plus.
- The UAE will become the third Arab nation to recognise Israel and to have a normal diplomatic relations with Israel after Egypt (in 1979) and Jordan (1994).

**80) Sarthak recently seen in news is a**

- a. A COVID 19 testing kit
- b. An Offshore Patrol Vessel
- c. An e-learning platform
- d. None of the above

**Answer : b**

**Explanation**

- Recently, Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarthak' was launched.
- Sarthak is the 4th in the series of five OPVs deployed by the Coast Guard to enhance maritime security.
- It has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited in line with 'Make in India'.
- The Ship is fitted with state-of-the-art Navigation and Communication equipment.

**81. Match the following communities in news with the part of the world they are found in:**

1. Bedouin tribes: Mongolia
2. Bidoon and Faili Kurds: Iraq
3. Hmong, Karen and Sea Gypsies: Thailand

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**Answer : D**

### **Explanation**

An international conference opening in The Hague on Wednesday will assess progress on a United Nations campaign called **IBelong** (#Ibelong) which aims to end statelessness by 2024. An estimated 10 to 15 million people are not recognised as nationals by any country, often depriving them of basic rights most of the world takes for granted such as education, healthcare, housing and jobs. Here is the list of some major communities: Myanmar/Bangladesh: Rohingya. Thailand: Yao, Hmong, Karen and Sea Gypsies.

Syria: Kurds.

Kuwait: Bedouin tribes.

Iraq: Bidoon and Faili Kurds.

**82. Which of these religions/religious sects recognizes 'Lonka' as a religious reformer?**

- A. Buddhism
- B. Jainism
- C. Vaishnavism
- D. Shaivism

**Answer : B**

### **Explanation**

Sthānakavāsī is a sect of Śvētāmbara Jainism founded by a merchant named Lavaji in 1653 AD. It believes that idol worship is not essential in the path of soul purification and attainment of Nirvana/Moksha. The sect is essentially a reformation of the one founded on teachings of Lonka, a fifteenth-century Jain reformer. Sthānakavāsins accept thirty-two of the Jain Agamas, the Śvētāmbara canon. Śvētāmbarins who are not Sthānakavāsins are mostly part the Murtipujaka sect.

**83. Consider the following statements.**

1. Most of the Peninsular rivers originate from Western Ghats.
2. The Peninsular rivers have shorter and shallower courses as compared to their Himalayan counterparts.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

**Answer : C**

### **Explanation**

The Peninsular rivers have shorter and shallower courses as compared to their Himalayan counterparts. Most of them come from Western Ghats, however, some of them originate in the central highlands and flow towards the west. Rest of them all flow to the east in the Bay of Bengal. A large number of the

Peninsular rivers are seasonal, as their flow is dependent on rainfall. During the dry season, even the large rivers have reduced flow of water in their channels. Moreover, due to flowing on hard terrain and short courses, they carry much lesser silt as compared to Himalayan rivers.

**84. Most volcanoes and earthquakes in the world are located at**

- A. Plate margins
- B. The inter-junction of major mountains of the world
- C. Within the plates
- D. Littoral zones of major oceans

**Answer : A**

**Explanation**

Plate margins witness several plate collisions, sliding, transformation etc that result into volcanism or earthquakes. Most of them are found in the Ring of Fire. Some earthquakes also occur within the plates but not as frequently as on the plate margins. The mechanism is explained by the plate tectonics theory.

**85. Which of the following tribes are predominantly found in the North eastern states of India:**

- 1. Nyishi
- 2. Galo
- 3. Kuki
- 4. Konyak
- 5. Rengma

**Options:**

- a. 1,2 and 3 only
- b. 3,4 and 5 only
- c. 1,3 and 5 only
- d. 1,2,3,4 and 5

**Answer: d**

**Explanation**



- Nyishi and Galo are basically found in Arunachal Pradesh. Kuki tribe is predominantly found in Manipur while the Konyak and Rengma are mostly from Nagaland.

**86. Article 129 of the Indian Constitution deals with which of the following provisions?**

- a. Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court
- b. Contempt power of the Supreme Court
- c. Judicial predominance in appointment process
- d. Provisions of judicial review.

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation**

- Article 129 declares the Supreme Court a court of record and it further provides that the Supreme Court shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

**87. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Godavari's origin is at Triambakeshwar.
2. Pranhita is the largest tributary of the Godavari
3. The Jayakwadi dam is built across the Godavari

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

### **Explanation**

- The Godavari is India's second longest river after the Ganga. Its source is in Triambakeshwar, Maharashtra.
- The major the left bank tributaries of Godavari include the Pranhita, Indravati and Sabari River covering nearly 59.7% of the total

catchment area of the basin and the right bank tributaries Pravara, Manjira, Manair together contributing 16.1% of the basin.

- Pranhita is the largest tributary covering about 34% of its drainage basin. Indravati is the 2nd largest tributary.
- Jayakwadi dam, located near Paithan, is one of the largest earthen dams in India.

**88. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. T cells are developed in the thymus gland.
2. T cells are a type of leukocyte.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

### **Explanation**

- A T cell is a type of lymphocyte, which develops in the thymus gland and plays a central role in the immune response. T cell is a type of leukocyte (white blood cell).
- T cells are one of the major components of the adaptive immune system. Their roles include directly killing infected host cells, activating other immune cells, producing cytokines and regulating the immune response.
- T cells are one of two primary types of lymphocytes – B cells being the second type – that determine the specificity of an immune response to antigens (foreign substances) in the body.

**89. Angria Bank, which was seen in news recently, belongs to which of the following states?**

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat

D. Karnataka

**Answer : B**

**Explanation**

Angria Bank is a bank, a shallow sunken atoll, on the continental shelf off the west coast of India.

It is located 105 kilometres west of Vijaydurg, Maharashtra. Hence, option (b) is correct.

**90. Which among the following is the most recent to join the list of Ramsar Wetlands in India?**

- A. Sunderbans
- B. Renuka Wetlands
- C. Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary
- D. Point Calimere

**Answer : A**

**Explanation**

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

**91. Which of the following are the left bank tributaries of River Godavari?**

- 1. Dharna
- 2. Penganga
- 3. Mula
- 4. Manjra
- 5. Pench

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- b. 1, 2 and 5 only

- c. 2, 3, 4 and 5
- d. 1, 3 and 4 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Left bank tributaries of River Godavari are Sabari, Indravati, Dharna, Penganga, Wainganga, Wardha, Pench, Kanhan, etc.
- Right bank tributaries are Peddavagu, Maner, Manjra, Pravara, Mula, etc.

**92. Who among the following British officials was assassinated by Madan Lal Dhingra?**

- a. Lord Curzon
- b. Curzon Wylie
- c. Sir Joseph Bampfylde Fuller
- d. Lord Mayo

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- India House was the centre of revolutionary activities for Indian independence outside India.
- The organisation was liquidated after the assassination of an army officer Curzon Wylie by its member Madan Lal Dhingra.
- Curzon Wylie was assassinated on 1 July 1909 in London by the Indian revolutionary Madan Lal Dhingra.

**93. Consider the following statements with respect to PM-CARES Fund:**

1. Both Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and PM CARES fund are chaired by the Prime Minister.
2. PM-CARES Fund does not get any budgetary support and consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals or organizations.
3. Spending from PMNRF requires approval from Parliament.
4. PM CARES Fund is barred from accepting donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

- a. 2, 3 and 4 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2 and 4 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Both Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and PM CARES fund are chaired by the Prime Minister.
- PM-CARES Fund does not get any budgetary support and consists entirely of voluntary contributions from the individuals or organizations.
- Spending from both the PM CARES Fund and the PMNRF does not require approval from Parliament.
- A separate account for receiving donations from foreign countries has been opened. This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries. Foreign donations in the PM CARES Fund would also get exemption under the FCRA.

**94. Consider the following statements with respect to Common Services Centre (CSC) programme:**

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. They are the access points for the delivery of various electronic services to villages in India.
3. It is also one of the approved projects under the Integrated Mission Mode Projects of the National eGovernance Plan.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Common Services Centre (CSC) programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).
- Common Services Centres (CSCs) are a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme.
- They are the access points for the delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.

**95. Consider the following statements with respect to PM-CARES Fund:**

1. Both Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and PM CARES fund are chaired by the Prime Minister.
2. PM-CARES Fund does not get any budgetary support and consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals or organizations.
3. Spending from PMNRF requires approval from Parliament.
4. PM CARES Fund is barred from accepting donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 2, 3 and 4 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2 and 4 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Both Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and PM CARES fund are chaired by the Prime Minister.
- PM-CARES Fund does not get any budgetary support and consists entirely of voluntary contributions from the individuals or organizations.
- Spending from both the PM CARES Fund and the PMNRF does not require approval from Parliament.
- A separate account for receiving donations from foreign countries has been opened. This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign

countries. Foreign donations in the PM CARES Fund would also get exemption under the FCRA.

**96. Consider the following statements with respect to Common Services Centre (CSC) programme:**

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. They are the access points for the delivery of various electronic services to villages in India.
3. It is also one of the approved projects under the Integrated Mission Mode Projects of the National eGovernance Plan.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Common Services Centre (CSC) programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).
- Common Services Centres (CSCs) are a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme.
- They are the access points for the delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.

**97) How different is the PM CARES Fund from the PM's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)?**

1. PMNRF is for all kinds of natural disasters whereas PM CARES fund is specially meant for COVID-19 similar pandemic situations.
2. PMNRF was managed by a committee which included the Prime Minister, the Congress President and a representative of the Tata Trustees whereas the Prime Minister chairs the PM CARES fund and nominate three eminent persons in relevant fields to the Board of Trustees.

**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**

**Explanation:**

**PM CARES Fund**

- On March 28, 2020, the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund, or the PM CARES Fund, was set up to tackle distress situations such as that posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The fund receives voluntary contributions from individuals and organisations and **does not get any budgetary support**.
- Donations have been made tax-exempt, and can be counted against a company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) obligations.
- It is also exempt from the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, and accepts foreign contributions.
- The Prime Minister chairs the fund in his official capacity, and can nominate three eminent persons in relevant fields to the Board of Trustees.
- The Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs and Finance are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

**Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)**

- It was set up in January 1948, originally to accept public contributions for the assistance of Partition refugees.
- It is now used to provide immediate relief to the families of those killed in natural calamities and the victims of major accidents and riots and support medical expenses for acid attack victims and others.
- The PMNRF was **originally** managed by a committee which included the Prime Minister and his deputy, the Finance Minister, the Congress President, a representative of the Tata Trustees and an industry representative.
- However, in 1985, the committee entrusted the entire management of the fund to the Prime Minister, who currently has sole discretion for fund disbursement.
- A joint secretary in the PMO administers the fund on an honorary basis.

**Limitations of PM CARES**

- It is not clear whether the fund comes under the ambit of the RTI Act or oversight by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, although independent auditors will audit the fund.



- The decision to allow uncapped corporate donations to the fund to count as CSR expenditure – a facility not provided to PMNRF or the CM’s Relief Funds – goes against previous guidelines stating that CSR should not be used to fund government schemes.
- A government panel had previously advised against allowing CSR contributions to the PMNRF on the grounds that the double benefit of tax exemption would be a “regressive incentive”.

**98) Which of the following best describes the term “Case Fatality Rate (CFR)”, often seen in the news recently?**

- a. The ratio of the number of deaths in a given population to the number of deaths expected
- b. The relative differences in death rates between different populations of the same biological species decrease with age
- c. It is a measure of the number of deaths in a particular population, scaled to the size of that population, per unit of time
- d. It is the proportion of deaths from a certain disease, among all individuals diagnosed, with the disease over a certain period of time

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- On a continuous positive path of slide in its COVID-19 Case Fatality Rate, India has one of the lowest mortality globally and stands at 1.93%.

**Case Fatality Rate (CFR)**

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), CFR is a measure of the severity of a disease and is defined as the proportion of cases of a specified disease or condition which are fatal within a specified time.
- In other words, a CFR – sometimes called case fatality risk or case-fatality ratio – is the proportion of deaths from a certain disease compared to the total number of people diagnosed with the disease for a particular period.

**99) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**

- 1. It was founded by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, independent India’s first Education Minister.**
- 2. It functions as an autonomous body under the administrative control of Ministry of External Affairs.**

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

**Explanation:**

- The President of India had recently unveiled the portrait of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India, virtually on his second death anniversary, at the headquarters of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as the ex-officio President of ICCR from March 1977 to August 1979 when he was Foreign Minister.

**Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**

- Established in 1951, ICCR is a society registered in the year 1957 under Society Registration Act 1860.
- ICCR was founded by **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad** when he was the Minister of Education.
- The organization was under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs till 1970.
- Since its mandate involved interaction with foreign entities, ICCR was in 1970 transferred from Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- Since then it has been functioning as an autonomous body under the **administrative control of MEA.**

100) 'ALEKH' is a quarterly e-newsletter on health and nutrition, launched recently by?

- a. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- b. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- c. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- d. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Answer: a

**Explanation:**

- A series of initiatives were announced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs recently which included the Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal 'Swasthya' and e-newsletter on health and nutrition ALEKH; opening of National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal.
- 'ALEKH' is a quarterly e-newsletter which emphasize the commitment of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to improve the health and wellbeing of the tribal communities.

**101) Which of the following does not come under the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court?**

- a. Dispute between Centre and one or more states
- b. Dispute between the Centre and a Union Territory
- c. Dispute between two or more states
- d. Disputes between the Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more states on the other.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**102) Consider the following statements with respect to Election Commission of India**

- 1. It is a permanent constitutional body which conducts elections to Parliament, Legislature of every State, elections to the District Panchayats and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India.**
- 2. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.**

**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**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa, resigned to join the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as vice-president.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a permanent Constitutional Body.
- The Constitution of India has vested in the ECI the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conduct of elections to Parliament and Legislature of every State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.
- The State Election Commissions are vested with the powers of conduct of elections to the Corporations, Municipalities, Zilla Parishads, District Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Gram Panchayats and other local bodies.
- They are independent of the Election Commission of India.

