

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

1st to 8th June,
2020

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

History

Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

Ancient city : **Adjacent River**

1. Harappa : Ravi River
2. Mohenjo-Daro : Indus River
3. Lothal : Mahi River

Which of the above pair/pairs is /are correctly matched?

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

ANS) B

Explanation: The Indus Civilisation.

- The Indus Civilization represents the earliest manifestation of urban development in the plains of the Indus valley and its extension along the Arabian sea-coast.
- The four principal settlements so far excavated provide the material to reconstruct the cultural content of the civilization.
- Two lie in Pakistan: **Harappa**, usually identified with Hariyupiya of the Rigveda, is situated on an old bed (sukbrawa) of the **river Ravi** in Sahiwal District of Punjab, **and Mohenjo-daro** (literally 'mound of the dead') is on the right bank of the **Indus river** in Larkana District of Sind.
- The other two sites are in western India; **Lothal is situated on the Sabarmati river** at the head of the gulf of Cambay on the west coast of India, and **Kalibangan (literally 'black bangles') lies some 310 km north-west of Delhi along the left bank of the now-dry Ghaggar** (old Sarasvati) river in northern Rajasthan.

Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct about "**Pottery development**" in Harappan Civilization?

1. Both Plain and painted pottery was developed in Harappan cities.
2. Most of the potteries that have been found are being handmade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: Pottery development in Harappan Civilization.

Statement 1 is correct: The **potteries found at the excavation sites can be broadly classified into two kinds – plain pottery and painted pottery**. The painted pottery is also known as Red and Black pottery as it used red colour to paint the background and glossy black paint was used to draw designs and figures on the red background. Trees, birds, animal figures and geometrical patterns were the recurring themes of the paintings.

Statement 2 is incorrect: **Most of the potteries that have been found are very fine wheel-made wares, with a very few being handmade**. Some examples of polychrome pottery have also been found, though very rare.

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Q.3) Which of the following animals is/are found in the abacus of the “**Sarnath Pillar**”?

1. Horse
2. Elephant
3. Rhinoceros
4. Tiger

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: The abacus and the animal part of the Sarnath pillar forms the official national emblem of India. In the abacus of the Sarnath pillar, **four animals are shown representing four directions – a galloping horse (west), a bull (east), an elephant (south) and a lion (north)**. The animals seem to follow each other turning the wheel of existence till eternity.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Stupas**”?

1. Stupas were burial mounds prevalent in India from the Mauryan period.
2. During the period of Ashoka, the art of stupas reached its climax.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Stupas.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Stupas were burial mounds prevalent in India from the Vedic period. It is a conventional representation of a funeral cumulus in which relics and ashes of the dead were kept.

Statement 2 is correct: During the period of Ashoka, the art of stupas reached its climax. Almost 84000 stupas were erected during his period. **Although a Vedic tradition, stupas were popularised by the Buddhists.**

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple**”?

1. Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple is one of the most illustrious lord Shiva temples in the country.
2. It is situated on the island of Srirangam that is bounded by the two rivers of Cauvery and Vellar.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple.

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Statement 1 is incorrect: Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, also **known as Thiruvavangala Tirupati, is one of the most illustrious Vaishnav temples in the country**, dedicated to Ranganatha, a reclining form of Hindu deity, Bhagwan (God or Lord) Vishnu.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Situated in an **ethereal setting on the island of Srirangam that is bounded by the two rivers of Cauvery and Kollidam** (a tributary of Cauvery), this living temple and sacred centre of pilgrimage is counted as the first and foremost among the 108 Divya Desams dedicated to Bhagwan Vishnu.

Q.6) The terms, “**rekha-prasada, phamsana, valabhi**” is related to which of the following?

- Nagara style of architecture
- Dravida style of architecture
- Vesara style of architecture
- Panchayatana style of architecture

ANS) A

Explanation: There are many subdivisions of nagara temples depending on the shape of the shikhara.

- The most common name for the simple shikhara which is square at the base and whose walls curve or slope inward to a point on top is called the 'latina' or the **rekha-prasada type of shikhara**.
- The second major type of architectural form in the nagara order is the **phamsana**. Phamsana buildings tend to be broader and shorter than latina ones.
- The third main sub-type of the nagara building is what is generally called the **valabhi type**. These are rectangular buildings with a roof that rises into a vaulted chamber. The edge of this vaulted chamber is rounded, like the bamboo or wooden wagons that would have been drawn by bullocks in ancient times. They are usually called 'wagonvaulted buildings'.

Q.7) Which of the following is/are **NOT** feature/features of “**South Indian or Dravida Style of temple**”?

- The dravida temple is enclosed in a wall.
- At the entrance to the South Indian temple's garbhagriha, it would be usual to find images such as mithunas and the river goddesses like Kaveri and Krishna.
- It is common to find a large water reservoir, or a temple tank, enclosed within the complex.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: THE DRAVIDA OR SOUTH INDIAN TEMPLE STYLE.

Statement 1 is correct: Unlike the nagara temple, **the dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall**. The front wall has an entrance gateway in its centre, which is known as a gopuram. The shape of the main temple tower known as vimana in Tamil Nadu is like a stepped pyramid that rises up geometrically rather than the curving shikhara of North India.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Whereas at the entrance to the North Indian temple's garbhagriha, it would be usual to find images such as mithunas and the river goddesses,

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Ganga and Yamuna, in the **south you will generally find sculptures of fierce dvarapalas or the door-keepers guarding the temple.**

Statement 3 is correct: It is **common to find a large water reservoir**, or a temple tank, enclosed within the complex.

Q.8) “Arivar Koil” cave paintings are located in which of the following state?

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

ANS) C

Explanation: Sittanavasal Cave (Arivar Koil) Paintings: Located 16 km northwest of Pudukkottai town in **Tamil Nadu**, these famous rock-cut caves are known for the paintings in the Jain temples. These murals have close resemblance to Bagh and Ajanta paintings. The paintings are not only on the walls but also on the ceiling and pillars. The paintings are with the theme of Jain Samavasarana (Preaching hall).

Q.9) “Tasvir Khana”- a formal artistic studio is established by which of the following?

- a) Humayun
- b) Akbar
- c) Jahangir
- d) Shah Jahan

ANS) B

Explanation: Tasvir Khana.

- **Akbar** was responsible for establishment of an entire department devoted to the paintings and scribing of his documents.
- **He established a formal artistic studio called Tasvir Khana where the artists were hired on salary and they developed their own styles.**
- Akbar looked upon paintings as a means of study and amusement. He believed that a painting could show the demeanor of the subject and regularly gave awards to those painters who created lifelike images.

Q.10) The “Baluchari and Jamdani” traditional regional sarees are related to which of the following State?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) West Bengal

ANS) D

Explanation: Hand-woven and hand stitched sarees of West Bengal including Baluchari sarees, Swarnachari sarees, Jamdani sarees, Kantha sarees, Linen sarees, Tussar sarees, Murshidabadi Silk sarees. Bengal sarees are known for their intricate motif pattern and artistry.

Economy

Q.1) Which of the following is/are “**Salient feature/features of the Model Contract Farming Act, 2018**”?

1. Contract framing to be outside the ambit of APMC Act.
2. Contracted produce is to be covered under crop / livestock insurance in operation.
3. The act provides a simple and accessible dispute settlement mechanism at the lowest level to settle disputes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: With a view to integrate farmers with bulk purchasers including exporters, agro- industries etc. for better price realization through mitigation of market and price risks to the farmers and ensuring smooth agro raw material supply to the agro industries, Union Finance Minister in the budget for 2017-18 announced preparation of a “Model Contract Farming Act” and circulation of the same to the States for its adoption. **Salient features of the Model Contract Farming Act, 2018.**

- “Registering and Agreement Recording Committee” or an “Officer” for the purpose at district/block/ taluka level for online registration of sponsor and recording of agreement provided.
- Contracted produce is to be covered under crop / livestock insurance in operation.
- **Contract framing to be outside the ambit of APMC Act.**
- **No permanent structure** can be developed on farmers’ land/premises
- **No right, title of interest of the land** shall vest in the sponsor. Promotion of Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs) / Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) to mobilize small and marginal farmers has been provided
- FPO/FPC can be a contracting party if so authorized by the farmers.
- No rights, title ownership or possession to be transferred or alienated or vested in the contract farming sponsor etc.
- **Ensuring buying of entire pre-agreed quantity** of one or more of agricultural produce, livestock or its product of contract farming producer as per contract.
- Contract Farming Facilitation Group (CFFG) for promoting contract farming and services at village / panchayat at level provided.
- **Accessible and simple dispute settlement** mechanism at the lowest level possible provided for quick disposal of disputes.
- **It is a promotional and facilitative Act and not regulatory in its structure.**

Q.2) Which of the following is/are **constraint/constraints for development of integrated value chain system** of Agriculture sector?

