

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

JUNE, 2020

*THIS IS A MONTHLY DOCUMENT CONTAINING ALL MCQS ASKED IN 10 PM
CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ BY FORUMIAS.*

10 PM Compilation for the Month of June, 2020

Q.1) Which of the following is/are correctly matched:

1. McMahon Line - India and China
2. Line of Actual Control - India and Pakistan
3. Radcliff Line - India and Tibet Autonomous Region

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **McMahon Line** is the boundary line between the Tibetan region of China and the North-east region of India as per the **1914 Shimla convention** signed between Tibetan and British representatives.

The **LAC** is the demarcation separating the Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.

The **Radcliffe Line** was the boundary demarcation line between the Indian and Pakistani portions of the Punjab and Bengal provinces of British India; it was named after Cyril Radcliff, chairperson of the boundary commissions.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **India and China**:

1. Both countries are members to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and G-20.
2. Both countries have free trade agreement with each other under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **SCO comprises eight Member States: China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.**

The **G20** is made up of 19 countries and the European Union. The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, **China**, Germany, France, **India**, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK and the US.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is the free trade agreement between ASEAN countries and its FTA partners including China. **India is an FTA partner of ASEAN but opted out of RCEP in November 2019.**

Q.3) Which of the following is/are potential results of providing a **Universal Basic Income**?

1. Demand side inflation
2. Reduced labour force participation rate

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

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **Universal Basic Income** would provide cash at hand; therefore inflation could be triggered because of the increase in demand for goods and services.

Statement 2 is correct. Free income may **disincentivize people to get jobs**, and make work seem optional. People would have the freedom to return to school, finish college or stay home to care for a relative and thereby reduce the labor force participation rate.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **UDAN scheme**:

1. The scheme aims to provide international airline connectivity to Tier II cities of India.
2. The participating States except north-eastern states, share 20 percent burden of the VGF under the scheme.

Which of 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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **UDAN-RCS (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)** is a regional airport development and "Regional Connectivity Scheme" (RCS) to further enhances the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country.

Statement 2 is correct. The payment of VGF is made to the Selected Airline Operator from the RCF and the State Governments are asked to reimburse the applicable share (**20% for states other than for North-Eastern States and Union Territories of India, where the ratio will be 10%**) towards VGF for respective RCS Routes.

'Viability Gap Funding or VGF' means the financial support provided to the Selected Airline Operator for operation of RCS Flight(s) from the Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) of the Scheme. VGF is provided for RCS Flights for a period of three years from the date of commencement of operations of such RCS Flights.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Code on Occupation Safety, Health and Working Condition 2019**:

1. The Code will be applicable on organizations employing at least 10 workers, all mines and docks.
2. The Code provides for Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Boards at the national and state level.
3. The Code provides for the central government to fix a national floor wage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Code on Occupation Safety, Health and Working Condition 2019** applies to organisations employing at least 10 workers, and to all mines and docks; covering both employees and workers. Employees include individuals in managerial and administrative positions as well.

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Statement 2 is correct. The Code provides for **Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Boards** at the national and state level to be set up by respective governments to advise them on the standards, rules, and regulations to be framed under the Code.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Wages are not defined in this Code. According to the **Code on Wages, 2019**, the central government will fix a floor wage, considering living standards of workers.

Note: As of today (01-06-2020) the Code on Occupation Safety, Health and Working Condition 2019 is yet to be passed by the parliament. The standing committee submitted its report on Feb 11, 2020.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **IMF Policy Tracker** launched recently:

1. It tracks the economic responses governments are taking to limit the human and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The tracker is a comparative study and will be used by IMF to provide supplementary funding to deserving countries.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Policy tracker of IMF** summarizes the key economic responses governments are taking to limit the human and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The tracker includes 193 economies.

Statement 2 is incorrect. No such provision has been announced. As per the IMF; the tracker focuses on discretionary actions and might not fully reflect the policies taken by countries in response to COVID-19, such as automatic insurance mechanisms and existing social safety nets which differ across countries in their breadth and scope. The information included is not meant for comparison across members.