**103. Which of the following country/s has/have not signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)?**

1. France
2. Greece
3. Turkey
4. Israel

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 3 and 4 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3 only
- d. 2 and 4 only

**Answer: a**

### **Explanation**

Turkey and Israel are not signatories of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

**104. N.N Vohra committee report is associated with:**

- a. Criminalisation of Politics
- b. Banking Reforms
- c. Draft National Education Policy
- d. Panchayati Raj Institutions

**Answer: a**

**Explanation**

- The Vohra Committee report dealt with the issue of nexus between politicians and criminals.
- It studied the problem of criminalisation of politics and of the nexus among criminals, politicians and bureaucrats in India.

**105. Consider the following statements:**

1. In India, the first coal mine was opened at Raniganj in West Bengal.
2. Odisha has the largest coal reserves in India.
3. Commercial mining is prohibited in the coal sector in India.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation**

- In 1774, the first coal mine was opened at Raniganj in West Bengal.
- Jharkhand has the largest coal reserves in India, followed by Odisha and Chattisgarh.
- In India, commercial mining in the coal sector has been permitted. Permission has also been granted for the allotment of partially explored blocks.

**106. Which of the following countries border Libya?**

1. Mali

2. Morocco
3. Tunisia
4. Egypt
5. Sudan

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 1, 2 and 4 only
- b. 3, 4 and 5 only
- c. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d. 2, 4 and 5 only

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation**

Libya is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea on the north, Egypt on the east, Sudan on the southeast, Niger and Chad on the south, and Tunisia and Algeria on the west.

**107. 'ALEKH' is a quarterly e-newsletter on health and nutrition, launched recently by?**

- a. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- b. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- c. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- d. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

**Answer : a**

### **Explanation**

- A series of initiatives were announced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs recently which included the Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal 'Swasthya' and e-newsletter on health and nutrition ALEKH; opening of National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal.
- 'ALEKH' is a quarterly e-newsletter which emphasize the commitment of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to improve the health and wellbeing of the tribal communities.

**108. Consider the following statements with respect to *Optical Fiber***

1. It is a method of data transmission using light pulses through an optical fiber.
2. Copper cables are used in this mode of transmission.

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**

### **Explanation**

- The Prime Minister announced that every village in the country will be connected by the *Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)*.
- OFC is a method of *data transmission using light pulses through an optical fiber*.
- Optic Fiber uses strands of *glass or all plastic cables*, to transmit data using pulses of infrared laser light.
- Fiber optic cables are used since they hold a number of advantages over copper cables, such as higher bandwidth and transmit speeds.

**109. Global Liveability Ranking is based on which of the following parameters of the quality of urban life**

1. Healthcare
2. Culture and environment
3. Education
4. Infrastructure

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer : D**

### **Explanation**

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) publishes an annual Global Liveability Ranking, which ranks 140 cities for their urban quality of life based on assessments of stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure. Austria's capital, Vienna, has been ranked the most liveable among the 140 cities surveyed by The Economist Intelligence Unit for the second year in a row. Melbourne, Australia, had been ranked by the EIU as the world's most liveable city for seven years in a row, from 2011 to 2017. Vienna maintains a near-ideal 99.1, separating it from the Australian city by 0.7 points. The Syrian capital, Damascus, was ranked the least liveable city of the 140 assessed in 2018 and 2019, reflecting the effects of ongoing conflict in that country. Cities from Australia, Canada and New Zealand typically dominate the top 10, reflecting their widespread availability of goods and services, low personal risk, and an effective infrastructure.

**110. Consider the following about “Innate immunity” in human beings.**

1. It is present at the time of birth.
2. It is disease specific due to its memory of disease attack and response.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

**Answer : A**

### **Explanation**

Statement 1: It prevents the entry of the foreign agents into our body when our bodies are weak especially at the time of birth. It remains with us throughout our lives.

Statement 2: It is “Acquired Immunity” that is disease specific, not innate immunity which is general in nature. This means that our body when it encounters a pathogen for the first time produces a response called primary response which is of low intensity.



Subsequent encounter with the same pathogen elicits a highly intensified secondary or anamnestic response. This is ascribed to the fact that our body appears to have memory of the first encounter.

**111. Which of the following report/s is/are released by the International Monetary Fund?**

1. World Economic Outlook
2. Global Financial Stability Report
3. World Development Report
4. Ease of Doing Business Report
5. Global Risks Report

**Options:**

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- d. 3, 4 and 5 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- World Development Report and Ease of Doing Business Report are released by the World Bank while the Global Risks Report is released by the World Economic Forum.

**112. Barakah is located in which of the following countries?**

- a. Iran
- b. UAE
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. Syria

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Barakah nuclear power plant is on the Gulf coast west of Abu Dhabi. It is located in the UAE.

**113. Consider the following statements with respect to *Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal***

1. The Satluj-Yamuna link canal connects Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Sutlej River is the tributary of the Indus River.

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**

#### **Explanation**

- Recently, Punjab seeks re-assessment of river water share, while Haryana wants Punjab to complete *SYL Canal*.
- The *Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal* is a water way to connect the *Sutlej River in Punjab to Yamuna canal in Haryana*.
- The *Sutlej River is the easternmost tributary of the Indus River*.

**114. *Mali* recently seen in news is?**

- a. A landlocked country of western Africa
- b. The Nile River flows through Mali
- c. Both a and b
- d. None of the above

**Answer : a**

#### **Explanation**

- The Military officers have taken charge in *Mali*, after a coup.
- The *Mali is a landlocked country of western Africa*, mostly in the Saharan and Sahelian regions.
- The *Niger River* flows through its interior, functioning as the main trading and transport artery in the country.

- *Mali is bordered by Algeria in north, by Niger in east, by Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire in south, by Guinea in south-west, and by Senegal and Mauritania in west.*

**115. With respect to *Fair And Remunerative Price (FRP)***

1. It is the minimum price that the central government pays to farmers.
2. The States can set their State Advised Price which are generally higher than FRP.

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**

**Explanation**

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a hike in the Fair And Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane.
- FRP is the minimum price that the sugar mills have to pay to farmers.
- It is determined on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and are announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- The State Advised Prices (SAP) are announced by state governments which are generally higher than FRP.

**116. Consider the following statements with respect to *Brown Dwarf***

1. The brown dwarf are planets found outside the solar system.
2. They give off high light and energy and are easy to locate.

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 : d

### Explanation

- Recently, Citizen scientists and NOIRLab facilities discovered almost 100 nearby cool *Brown Dwarfs*.
- Brown dwarf are an astronomical object that is intermediate between a planet and a star.
- They are usually have a mass less than 0.075 that of the Sun, or roughly 75 times that of Jupiter.
- They are outside the solar system, they give off little light and energy and they are challenging to locate.

**117. Which of the following ministries is implementing the *Nai Udaan Scheme*?**

- a. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- b. Ministry of Minority Affairs
- c. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d. Ministry of Human Resource and Development

Answer : b

### Explanation

*Nai Udaan Scheme*

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the *minority candidates clearing prelims* conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the State Governments and to increase the representation of the minority in the Civil Services by giving *direct financial support*.
- *Ministry of Minority Affairs* will be the implementing agency.
- Only candidates belonging to notified Minority Communities who fulfill all other eligibility criteria and conditions will be considered for financial support under the scheme.

**118. Which of the following is responsible for the implementation of *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*?**

- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
- b. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- d. None of the above

**Answer : d**

### **Explanation**

- Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on 25th December, 2000 to provide all-weather access to unconnected habitations, based on census 2001.
- The *Ministry of Rural Development* along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.
- The spirit and the objective of the PMGSY is to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected Habitations.
- A habitation which was earlier provided all-weather connectivity would not be eligible even if the present condition of the road is bad.
- The unit for this Programme is a Habitation and not a Revenue village or a Panchayat.
- A Habitation is a cluster of population, living in an area, the location of which does not change over time.
- Desam, Dhanis, Tolas, Majras, Hamlets etc. are commonly used terminology to describe the Habitations.
- An Unconnected Habitation is one with a population of designated size located at a distance of at least 500 metres or more (1.5 km of path distance in case of Hills) from an All-weather road or a connected Habitation.

**119. Bhadbhut project, sometimes seen in the news recently, aims to build a 1.7-km causeway-cum-weir barrage, across which of the following rivers?**

- a. River Cauvery
- b. River Godavari
- c. River Narmada
- d. River Tungabhadra

**Answer : c**

### **Explanation**

*Bhadbhut project*

- Bhadbhut project in Bharuch is planned to be a 1.7-km causeway-cum-weir barrage with 90 gates, across the river Narmada.
- The barrage will stop most of the excess water flowing out of the Sardar Sarovar Dam from reaching the sea and thus create a “sweet water lake” of 600 mcm (million cubic metres) on the river.
- The sweet water from the reservoir will aim to meet the residential and industrial water requirements of Bharuch, Ankleshwar and Dahej.
- The project also aims to prevent flooding in years when rainfall is higher than normal.
- Embankments 22 km long will be made and will extend upstream towards Bharuch, from either side of the river.
- The barrage design also has a navigation lock to enable any future plans to run a ferry service or boats under the inland waterway scheme.
- The Inland Waterway Authority of India has given clearance for this project.
- The project as faced protests from local fishermen for its likely impact on fishing patterns, notably those of hilsa.
- A marine fish, hilsa migrate upstream and arrives in the brackish water of the Narmada estuary near Bharuch for spawning usually during the monsoon months of July and August, and continue doing so till November.
- Once the barrage is built, it is expected to block their natural entry.

**120. Consider the following statements regarding Desert ecosystem**

1. Desert plants show phenomenon of Allelopathy.
2. Desert plants possess waxy leave to arrest transpiration

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

**Answer : C**

**Explanation**

Desert plants show phenomenon of Allelopathy i.e, they secrete some chemical substance which inhibits the growth of plants growing in their near vicinity.

**Hence, statement 1 is correct.** Desert plants possess waxy leaves to arrest transpiration **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**121. With respect to National Council for Transgender Persons - Composition:**

1. Social Justice Minister appoints the chairperson of the Council.
2. The council comprises representatives from five states appointed on a rotational basis.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Social Justice Minister would be the chairperson of the Council.
- The council comprises representatives from five states appointed on a rotational basis.

**122. Consider the following**

1. Ukraine
2. Turkey
3. Romania

*Which of the Countries given above shares border with Black sea?*

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

**Answer : d**

**Explanation**

- Recently, *Turkey* discovers large natural gas reserve in *Black Sea*.
- *Black Sea* is bordered by Ukraine to the north, Russia to the northeast, Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.

**123. *Thumbimahotsavam 2020* recently seen in news is to be conducted in?**

- a. Telangana
- b. Karnataka
- c. Odisha
- d. Kerala

**Answer : d**

**Explanation**

- *Kerala* to host first-ever state Dragonfly Festival, *Thumbimahotsavam 2020*.
- WWF-India State unit has joined hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) for Thumbipuranam.
- This is part of a national dragonfly festival being organised by the WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society & Indian Dragonfly Society in association with the National Biodiversity Board, UNEP, UNDP and IUCN - Centre for Environment Conservation.

**124. *Srisailem Hydroelectric Plant*, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located along which of the following rivers?**

- a. R. Penna
- b. R. Krishna
- c. R. Cauvery
- d. R. Tungabhadra

**Answer : b**

**Explanation**

- The Criminal Investigation Department and TS Genco constituted a four-member committee to probe into the fire tragedy at the *Srisailem Left Bank power house* that claimed nine lives recently.



- The Srisaïlam dam straddles the *River Krishna* in a deep gorge on the border of Telangana's Mahabubnagar district and Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district.
- The reservoir of the dam sprawls over 616 sq km, and there are two power plants on either side of the dam.
- The left bank underground station, where the accident happened, is on the *Telangana side*.
- It has 900MW installed capacity for pumped-storage operation; the right bank underground power station, with a capacity of 770MW, is on the Andhra side.

**125. Consider the following statements with respect to *Visceral Leishmaniasis***

1. It is one of the most neglected tropical diseases.
2. Around 95% of reported cases are from Indian Subcontinent.

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**

**Explanation**

- Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science & Technology (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology have developed an oral nanomedicine with the help of surface-modified solid lipid nanoparticles based combinational cargo system for combating Visceral Leishmaniasis.
- The oral therapeutics could help in the control and elimination of VL.
- The findings of their study supported by the DST-SERB Early Career Research Award have been recently published in the journals 'Scientific Reports' and 'Materials Science & Engineering C'.

**Visceral leishmaniasis (VL)**

- *Also called as Kala- Azar*, it is one of the most neglected tropical diseases.

- It is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anaemia (which may be serious).
- If the disease is not treated, the fatality rate in developing countries can be as high as 100% within 2 years.
- Around 95% of which is reported from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

**126. Which of the following is *incorrect* regarding *Tenzing Norgay Award*, sometimes seen in the news recently**

- a. It is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air
- b. This Award is at par with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for sporting excellence
- c. The awards are conferred by the President of India, along with Arjuna Awards every year
- d. None of the above

**Answer : b**

### **Explanation**

- Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.

### **Awards**

- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.
- Arjuna Award is given for consistent outstanding performance for four years.
- Dronacharya Award goes to the coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.
- Dhyan Chand Award is for life time contribution to sports development.
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar is given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.
- Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy.

- In addition to these Sports Awards, the Ministry also recognises the spirit of adventure among the people of the country by bestowing the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award.

### *Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award*

- It is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.
- A cash Award of Rs.5.00 lakh and a certificate of honour is given to each Awardee.
- This Award is at par with the Arjuna Award for sporting excellence.
- Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards are conferred by the Hon'ble President of India, along with Arjuna Awards, in a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the month of August every year.

### **127. With respect to Bonda Tribe**

1. They are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
2. They are mostly living in the remote Garo Hills of Meghalaya.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not** correct?

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

**Answer : b**

### **Explanation:**

- Recently, The COVID-19 pandemic has reached the Bonda tribe.
- Bondas, are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
- They are residing in the hill ranges of Malkangiri in Odisha.

### **128. Electoral disputes arising out of Presidential and vice Presidential elections are settled by?**

- a. The Election Commission of India
- b. The Supreme Court

- c. The Joint Committee of the Parliament
- d. The Enquiry committee setup by the Supreme Court

**Answer : b**

**Explanation:**

- Article 71 (1) states that, All doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a President or Vice-President shall be inquired into and decided by the **Supreme Court** whose decision shall be final.