1. Low public and private investments in agriculture since the early 1990s.
2. Inability to acquire land for setting up of market yards.
3. Poor maintenance of rural roads.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only

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

ANS) D

Explanation: constraint/constraints for development of integrated value chain system of Agriculture sector.

1. Public and private investments in agriculture have remained low since the early 90s. Bottlenecks in implementation and a high degree of uncertainty have further reduced investor appetite for agricultural investments.
2. Inability to acquire land for setting up of market yards, resulting from the restrictions on land leasing and land acquisition, is another major constraint.
3. Even the existing marketing infrastructure suffers because of a lack of finances, manpower and proper facilities. Sub-market yards largely function as a location for government procurement and do not provide opportunities for open auction. Further, they are irregular in their operations and handle less than five per cent of the volume handled in principal yards.
4. Poor maintenance of rural roads is a major constraint as well. Linkages with local and feeder roads remain sub-optimal.
5. In the electricity sector, separate feeders for supply of power to agriculture and domestic electrification have not been carried out in many states.

Q.3) With reference to the “**Mechanization of Agriculture in India**”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The overall farm mechanization in India is more than 50 percent.
2. Indian tractor industry is the largest in the world, accounting for one-third of the total global production.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Mechanization of Agriculture in India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Effective use of agricultural machinery helps to increase productivity and production of farm output along with timely farm operations for quick rotation of crops on the same land.

- By raising a second crop or multi-crops from the same land, there is improvement in the cropping intensity and making agricultural land commercially more viable (NABARD, 2018).
- However, **overall farm mechanization in India has rather been lower (40-45 per cent) compared to other countries such as USA (95 per cent), Brazil (75 per cent) and China (57 per cent).**

Statement 2 is correct: Indian tractor industry is the largest in the world, accounting for one-third of the total global production. During the past four decades, the tractor industry grew at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10 per cent.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Micro-irrigation Development in India**”?

1. Area covered under micro-irrigation gradually increased from last ten years.

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2. A Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) created with NABARD with an initial corpus of Rs.500 crore facilitating the States in mobilizing the resources for expanding coverage of Micro Irrigation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

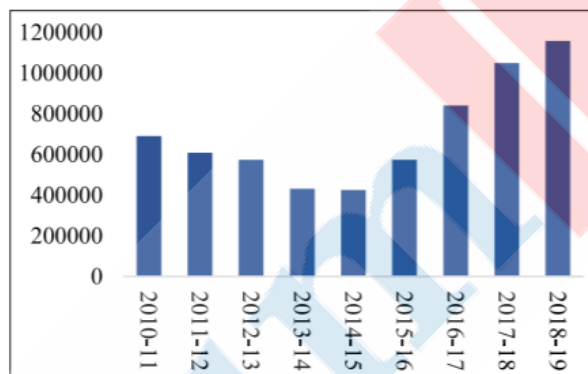
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS) D

Explanation: Micro-irrigation Development in India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Area covered under micro-irrigation from 2010-11 to 2014-15 was declining and gradually increased from 2015-16 to 2018-19.

Figure 2: Year-wise Area Covered under Micro Irrigation through Centrally Sponsored Scheme (in Ha)



Statement 2 is incorrect: A dedicated **Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) created with NABARD has been approved with an initial corpus of Rs. 5000 crore facilitating the States** in mobilizing the resources for expanding coverage of Micro Irrigation envisaged under PMKSY-PDMC and also in bringing additional coverage through special and innovative initiatives by State Governments.

Q.5) “EKTA portal” is related to which of the following?

- a) Agricultural Education portal
- b) Intellectual Property Rights Education portal
- c) Trade policies portal
- d) Traditional and Indigenous products portal

ANS) A

Explanation: New Digital Apps have been developed for making Indian agriculture in line with Digital India theme. The DARE (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) launched the **Agricultural Education Portal EKTA** (Ekikrit Krishi Shiksha Takniki Ayaam) for integrated online management information system.

Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Quality Council of India (QCI)**”?

- 1. The Quality Council of India (QCI) is a statutory body established through Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

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2. The Quality Council of India (QCI) is headed by Minister of Commerce and Industry. Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: The Quality Council of India (QCI).

- The **Quality Council of India (QCI) is a pioneering experiment of the Government of India in setting up organizations in partnership with the Indian industry.**
- A committee which included various interested ministries and stakeholders including industries was established to make suitable recommendations.
- The work was coordinated by the then Department of Industries (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) and the recommendations were submitted to the Cabinet in 1996.
- Key recommendations included the Need for establishing an organization jointly by the Government and the industry and the need for the organization to be self-sustaining and be away from the government.
- Accepting the recommendations, **the Cabinet Committee decided to set up Quality Council of India as a non-profit autonomous society registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 to establish an accreditation structure in the country** and to spread quality movement in India by undertaking a National Quality Campaign.
- QCI is governed by a Council comprising of 38 members including the Chairman and Secretary General.
- The Council has an equal representation of Government, Industry and other Stakeholders. **The chairman of QCI is nominated by Prime Minister of India and present chairman of QCI is Mr. Adil Zainulbhai.**

Q.7) Arrange the following “**core industries**” in the **ascending order** of their weight in Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

- 1. Coal
- 2. Cement
- 3. Steel
- 4. Electricity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 2-1-4-3
- b) 2-1-3-4
- c) 1-2-4-3
- d) 1-2-3-4

ANS) B

Explanation: The Index of Eight Core Industries measures the performance of eight core industries i.e., Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity. The industries included in the Index of Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Table 3: Growth in the production of Eight Core Industries (in per cent)

Sector	Weight	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19 (April- November)	2019-20 (April- November)
Coal	10.3	3.2	2.6	7.4	9.0	-5.3
Crude Oil	9.0	-2.5	-0.9	-4.1	-3.6	-5.9
Natural Gas	6.9	-1.0	2.9	0.8	-0.7	-3.1
Refinery Products	28.0	4.9	4.6	3.1	5.3	-1.1
Fertilizers	2.6	0.2	0.0	0.3	-1.3	4.0
Steel	17.9	10.7	5.6	5.1	3.6	5.2
Cement	5.4	-1.2	6.3	13.3	14.2	0.0
Electricity	19.9	5.8	5.3	5.2	6.6	0.7
Overall Index	100	4.8	4.3	4.4	5.1	0.0

Source: Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT

Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Cash Management Bill (CMB)**”?

1. It is a short-term instrument issued by banks to meet the temporary cash flow mismatches.
2. The Cash Management Bills are issued for maturities of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Cash Management bills.

- The **Government of India, in consultation with the RBI, decided to issue a new short-term instrument, known as Cash Management Bills, since August 2009 to meet the temporary cash flow mismatches of the government.**
- The **Cash Management Bills are non-standard and discounted instruments issued for maturities less than 91 days.**
- The CMBs have the generic character of Treasury Bills (issued at discount to the face value); are tradable and qualify for ready forward facility; investment in it is considered as an eligible investment in government securities by banks for SLR.

Q.9) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Steel production and consumption of India**”?

1. India is the third largest steel producing country in the world after china and USA.
2. In the last ten years there is a continuous increase in the per capita consumption of steel in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

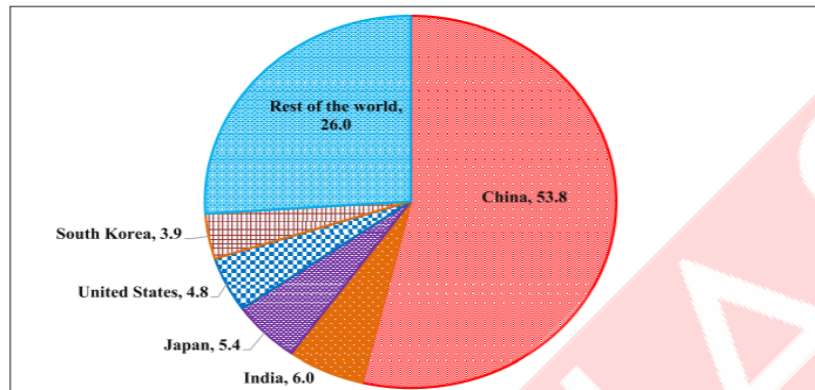
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS) D

Explanation: Steel production and consumption of India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: India stood at second position in the production of crude steel. It is also the third largest consumer of the finished steel after China and USA.