Q.7) The Constitution of India explicitly provides for '**Social Justice**' in:

1. Preamble
2. Fundamental duties
3. Directive principles of state policy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **preamble** states that it "...aims to secure to all its citizens: **JUSTICE, social, economic and political**; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship..."

Option 2 is incorrect. There is no explicit provision of Social Justice in Fundamental duties under the constitution.

Option 3 is correct. **Article 38(1) in the Constitution** of India states that the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it

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may a social order in which **justice, social, economic and political**, shall inform all the institutions of the national life.

Q.8) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Falcon 9 - United States of America
2. Ariane 5 - China
3. Soyuz - Russia

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) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Falcon 9** is a launch vehicle designed and manufactured by a commercial company SpaceX of the **United States**.

Ariane 5 is a space launch vehicle developed and operated by Arianespace for the **European Space Agency**.

Soyuz is a family of rocket launch systems developed by **Russia**.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding **Group of Seven (G-7)** countries:

1. There is no country in the group from the Africa continent.
2. Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) was established at the initiative of G-7 countries.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Group of Seven (G7)** is an international intergovernmental economic organization consisting of the seven advanced economies in the world: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In response to mounting concern over money laundering, the **Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF)** was established by the G-7 Summit that was held in Paris in 1989.

Q.10) The **Amery Ice Shelf (AIS)** is located in:

- a) Antarctica
- b) Greenland
- c) Siachen
- d) Arctic

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Amery Ice Shelf (AIS)** is one of the largest glacier drainage basins in the world located on the east coast of Antarctica.

The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa** has predicted a 24 per cent increase in the expansion of the Amery Ice Shelf (AIS) boundaries in Antarctica by 2021 and another 24 per cent by 2026 from its 2016 positions.



Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **Delimitation Commission**:

1. Its orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
2. The Chief Election Commissioner of India is the chairperson of the delimitation commission.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Delimitation Commission** in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.

These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible by them.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **commission is chaired a person who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court** and is appointed by the Central Government. The Chief Election Commissioner or an Election Commissioner nominated by the Chief Election Commissioner is ex officio member to the commission.

Q.12) Which of the following states/country shares its border with the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**?

1. Himachal Pradesh
2. Punjab
3. China
4. Uttarakhand
5. Afghanistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

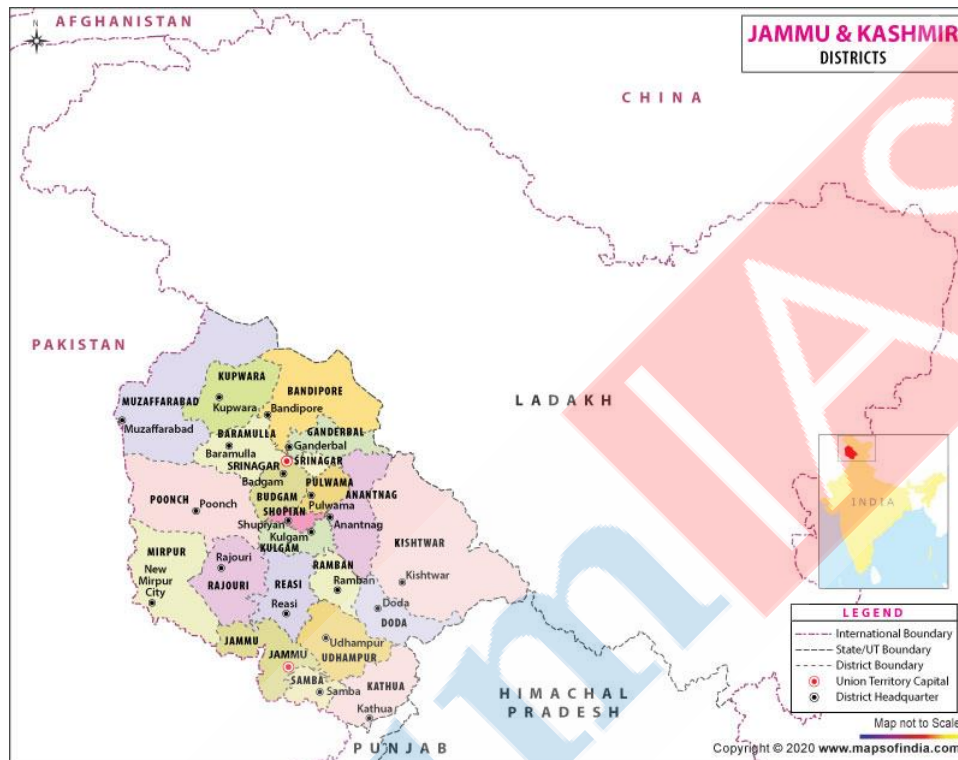
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: UT of Jammu and Kashmir shares its border with **Pakistan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and UT of Ladakh.**



Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **Social Stock Exchange**:

1. It is a platform on which companies raise capital to fulfill the corporate social responsibility norms.
2. The Ishaat Hussain committee recommended on the establishment of Social Stock Exchanges in India.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Social stock exchange (SSE)** is a platform on which social enterprises, volunteer groups and welfare organizations are listed so that they can raise capital through debt, equity and mutual funds.

Statement 2 is correct. The SSE was proposed in the budget speech in July 2019. The proposed exchange will be under the regulation of Securities and Board Exchange of India (SEBI) which formed an expert panel headed by **Ishaat Hussain** to suggest structure, norms for social stock exchanges.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bar Council of India**:

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1. It is a statutory body.
2. It lays down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates.
3. It recognizes the Universities whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Bar Council of India** is a statutory body created by Parliament under the **Advocates Act, 1961**.

Statement 2 is correct. Its functions includes to lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates, procedure to be followed by its disciplinary committee and the disciplinary committees of each State Bar Council and to safeguard the rights, privileges and interests of advocates.

Statement 3 is correct. It **recognizes the Universities** whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate. It also visits and inspects Universities or directs the State Bar Councils to visit and inspect Universities for this purpose.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Center for Seismology (NCS)**:

1. It is a statutory body tasked with the monitoring of earthquake activity in the country.
2. It is responsible for the operation and maintenance of national seismological network.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Center for Seismology (NCS)** is the nodal agency of the Government of India for monitoring of earthquake activity in the country. It is an attached office of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India**.

Statement 2 is correct. **NCS maintains and operates National Seismological Network** of 115 stations having state of art equipment. NCS monitors earthquake activity all across the country through its 24x7 round the clock monitoring center. NCS also monitors earthquake swarm and aftershock through deploying temporary observatory close to the affected region.

Q.16) Which of the following can be considered a **supply side constraint(s)** for economic growth?

1. Stringent quality and safety norms
2. Intermittent electricity supply
3. High cost of credit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the mentioned factors are potential supply side constraints for economic growth in a country.

Over-regulation and stringent norms often discourage the industrial growth and investments.

A **regular and cost-effective electricity supply** is vital for most of the industrial units which can make or break the profit margins for a company.

Credit availability at reasonable cost is one of the basic factors for industrial growth and expansion, a higher cost of credit in-effect hampers the overall expansion of the economy.

Q.17) The Constitution of India provides for **power of the President** to:

1. Prorogue and dissolve either house of the parliament.
2. Summon each house of the Parliament to meet such that six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the first sitting in the next session.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Council of States is a Permanent House** and is not subject to dissolution. Almost one third of its members retire every 2nd year and an equal number of members are chosen to replace them.