**129. Kariye Museum, sometimes seen in the news recently, is located in?**

- a. Syria
- b. Jordan
- c. Turkey
- d. Palestine

**Answer : c**

**Explanation:**

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recently ordered another ancient Orthodox church that became a mosque and then a popular Istanbul museum to be turned back into a place of Muslim worship.
- The decision to transform the **Kariye Museum** into a mosque came just a month after a similarly controversial conversion for the UNESCO World Heritage-recognised **Hagia Sophia**.

**130. Formation of coastal lagoons is facilitated by**

1. Presence of indented coastline
2. Gently sloping coasts
3. High range of tides

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer : A**

**Explanation:**

**Justification:** Coastal lagoons form along gently sloping coasts where barrier islands or reefs can develop off-shore, and the sea-level is rising relative to the land along the shore. So, 1 is correct.

India has a vast coastline and the coast is very indented in some states. Due to this, a number of lagoons and lakes have formed. So, 2 is also correct.

Coastal lagoons do not form along steep or rocky coasts, or if the range of tides is more than 4 metres. Due to the gentle slope of the coast, coastal lagoons are shallow.

A relative drop in sea level may leave a lagoon largely dry, while a rise in sea level may let the sea breach or destroy barrier islands, and leave reefs too deep under water to protect the lagoon. So, 3 is incorrect.

**SEPTEMBER Current affairs Multiple choice questions**

**1. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

- 1. Kandhamal Haladi: Odisha
- 2. Channapatna toys: Karnataka
- 3. Tirur Betel leaves: Tamil Nadu
- 4. Tawlhlohpuan : Mizoram

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2 and 4 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- d. 1 and 2 only

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Tirur Betel leaves is from the state of Kerala.

**2. Which of the following rivers originate in Odisha?**

1. Mahanadi
2. Subarnrekha
3. Burhabalanga
4. Baitarani
5. Rushikulya
6. Sabari

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- b. 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- c. 3, 5 and 6 only
- d. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Burhabalanga, Baitarani, Rushikulya and Sabari originate in the state of Odisha.
- Mahanadi has its origin in Chhattisgarh.
- Subarnrekha has its origin near Ranchi, Jharkhand

**3. Nayi Disha, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an initiative of which of the following?**

- a. State Bank of India
- b. University Grants Commission
- c. Life Insurance Corporation of India
- d. Ministry of Women and Child Development

**Answer : a**

## Explanation

### Nayi Disha

- The country's largest lender **State Bank of India** has got global recognition for its Human Resource (HR) initiative 'Nayi Disha'.
- The bank has won three Brandon Hall Excellence Awards, also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development.
- Through Nayi Disha, SBI appreciated the workforce for its commitment towards customer service excellence while serving with the same rigour in even the remotest corners of the country.

4) AITIGA, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an agreement associated with which of the following?

- a. MERCOSUR
- b. India-ASEAN Relations
- c. Asia-Africa Growth Corridor
- d. International North-South Transport Corridor

Answer : b

## Explanation

- **Indian** Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways and Minister of Industry and Trade of **Vietnam** had recently **co-chaired** the **17th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations** held virtually.
- The Ministers' discussion centred on the review of the **ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**.
- Indian Minister Piyush Goyal used the Asean ministerial forum to reiterate India's consistent position that the review of the FTA has been inordinately delayed.
- He asked for a closer engagement ahead of the Asean-India Leaders' Summit scheduled to be held in November and to start the full review before the end of this year.

### AITIGA

- In 2003, India and ASEAN signed a Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation to establish an Asean-India

Regional Trade and Investment Area, which would provide a basis for subsequent FTAs covering goods, services and investment.

- The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) was signed in 2009 and it is this that both sides have agreed to review.

**5) Which of the following crops require high temperature and high humidity/rainfall to grow?**

1. Rice
2. Tobacco
3. Tea
4. Sugarcane

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 1 and 4 only
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer : b**

**Explanation**

- Tea requires a moist frost-free climate with even rainfall throughout the year.
- Tobacco requires temperature greater than 18°C and in India, it grows under rainfed conditions in Alluvial, Black Clayey soil.

**6. With respect to International Women's Trade Centre (IWTC)**

1. It aims to accelerate women entrepreneurship and get their products marketed globally.
2. Maharashtra to set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre (IWTC).

Which is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2



- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : a**

**Explanation**

- Kerala to set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre.
- It is in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It aims to accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity while providing women with a safe place away from home to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.

**7. Which of the following are quantitative methods of credit control by RBI?**

1. Bank Rate
2. Credit Rationing
3. Open Market Operations
4. Variable Cash Reserve Ratio

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. 3 and 4 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Bank rate, Open Market Operations, Statutory Cash Reserve Requirement, Statutory Liquidity Ratio, Variable Cash Reserve Ratio are the instruments of quantitative credit control.
- Credit Rationing, Moral Suasion, Regulating Marginal Requirements on Security Loans, Direct Action, etc. are the instruments of qualitative/selective credit control.

**8. With respect to the River Wainganga:**

1. It originates in the Mahadeo Hills in Madhya Pradesh.

2. Gosikhurd irrigation project is being constructed on the Wainganga River.
3. It is a tributary of River Ganga.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 2 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- River Wainganga rises in the Mahadeo Hills in the Seoni District of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a tributary of River Godavari.
- Gosikhurd Irrigation Project is one of the major irrigation projects in the Godavari basin being constructed on the river Wainganga.

**9. Rezag La is a mountain pass in:**

- a. Sikkim
- b. Ladakh
- c. Himachal Pradesh
- d. Uttarakhand

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Rezag La is a mountain pass in the union territory of Ladakh.

**10. 'MEDBOT', sometimes seen in the news recently, is a remote-controlled medical trolley to deliver food, medicines to COVID-19 patients. It was developed by?**

- a. Indian Railways
- b. All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- c. Indian Council of Medical Research
- d. Defence Research & Development Organisation

Answer : a

**Explanation:**

- During Corona crisis, apart from providing transport facilities and essential items like foodgrains to people, *Indian Railways* has also provided facilities for COVID-19 patients.
- It has developed a remote-controlled medical trolley named 'MEDBOT' to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients.
- It is providing service in the Central Hospital of the Diesel Rail Engine Factory of Indian Railways.

**11) Consider the following statements with respect to *AstroSat***

1. It is India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory.
2. It has detected one of the earliest galaxies, AUDFs01, in extreme ultraviolet light.

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

**Explanation:**

- In a landmark achievement, Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe.
- It is a matter of pride that India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

12) *World's Largest Solar Tree* was recently installed at which of the following states?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Rajasthan
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. West Bengal

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- *CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CMERI) has developed the World's Largest Solar Tree, which is installed at CSIR-CMERI Residential Colony, Durgapur, West Bengal.*
- The installed capacity of the Solar Tree is above 11.5 kWp.
- It has the annual capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power.

13. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. INDRA - Russia
2. EKUVERIN - Japan
3. MAITREE - Thailand
4. KAZIND - Bangladesh

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 3 and 4 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

These are the Military Exercises of the Indian Army:

- INDRA - Indo-Russian joint military Exercise
- EKUVERIN - Indo-Maldives joint military exercise

- MAITREE - Indo-Thai Joint Military Exercise
- KAZIND - Joint military training exercise between the Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army

**14. The fundamentalist militant organization Hamas operates out of which region?**

- a. Gaza Strip
- b. Israel
- c. Syria
- d. Turkey

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Hamas is a fundamentalist militant organization that operates out of the Gaza Strip.

**15. The Gopalakrishnan Committee dealt with:**

- a. Non-Personal Data Governance Framework
- b. Civil Services Reforms
- c. Data Protection Law
- d. Draft National Education Policy

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- A committee chaired by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan was formed in September 2019 under the IT Ministry for developing a governance framework for Non-Personal Data.
- The committee is referred to as the Expert Committee on Non-Personal Data Governance Framework.

**16. Consider the following statements with respect to *Earth Observation Satellites***

1. They are placed only in Sun-synchronous orbit.
2. HysIS is an Indian Earth Observation Satellite.

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**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, *SpaceX* launches *Earth-observation satellite*.
- They are *placed mostly in Sun-synchronous orbit and sometimes also in Geostationary orbit*.
- *HysIS is an Indian Earth Observation Satellite* .
- The *primary goal of HysIS* is to study the earth's surface in the visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

**17) The famous Agricultural Festival in Arunachal Pradesh, which involves the sacrifice of fowls, eggs and animals to the gods and celebrated by the Apatani tribal people, is known as?**

- a. Lossar
- b. Boori-boot
- c. Dree
- d. Nyokum

**Answer : c**

**Explanation:**

- The Dree Festival is an Apatani agricultural rite.
- It involves the sacrifice of fowls, eggs and animals to the gods – Tamu, Metii and Danyi Pilo(Sun and Moon God).
- The purpose of the festival is to appease these gods so that famine could be avoided.
- This rite is observed by the Apatanis in Arunachal Pradesh, India.

- UNESCO has proposed the Apatani valley for inclusion as a World Heritage Site for its "extremely high productivity" and "unique" way of preserving the ecology.

**18. With respect to *Renati Cholas*, consider the following statements**

1. They ruled over Renadu region which is located in present day Kerala.
2. They were the first to use Telugu in administration and inscriptions instead of Sanskrit.

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**

**Explanation:**

- In a landmark discovery, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) experts claim they have found the exact location of Renati Cholas' capital and debunked decades-old theory that the capital was in Karnataka.
- They claim the capital of Renati Cholas, who had ruled Renadu region in Rayalaseema and were the *first to use Telugu in administration and inscriptions instead of Sanskrit*, may be in modern-day Kamalapuram region in Kadapa district in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) ruled over Renadu region, the present day *Cuddapah district, Andhra Pradesh*.
- In another incident, a rare inscription dating back to the Renati Chola era has been unearthed in a remote village of Kadapa district recently.
- Going by the language and characters, the inscription was written in archaic Telugu.
- It was assigned to the 8th Century A.D., when the region was under the rule of Chola Maharaja of Renadu.

**19. Consider the following statements with respect to *Lebanon***

1. It is located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea.
2. It shares its border with Syria and Israel.

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

**Explanation:**

- Beirut, the capital of *Lebanon*, marked the 100th anniversary of its creation September 1, 2020.
- It is on a verge of a solid-waste crisis, said a top expert of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Nearly 2,750 tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate exploded in a warehouse at the port and wiped out parts of the city.
- Lebanon was under a French military administration.
- It is *located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea*.
- It is bounded to the north and east by *Syria*, to the south by *Israel*.

**20. Recently approved - Mission Karmayogi is a part of:**

- a. Labour Reforms
- b. Defence Sector Reforms
- c. Civil Services Reforms
- d. Health Sector Reforms

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

- Mission Karmayogi is a new, national capacity-building and performance evaluation programme for civil servants.
- The scheme will cover 46 lakh Central government employees at all levels, and involves an outlay of ₹510 crore over a five-year period.
- An annual subscription of ₹431 will be charged per civil servant.
- The scheme is a comprehensive post-recruitment reform of the Centre's human resource (HR) development.



**21. Consider the following statements with respect to Pangong Tso:**

1. It is an endorheic, brackish water lake.
2. It is identified as a wetland of international significance under the Ramsar Convention.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Pangong Tso is a long narrow, deep, endorheic (landlocked) lake.
- The brackish water lake freezes over in winter, and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.
- The lake is not a Ramsar site. It is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.

**22. Global Innovation Index 2020, was released recently by which of the following?**

- a. UNESCO
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. World Intellectual Property Organization
- d. None of the above

**Answer : c**

**Explanation:**

- *India has climbed 4 spots and has been ranked 48th by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in the Global Innovation Index 2020 rankings.*
- India was at the 52nd position in 2019 and was ranked 81st in the year 2015.

- The WIPO had also accepted India as one of the leading innovation achievers of 2019 in the central and southern Asian region, as it has shown a consistent improvement in its innovation ranking for the last 5 years.

### *Global Innovation Index (GII)*

- The GII by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) ranks global economies according to their innovation capabilities, including roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs.

### **23. Consider the following statements with respect to *Question Hour***

1. It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.
2. The questions can not be asked to the private members during the Question Hour.

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**

### **Explanation:**

- In view of the pandemic, Parliament has said *no to Question Hour and curtailed Zero Hour*.
- *Question Hour*, is usually the first hour of every sitting of house.
- During this time, *the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers*.
- In addition to the ministers, *the questions can also be asked to the private members*.
- Thus, *a question may be addressed to a private member if the subject matter of the question relates to some Bill, resolution or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that member is responsible*.
- The procedure in regard to such question is the same as that followed in the case of questions addressed to a minister.

**24. Novichok recently seen in news is?**

- a. Russia's new COVID 19 vaccine
- b. A spy satellite of Russia
- c. A chemical nerve agent
- d. None of the above

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, was poisoned With Chemical Nerve Agent, according to Germany.
- He was poisoned by *Novichok, a chemical nerve agent.*
- *Novichok* nerve agents *banned by chemical-weapons treaty.*
- In 2017, the *Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)* confirmed the full destruction of of chemical weapons possessed by Russia.
- The OPCW has the power to send inspectors to any signatory country to search for evidence of production of banned chemicals.
- It also can send experts to help countries to investigate crime scenes where chemical agents may have been used.

**25. Consider the following statements with respect to Paradip Port:**

1. It is a natural, deep-water port.
2. It is the largest port by size and shipping traffic.
3. It is situated at the confluence of the Mahanadi river and the Bay of Bengal.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation**

- Paradip is a natural, deep-water port situated on the east coast of India, in Odisha.
- It is situated at the confluence of the Mahanadi river and the Bay of Bengal.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai is the largest container port in India. It is India's largest port by size and shipping traffic.

**26. Which of the following Indian state/s share/s international border with both Myanmar and Bangladesh?**

1. Tripura
2. Mizoram
3. Manipur
4. Nagaland

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. 2 and 4 only

**Answer: b**

### **Explanation**

- West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam share a border with Bangladesh.
- Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh share a border with Myanmar.