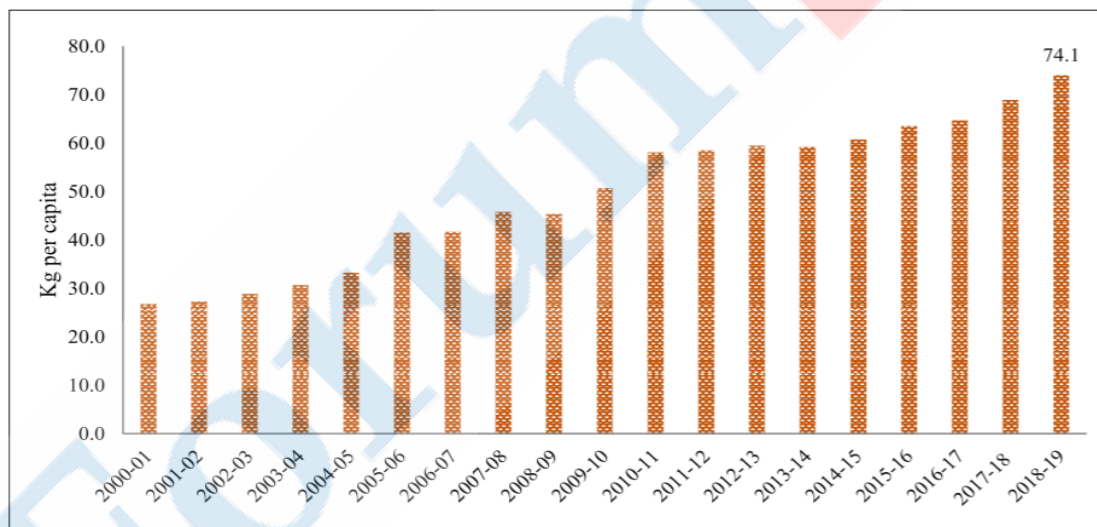
Figure 9: Country wise share of Crude steel production for 2019 (January-November) (in per cent)



Source: World Steel Association.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The per capita consumption of steel in India is 74.1 kg during 2018-19. The per capita consumption was increased in last ten years except 2013-14.

Figure 11: Per capita consumption of total finished steel (Kg) for India



Source: Joint Plant Committee.

Q.10) The term “Autarky” is related to which of the following?

- a) International trade
- b) Agriculture sector
- c) Banking sector
- d) Insurance sector

ANS) A

Explanation: Autarky: The idea of self-sufficiency and ‘no’ **international trade** by a country. None of the countries of the world has been able to produce all the goods and services required by its population at competitive prices, however, some tried to live it up at the cost of inefficiency and comparative poverty.

Polity

Q.1) Which of the following “**Article/Articles of Indian Constitution**” has dealt with the **provisions regarding international treaties**?

1. Article 51
2. Article 73
3. Article 253

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: The Constitution of India has dealt with the provisions regarding international treaties **through Articles 51, 73 and 253.**

Article 51: Promotion of international peace and security The State shall endeavour to

- promote international peace and security;
- maintain just and honourable relations between nations;
- foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another; and encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration

Article 73: provides that the scope of the powers of the executive extend to:

- To the matters specified in the List 1, inclusive of entry 14, with respect to entering into and implementing treaties.
- Such rights or obligations as are exercisable in consequence of any treaty or convention which India has ratified.

Article 253: Legislation for giving effect to international agreements notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, Parliament has power to make any law for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country or countries or any decision made at any international conference, association or other body.

Q.2) Which of the following “**International Convention/Conventions**” is/are **ratified** by India?

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
2. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
3. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: The International conventions signed and ratified by India are:

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India	State Party	Signatory	No Action
Human Rights Instrument : (Date into force)	Ratification Status		Declaration
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination :1969	Signature: 1967, Ratification/Accession: 1968		✓
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights :1976	Signature: NA, Ratification/Accession: 1979		✓
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights :1976	Signature: NA, Ratification/Accession: NA		
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty :1991	Signature: NA, Ratification/Accession: NA		
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights :1976	Signature: NA, Ratification/Accession: 1979		✓
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights :2013	Signature: NA, Ratification/Accession: NA		
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women :1981	Signature: 1980, Ratification/Accession: 1993		✓
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women :2000	Signature: NA, Ratification/Accession: NA		
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment :1987	Signature: 1997, Ratification/Accession: NA		
Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment :2002	Signature: NA, Ratification/Accession: NA		

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is signed and ratified by India in 2008.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Asian Development Bank”?

1. India, Australia and Russia are the founding members of Asian Development Bank.
 2. India, China and Indonesia are the top three aid receivers of Asian Development Bank.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

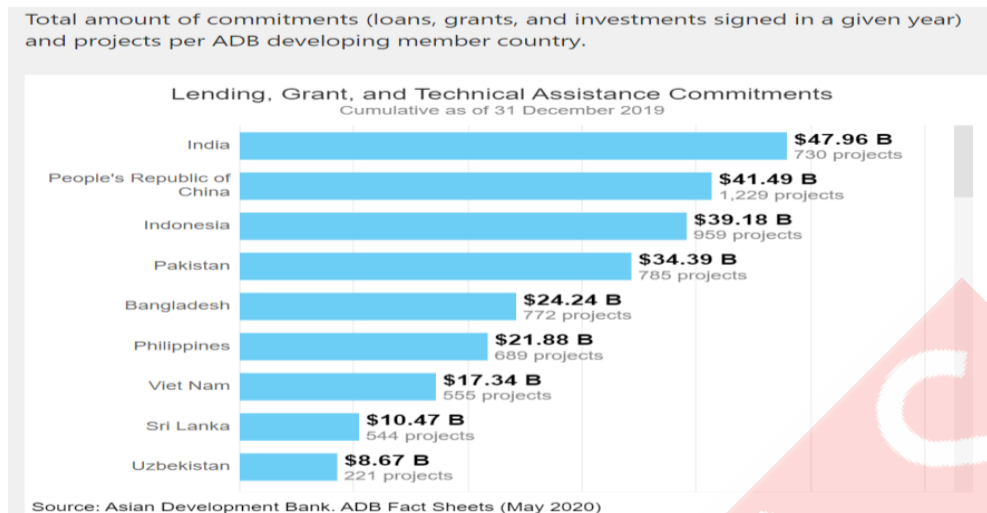
Explanation: Asian Development Bank.

- **ADB was conceived in the early 1960s as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world.**
- A resolution passed at the first Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation held by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in 1963 set that vision on the way to becoming reality.
- **The Philippines capital of Manila was chosen to host the new institution, which opened on 19 December 1966, with 31 members that came together to serve a predominantly agricultural region.**
- Takeshi Watanabe was ADB's first President. During the 1960s, ADB focused much of its assistance on food production and rural development.

Statement 1 is incorrect: India was a founding member of ADB in 1966 and is now the bank's fourth-largest shareholder. Australia is also a founder member, but Russia not yet joined the Asian Development Bank.

Statement 2 is correct: India, China and Indonesia are the top three aid receivers of Asian Development Bank.

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Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**”?

1. It is the largest regional intergovernmental platform in Asia-Pacific.
2. India has joined ESCAP after independence.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Statement 1 is correct: 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. The **largest regional intergovernmental platform** with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, ESCAP has emerged as strong regional think-tank offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India has joined UN ESCAP in March, 1947.

Q.5) The “**Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)**” is an agreement between India and which of the following country?

- a) Russia
- b) Iran
- c) Vietnam
- d) USA

ANS) A

Explanation: India and Russia are expected to conclude a mutual logistics agreement (Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)) and review the setting up of joint ventures for manufacturing spares for Russian defense platforms in India. **Logistics agreements are administrative arrangements facilitating access to military facilities for exchange of fuel and provisions on mutual agreement when the Indian military is operating abroad.**

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Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI)**”?