**27. Sonamura - Daukandi Inland Waterway connects India with which of the following country?**

- a. Sri Lanka
- b. Myanmar
- c. Bangladesh
- d. None of the above

**Answer : c**

### Explanation

- The Sonamura - Daukandi inland waterways route connecting **Tripura to Bangladesh** is set to become operational soon.
- External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the route connects Tripura to the National Waterways of India through Bangladesh for the first time.
- It is another recent connectivity initiative with Bangladesh and will greatly boost connectivity with north East region and bilateral trade with Bangladesh.

**28. E40, often seen in the news recently, is a transnational project aimed at establishing inland waterway that connects which of the following?**

- a. Caspian Sea and Aral Sea
- b. Black Sea and Baltic Sea
- c. Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- d. South China Sea and Sea of Japan

**Answer : b**

### Explanation

- The Pripyat river is being dredged as part of the restoration of a bilateral waterway between Ukraine and Belarus and is being seen as the first step of the much larger **E40 project**.

### E40 Project

- The E40 Inland Waterway (E40 IWW) is a transnational project aimed at establishing inland waterway through Poland, Belarus and Ukraine.
- The E40 project envisions connecting the **Black and Baltic Seas** for ocean-going ships to ply.
- It seeks to connect the ports of Gdansk in Poland on the Baltic, with that of Kherson in Ukraine on the Black Sea.

**29. with respect to Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)**

1. It is the world's largest gravitational wave observatory.

2. The LIGO-India project is piloted by Department of Atomic Energy and ISRO.

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**

### **Explanation**

- Recently, Astronomers detect biggest collision of impossible black holes.
- The collision was observed by the National Science Foundation's Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).
- It is the world's largest gravitational wave observatory.
- It's mission is to open the field of gravitational-wave astrophysics through the direct detection of Gravitational Waves.
- It exploits the physical properties of light and of space itself to detect and understand the origins of Gravitational Waves (GW).
- The LIGO-India project is piloted by Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Science and Technology (DST).

### **30. with respect to Coral Reefs**

1. They are confined only to tropical waters.
2. They live mostly in areas where fresh water from rivers drain into the ocean.

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 : d**

### **Explanation**

- The dead Coral Reefs as important as live ones, shows new study.
- The dead coral reefs support cryptic animals including fishes, snails, tiny crabs and worms who hide under this rubble to save themselves from predation.
- Coral reefs are some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world.
- They are generally confined to tropical and semi-tropical waters.
- They are found all over the world's oceans, from the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska to the warm tropical waters.
- They need salt water to survive and they cannot live mostly in areas where fresh water from rivers drain into the ocean.

**31. The term “multi-polarity” often heard in the context of international relations refers to**

1. Success of democracy in modern world
2. Balance of power in the world

Which of the above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

**Answer : B**

**Explanation:**

**Learning:** The cold war saw new defensive alliances, NATO in the west and the Warsaw Pact of the Soviet satellites. The world was divided into two camps, and the "third world" nations were courted and pressured to join one or the other. The world was thus divided into two World (poles) which came to be known as a bipolar world. USSR and USA emerged as major powers, and thus the balance of power in the world was essentially bipolar. Later, when the cold war ended, the USSR could not remain a superpower and USA emerged as the sole superpower, resulting in a unipolar world. However, in the modern world, many new powers emerged, such as EU, China, Japan and the world effectively became multi-polar in nature.

**32. The Directive Principles resemble the 'Instrument of Instructions' enumerated in the**

- A. Government of India Act of 1935
- B. Montague Chelmsford Act 1919
- C. Objectives Resolution, 1946
- D. Nehru Report, 1928

**Answer : A**

**Explanation:**

**Learning:** Dr B R Ambedkar had said 'the Directive Principles are like the instrument of instructions, which were issued to the Governor-General and to the Governors of the colonies of India by the British Government under the Government of India Act of 1935.'

What is called Directive Principles is merely another name for the instrument of instructions. The only difference is that they are instructions to the legislature and the executive.

**33. There will be progressively lesser difference between Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Net Domestic Product (NDP).**

- A. If technological growth is slow in a nation and capital depreciation is high
- B. If technological growth is high in a nation and capital depreciation is low
- C. If technological growth is slow in a nation and capital depreciation is high
- D. If technological growth is high in a nation and capital depreciation is high

**Answer : B**

**Explanation:**

**Justification:** NDP is essentially the GDP discounted for the total value of the 'wear and tear' (depreciation) that happened in the assets while the goods and services were being produced. It means GDP minus depreciation is NDP. Depreciation is caused due to wear and tear of capital or due to poor technological growth that fails to cut down levels of depreciation. Lower the depreciation, lesser will be the difference between GDP and NDP. This is achieved best in the case of option (b).



**34. The first Law Commission was established, under the Chairmanship of Lord Macaulay which recommended codification of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, by the**

- A. Government of India Act 1935
- B. Charter Act of 1833
- C. Law Commission Act, 1967
- D. Act of 1919

**Answer : B**

**Explanation:**

**Learning:** Law Reform in the ancient period was ad hoc and not institutionalised.

However, since the third decade of the nineteenth century, Law Commissions were constituted by the Government from time to time. The first law commission was established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833. Thereafter, the second, third and fourth Law Commissions were constituted in 1853, 1861 and 1879 respectively helped adapt English Laws to Indian conditions. The Indian Code of Civil Procedure, the Indian Contract Act, the Indian Evidence Act, the Transfer of Property Act etc. are products of the labour of the first four Law Commissions. The First Law Commission of Independent India in 1955 with the then Attorney-General of India, Mr. M. C. Setalvad, as its Chairman.

**35. Artificial Food fortification can help tackle which of the following?**

- 1. Increase low yield of cereal crops on arid and semi-arid lands
- 2. Prevent micronutrient deficiencies

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

**Answer : B**

**Explanation:**

**Justification:** Statement 1: Artificial Food fortification happens after the food has been grown and processed. Bio-fortification occurs on field as improved and fortified varieties are grown on field (genetic engineering).

Statement 2: It is the process of adding micronutrients i.e. essential trace elements and vitamins into the food. It is an integrated approach to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and complements other approaches to improve health and nutrition. This enrichment process has proven as an effective strategy to meet the nutritional needs of a large number of people across various sections of the society, including the poor and underprivileged, pregnant women and young children. Food fortification does not require changes in existing food habits and patterns nor individual compliance. It does not alter characteristics of food and is socio-culturally acceptable

**36. The satellite TanSat launched by China, sometime ago, is aimed at**

- A. Monitoring greenhouse gas emissions
- B. Surveying Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZs)
- C. Strengthening China's quantum communication facilities
- D. Improving its border security

**Answer : A**

**Explanation:**

**Learning:** It is a global carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) monitoring satellite to understand the effects of climate change. With this, China became third country after Japan and United States to have its own satellite to monitor greenhouse gases (GHGs). It will thoroughly monitor the concentration, distribution and flow of CO<sub>2</sub> levels every 16 days, accurate to at least 4 ppm (parts per million) in the atmosphere. The satellite will help understanding of climate change and provide China's policy makers with independent emissions data in first-hand and share it with researchers worldwide. It will give China a louder voice on climate change, carbon reduction negotiation and bigger say on carbon trading.

**37. Which of the following places is popularly known as the land of 7 languages in India?**

- a. Bhopal
- b. Lucknow
- c. Kasaragod
- d. Guwahati

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The northernmost district of Kerala, Kasaragod is famously known as the land of the 7 languages.
- Malayalam is the administrative language. Other languages are Kannada, Tulu, Konkani, Marathi, Urdu and Beary.
- Prior to State reorganisation, Kasaragod was part of the South Kanara district of Karnataka. Kasaragod became a part of the Malabar district of Kerala following the reorganisation of States and the formation of a unified Kerala State.

**38. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the Ajmer Sharif dargah?**

1. It is dedicated to the Suhrawardiyya silsila of the Sufi saints.
2. Its construction was initiated by the Mughal king, Akbar.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Ajmer Sharif dargah is dedicated to Moinuddin Chishti, 13th-century Sufi mystic saint and philosopher of the Chisti silsila. It houses the maqbara of Moinuddin Chishti.
- The tomb became a deeply venerated site in the century following the preacher's death in March 1236. The tomb was existent much before Akbar's advent.

- The Mughal emperor Akbar visited the shrine many times during his reign and also got the sanctum sanctorum reconstructed in 1579.

**39) The archaeological site and remains at Sadikpur Sinauli have been declared to be of “national importance” by the Archaeological Survey of India recently. Sadikpur Sinauli is a heritage site located in?**

- a. Odisha
- b. Gujarat
- c. Rajasthan
- d. Uttar Pradesh

**Answer : d**

**Explanation:**

- The archaeological site and remains at **Sadikpur Sinauli in Uttar Pradesh’s** Baghpat district, where evidence of the existence of a warrior class around 2,000 BCE was discovered in 2018, have been declared to be of “**national importance**” by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) recently.
- The ASI’s notification under provisions of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958** brings the 28.67-hectare-site under Central protection.
- The site would now be maintained by the ASI and development works around it would be subject to Central rules.
- The ASI unearthed remains of chariots, shields, swords and other items indicating the presence of a warrior class at the site.

**40. The Little Book of Green Nudges recently seen in news is released by?**

- a. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC)
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- d. None of the above

**Answer : c**

**Explanation:**

- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a new publication, 'The Little Book of Green Nudges'.
- It aims to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- The book is UNEP's first on behavioural science and nudge theory, which focuses on human actions and how to change them.
- It contains evidence-based guidance on implementing nudges.

#### 41. With respect to Pang Lhabsol

1. It is a festival of cultural heritage of Sikkim.
2. It is to commemorate the consecration of Mt. Khangchendzonga as the guardian deity of the state.

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**

#### **Explanation:**

- Recently, Sikkim celebrated Pang Lhabsol, a festival of cultural heritage and historical importance.
- It commemorates the consecration of Mount Khangchendzonga as the guardian deity of Sikkim.
- It is believed that the mountain god played an active role in introducing Buddhism into this former kingdom.
- The festival also marks the commemoration of blood brotherhood sworn between the Lepchas and the Bhutias at Kabi in 15th century.

#### 42. With respect to Parliamentary committees

1. They draw their authority from Article 105 and Article 118.
2. Parliament is not bound by the recommendations of Parliamentary committees.

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**

**Explanation:**

- The Rajya Sabha Secretariat is mulling over changing the rules governing the standing committees' tenure to make it to two years from the present one year so that the panels have enough time to work on the subjects selected by them.
- The tenure of all the standing committees end on September 11, 2020 and they can't hold deliberations till new panels are formed.
- Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, sources said, was keen on amending the rules to give a fixed two-year tenure for all the committees.
- However, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has to agree to it.

**Parliamentary Committees**

- In a parliamentary democracy, Parliament has broadly two functions, which are law-making and oversight of the executive branch of the government.
- Parliament is the embodiment of the people's will. Committees are an instrument of Parliament for its own effective functioning.
- Committees are platforms for threadbare discussion on a proposed law.
- Committee meetings are 'closed door' and members are not bound by party whips, which allows them the latitude for a more meaningful exchange of views as against discussions in full and open Houses where grandstanding and party positions invariably take precedence.

**Various Committees**

- Most committees are 'standing' as their existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an annual basis.
- Some are 'select' committees formed for a specific purpose, for instance, to deliberate on a particular bill.
- Once the Bill is disposed of, that select committee ceases to exist.

- Some standing committees are departmentally related, an example being the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development.
- Financial control is a critical tool for Parliament's authority over the executive; hence finance committees are considered to be particularly powerful.
- The three financial committees are the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.

### **Powers**

- Parliamentary committees draw their **authority from Article 105 (on privileges of Parliament members) and Article 118 (on Parliament's authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business)**.
- Committee reports are usually exhaustive and provide authentic information on matters related to governance. Bills that are referred to committees are returned to the House with significant value addition.
- **Parliament is not bound by the recommendations of committees.**

### **43. Consider the following statements with respect to Scramjet engines:**

1. They operate at hypersonic speeds and allow supersonic combustion.
2. They are a variant of a category of jet engines called the air breathing engines.

### **Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

### **Explanation**

- Scramjet stands for Supersonic Combustion Ramjet. It is a supersonic combustion engine.
- A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it efficiently operates at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion.

- The scramjets are a variant of a category of jet engines called the air breathing engines.
- The ability of engines to handle airflows of speeds in multiples of the speed of sound gives it the capability of operating at those speeds.
- Hypersonic speeds are those which are five times or more than the speed of sound.

**44. State of the Young Child in India Report was released recently by?**

- a. Ministry of Home Affairs
- b. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- c. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d. None of the above

**Answer : d**

**Explanation**

- The State of the Young Child in India report has been released recently by *Mobile Creches*, a 50-year-old non-governmental organisation (NGO).
- The Young Child Outcomes Index (YCOI) and the Young Child Environment Index (YCEI) are parts of the report.
- The young child outcomes index measures health, nutrition and cognitive growth with the help of indicators such as infant mortality rate, stunting and net attendance at the primary school level.

*Highlights of the report*

*Young Child Outcomes Index*

- Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five States for well-being of children.
- Eight States that have scores below the country's average: they are Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- The index has been constructed for two time periods (2005–2006 and 2015–2016) to enable inter-State comparisons as well as provide an idea of change over time.

*Young Child Environment Index (YCEI)*



- According to the environment index, Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh secured the top five positions.
- The environment index was constructed for 2015–2016 only due to limitations of data availability.
- The eight States that have a below average score on the outcomes index also fared poorly on this one.

### *Mobile Creches*

- It is a pioneering organisation working for the right of marginalised children to Early Childhood Development.
- Their work spans from grassroot level interventions to policy advocacy at the national level.