1. It is the exchange of information between countries with a formal request by recipient country.
2. Recently Switzerland has shared bank account details with the Indian government under the AEOI.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: The new global standard on Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) reduces the possibility for tax evasion. It provides for the exchange of non-resident financial account information with the tax authorities in the account holders’ country of residence.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) is **the exchange of information between countries without having to request it.**

Statement 2 is correct: In the first tranche of information, Switzerland has shared bank account details with the Indian government under the AEOI (Automatic Exchange of Information) framework.

Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Blue Dot Network**”?

1. It is jointly launched by USA, Japan, Australia and India to counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
2. It is launched on the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore.
3. It is an initiative that aims to bring governments, the private sector and civil society together to promote “high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development”.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: Blue Dot Network.

- Led by the **US’s International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Blue Dot network was jointly launched by the US, Japan (Japanese Bank for International Cooperation) and Australia** (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) in November 2019 on the sidelines of the 34th ASEAN Summit in Thailand.
- It is meant to be a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to bring governments, the private sector and civil society together to promote “**high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development**”.

Q.8) India is a member of which among the following?

1. Asia –Pacific Economic Cooperation
2. ASEAN
3. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)
4. Quad

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation:

- The **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)**, headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. At SCO summit, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on June 2004, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) was established. The Head of RATS is elected to a three-year term. Each member state also sends a permanent representative to RATS.
- The **grouping of four democracies –India, Australia, US and Japan**– known as the quadrilateral security dialogue or quad, was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure. With the aim to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region, India, Australia, US and Japan, formed the "quadrilateral" coalition on November 12, 2017.
- India is not a member of both Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and ASEAN.

Q.9) Which of the following are member countries of the "**European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**"?

- 1. Iceland
- 2. Sweden
- 3. Switzerland
- 4. Norway
- 5. Finland

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It was set up in 1960 by its then seven Member States for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members.

Q.10) Which of the following statements is/are correct about "**Global Refugee Forum**"?

- 1. It is launched in 2016 to deal with the migrant crisis in Middle East region.
- 2. It is a joint initiative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Germany.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Global Refugee Forum

- The **first ever Global Refugee Forum took place on 17 and 18 December 2019** and was a true milestone in the advancement of the international refugee regime.
- It brought the international community together to demonstrate solidarity with the world's refugees and the countries and communities that host them, to announce pledges and contributions that support them, and to commit to a continued search for solutions.
- We—Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Pakistan, Turkey and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—were honoured to serve as co-convenors of this historic event, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **We thank Switzerland for co-hosting the Forum with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and all those who actively contributed to making the Forum a success**, including governments, international organizations, representatives from across the humanitarian and development worlds, business leaders, civil society, sports organizations, faith groups, academia, and refugees themselves.

Q.11) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding **Oath or Affirmation by the President?**

1. President swears to faithfully execute the office.
2. President swears to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law.
3. President Swears to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Oath or Affirmation by the President.

Before entering upon his office, the President has to make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation. In his oath, the President swears:

- to **faithfully execute the office**;
- to **preserve, protect and defend the Constitution** and the law; and
- to **devote himself to the service and well-being** of the people of India.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the **legislative powers of the President:**

1. President can summon or adjourn the Parliament and dissolve the Lok Sabha.
2. He can appoint any member of the Lok Sabha to preside over its proceedings when the offices of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker fall vacant.

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

ANS) B

Explanation: The President is an integral part of the Parliament of India, and enjoys the following legislative powers.

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- He can **summon or prorogue** the Parliament and dissolve the Lok Sabha. He can also summon a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament, which is presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- He can **address the Parliament at the commencement of the first session** after each general election and the first session of each year.
- He **can send messages to the Houses of Parliament**, whether with respect to a bill pending in the Parliament or otherwise.
- He can **appoint any member of the Lok Sabha to preside over its proceedings** when the offices of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker fall vacant. Similarly, he can also appoint any member of the Rajya Sabha to preside over its proceedings when the offices of both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman fall vacant.
- He **nominates 12 members of the Rajya Sabha** from amongst persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art and social service.
- He can **nominate two members to the Lok Sabha** from the Anglo-Indian Community.

NOTE: The adjournment is done by presiding officers (speaker / deputy speaker in Lok Sabha and Chairman / Deputy Chairman in Rajya Sabha).

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prime Minister of India:**

1. The term of the Prime Minister is fixed for five years and he holds office during the pleasure of the president.
2. Article 75 of the Indian Constitution contains the procedure for selection and appointment of the Prime Minister.

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

ANS) D

Explanation: The Prime Minister of India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **term of the Prime Minister is not fixed** and he holds office during the pleasure of the president. However, this does not mean that the president can dismiss the Prime Minister at any time. So long as the Prime Minister enjoys the majority support in the Lok Sabha, he cannot be dismissed by the President.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Constitution does not contain any specific procedure** for the selection and appointment of the Prime Minister. **Article 75 says only that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the president.**

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rajya Sabha (Council of State):**

1. The Indian Councils Act, 1909 provided for the creation of a Council of State as a second chamber.
2. The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha.

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

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ANS) B

Explanation: The Rajya Sabha.

- The **origin of the second Chamber can be traced to the Montague-Chelmsford Report** of 1918.
- The **Government of India Act, 1919 provided for the creation of a ‘Council of State’** as a second chamber of the then legislature with a restricted franchise which actually came into existence in 1921.
- The **Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha.**
- The allocation of seats is made on the **basis of the population** of each State.

Q.15) Which of the following committee/committees comes under the **Standing Committees to enquire** of Rajya Sabha?

1. Committee on Petitions.
2. Committee of Privileges.
3. Rules Committee.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: The Committees may be classified as Ad-hoc Committees and Standing Committees. Standing Committees may be divided in terms of their functions:

Committees to enquire:

- Committee on Petitions
- Committee on Privileges
- Ethics Committee

Committees to scrutinise and control:

- Committee on Government Assurances
- Committee on Subordinate Legislation and
- Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

Committees relating to day-to-day business of the House:

- Business advisory committee
- Rules Committee

House Keeping Committees:

- House Committee
- General Purpose Committee
- Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha

Q.16) Which of the following agreement/agreements is/are signed by **India and United States of America (USA)**?

1. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA).
2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).
3. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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ANS: B

Explanation: Agreements signed by India and USA.

- India had signed the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002 and the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016.
- The last one remaining is the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA) is not yet signed by India.

FOUNDATIONAL AGREEMENTS		
Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)	Communication Interoperability & Security Memorandum Agreement (CISMOA)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Provide logistic support, refuelling & berthing facilities for each other's warships & aircraft on barter/equal-value exchange basis➤ Will not involve stationing of US troops on Indian soil. Nor will India extend support if US goes to war with "a friendly country"➤ Good for US forces re-balancing to Asia Pacific. Indian forces rarely operate far away from their shores but access to Djibouti & Diego Garcia could be useful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Technology enabler to help transfer high-tech avionics, encrypted communication & electronic systems to India➤ US says CISMOA will boost 'interoperability' as well as ensure secrecy of its C4ISR (command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) systems➤ But fears that US will be able to track & snoop on Indian warships/aircraft equipped with such systems	
	Basic Exchange & Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ US says BECA will help India with advanced satellite & topographical data for long-range navigation & missile-targeting➤ But India, which has its own satellite imaging capabilities, unwilling for American digital sensors to be positioned on its soil	

Q.17) Which of the following treaty/treaties is/are related to **European Union**?

1. Treaty of Lisbon
2. Treaty of Nice
3. Treaty of Amsterdam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: The European Union is based on the rule of law. This means that every action taken by the EU is founded on treaties that have been approved voluntarily and democratically by all EU member countries. A treaty is a binding agreement between EU member countries. It sets out EU objectives, rules for EU institutions, how decisions are made and the relationship between the EU and its member countries. The main treaties are:

Treaty of Lisbon: Signed on 13 December 2007, to make the EU more democratic, more efficient and better able to address global problems, such as climate change, with one voice.

Treaty of Nice: Signed on 26 February 2001, to reform the institutions so that the EU could function efficiently after reaching 25 member countries.

Treaty of Amsterdam: Signed on 2 October 1997, to reform the EU institutions in preparation for the arrival of future member countries.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding **BASIC group**:

1. The member countries of the group consist of India, Brazil, South Korea and China.

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2. The main objective of the group is to promote industrialization.