### **45. Chushul sometimes seen in news is located in?**

- a. Arunachal Pradesh
- b. Uttarkhand
- c. Ladakh
- d. Assam

**Answer : c**

### **Explanation**

- There is an ongoing standoff between India and China at *Chushul in Ladakh*.
- *Chushul is critical because it has an airstrip, and its connectivity by road to Leh gives it a unique operational vantage.*
- Indian troops have now secured the ridgeline in this sub-sector that allows them to dominate the Chushul bowl on the Indian side.
- *The Chushul sub-sector lies south of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh.*
- It comprises high, broken mountains and heights of Thatung, Black Top, Helmet Top, Gurung Hill, and Magger Hill besides passes such as Rejang La and Rejin La, the Spanggur Gap, and the Chushul valley.

46. Kaipeng and Malsom tribals clans, recently seen in news, belong to the state/UT of

- A. Ladakh
- B. Tripura
- C. Sikkim
- D. Uttarakhand

**Answer : B**

**Explanation**

The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) has passed resolutions to codify the customary laws of three tribal clans- Mizo, Kaipeng and Malsom. As per the Sixth Schedule, the four states viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram contain the Tribal Areas which are technically different from the Scheduled Areas. Though these areas fall within the executive authority of the state, provision has been made for the creation of the District Councils and regional councils for the exercise of the certain legislative and judicial powers.

47. Arrange the following Asian geographical features from West to East.

1. Gobi Desert
2. Plateau of Tibet
3. Yellow Sea
4. Western Himalayas

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 4213
- B. 4231
- C. 4123
- D. 2143

**Answer : A**

**48. 'The Gandhian Challenge', launched by NITI Aayog is a platform for promoting**

- A. Hygiene and sanitation in schools
- B. Innovative solutions for a sustainable India
- C. Policy coordination amongst local bodies
- D. Efficient administration at a cluster level within a particular state

**Answer : B**

### **Explanation**

On the 150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, AIM, NITI Aayog's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and UNICEF India, including Generation Unlimited, have launched 'The Gandhian Challenge'.

What is it?

This innovation challenge provides a platform for every child across India to ideate innovative solutions for a sustainable India of their dreams, using Gandhi's principles. The winners of The Gandhian Challenge will be awarded in New Delhi by NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission and UNICEF on the occasion of Children's Day in November. The contest - open for every child in India from 2 October to 20 October - also celebrates 70 years of partnership between Government of India and UNICEF India to enable Every Right for Every Child. Ideas and solutions to the Gandhian Challenge may be expressed through broad categories: Art & Innovation (Letters, poems, painting, videos and photos, among others) and Science, Technology & Innovation (Robotics, IoT, sensors and 3D printers, among others).

**49. Bru (or Reang) tribe is recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in which of the following state/s?**

- 1. Assam
- 2. Tripura
- 3. Mizoram
- 4. Arunachal Pradesh

**Choose the correct options:**

- a. 3 and 4 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Bru (or Reang) tribals inhabit parts of the northeastern states of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. In Mizoram, they are largely restricted to Mamit and Kolasib. They are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Tripura.

**50. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the iconic Patrika Gate. It was built in which of the following?**

- a. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- b. Kozhikode, Kerala
- c. Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- d. Durgapur, West Bengal

**Answer : a**

**Explanation:**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur through video conference.
- The Iconic Gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- It is an attempt to bring together the art, craft, and cultural heritage of the state and will boost tourism.

**51. Aichi Targets sometimes seen in news is related to?**

- a. The Renewable Energy adoption
- b. Combat desertification
- c. Conserve the biodiversity
- d. None of the above

Answer : c

**Explanation:**

- The world hasn't met a single *Aichi biodiversity target*, according to the leaked CBD's Global Biodiversity Outlook 5, UN Report.
- There are 20 *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* agreed on by national governments through the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- These 20 time-bound, measurable targets has to be met by the year 2020.
- At the global level, none of the 20 targets have been fully achieved, though six targets have been partially achieved.

**52. Grants from the Centre to the States under the recommendations of Finance Commission are known as**

- A. Plan grants
- B. Development assistance
- C. Statutory grants
- D. Discretionary grants

Answer : C

**Explanation:**

**Learning:** Vertical and horizontal imbalances are common features of most federations. The Constitution assigned taxes with a nation-wide base to the Union to make the country one common economic space unhindered by internal barriers to the extent possible. States being closer to people and more sensitive to the local needs have been assigned functional responsibilities involving expenditure disproportionate to their assigned sources of revenue resulting in vertical imbalances. The devolution of taxes from the centre helps them fulfil these responsibilities.

**53. Bharatmala is an ambitious project of government to improve**

- A. Cultural standing and image of India heritage abroad
- B. Optical fibre communication to remote areas

- C. Safeguarding national borders and its communities
- D. Road and highways connectivity

**Answer : D**

**Explanation:**

**Learning:** It will improve road connectivity to coastal/border areas, backward areas, religious places, tourist places etc. The project will start from Gujarat and Rajasthan, move to Punjab and then cover the entire string of Himalayan states - Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand - and then portions of borders of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar alongside Terai, and move to Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and right up to the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur and Mizoram Connectivity improvement programme for Char-Dham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri in Uttarakhand) is under the proposed Bharatmala Pariyojana.

**54. Which of the following regions on earth qualify as biodiversity hotspots?**

1. Areas where multiple ecological niches occur
2. Zones of High endemism
3. The biodiversity of the region is threatened.

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

**Answer : C**

**Explanation:**

**Learning:** To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must meet two strict criteria: High endemism It must have 30% or less of its original natural vegetation, i.e. threatened. Around the world, 35 areas qualify as hotspots. They represent just 2.3% of Earth's land surface, but they support more than half of the world's plant species as endemics.

**55) EASE 2.0 Index, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following sector?**

- a. Banking
- b. Logistics
- c. Governance
- d. None of the above

**Answer : a**

### **Explanation**

- Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce were felicitated for being the top three (in that order) in the 'Top Performing Banks' category according to the EASE 2.0 Index Results released recently.
- Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India & erstwhile Corporation Bank were awarded in the 'Top Improvers' category basis EASE 2.0.
- Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, and Canara Bank were also recognized for outstanding performance in select themes.

### **EASE Index**

- A common reform agenda for Public Sector Banks (PSBs), EASE Agenda is aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking.
- It was launched in 2018, and the subsequent edition of the program, EASE 2.0 built on the foundation laid in EASE 1.0 and furthered the progress on reforms.

**56. Aitchison Committee constituted during the British time is related to**

- A. Judicial Reforms
- B. Public Service Reforms
- C. Police reforms
- D. None of the above

**Answer : B**

### **Explanation**

**The Aitchison Committee on Public Services** (1886), set up by Dufferin, recommended –

- dropping of the terms ‘covenanted’ and ‘uncovenanted’;
- classification of the civil service into Imperial Indian Civil Service (examination in England), Provincial Civil Service (examination in India) and Subordinate Civil Service (examination in India); and,
- raising the age limit to 23.

**57. Consider the following statements with respect to Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana**

1. The Ramayana Kalpavruksham, was one of his famous work.
2. He was the first Telugu writer to receive Jnanpith Award.

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**

### **Explanation**

- It was the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana (1895 – 1976).
- He was a 20th century Telugu writer.
- His popular works includes, Ramayana Kalpa Vrukshamu, Kinnersani Patalu and the novel Veyipadagalu.
- He was awarded with ‘Jnanpith Award’ for his book ‘Ramayana Kalpavriksham’.
- He was the first Telugu writer to receive Jnanpith Award.

**58. Bahrain recently seen in news is?**

- a. An archipelago in the Persian Gulf
- b. It is the India's second biggest oil supplier after Iran



- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

**Answer : a**

### **Explanation**

- In the US brokered Peace Deal, Bahrain, Israel agree to establish full Diplomatic relations.
- Bahrain is an archipelago in the Persian Gulf.
- Saudi Arabia lies to the west across the Gulf of Bahrain, while the Qatar peninsula lies to the east.
- Iran and Saudi Arabia are the India's biggest oil suppliers.
- Last month the United Arab Emirates (UAE) agreed to normalise its relationship with Israel.
- Earlier Egypt and Jordan normalise relationship with Israel.

**59. Which of the following factors was/were responsible for impoverishment of Indian agriculture in British times?**

1. Land revenue system
2. Economic policies of British
3. Ruin of handicrafts industries

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer : D**

### **Explanation**

**All the factors were responsible.**

The impoverishment of the Indian peasantry was a direct result of the transformation of the agrarian structure due to—

- colonial economic policies,
- ruin of the handicrafts leading to overcrowding of land,
- the new land revenue system,
- colonial administrative and judicial system

**60. Consider the following statements regarding Mappila Revolt**

1. The Mappilas were the Muslim tenants inhabiting the Malabar region.
2. The Mappila movement merged with the Khilafat agitation.

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

**Answer : C**

**Explanation**

**Both the statements are correct.**

**The Mappilas were the Muslim tenants inhabiting the Malabar region where most of the landlords were Hindus.** The Mappilas had expressed their resentment against the oppression of the landlords during the nineteenth century also. The Mappila tenants were particularly encouraged by the demand of the local Congress body for a government legislation regulating tenant-landlord relations. **Soon, the Mappila movement merged with the ongoing Khilafat agitation.** The leaders of the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement like Gandhi, Shaikat Ali and Maulana Azad addressed Mappila meetings.

**61. Consider the following statements with respect to T-cells:**

1. T cells are a part of the lymphatic system.
2. T cells originate in the bone marrow and mature in the thymus.
3. They are responsible for removing the pathogens from the body.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- T cells are a part of the lymphatic system.
- Lymphoid stem cells produce T lymphocytes and B lymphocytes.
- T lymphocytes, also commonly known as T cells, are cells involved in fighting specific pathogens in the body.
- T cells may act as helpers of other immune cells or attack pathogens directly.
- T cells originate in the bone marrow and mature in the thymus.

**62. Consider the following statements with respect to Venus:**

1. It is the only planet that has no natural satellites.
2. It rotates backwards compared to the Earth and the other planets.
3. The atmosphere of Venus contains traces of phosphine gas.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Venus and Mercury have no moon or satellite of its own.
- It rotates from east to west while the Earth rotates from west to east.
- The atmosphere of Venus contains traces of phosphine gas.

63) *Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)*, sometimes seen in the news recently, was signed recently between India and?

- a. SCO
- b. BRICS
- c. ASEAN
- d. None of the above

**Answer : d**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, **India and Japan** signed *Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)* agreement.

***Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)***

- It is a logistics agreement that will allow armed forces of both sides to coordinate closely in services and supplies.
- India has similar agreements with the USA, Australia, France, Oman and Singapore.
- It is aimed at greater maritime cooperation and can upgrade India-Japan naval exercises as both countries are expected to share maritime facilities for mutual benefit.
- It establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the armed forces of both countries in reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in the following such as
  1. Bilateral training activities,
  2. United Nations Peacekeeping Operations,
  3. Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities.
- The supplies and services include food, water, transportation, airlift, petroleum, clothing, communications and medical services etc.
- It will remain in force for 10 years and will be automatically extended for periods of 10 years unless one of the parties decides to end it.

64) Consider the following statements with respect to *Phosphine*

1. It is a colourless, odourless gas.
2. It is known to be produced only through biological process, and not through any naturally occurring chemical process.

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**

**Explanation:**

- The international team of astronomers announced the discovery of *Phosphine* gas in the atmosphere of *Venus*.
- It triggered global excitement about the possibility of the presence of lifeforms on the neighbouring planet.
- *Phosphine* is a colourless but smelly gas.
- It is known to be produced only through biological process, and not through any naturally occurring chemical process.
- Apart from being produced in industrial processes, it is made only by some species of bacteria that survive in the absence of oxygen.
- It is also used as an agricultural fumigant and in semiconductor industry

**65) Singapore Convention sometimes seen in news is?**

- a. A Convention on Desertification
- b. To prepare and prevent possible future spread of the viral infection
- c. A Convention on Mediation
- d. None of the above

**Answer : c**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, *Singapore Convention on Mediation* comes into force.

- It is also known as *the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation*.
- This is also the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.
- It will provide a more effective way for enforcing mediated settlements of corporate disputes involving businesses in India and other countries that are signatories to the Convention.

**66) Consider the following statements with respect to *Nathu La***

1. It is a mountain pass located in the eastern Ladakh.
2. It connects Ladakh with the Chumbi Valley of Tibet.

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 : d**

**Explanation:**

- Recent India-China standoff casts shadow on *Nathu La border trade*.
- Traders from Sikkim fear LAC tensions may affect their business.
- *Nathu La is a mountain pass located in Sikkim*.
- *It connects Sikkim with Chumbi Valley of the Tibetan Plateau*.
- It is one of the three open trading border posts between China and India.
- The other two being *Shipki la* in Himachal Pradesh and *Lipulekh* at Uttarakhand.

**67) With respect to planet Venus:**

1. Venus is the hottest planet in the Solar System.
2. It possesses a dense atmosphere of carbon dioxide.
3. Sulphuric acid is present in the atmosphere of Venus.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system with surface temperatures being above 460° Celsius.
- It possesses a dense atmosphere of carbon dioxide (Green House Gas) which is said to be causing the heating of Venus.
- The presence of sulphuric acid in the atmosphere of Venus makes it a highly corrosive environment.

**68) "Akatsuki", recently in news is:**

- a. A United Arab Emirates' satellite on a mission to orbit the planet Mars.
- b. A Japanese space probe tasked to study the atmosphere of Venus.
- c. China's latest mission to study the atmosphere of Mars.
- d. The mission of NASA to map the entire surface of Venus.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

The Japanese satellite Akatsuki is currently orbiting Venus to study its atmosphere. It was successfully placed into the Venusian elliptic orbit in 2015. By using five different cameras working at several wavelengths, Akatsuki is studying the stratification of the atmosphere, atmospheric dynamics, and cloud physics.

**69) K N Dikshit Committee, sometimes seen in the news recently, was constituted for?**

- a. To propose reform measures in criminal law
- b. To conduct a holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture
- c. To look into the restructuring needs of large borrowers directly hit by Covid-19
- d. None of the above

**Answer : b**

**Explanation:**

- An expert committee under the chairman ship of K.N. Dikshit (Chairman, Indian Archaeological Society) has been set up for conducting holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture to since 12000 years before present and its interface with other cultures of the world.