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

ANS) D

Explanation: BASIC group.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The BASIC group was formed as the result of an agreement signed by the four countries on November 28, 2009. They are a bloc of **four large newly industrialized countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The main objective of the BASIC group is to **have a broadly common position on reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and raising the massive funds that are needed to fight climate change.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU):**

- 1. The Eurasian Economic Union is an international organization for regional economic integration.
- 2. All Central Asian countries except Turkmenistan and Russia are member countries of Eurasian Economic Union.

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

ANS) A

Explanation: Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

- The **Eurasian Economic Union is an international organization for regional economic integration.** It has international legal personality and is established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union.
- The **EAEU provides for free movement of goods, services, capital and labor, pursues coordinated, harmonized and single policy** in the sectors determined by the Treaty and international agreements within the Union.
- The **Member-States of the Eurasian Economic Union are the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation.**
- The Union is being created to comprehensively upgrade, raise the competitiveness of and cooperation between the national economies, and to promote stable development in order to raise the living standards of the nations of the Member-States.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):**

- 1. OPEC is a permanent, Informal organization.
- 2. OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS) B

Explanation: The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.

- OPEC is a **permanent, intergovernmental organization**.
- The current OPEC members are the following: Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, and the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. Ecuador, Indonesia and Qatar are former members.
- OPEC's objective **is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries**, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- OPEC **membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil** and which shares the ideals of the organization.

Science & Technology

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system**”?

1. It is a technology which allows a nuclear submarine to operate without the need to access atmospheric oxygen.
2. India is self-sufficient in the AIP system and exports to other countries also.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Submarines are essentially of two types: conventional and nuclear. **Conventional submarines use a diesel-electric engine, and must surface daily for oxygen for fuel combustion. If fitted with an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system**, the submarine needs to take in oxygen only once a week.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The state-of-the-art “air independent propulsion” (AIP) system that **the Defence R&D Organisation (DRDO) is indigenously developing will be ready to drive the Indian Navy’s submarines from 2024 onwards**. Consequently, this AIP will not power the six new submarines that the navy is tendering in a Rs 45,000crore programme called Project 75-I. Instead, those six boats (as the navy traditionally refers to submarines) **will have AIP systems that the foreign vendor must offer**.

Q.2) The term “**Vyommitra**” is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Half-humanoid robot
- b) Satellite radar system
- c) Space education portal
- d) None

ANS) A

Explanation: Vyommitra.

- Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled its first ‘woman’ astronaut, named Vyom Mitra who will ride to space in the first test flight of the human space mission, Gaganyaan.
- She is **half-humanoid** and her body stops at the torso and has no legs. She is capable of switching panel operations, performing Environment Control and Life Support Systems (ECLSS) functions, conversations with the astronauts, recognising them and solving their queries.

Q.3) The terms “**Antu, Kueyen, Melipal and Yepun**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Asteroids
- b) Planets of Jupiter
- c) Telescope
- d) Radar systems

ANS) C

Explanation: Very Large Telescope array (VLT) .

- The **Very Large Telescope array (VLT)** is the flagship facility for European ground-based astronomy at the beginning of the third Millennium.
- It is the **world's most advanced optical instrument, consisting of four Unit Telescopes** with main mirrors of 8.2m diameter and four movable 1.8m diameter Auxiliary Telescopes.
- The telescopes can work together, to form a giant 'interferometer', the ESO Very Large Telescope Interferometer, allowing astronomers to see details up to 25 times finer than with the individual telescopes. The **large telescopes are named Antu, Kueyen, Melipal and Yepun.**

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Aditya L1 mission**”?

1. It is first scientific expedition of ISRO to study Sun.
2. Aditya L1 satellite will be placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system.
3. It will be launched using the Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark-III.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Aditya - L1 **First Indian mission to study the Sun.** The Aditya-1 mission was conceived as a 400kg class satellite carrying one payload, the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) and was planned to launch in a 800 km low earth orbit.

Statement 2 is correct: Satellite will be placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/ eclipses. Therefore, the Aditya-1 mission has now been revised to “Aditya-L1 mission” and will be inserted in a halo orbit around the L1, which is 1.5 million km from the Earth. The satellite carries additional six payloads with enhanced science scope and objectives.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The project is approved and the satellite will be launched during 2019 – 2020 timeframe by PSLV-XL from Sriharikota. Aditya-1 was meant to observe only the solar corona. The outer layers of the Sun, extending to thousands of km above the disc (photosphere) is termed as the corona. It has a temperature of more than a million degree Kelvin which is much higher than the solar disc temperature of around 6000K. How the corona gets heated to such high temperatures is still an unanswered question in solar physics.

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Quantum Computers**”?

1. Quantum computers use logical units called quantum bits that can be put into a quantum state where they can simultaneously represent both 0 and 1.
2. Quantum computers works at a temperature of -273 °C (-459 °F) with hardly any atmospheric pressure and isolated from Earth’s magnetic field.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS) C

Explanation: Quantum Computers work by harnessing the properties of quantum mechanics.

Statement 1 is correct: As the reality of a quantum computer comes closer, it is useful for us to understand both how one functions and how it's different from a traditional computer. The first thing to bear in mind is that they use different basic units of data: 'bits' and 'qubits'.

- Every element of a classical computer is written in binary code (1s and 0s) and is translated into electricity: high voltage is represented by 1, and low voltage by 0.
- **In quantum computing, qubits are the basic unit and their value can be 1, 0, or 1 and 0 simultaneously, overlapping (superposition) and intertwining (entanglement) according to the laws of physics.**
- This means that qubits, as opposed to bits, can take on various values at one time and can perform calculations that a conventional computer cannot.

Statement 2 is correct: The classical computer, if there is interference with the system; the system can correct itself and continue running. For the time being, this is not the case with quantum computers.

- "External disturbances force the system to define itself as 1 or 0, causing it to lose its quantum coherence.
- To avoid this kind of external 'noise,' the system has to be completely isolated: the atoms have to be very quiet, ensuring nothing makes them collide or interact with the surroundings.
- **Quantum computers have to be at a temperature of -273 °C (-459 °F) with hardly any atmospheric pressure and isolated from Earth's magnetic field.**

Q.6) The term "Muktoshri" is related to which of the following?

- a) Life saving drug
- b) New variety of rice
- c) New variety of maize
- d) New endemic banana

ANS) B

Explanation: West Bengal government's rice research centre has come up with a **new variety of rice called Muktoshri that can be grown in arsenic prone areas**. It was developed jointly by the Rice Research Station at Chinsurah, coming under West Bengal's Agriculture Department and the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.

Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are correct about "Polycrack Technology"?

1. It is world's first patented heterogeneous catalytic process which converts multiple feed stocks into hydrocarbon liquid fuels, gas, carbon and water.
2. Polycrack has high tolerance to moisture hence drying of waste is not required.
3. In polycrack, biological decomposition is not allowed as the Waste is treated as it is received.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Polycrack technology is **world's first patented heterogeneous catalytic process which converts multiple feed stocks** into hydrocarbon liquid fuels, gas, carbon and water. Polycrack Plant can be fed with all types of Plastic, Petroleum sludge, Un-segregated MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) with moisture up to 50%, E-Waste, Automobile fluff, Organic waste including bamboo, garden waste etc., and Jatropha fruit and palm bunch.

Polycrack has the following advantages over the conventional approach of treating solid waste:-

- Pre-segregation of waste is not required to reform the waste. Waste as collected can be directly fed into Polycrack.
- **It has high tolerance to moisture hence drying of waste is not required.**
- Waste is processed and reformed within 24 hours.
- It is an enclosed unit hence the working environment is dust free.
- Excellent air quality surrounding the plant.
- **Biological decomposition is not allowed as the Waste is treated as it is received.**
- The foot print of the plant is small hence the area required for installing the plant is less when compared with conventional method of processing.
- All constituents are converted into valuable energy thereby making it Zero Discharge Process.
- Gas generated in the process is re-used to provide energy to the system thereby making it self-reliant and also bring down the operating cost.
- There is no atmospheric emission during the process unlike other conventional methods except for combustion gases which have pollutants less than the prescribed norms the world over.
- Operates around 450 degrees, making it a low temperature process when compared with other options.
- Safe and efficient system with built-in safety features enables even an unskilled user to operate the machine with ease.
- Low capital cost and low operating cost.
- Fully automated system requires minimum man power.

NOTE: A patent is defined as a statutory privilege granted by the government to inventors, and to other persons deriving their rights from the inventor, for fixed years, to exclude other persons from manufacturing, using or selling a patented product or process.