**70) Recently, Indian government bans the export of Onion. Under which Act the government bans the export of Onion?**

- a. Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- b. Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act, 2003
- c. Foreign Trade Act, 1992
- d. None of the above

**Answer : c**

**Explanation:**

- The Indian government banned the export of all varieties of onions except those cut, sliced or broken in powder form, with immediate effect.
- The power to ban the Onion export was conferred by Section 3 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.
- India is one of the world's biggest exporter of onions.
- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Gujarat are major onion producing states.
- The ban also includes Bangalore rose onions and Krishnapuram onions, which were free for export till now.

**71) Consider the following statements with respect to Homosexuality**

1. The same-sex marriages are legally recognised in India.
2. All the provisions of Section 377 of IPC dealing with unnatural sex were decriminalised.

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 : d**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, Central government opposes plea seeking recognition of Same-Sex Marriages.
- Same-sex marriages are not legally recognised in India.
- In 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court unanimously decriminalised part of Section 377 of the IPC which criminalises consensual unnatural sex.
- The other aspects of Section 377 of IPC dealing with unnatural sex with animals and children shall remain in force.

**72) Consider the following statements with respect to Biomedical Waste**

1. It is any waste produced during the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human or animal research activities.
2. All the Biomedical waste are considered hazardous which are toxic.

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**

**Explanation:**

- COVID-19 related Biomedical Waste generated on an average was about 169 tonnes per day for the month of August 2020, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Biomedical Waste is any waste produced during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human or animal research activities.

- According to WHO, of the total amount of waste generated by health-care activities, about 85% is general, non-hazardous waste.
- The remaining 15% is considered hazardous material that may be infectious, toxic or radioactive.
- The Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) Management Rules, 2016 regulates the Biomedical waste in India.

**73. Which of the following committees/commissions dealt with the 'reorganization of states'?**

1. JVP Committee
2. Fazl Ali Commission
3. Dhar Commission
4. Kothari Commission

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 2, 3 and 4 only

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Self-explanatory.
- National Education Commission (1964-1966), popularly known as Kothari Commission, was an ad hoc commission set up by the Government of India to examine all aspects of the educational sector in India, to evolve a general pattern of education and to advise guidelines and policies for the development of education in India.

**74. What started with the Ripon Resolution 1882, got a boost from Royal Commission in 1908 and Resolution of May 1918 but ultimately got established in a free India.**

Which of the following is the above statement referring to?

- (a) Panchayati Raj Institution

- (b) Voting rights to women
- (c) Federal Public Service Commission
- (d) Bicameral legislatures in Provinces

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The Panchayati raj system started with the Lord Ripon Resolution 1882 that suggested that the local bodies be made as representative as possible of the people. Later the Royal Commission 1908 suggested that the local bodies be given judicial jurisdiction too.
- The Resolution of May 1918 suggested more participation from people.
- The Constitutional (73rd) Amendment Act, 1992 finally established the Panchayati Raj Institution.

**75. Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Report is published by which of the following organisation?**

- (a) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- (b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- (c) G20
- (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

**Answer:A**

**Explanation:**

- The Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) is a recurrent publication prepared by the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**. Hence option a is correct.
- It provides information on and independent analyses of trends and developments in:
  - o intra- and inter-regional trade in goods and services
  - o foreign direct investment

- o trade facilitation measures
- o trade policy measures
- o preferential trade policies and agreements.
  - The report offers insights into the impacts of these recent and emerging developments on countries' abilities to meet the challenges of achieving inclusive and sustainable development.
  - **About UNESCAP:**
- o The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations' regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.
  - ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region.
  - The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is reinforced and deepened by promoting regional cooperation and integration to advance responses to shared vulnerabilities, connectivity, financial cooperation and market integration.
  - ESCAP's research and analysis coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to governments aims to support countries' sustainable and inclusive development ambitions.

**76. The Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were taxes conceived during the times of the**

- A. Akbar
- B. Madhav rao
- C. Balaji Bajirao
- D. Shivaji Maharaj

**Answer : D**

**Explanation:**

Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were taxes conceived during the times of the Great Maratha Ruler Shivaji Maharaj. **Hence, option (d) is correct**

'Chauth' means basically 1/4th i.e 25% of gross revenue or produce to be paid to jagirdars of Maratha Empire from hostile or alien state. In return the state paying the tax would get an assurance of non-aggression from the Maratha army

against the enemy state. 'Sardeshmukhi' is an additional 10% tax levied upon the collected 'Chauth'. The reasons for the additional tax was due to the King claiming hereditary rights upon the tax collection. The Sardeshmuki directly went to the King's treasury whereas the share of king in Chauth was 1/3rd of the gross Chauth collected.

**77. The 'cire-perdu' process in ancient India was used for making**

- A. Teracotta figurines
- B. Metal sculptures
- C. Cave Paintings
- D. Jewelries

**Answer : B**

**Explanation:**

Lost-wax **process**, also called **cire-perdue**, method of metal casting in which a **molten metal is poured into a mold that has been created by means of a wax model**. Once the mold is made, the wax model is melted and drained away. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

**78. With reference to Universal Postal Union (UPU), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a non-governmental organization.
2. India is a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

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

**Answer : B**

**Explanation:**

**Answer Justification :**

The Universal Postal Union, established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874, is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**. India is a member of the Universal Postal Union. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**.

**79. Consider the following statements with respect to Plasma:**

1. In the blood, apart from RBC, WBC and platelets, all the other fluid content is known as Plasma.
2. Plasma contains antibodies.
3. It makes up more than 55% of blood in the human body.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Plasma is the major part of the blood. Apart from RBC, WBC and platelets in the blood, all the other fluid content is referred to as Plasma. It makes up more than 55% of blood in the human body. The main role of plasma is to carry hormones, nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body. Composed of 90% water, salts, lipids and hormones, it is especially rich in proteins (including its main protein albumin), immunoglobulins, clotting factors and fibrinogen. Plasma also contains antibodies.

**80. Consider the following statements:**

1. Ramsar Convention was established by UNESCO.
2. Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park were the first ones to be recognized as Ramsar Sites of India.
3. Rajasthan has two Ramsar sites.

Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

Answer: d

**Explanation:**

- The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO.
- Chilika Lake of Odisha and Keoladeo National Park of Rajasthan were the first ones to be recognized as Ramsar Sites of India in 1981.
- Rajasthan has two Ramsar sites: Keoladeo National Park and Sambhar Lake.

81. Consider the following statements:

1. The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites of international importance.
2. Three wetlands of India are in Montreux Record.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

**Explanation**

- **Montreux Record** is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have

occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Currently, **two wetlands of India** are in Montreux record: Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur). Chilika lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but was later removed from it. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**82. With reference to 'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)', consider the following statement:**

1. BECA will allow India to use the geospatial maps of the USA for military use.
2. It is one of the four foundational military communication agreements between India and USA.

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

**Answer : c**

### **Explanation**

- **'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is a Geo-Spatial cooperation that will allow India to use the geospatial maps of the USA to get the pinpoint military accuracy** of automated hardware systems and weapons such as cruise and ballistic missiles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- BECA is an important precursor to India acquiring armed unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Predator-B from the USA. Predator-B uses spatial data for accurate strikes on enemy targets.
  - BECA is **one of the four foundational military communication agreements** between the two countries. The other three being GSOMIA, LEMOA, CISMOA. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Initially, India had reservations to geospatial mapping on the grounds of national security, but they were later addressed by mutual dialogue and discussion between the two countries.



**83. Which of the following reports are published by the World Bank?**

1. Global Economic Prospects
2. Ease of Doing Business
3. Global Risks Report
4. World Development Report
5. Human Capital Index

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A 1, 2, 3 and 5  
B 1, 2, 4 and 5  
C 2, 3, 4 and 5  
D 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Answer : B**

**Explanation**

- Recently, the **World Bank** released the **Human Capital Index (HCI) report** for 2020. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
  - India has been ranked at the 116<sup>th</sup> position in the HCI 2020.
- Other Reports Published by World Bank:
  - **Global Economic Prospects**
  - **Ease of Doing Business**
  - **World Development Report**
- The **Global Risks Report** is published annually by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**. Hence, **option B is correct.**

**84. With reference to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), consider the following statements:**

1. Nagoya and Cartagena protocols are signed under CBD.
2. CBD has also released Aichi Targets on biodiversity for 2030.
3. India is a party to the CBD convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A 1 only  
B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only  
D 1, 2 and 3 only

**Answer : C**

**Explanation**

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity has been in force since 1993. The CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada and it operates under the United Nations Environment Programme.
- Programs and Protocols of CBD:
  - On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP5) adopted a supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the **Cartagena Protocol** on Biosafety.
  - The **Nagoya Protocol** on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan at COP10. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Along with the Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources, the COP-10 also adopted a ten-year framework (collectively known as the Aichi Targets or for biodiversity) for action by all countries to save biodiversity. But, it was to be **implemented between 2011-2020. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India became a party to the Convention in 1994 and enacted Biological Diversity Act in 2002 for giving effect to the provisions of the CBD. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**85. Consider the following statements with respect to Plasma:**

4. In the blood, apart from RBC, WBC and platelets, all the other fluid content is known as Plasma.
5. Plasma contains antibodies.
6. It makes up more than 55% of blood in the human body.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- e. 1 and 3 only
- f. 1, 2 and 3
- g. 1 and 2 only

h. 2 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Plasma is the major part of the blood. Apart from RBC, WBC and platelets in the blood, all the other fluid content is referred to as Plasma. It makes up more than 55% of blood in the human body. The main role of plasma is to carry hormones, nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body. Composed of 90% water, salts, lipids and hormones, it is especially rich in proteins (including its main protein albumin), immunoglobulins, clotting factors and fibrinogen. Plasma also contains antibodies.

**86. Consider the following statements:**

4. Ramsar Convention was established by UNESCO.
5. Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park were the first ones to be recognized as Ramsar Sites of India.
6. Rajasthan has two Ramsar sites.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?**

- e. 1 only
- f. 2 only
- g. 1 and 3 only
- h. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO.
- Chilika Lake of Odisha and Keoladeo National Park of Rajasthan were the first ones to be recognized as Ramsar Sites of India in 1981.
- Rajasthan has two Ramsar sites: Keoladeo National Park and Sambhar Lake.

87. Consider the following statements:

3. The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites of international importance.
4. Three wetlands of India are in Montreux Record.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

#### Explanation

- **Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance** where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Currently, **two wetlands of India** are in Montreux record: Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur). Chilika lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but was later removed from it. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

88. With reference to 'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)', consider the following statement:

3. BECA will allow India to use the geospatial maps of the USA for military use.
4. It is one of the four foundational military communication agreements between India and USA.

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

**Answer : c**

**Explanation**

- **'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is a Geo-Spatial cooperation that will allow India to use the geospatial maps of the USA to get the pinpoint military accuracy** of automated hardware systems and weapons such as cruise and ballistic missiles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- BECA is an important precursor to India acquiring armed unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Predator-B from the USA. Predator-B uses spatial data for accurate strikes on enemy targets.
  - BECA is **one of the four foundational military communication agreements** between the two countries. The other three being GSOMIA, LEMOA, CISMOA. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Initially, India had reservations to geospatial mapping on the grounds of national security, but they were later addressed by mutual dialogue and discussion between the two countries.

**89. Which of the following reports are published by the World Bank?**

- 6. Global Economic Prospects
- 7. Ease of Doing Business
- 8. Global Risks Report
- 9. World Development Report
- 10. Human Capital Index

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A 1, 2, 3 and 5
- B 1, 2, 4 and 5
- C 2, 3, 4 and 5
- D 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Answer : B**

### Explanation

- Recently, the **World Bank** released the **Human Capital Index (HCI)** report for 2020. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
  - India has been ranked at the 116<sup>th</sup> position in the HCI 2020.
- Other Reports Published by World Bank:
  - **Global Economic Prospects**
  - **Ease of Doing Business**
  - **World Development Report**
- The **Global Risks Report** is published annually by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**. Hence, option B is correct.

90. With reference to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), consider the following statements:

4. Nagoya and Cartagena protocols are signed under CBD.
5. CBD has also released Aichi Targets on biodiversity for 2030.
6. India is a party to the CBD convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer : C

### Explanation

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity has been in force since 1993. The CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada and it operates under the United Nations Environment Programme.
- Programs and Protocols of CBD:
  - On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP5) adopted a supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the **Cartagena Protocol** on Biosafety.
  - The **Nagoya Protocol** on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization

(ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan at COP10. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Along with the Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources, the COP-10 also adopted a ten-year framework (collectively known as the Aichi Targets or for biodiversity) for action by all countries to save biodiversity. But, it was to be **implemented between 2011-2020. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India became a party to the Convention in 1994 and enacted Biological Diversity Act in 2002 for giving effect to the provisions of the CBD. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**91. With reference to Serial Interval of SARS-CoV-2, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the duration between symptom onset of a primary case and symptom onset of secondary.
2. The serial interval depends on other epidemiological parameters such as the incubation period.

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

**Answer : C**

### **Explanation**

- **Serial Interval of SARS-CoV-2** is the duration between symptom onset of a primary case and symptom onset of secondary cases (contacts) generated by the primary case. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - In simple terms, the serial interval is the gap between the onset of Covid-19 symptoms in Person A and Person B, who is infected by Person A.
- The **serial interval depends on other epidemiological parameters** such as the incubation period and the reproduction rate or R nought. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The incubation period is the time between a person's exposure to the virus and symptom onset.
- The reproduction rate is the number of people who will be infected by one infected person.

**92. Which of the following could be considered as possible benefits of the proposed Vehicle scrappage policy?**

1. Will help reduce Current account deficit.
2. Will help improve Capital account inflows in India.
3. Will help improve Balance of payments position of India.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Answer: d**

### **Explanation**

**Reduce current account deficit:**

- The vehicle scrappage policy would help reduce Indian oil dependence. Oil imports form a major proportion of India's import profile
- This would help reduce import of critical raw material from other countries helping improve India's trade balances with such countries.
- The vehicle scrappage policy would help India emerge as a hub for automobile manufacturing as key raw material available from scrapping steel, aluminium and plastic were bound to be recycled, bringing down automobile prices by "20-30%." This would help increase automobile exports from India.
- Increased exports, reduced imports would help reduce India's current account deficit.