- Hence a patent can be for a process or for a product. There is strict divergence between product and process patent regimes. The developed countries follow product patent system. On the other, process patent system is preferred by the developing world.
- The two systems are known for their different levels of protection to inventors. Under a process patent, the patent is granted for a particular manufacturing process, and not for the product itself.
- Any other person can produce the same product through some other PROCESS, modifying the various parameters. The implication is that there will be more than one producer for the same product because of the possibility of different process for the manufacturing of the product.

Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Biosimilars**”?

1. A biosimilar is a biological product that is an exact duplicate of branded biological product.

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2. A biosimilar drug costs less than generic drug.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Biosimilars.

- **A biosimilar is a biological product** that is developed to be similar to an already FDA-approved biologic, known as the reference product. It can be tempting to think of a biosimilar as a “generic” version of the reference product. However, there are many important differences between biosimilars and generic versions of conventional medications (generic drugs).
- **A generic drug is chemically identical** to its brand-name counterpart—an exact copy. The generic drug and brand-name drug have the same active ingredient, dosage form, safety profile, strength, route of administration, performance characteristics, and intended use. Accordingly, the brand-name drug and generic drug are considered to be bioequivalent.
- **A biosimilar is not an exact duplicate of another biologic.** There is a degree of natural variability in all biological products; it is not possible to generate a precise copy of a product that comes from living cells. All biologics—including reference products—show some batch-to-batch variation.
- Generic drugs are chemically identical to the original branded drug and, as such, cost significantly less because they don’t require much testing. Because biosimilars are made from living organisms, though, and don’t contain identical ingredients to their name-brand counterparts, they still require some testing. So, **they cost more than generics**, but less than the branded biologic.

Q.9) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**FrogPhone**”?

- 1. World’s first solar-powered remote survey device that can be installed at any frog pond and which receives a 5G cellular network.
- 2. With FrogPhone, researchers can call a frog habitat.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: FrogPhone.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Researchers have developed a device that will allow scientists to monitor frogs in the wild. Described as the **world’s first solar-powered remote survey device that can be installed at any frog pond and which receives a 3G or 4G cellular network**, it has been named “FrogPhone”. It has been developed by a team from various Australian institutions, including the University of New South Wales and the University of Canberra. A field trial conducted between August 2017 and March 2018 in Canberra proved successful.

Statement 2 is correct: With FrogPhone, **researchers can simply “call” a frog habitat.** After a call is made to one of the FrogPhones already on a site, the device will take three seconds to receive it. During these few seconds, the device’s temperature sensors will get

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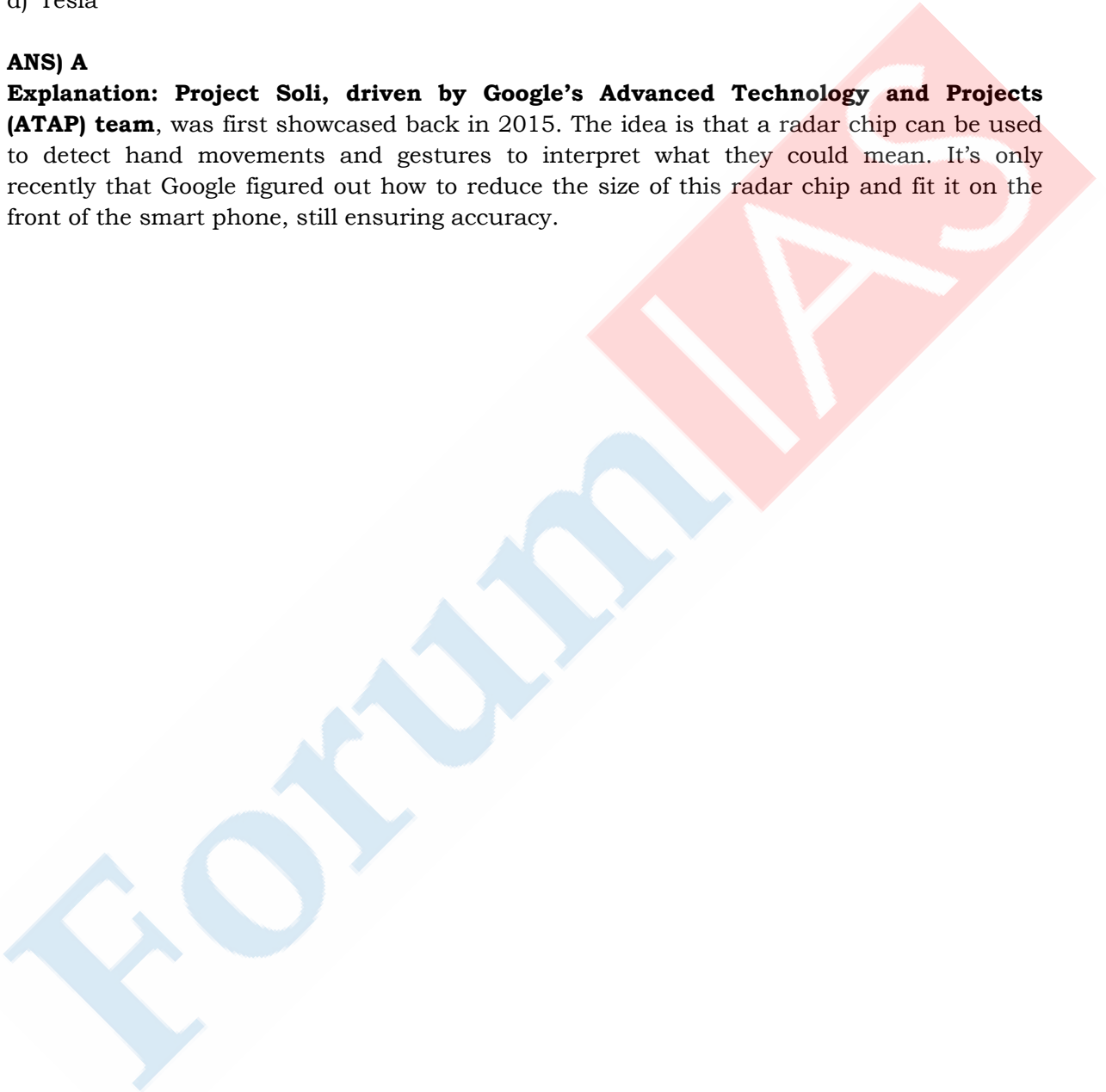
activated and environmental data such as air temperature, water temperature and battery voltage will be sent to the caller's phone via a text message.

Q.10) "Project Soli" is launched by which of the following?

- a) Google
- b) IBM
- c) Facebook
- d) Tesla

ANS) A

Explanation: Project Soli, driven by Google's Advanced Technology and Projects (ATAP) team, was first showcased back in 2015. The idea is that a radar chip can be used to detect hand movements and gestures to interpret what they could mean. It's only recently that Google figured out how to reduce the size of this radar chip and fit it on the front of the smart phone, still ensuring accuracy.



Geography

Q.1) The “**Indian Standard Meridian**” passes through which of the following States?

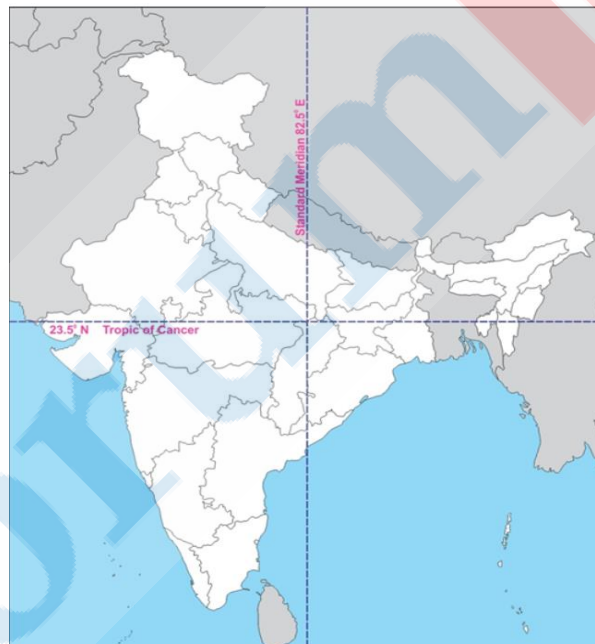
1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Jharkhand
4. Chhattisgarh
5. Odisha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: The Indian Standard Meridian passes through mostly 5 states which are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.