**Improve capital account inflows:**



- This policy would **spur investments in the automobile sector**, which could also include capital investments from foreign automobile manufacturers.

**Improve Balance of Payment position of India:**

- Reduced current account deficit and improved capital account inflows will invariably help improve India's Balance of Payment position.
- The balance of payments of a country is the difference between all money flowing into the country in a particular period of time and the outflow of money to the rest of the world.

**93. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Scrub typhus is a disease caused by a virus called *Orientia tsutsugamushi*.
2. Scrub typhus does not spread from person to person.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation**

- Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus, is a disease caused **by a bacteria called *Orientia tsutsugamushi***. Scrub typhus is spread to people through bites of infected larval mites.
  - The mites are found in grasslands, forests, bush areas, wood piles, gardens, and beaches.
- Scrub Typhus can also be transmitted through unscreened blood transfusions and unhygienic needles. It does not spread from person to person.

**94. With reference to 'Djibouti Code of Conduct', consider the following statement:**

1. It is related to the repression of piracy and armed robbery in the Western Indian Ocean.
2. It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

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

**Answer : C**

**Explanation**

- **The Djibouti Code of Conduct** is also known as the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was adopted on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009.
- It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**95. With reference to Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), consider the following statements:**

1. The approval for application of a vaccine is given by the CDSCO.
2. It can not give emergency authorisation without late-phase trials.

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

**Answer : A**

**Explanation**

- **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)**, under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is the **National Regulatory Authority (NRA)** of India.
- Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, CDSCO is responsible for approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice.
- **The approval for a vaccine** is given by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A vaccine, developed outside India, needs to be tested with late-phase human trials, usually both phase-2 and phase-3, on an Indian population as a part of general requirement.
- **CDSCO can also give emergency authorisation** without late-phase trials, considering the extraordinary situation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**96. Hispanic Heritage Month has been in the news. It is related to?**

- A Largest tribal festival of south asia
- B Honour of American citizens from different origin
- C Four lunar eclipses in a year
- D Wheat harvest festival in ASEAN nations

**Answer : B**

### **Explanation**

- The **Hispanic Heritage Month** honours the history, culture and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors hailed from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.
- The event begins in the middle of September, because of the significance 15<sup>th</sup> September holds in Latin American history – being the Independence Day of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua from Spain in 1821.
- The annual event is marked every year from 15<sup>th</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> October.
- Hispanic Americans are currently the largest minority group in the USA, making up a fifth of the total US population. Majority of Hispanics are Mexican origin, followed by Puerto Rican. **Hence, option is B is correct.**

**97. Consider the following statements with respect to the Kakatiyas:**

1. They were initially the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyana.
2. Prataparudra I established a sovereign dynasty.
3. Ganapathi Deva and Rudramadevi are the notable rulers of the Kakatiya dynasty.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The 12th and the 13th centuries saw the emergence of the Kakatiyas.
- They were at first the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyana, ruling over a small territory near Warangal.
- Prataparudra I established a sovereign dynasty in 1163 CE.
- Ganapathi Deva and Rudramadevi are the notable rulers of the Kakatiya dynasty.

**98. "Tulung La" is located in:**

- a. Arunachal Pradesh
- b. Sikkim
- c. Ladakh
- d. Himachal Pradesh

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Tulung La is located in Arunachal Pradesh.

**3. Which of the given pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Chendamangalam Dhoties and Set Mundu – Kerala
2. Muga Silk – Assam
3. Arani Silk – Tamil Nadu
4. Kandangi Saree – Karnataka

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 2 and 3 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Tamil Nadu has got the registration of Geographical Indication Tag for Kandangi Sarees.

**99. Abraham Accords, sometimes seen in the news recently, was recently signed between?**

1. Israel
2. Kuwait
3. Bahrain
4. United Arab Emirates

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 1, 2 and 4 only
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. All of the above

**Answer : c**

**Explanation:**

- *India recently welcomed the signing of the Abraham Accords and reiterated its call for direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians for a “Two-State Solution”.*

### *Abraham Accords*

- It was signed in the White House recently by the **UAE, Bahrain and Israel**, under U.S. President Donald Trump’s mediation.
- They came almost 26 years after the signing of a declaration for a peace deal between Israel and Jordan.
- Under the Accords, the UAE and Bahrain will normalise their relations with Israel and expand engagements in politics, security, trade and connectivity.

**99. BEAMS - India’s own eco-label, sometimes seen in the news recently, is an initiative under?**

- a. Project Tiger
- b. Avian Diversity Plan 2020-2030
- c. Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- d. 24 x 7 Power for All” Program

**Answer : c**

### **Explanation:**

- *On the eve of International Coastal Clean-Up Day which is celebrated across 100 countries since 1986, India has recently launched **its own eco-label “BEAMS”** (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) under its **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project**.*
- *The BEAMS was launched by e-hoisting the flag, carrying a message “**I AM SAVING MY BEACH**” simultaneously at eight beaches, recommended by the Indian jury recently for consideration for the Blue Flag.*
- *This is one of the several other projects of ICZM that the central government is undertaking for the sustainable development of coastal regions, striving for globally recognized and the coveted **eco-label Blue Flag** awarded by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**.*

### *Beach Environment & Aesthetic Management System (BEAMS)*

- Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had conceived an integrated coastal management scheme viz. BEAMS (also referred to as Beach Management Services), to reduce existing pollutants on beaches and to aspire & achieve such high International Standards in India.
- The main objective of setting up of BEAMS programme is to promote sustainable development in coastal regions of India for the beach management authorities to strive to achieve high international standards in four categories of:
  1. Environmental Management including cleanliness, solid waste management in beaches.
  2. Environment Education.
  3. Safety & Security of Beachgoers.
  4. Bathing Water Quality Standards.

**100. *One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, sometimes seen in the news recently, was first started by which of the following states?***

- a. Gujarat
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Uttar Pradesh
- d. None of the above

**Answer : c**

#### **Explanation:**

- The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry is preparing an institutional mechanism to promote the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, first started by the Uttar Pradesh government, at the national level to tap the rural economic potential of the country and identify one product per district.

#### ***One District One Product (ODOP) scheme***

- To encourage indigenous and specialized products in the state, the UP government has launched the One District One Product (ODOP)

programme which aims to create product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts of UP.

- This is going to provide an impetus to the traditional industries across respective districts in the state.

**101. West Bank is bordered by:**

1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Dead Sea
3. Israel
4. Jordan
5. Lebanon

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 2, 3 and 4 only
- b. 2, 3 and 5 only
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Dead Sea, Jordan and Israel border the West Bank area.

**102) Under the *National Food Security Mission (NFSM)*, which of the following crops are *not* promoted?**

1. Rice
2. Banana
3. Mushroom
4. Root and Tuber Crops

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. 2, 3 and 4 only



Answer : d

### Explanation

#### *National Food Security Mission (NFSM)*

- Government of India has been emphasizing promotion of various crops/cropping system viz. *rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals & commercial crops* under National Food Security Mission (NFSM).
- It also emphasizes Oilseeds and Oil palm under the NFSM-Oilseeds programme.

#### *Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)*

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering *fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo*.
- Root and tuber crops consist of root crops, such as beets and carrots, and tuber crops, such as potatoes and sweet potatoes, and the leaves of root crops, such as beet tops.

103) *SPICe+ Portal, often seen in the news recently, is associated with?*

- a. Ease of doing Business
- b. Doubling Farmers Income
- c. Incredible India Campaign 2.0
- d. Know your Nutrition level Campaign

Answer : a

### Explanation

- Spice+ is a new web-based form in place of earlier Spice form.
- SPICe+ is part of various initiatives and commitment of Government of India towards *Ease of Doing Business (EODB)*.
- To make the company incorporation process easier MCA has deployed new web-based form spice+ and other registration along with the form.

- The form offers 10 services by three Central Government Ministries and Departments (Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance), one State Government (Maharashtra) and various Banks, thereby saving procedures, time and cost for Starting a Business in India.

The 10 services are:

1. Name reservation
2. Incorporation
3. DIN allotment
4. Mandatory issue of PAN
5. Mandatory issue of TAN
6. Mandatory issue of EPFO registration
7. Mandatory issue of ESIC registration
8. Mandatory issue of Profession Tax registration (Maharashtra)
9. Mandatory Opening of Bank Account for the Company and
10. Allotment of GSTIN (if so applied for)

#### 104. with respect to *Komodo Dragon*

1. They are the heaviest lizards on Earth, listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN.
2. They can live in harsh climate, under extreme heat.

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

#### **Explanation**

- The *Komodo dragon*, could become extinct in the next few decades due to climate change unless measures are taken to change the status quo, according to a new study.
- They are *the world's largest lizard*, listed as *Vulnerable* by the IUCN.

- The lizard's habitat can be anything from a tropical dry forest to a savanna to a deciduous monsoon forest.
- No matter where they live, the *Komodo likes extreme heat and harsh weather*.
- It is usually around 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 degrees Celsius) with 70 % humidity on the islands of Indonesia.

**105. with respect to Rhinos**

1. These are large, herbivorous mammals, characterized by the possession of one or two horns.
2. Today, they are found only in the floodplains of Asia.

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**

**Explanation**

- *World Rhino Day* is celebrated on September 22, every year.
- It was first announced by WWF-South Africa in 2010.
- There are five species of Rhinos in the world, Black, White, Greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan rhinos.
- These are *large, herbivorous mammals, characterized by the possession of one or two horns*.
- White rhinos and Black Rhinos live in the grasslands and floodplains of eastern and southern Africa.
- Greater one-horned rhinos can be found in the swamps and rain forests of northern India and southern Nepal.
- Sumatran and Javan rhinos are found only in small areas of Malaysian and Indonesian swamps and rain forests.

**106. With respect to Coral Reefs**

1. All the corals build reefs, and are called reef-building corals.

2. In India Coral reefs are found only in Gulf of Mannar and in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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 : d**

**Explanation**

- Coral reefs are built by coral polyps as they secrete layers of calcium carbonate beneath their bodies.
- *The corals that build reefs are known as "hard" or "reef-building" corals.*
- *Soft corals, such as sea fans and sea whips, do not produce reefs, they are flexible organisms that sometimes resemble plants.*
- They do not have stony skeletons and do not always have zooxanthellae.
- *In India Coral reefs are found in Gulf of Mannar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Gulf of Kutch, Malvan, Lakshadweep*

**107) Consider the following statements with respect to *Brucellosis***

1. It is an infectious disease caused by virus from the livestock.
2. It can infect humans and person-to-person transmission is most common.

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 : d**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, *Brucellosis* outbreak was reported in China.

- *Brucellosis* has infected over 3000 people in north-east China which can leave men infertile.
- It is an *infectious disease caused by bacteria from the livestock which can also infect humans*.
- *The most common way to be infected is by eating or drinking unpasteurized/raw dairy products*.
- When sheep, goats, cows, or camels are infected, their milk becomes contaminated with the bacteria.
- *Person-to-Person transmission is rare*.
- It is found globally and is a reportable disease in most countries.

**108. Which of the following is/are incorrect about the Air Quality Index (AQI)?**

1. There are five AQI categories.
2. AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality.
3. AQI is calculated for eight major air pollutants.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Air Quality Index (AQI) is an index for reporting daily air quality.
- There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe.
- AQI is calculated for eight major air pollutants: Ground-level ozone, PM10, PM2.5, Carbon monoxide, Sulfur dioxide, Nitrogen dioxide, Ammonia, Lead.

**109. Which of the following schemes comes under the Ministry of Science & Technology?**

1. VAJRA Scheme

2. Samagra Shiksha
3. YUVIKA Programme
4. Ramanujan Fellowship
5. Operation Digital Board

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1 and 4 only
- b. 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. 2, 3 and 5 only

**Answer : a**

**Explanation:**

- The Ministry of Science & Technology has formulated following schemes to provide attractive avenues and opportunities to *Indian researchers who are residing in foreign countries to work in Indian Institutes and Universities.*

***Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme***

- This Scheme is to bring overseas scientists and academicians including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to India to work in public funded Institutions and Universities for a specific period of time.
- The scheme offers adjunct / visiting faculty assignments to overseas scientists including Indian researchers to undertake high quality collaborative research in cutting edge areas of science and technology with one or more Indian collaborators.

***Ramanujan Fellowship***

- This Fellowship provides attractive avenues and opportunities to Indian researchers of high calibre, who are residing abroad, to work in Indian Institutes/Universities in all areas of Science, Engineering and Medicine.
- It is directed to scientists and engineers below the age of 40 years, who want to return to India from abroad.

### ***Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship***

- The programme is to encourage scientists (Indian Nationals) working outside the country, who would like to return to the home country to pursue their research interests in Life Sciences, Modern Biology, Biotechnology, and other related areas.

### ***Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)***

- This program provides opportunity to early, intermediate and senior level researchers to establish their research & academic career in Basic biomedical or Clinical & Public Health in India.
- These fellowships are open to all eligible researchers who wish to relocate or continue to work in India.

### ***Scientists/ Technologists of Indian Origin (STIO) in Indian research Laboratory***

- There is a provision to appoint Scientists/ Technologists of Indian Origin (STIO) on a contractual basis at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories to nurture a research field in their area of expertise.

### ***Senior Research Associateship (SRA) (Scientist's Pool Scheme)***

- This scheme is primarily meant to provide temporary placement to highly qualified Indian scientists, engineers, technologists, and medical personnel returning from abroad, who are not holding any employment in India.
- The Senior Research Associateship is not a regular appointment, but is a temporary facility to enable the Associate to do research/teaching in India while looking for a regular position.

### ***Schemes under Ministry of Education***

1. Samagra Shiksha
  2. Operation Digital Board
- YUVIKA Programme comes under the ambit of *ISRO*.

**110. O-SMART Scheme is an umbrella scheme of which of the following Ministries?**

- a. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- b. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- d. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

**Answer : a**

**Explanation:**

*Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources and Technology (O-SMART) scheme*

- It is an *umbrella scheme of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)*.

*Objectives of the scheme*

1. To generate and regularly update information on Marine Living Resources and their relationship with the physical environment in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
2. To periodically monitor levels of sea water pollutants for health assessment of coastal waters of India, to develop shoreline change maps for assessment of coastal erosion due to natural and anthropogenic activities.
3. To develop a wide range of state-of-the art ocean observation systems for acquisition of real-time data from the seas around India.
4. To generate and disseminate a suite of user-oriented ocean information, advisories, warnings, data and data products for the benefit of society.
5. To develop high resolution models for ocean forecast and reanalysis system.
6. To develop algorithms for validation of satellite data for coastal research and to monitor changes in the coastal research.
7. Acquisition of 2 Coastal Research Vessels (CRVs) as replacement of 2 old CRVs for coastal pollution monitoring, testing of various underwater components and technology demonstration.
8. To develop technologies to tap the marine bio resources.
9. To develop technologies generating freshwater and energy from ocean,
10. To develop underwater vehicles and technologies.
11. Establishment of Ballast water treatment facility.



12. To support operation and maintenance of 5 Research vessels for ocean survey/monitoring/technology demonstration programmes.
13. Establishment of state of the art sea front facility to cater to the testing and sea trial activities of ocean technology.
14. To carryout exploration of Polymetallic Nodules (MPN) from water depth of 5500 m in site of 75000 sq.km allotted to India by United Nations in Central Indian Ocean Basin, to carryout investigations of gas hydrates.
15. Exploration of polymetallic sulphides near Rodrigues Triple junction in 10000 sq. km of area allotted to India in International waters by International Seabed Authority/UN.
16. Submission of India's claim over continental shelf extending beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone supported by scientific data, and Topographic survey of EEZ of India.

**111. With respect to *Shell Companies***

1. **These are corporations without active business operations or significant assets, always set up for illegal purposes.**
2. **The term 'Shell Company' was clearly defined in the Companies Act, 2013.**

**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 : d**

**Explanation:**

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs had removed the names of more than 3.82 lakh companies, for failing to submit their annual returns for two years or more.
- A *Shell Company* usually refers to companies without active business operation or significant assets.
- These types of corporations *are not all necessarily illegal*, but they are sometimes used illegitimately, such as to disguise business ownership from law enforcement or the public.

- The *Companies Act, 2013* does not define the term *Shell Company*.

**112. *Feluda* test sometimes seen in news is?**

- a. A paper-based test strip to detect Covid-19
- b. An indigenously developed COVID 19 test which uses CRISPR gene-editing technology
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

**Answer : c**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, the Drugs Controller General of India approved the *Feluda*, first CRISPR COVID-19 test.
- *Feluda* test uses indigenously developed CRISPR gene-editing technology to identify and target the genetic material of SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes Covid-19.
- It is an accurate and low-cost *paper-based test strip to detect Covid-19 in less than 30 minutes*.
- It was developed by a research team of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Tata Group.
- According to CSIR, *the test matches accuracy levels of RT-PCR tests*, considered the gold standard in the diagnosis of Covid-19.

**113. Which of the given pair/s is/are NOT correctly matched?**

1. Farakka Barrage – West Bengal
2. Prakasam Barrage – Telangana
3. Jobra Barrage – Maharashtra
4. Hathnikund Barrage – Haryana

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2 and 4 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 2, 3 and 4 only
- d. 2 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation**

- Farakka Barrage – West Bengal
- Prakasam Barrage – Andhra Pradesh
- Jobra Barrage – Odisha
- Hathnikund Barrage – Haryana

**114) Medical Device Park recently seen in news is to be set up in?**

- a. Gujarat
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Bihar
- d. Kerala

**Answer : d**

**Explanation**

- *India's first Medical Device Park to be set up in Kerala.*
- It will focus on the high-risk medical device sector to provide a full range of services for the medical devices industry like R&D support, testing, and evaluation.
- *MedSpark, the medical devices park envisaged as a joint initiative of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (KSIDC).*

**115. With respect to Arab League**

1. It is a regional multi-national organization of Arabic-speaking countries on the African and Asian continents.
2. India is an observer nation to Arab League.

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

### Explanation

- Recently, Palestine quits *Arab League* role in protest over Israel deals with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.
- The *Arab League* is a union of Arab-speaking African and Asian countries.
- It was formed in 1945 to promote the independence, sovereignty, affairs and interests of its 22 member countries and 4 observers.
- The 4 observers are Brazil, Eritrea, India and Venezuela.
- It's mission is to promote trade and economic growth as well as sovereignty and political stability in the region.

116. Consider the following statements:

1. Cess is a permanent source of revenue for the government.
2. The proceeds of a cess are not shared with the state governments.

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

Answer : D

### Explanation

- A cess is a form of tax **levied by the government on tax with specific purposes** till the time the government gets enough money for that purpose. For example, the Swachh Bharat cess is levied by the government for cleanliness activities that it is undertaking across India.
  - Cess is a form of tax levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer.
  - Cess is resorted to only when there is a need to meet the particular expenditure for public welfare.
  - Cess is **not a permanent source of revenue for the government**, and it is discontinued when the purpose of levying it is fulfilled. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - It can be levied on both indirect and direct taxes.

- Cesses and levies collected are required to be **first transferred to designated Reserve Funds** and utilised for the specific purposes intended by Parliament.
- Funds collected through Central taxes along with cesses and other levies go to the CFI.
  - Taxes and surcharges in CFI are parked in a divisible pool and 42% of the total is given to States as devolution
  - Another major difference between central taxes and cess is that **the proceeds of a cess may or may not be shared with the state governments**, while that of taxes have to be shared. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**117. With reference to World Risk Index 2020, consider the following statements:**

1. It assesses the vulnerability of the external debt of a country.
2. It is released by the World Economic Forum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 and 2

**Answer : D**

### **Explanation**

- The **World Risk Index** is calculated on a country-by-country basis, through the multiplication of exposure and vulnerability and describes the **disaster risk for various countries and regions. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - It indicates which countries are in the greatest need to strengthen measures for coping with and adapting to **extreme natural events.**
  - According to the **World Risk Index (WRI) 2020**, India is 'poorly prepared' to deal with 'climate reality', due to which it is vulnerable to extreme natural disasters.
- It is part of the World Risk Report 2020 released by the **United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS),**

Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and the University of Stuttgart in Germany.  
**Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**118. Consider the following statements:**

1. Plasticulture is the use of plastics in agriculture and allied activities.
2. The Plastic Parks Scheme has been launched to set up industrial zones of plastic enterprises.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 and 2

**Answer : C**

### **Explanation**

- **Plasticulture** is defined as the use of plastics in agriculture, horticulture, water-management, food grains storage and other related areas.
  - It includes all kinds of plant or soil coverings ranging from mulch films, row coverings, poly-tunnels to greenhouses, lining of farm ponds and micro-irrigation (drips and sprinklers). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Plastic Parks Scheme** envisages to set up 10 Plastic Parks in the country. It is **launched by the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.**
  - A Plastic Park is an **industrial zone devoted to plastic enterprises** and its allied industries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - The Parks are being set up in the states of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh.

**119. Which of the following gharana is not associated with the Dhrupad style?**

- a. Dagari
- b. Kirana
- c. Bettiah
- d. Darbhanga

**Answer: b**

### Explanation

- Dhrupad singing is further classified into the following four forms on the basis of vanis they use for the performance:
- Dagari
- Darbhanga
- Bettiah
- Talwandi
- The Kirana Gharana is a form of the Khayal style of Hindustani classical music.

### 120. Consider the following statements regarding 'One Planet One City Challenge'

1. It's a friendly competition to mobilize cities to deliver on the Paris Agreement.
2. It is an initiative of UNFCCC

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

Correct Answer : A

### Answer Justification :

#### WWF's One Planet City Challenge in short:

It's a **friendly competition** to mobilize cities to deliver on the Paris Agreement. We aim to support and celebrate **100 cities with action plans for 1.5 °C by 2020**. The world is yearning for transformational leadership to discover how the transition can be done. OPCC is the **largest and longest running competition** of its kind. More than 400 cities on 5 continents have participated at least once. Participants have already **raised ambitions** in global reporting initiatives by reporting more than 5,700 actions with a total of 3.9Gt GHG emissions reduction potential by 2050. With the OPCC's new unique and expert-verified methodology, we have integrated **IPCC data** from the Special Report on Global Warming of **1.5 °C**. Participating cities will report emissions, goals and targets on

standardized reporting platforms. The participants' data will then be assessed and compared to the emission reduction trajectories recommended for their type, in order to limit global warming to 1.5 °C. We then guide cities to the most impactful actions they can take to cut their emissions and align with 1.5°C. Winning cities should develop best practice and be strategic in their climate mitigation and adaptation plans.

**121. Which of the following country recently recognised forests as living entities.**

- A. Norway
- B. Finland
- C. Costa Rica
- D. El Salvador

**Correct Answer : D**

#### **Explanation**

El Salvador has, in a historic move, recognised forests as living entities. Its citizens, will now be required to preserve forests. El Salvador has lost about 85 per cent of its native forests since the 1960s, while Earth has lost about 80 per cent of its native forests.

**122. Which of the following countries forms part of infamous Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle**

- 1. Iran
- 2. Iraq
- 3. Pakistan
- 4. Myanmar

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. 3 and 4 only

**Correct Answer : A**



### **Explanation**

The Golden Crescent is the name given to one of Asia's two principal areas of illicit opium production (with the other being the Golden Triangle), located at the crossroads of Central, South, and Western Asia. This space overlaps three nations, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, whose mountainous peripheries define the crescent.

### **123. Consider the following statements regarding Vijayanagar Empire**

1. It was founded in 1336 by Harihara and Bukka of the Tuluva dynasty.
2. Raya Gopurams and Kalyanamandapam are the distinct feature of Vijayanagar style architecture.

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

**Correct Answer : B**

### **Answer Justification :**

Vijayanagar was founded in 1336 by Harihara and Bukka of the **Sangama dynasty**. They were originally served under the Kakatiya rulers of Warangal. **The chief characteristics of the Vijayanagara architecture were the construction of tall Raya Gopurams or gateways and the Kalyanamandapam with carved pillars in the temple premises.** The sculptures on the pillars were carved with distinctive features. The horse was the most common animal found in these pillars.

### **124. In medieval times the term 'mira' refers to**

- A. Jajmani system, popular in parts of Medieval India in regions like Bengal
- B. Term of payment of daily allowances for the artisans
- C. Compulsory military service rendered by the local populace.

D. System of hereditary holding in Maharashtra

**Correct Answer : D**

**Answer Justification :**

*Mira referred to the hereditary holdings of artisans in Maharashtra.*

But, another variant of this was a system where artisans and individual peasant households entered into a mutually negotiated system of remuneration, most of the time goods for services. For example, 18th-century records tell us of zamindars in Bengal who remunerated blacksmiths, carpenters and even goldsmiths for their work by paying them 'a small daily allowance and diet money'. This later came to be described as the jajmani system.

**125. Which of the following are NOT constitutional bodies?**

1. Central Board of Direct Taxes
2. GST Council
3. National Human Rights Commission
4. Finance Commission
5. National Commission for Backward Classes

**Options:**

- a. 1, 3 and 5 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d. 2, 4 and 5 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation**

- Central Board of Direct Taxes and the National Human Rights Commission are statutory bodies.
- The GST Council, Finance Commission and National Commission for Backward Classes are Constitutional bodies.

**126. Which of these islands are part of the Lakshadweep Islands group?**

1. Kavaratti

2. Agatti
3. Minicoy
4. Amini
5. Kalpeni

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 4 and 5
- d. 1 and 3 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Self-explanatory.

**127. With respect to the *International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)***

1. It is an independent judicial body established by the United Nations Convention.
2. It is open to all the States and International organisations which are parties to the Convention.

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**

**Explanation**

- Recently, *China wins seat at International Tribunal for Law on the Sea (ITLOS)*.
- China's candidate has won an election to be a judge in ITLOS, responsible for hearing cases concerning the Law of the Sea.

- ITLOS is an *independent judicial body established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*.
- It is to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the Convention.
- It is *open to all the States and International organisations which are parties to the Convention*.
- It is also open to entities other than States Parties, i.e., States or intergovernmental organisations which are not parties to the Convention.

**128. With respect to *Polio***

1. Polio is one of the major aging-associated disease.
2. All strains of wild poliovirus have officially been certified as globally eradicated.

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 : d**

**Explanation**

- Recently, WHO declared Africa free from *Wild Polio*, but vaccine-derived strains remain.
- *Polio (poliomyelitis) mainly affects children under 5 years of age*.
- Of the 3 strains of *Wild Poliovirus* (type 1, type 2 and type 3), wild poliovirus type 2 was eradicated in 1999.
- No case of wild poliovirus type 3 has been found since the last reported case in Nigeria in November 2012.
- Both strains have officially been certified as globally eradicated.
- As at 2020, *Wild Poliovirus type 1 affects two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan*.

**129. *Global Energy Review 2020 Report* was published by?**

- a. Energy Watch Group
- b. International Solar Alliance

- c. International Energy Agency
- d. International Renewable Energy Agency Organisation

**Answer : c**

### **Explanation**

- The *International Energy Agency (IEA)* has released a report: *Global Energy Review, 2020*.
- The report includes the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on global energy demand and CO2 emissions.

### *Highlights of the report*

- Global energy demand is projected to fall six per cent in 2020 and this will be steepest decline in percentage terms in 70 years and the largest ever in absolute terms.
- All fuels except renewables are set to experience their greatest contractions in demand for decades.
- The projected 6% decline would be more than seven times the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on global energy demand, reversing the growth of global energy demand over the last five years.

**130. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct with respect to Sudan**

- a. Sudan is a land locked country located in northeastern Africa
- b. The Nile River flows through Sudan
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. None of the above

**Answer : b**

### **Explanation**

- The *U.S. and Sudan near pact to compensate american terrorism victims*.
- The deal could pave the way for Sudan's removal from the U.S. State Sponsors of Terrorism list.
- *Sudan is located in northeastern Africa, bordered by Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, Ethiopia and bordering the Red Sea.*
- *The Nile River flows through Sudan.*