NOTE: British India did not adopt the international standard time zones until 1905 when the meridian passing through Allahabad at 82.5° east (of Greenwich Meridian) longitude was picked as the central meridian for India, corresponding to a single time zone for the country at 5 hours and 30 minutes in advance of GMT. This went into force on January 1, 1906. However, Calcutta time was officially maintained as a separate time zone until 1948. Bombay time was maintained but only informally until about 1955. After independence and the partition of British India, Pakistan stayed on Indian Standard Time for three years and adopted Pakistan Standard Time at 5 hours in advance of GMT in 1951.

Q.2) Consider the following pairs:

- | Famous place | : | River |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| 1. Kargil | : | Indus |
| 2. Amritsar | : | Sutlej |

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3. Sangli : Mahanadi

Which of the pair/pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

ANS) A

Explanation:

S.No.	River	Originates From	Falls into	Major Indian Cities on The Banks
1	Ganges	Gangotri Glacier	Bay of Bengal	Varanasi, Allahabad, Haridwar, Patna
2	Brahmaputra	Angsi Glacier (Tibet)	Bay of Bengal	Guwahati, Dibrugarh
3	Indus	Tibet, Kailash Range	Arabian Sea	Leh, Kargil
4	Godavari	Triambakeshwar, Maharashtra	Bay of Bengal	Triambakeshwar, Nashik, Rajahmundry
5	Narmada	Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh	Arabian Sea	Jabalpur, Harda, Bharuch
6	Krishna	Near Mahabaleswar, Maharashtra	Bay of Bengal	Sangli, Vijayawada
7	Yamuna	Yamunotri Glacier	Ganges River	Delhi, Agra, Mathura
8	Mahanadi	Hills of Southeastern Chhattisgarh	Bay of Bengal	Rajim, Sambalpur, Cuttack
9	Kaveri	Talakaveri, Karnataka	Bay of Bengal	Tiruchirapalli, Erode
10	Tapti (Tapi)	Satpura Range near Multai, Madhya Pradesh	Arabian Sea	Burhanpur, Bhusawal, Surat
11	Sutlej	Lake Rakshastal in Tibet	Indus River	Ferozpur, Rupnagar
12	Chambal	Vindhya Range Near Mhow, Madhya Pradesh	Yamuna River	Kota, Gwalior
13	Beas	Beas Kund, Himachal Pradesh	Sutlej River	Mandi, Kullu, Amritsar
14	Tungabhadra	Koodli (where Tunga and Bhadra rivers meet), Karnataka	Krishna River	Harihar, Hospet, Hampi, Kurnool
15	Sabarmati	Aravali Hills Near Udaipur, Rajasthan	Arabian Sea	Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Chilli or Capsicum annum”?

- 1. Capsicum annum is endemic to Indian sub-continent.
- 2. The world’s hottest chilli “Naga Jolokia” is cultivated in hilly terrains of Andhra Pradesh.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) D

Explanation: Chilli is one of the most important commercial crops of India. It is grown almost throughout the country. There are more than 400 different varieties of chillies found

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all over the world. It is also called as hot pepper, cayenne pepper, sweet pepper, bell pepper, etc. Its botanical name is “Capsicum annuum”.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Chillies are known from pre-historic times in Peru. **They are believed to have originated in the tropical America.**

- It is also said that chillies have originated in the Latin American regions of the New Mexico and Guatemala as a wild crop around 7500BC, as per the remains of the pre-historic Peru.
- The people native to these places domesticated this crop in and around 5000 BC. Chilli is said to be the first ever domesticated crop in America.
- **The Portuguese brought capsicum from Brazil to India during the year 1584.** Chillies became popular in the whole of Asia rapidly and native Asians started cultivating this crop as well.
- The south Asian climate suited this crop, and since its introduction in the 16 century has been increasingly cultivated in south Asia.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **world’s hottest chilli “Naga Jolokia” is cultivated in hilly terrain of Assam in a small town Tezpur, India.**

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Central Water Commission (CWC)”?

1. CWC was established in 1945 by the Government on the advice of Rajendra Prasad.
2. Central water Commission has divided the country into 20 rivers basins comprising 12 major and 8 composite river basins.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Central Water Commission (CWC):

Statement 1 is incorrect: CWC (erstwhile Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission) was established in 1945 by the Government on the advice of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Member (Labour) in Viceroy's Executive Council.

- The credit for the establishment of CWINC is attributed to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, under whose able guidance the then Labour Department constituted the Commission.
- He not only raised the concept and argued for the necessity of having such a technical body at the Centre but also laid down its objectives, organisational structure and programme.
- The final proposal for establishment of CWINC was prepared by the Department with the help of Rai Bahadur A.N. Khosla, the Consulting Engineer for Irrigation. Dr. Khosla was subsequently appointed as founder Chairman of the CWINC.

Statement 2 is correct: Central water Commission has divided the country into 20 rivers basins comprising 12 major and 8 composite river basins.



NOTE: Since then CWC has evolved as a premier technical organisation in the country in the field of Water Resources and now has entered into 75th Year of service to the nation.

Q.5) Consider the following pairs:

Region : **Well-known for the production of**

1. Sirsi : Areca nut
2. Ongole : Tobacco
3. Gudaspur : Turmeric

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Sirsi Arecanut: For the first time in the arecanut sector, ‘Sirsi Supari’ grown in Uttara Kannada has received the Geographic Indication (GI) tag.

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- It is cultivated in Yellapura, Siddapura and Sirsi taluks. Totgars' Cooperative Sale Society Ltd., Sirsi, is the registered proprietor of the GI.
- The arecanut grown in these taluks have unique features like a round and flattened coin shape, particular texture, size, cross-sectional views, taste, etc. These features are not seen in arecanut grown in any other regions.

Tobacco: Most of the tobacco growing areas are concentrated in **Ongole, Kaikalur, Addanki, Chirala, Giddalur areas of Prakasam district** in Andhra Pradesh.

NOTE: Celery crop is cultivated mainly in the states of Punjab (Jalandhar, Gudaspur and Amritsar districts), Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh (Ladhwa and Saharanpur districts) over an area of about 5000 ha. About 90% of the total produce comes from Punjab.

Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Red Soils**” in India?

1. Red soils develops on old crystalline rocks.
2. Red soils differ from place to place on the basis of the parental rock material and climatic conditions.
3. Rich in minerals like potassium and Phosphorus.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Red soils.

Statement 1 is correct: Red soil develops on crystalline igneous rocks in areas of low rainfall in the eastern and southern part of the Deccan Plateau. Along the piedmont zone of the Western Ghat, long stretch of area is occupied by red loamy soil. Yellow and red soils are also found in parts of Odisha and Chattisgarh and in the southern parts of the middle Ganga plain.

Statement 2 is correct: The soil develops a reddish colour due to a wide diffusion of iron in crystalline and metamorphic rocks. It looks yellow when it occurs in a hydrated form.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The fine-grained red and yellow soils are normally fertile, whereas coarse-grained soils found in dry upland areas are poor in fertility. **They are generally poor in nitrogen, phosphorous, Potassium and humus.**

Q.7) Arrange the following states in ascending order of “**area of distribution of Sandalwood**” in India:

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Kerala
3. Karnataka
4. Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 2-4-1-3
- b) 2-4-3-1
- c) 4-2-1-3
- d) 4-2-3-1

ANS) A

Explanation: Nearly one-third of the area in the country with sandalwood distribution is in **Tamil Nadu with the state covering an area of 3,040sqkm** spread across several districts. India has a total area of 9,000sqkm of sandalwood distribution spread across

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eight states with **Karnataka having the maximum area of 5,245sqkm**. Apart from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, states like **Kerala (15 sqkm)**, **Andhra Pradesh (200 sqkm)**, Odisha (25 sqkm), Madhya Pradesh (33 sqkm), Maharashtra (33 sqkm) and Rajasthan (sparse) have sandalwood trees distributed across a few districts.

Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**coal reserves**” in India?

1. Anthracite coal is found in Jammu and Kashmir only.
2. Lignite coal has low moisture content.
3. Odisha has the second largest coal reserves in the country and it carries more than 24 per cent of the total coal reserves.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: coal reserves in India.

Statement 1 is correct: Anthracite is the best quality of coal which carries 80 to 95 per cent carbon content. It ignites slowly with a blue flame. **It has the highest calorific value. It is found in small quantity in Jammu and Kashmir.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: Lignite is often brown in colour. It carries 40 to 55 per cent carbon content. It is an intermediate stage which happens during the alteration of woody matter into coal. **It has high moisture content so it gives smoke when burnt.** It is found in Rajasthan, Lakhimpur (Assam), and Tamil Nadu.

Statement 3 is correct: **Odisha has the second largest coal reserves in the country and it carries more than 24 per cent of the total coal reserves. It produces about 15 per cent of the total coal production of India.** Most of the coal deposits of the state are found in Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, and Sundargarh districts. Talchar coalfield of Odisha stretch over Dhenkanal and Sambalpur districts covers an area of about 500 sq km.

Q.9) The term “**rohi**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Fertile tracts
- b) kind of jhum cultivation
- c) Tribal festival
- d) None

ANS) A

Explanation: The Rajasthan Bagar region (Bagar refers to the semi-desert area which is west of Aravallis. Bagar has a thin layer of sand. It is drained by Luni in the south whereas the northern section has a number of salt lakes) have a number of short seasonal streams which originate from the Aravallis. These **streams support agriculture in some fertile patches called Rohi.**

Q.10) Consider the following rivers:

1. Gumti River
2. Manu River
3. Hoara River

Which of the above flow/flows through Tripura state?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only

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- c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS) D

Explanation: Tripura is a north-eastern state of India. It has many rivers. **The name of the main 11 rivers of Tripura are: Bijay, Deo, Dhalai, Feni, Gumti, Haora, Juri, Khowai, Longai, Manu, Muhuri.**

- All rivers are originated from hill ranges of Tripura and they are totally rain fed. Truly speaking all rivers of Tripura is ephemeral.
- They are not comfortable for boat. They generate an annual flow of almost 793 million cubic meter of water. Fenni and Langai are shared by two Indian states, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Agartala, the capital of Tripura is on the bank of the river Haora. Almost all rivers of Tripura flow into Bangladesh. The Khowai, Dhalai, Manu, Juri and Longai flow towards the north.
- The Gumti, Howra flow towards the west. The Muhuri and Feni flow towards the south west.

Environment

Q.1) Which of the following is/are criteria for identifying “**Wetlands of International Importance**”?

1. If Wetlands contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate bio-geographic region.
2. If Wetlands regularly supports 10,000 or more water birds.
3. If Wetlands regularly supports 10% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian animal species.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) A

Explanation: Under the Ramsar Criteria, wetlands should be selected for the Ramsar List on account of their international significance in **terms of the biodiversity and uniqueness of their ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology**. In addition, the Criteria indicate that in the first instance, wetlands of international importance to water-birds at any season should be included on the Ramsar List.

Group A of the Criteria. Sites containing representative, rare or unique wetland types

Criterion 1: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.

Group B of the Criteria. Sites of international importance for conserving biological diversity

Criteria based on species and ecological communities

Criterion 2: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.

Criterion 3: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.

Criterion 4: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.

Specific criteria based on waterbirds

Criterion 5: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.

Criterion 6: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

Specific criteria based on fish

Criterion 7: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families, life-history stages, species interactions and/or populations that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity.

Criterion 8: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend.

Specific criteria based on other taxa

Criterion 9: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian animal species.

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Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct about types of “**Estuaries**”?

1. Coastal plains estuaries form when a shallow lagoon or bay is protected from the ocean by a sand bar, delta or island.
2. Fjord and Ria estuaries are formed by glacial action.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: There are four main types of estuaries, based on how they were formed.

- **Bar-built estuaries** form when a shallow lagoon or bay is protected from the ocean by a **sand bar, delta or island**.
- **Coastal plains estuaries** are formed when the **rising sea fills existing river valleys**.
- **Tectonic estuaries** are caused by the **folding of land surfaces** due to volcanic activity.
- **Fjord and Ria estuaries** are drowned river valleys where the river valley was originally **formed by glacial action**.

Q.3) Which of the following is/are characteristics of “**Mangroves**”?

1. They are basically evergreen land plants growing on sheltered shores like tidal flats, deltas, bays and creeks.
2. They exhibit viviparity mode of reproduction.
3. They require less solar radiation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Mangrove swamps are coastal wetlands found in tropical and subtropical regions. They are characterized by halophytic (salt loving) trees, shrubs and other plants growing in brackish to saline tidal waters. These wetlands are often found in estuaries, where fresh water meets salt water and are infamous for their impenetrable maze of woody vegetation.

Important characteristics of Mangroves:

- **They are basically evergreen land plants** growing on sheltered shores, typically on tidal flats, deltas, estuaries, bays, creeks and the barrier islands.
- They **exhibit viviparity mode of reproduction**, it means seeds germinate in the tree itself.
- **They require high solar radiation** and have the ability to absorb fresh water from saline/brackish water.

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Cold water corals**”?

1. Cold-water corals have symbiotic algae living in their polyps.
2. They are found on the continental shelf and also in deep-sea areas.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Cold water coral reefs.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Unlike tropical corals, **cold-water corals don't have symbiotic algae living in their polyps so they don't need sunlight to survive.** They feed solely by capturing food particles from the surrounding water. Their polyps tend to be much bigger than tropical corals.

Statement 2 is correct: Cold-water coral reefs are commonly found where current flow is accelerated. **They are found on the continental shelf, and also in deep-sea areas** with topographic highs, such as seamounts, mounds, ridges, and pinnacles.

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Environmental Performance Index (EPI)**”?

1. It is a joint project of the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy and The Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN).
2. The EPI is released biennially in even-numbered years.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: Environmental Performance Index.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Environmental Performance Index is a joint project of the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy and The Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)** at Columbia University's Earth Institute. The EPI is produced in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Statement 2 is correct: The **EPI is released biennially in even-numbered years.**

Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Sunderban Wetland**”?

1. It is the largest protected wetland in the country.
2. It is a UNESCO World heritage site.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) C

Explanation: Sunderban Wetland.

- On January 30, 2019 the Indian Sundarban was accorded the status of 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention.
- The Sundarbans comprises hundreds of islands and a network of rivers, tributaries and creeks in the delta of the Ganga and the Brahmaputra at the mouth of the Bay of Bengal in India and Bangladesh.
- Located on the southwestern part of the delta, the **Indian Sundarban constitutes over 60% of the country's total mangrove forest area.**

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- **It is the 27th Ramsar Site in India, and with an area of 4,23,000 hectares is now the largest protected wetland in the country.**
- **The Indian Sundarban, also a UNESCO world heritage site, and it is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger.**

Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**”?

1. The Bureau was constituted by amendment to the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. It advises the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS) B

Explanation: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Bureau was constituted by amendment to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. It has been envisaged as a multi - disciplinary statutory body that will have officials from forests, police, customs and other similar agencies. The constitution is specified in Section 38 (Y) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Statement 2 is correct: The powers and functions of the Bureau are specified under Section 38(Z) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. It **Advise the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications** and suggest changes required in relevant policy and laws time to time.

Q.8) “**Canberra Convention**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Conservation of Arctic marine living resources.
- b) Conservation of Pacific Ocean marine living resources.
- c) Conservation of Antarctica marine living resources.
- d) None.

ANS) C

Explanation: Canberra Convention.

- The **Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources is an international treaty that was adopted at the Conference on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources which met at Canberra, Australia, 7–20 May 1980.**
- It is a multilateral response to concerns that unregulated increases in krill catches in the Southern Ocean could be detrimental for Antarctic marine ecosystems particularly for seabirds, seals, whales and fish that depend on krill for food.

Q.9) “**World Air Quality Report**” is released by which of the following?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Greenpeace
- c) United Nation Environmental Programme
- d) None

ANS) B

Explanation: World Air Quality Report.

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- The **World Air Quality report was released by the pollution tracker IQAir and Greenpeace.**
- The ranking is based on a comparison of PM 2.5 levels.
- India was the fifth most polluted country in 2019 and an account for almost two-thirds of the world's most polluted cities according to the World Air Quality Report 2019.

Q.10) The term “**Archaea**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Rocks
- b) Primitive plants
- c) Primitive group of microorganisms
- d) Sacred groves

ANS) C

Explanation: Archaea.

- Archaea (singular archaeon) are a **primitive group of microorganisms** that thrive in extreme habitats such as hot springs, cold deserts and hyper-saline lakes.
- These slow-growing organisms are also present in the human gut, and have a potential relationship with human health.
- They are known for producing antimicrobial molecules, and for anti-oxidant activity with applications in eco-friendly waste-water treatment.