Constitution under **article 85(2)** provides that the President may from time to time (a) prorogue the Houses or either House; (b) dissolve the House of the People.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 85(1)** of the constitution provides that the President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

Q.18) Consider the following statements **regarding Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In):**

1. It has been notified as the national agency for cyber incident response under the Information Technology Act, 2000.
2. It is responsible for collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber incidents in India.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Under **Section 70B (1) of the Information Technology Act**, government has notified the CERT-In, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to serve as national agency for incident response. It has been assigned following functions:

- collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber incidents.
- forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents.
- emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents.

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- coordination of cyber incidents response activities.
- issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and white papers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM SVANidhi scheme**:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. It offers a micro-credit facility to the urban & rural street vendors.
3. Scheme provides an interest subsidy for timely payment of loans availed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the statements given above are correct.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has announced a scheme for street vendors named **PM Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi** (PM SVANidhi).

The vendors can avail a **working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000**, which is repayable in monthly installments in the tenure of one year.

On timely or early repayment of the loan, an **interest subsidy** of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on six monthly basis.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding **India's National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Portal**:

1. It has been developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with the World Bank.
2. The portal will enable sharing of resources such as articles, startups and investment funds in AI.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. India's **National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Portal** called www.ai.gov.in has been launched recently. It has been jointly developed by the **Ministry of Electronics and IT and IT Industry**. National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and NASSCOM from the IT industry will jointly run this portal.

Statement 2 is correct. The portal is to be 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.

Visit [Factly](https://www.factly.in) for more.

Q.21) Which of the following is/are components of **Social Vaccine**?

1. Social mobilization through education and awareness
2. Addressing behavioral aspects of health protection
3. Extensive clinical trials to develop potent vaccine

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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) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are correct. **Social Vaccine** refers to **educational and behavioral measures** that can be used to raise public consciousness about unhealthy situations; Social vaccine involves spreading education on how to protect oneself and others.

A social vaccine is a process of **social and political mobilization** which involves government and other institutions' efforts to intervene with interventions, applied to populations rather than individuals, aimed at mitigating the structural social and economic conditions that make people and communities vulnerable to disease.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The medical vaccines help develop immunity against disease, while social vaccines develop the ability of communities to resist and change social and economic structures, practices and processes that have a negative impact on health.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding **COVID-19 RT-PCR test**:

- 1. It is a test for identification of SARS-COV-2 RNA from the sample.
- 2. The test can be used to detect past infections of SARS-COV-2 in a healthy person.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **SARS-Cov-2 is an RNA virus**, it relies on infiltrating healthy cells to multiply and survive. The sample to be tested is treated with several chemical solutions to remove substances, such as proteins and fats, and extracts the RNA present in the sample. The extracted RNA is a mix of a person's own genetic material and, if present, the SARS-COV-2 RNA.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **RT-PCR test cannot detect** if a person has had the virus in past and then cleared it, i.e. whether a person had the disease, this test only detects whether the active virus is present.

Q.23) The **National Crisis Management Committee** is chaired by:

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Cabinet Secretary
- c) Minister of Home Affairs
- d) Principle Secretary to Prime Minister

Correct answer: B

Explanation: A **National Crisis Management Committee** ensures the effective coordination and implementation of relief measures and operations in wake of a calamity. It is chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary**. Other members include Secretary to Prime Minister, Secretary (MHA), Secretary (Agri & Coopn.) etc.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is headed by the Prime Minister.

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Q.24) Which of the following is/are characteristics of **monsoon rainfall** over India?

1. The monsoon rainfall has a declining trend with decreasing distance from the sea.
2. Western Ghats receive more rainfall than the Eastern Ghats.
3. The wet spells of the monsoon are interspersed with rainless interval known as 'breaks'.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **monsoon rainfall has a declining trend with increasing distance from the sea**. As the rain bearing winds move over land, the moisture depletes and farther the winds move lesser is the rainfall.

Statement 2 is correct. **Western Ghats receive more rain than the Eastern Ghats** as it lies in the rain fed area of Arabian branch of the monsoon. Further the Western Ghats drains the rain-bearing winds which cause rainfall on the western slopes. The Bay of Bengal branch on the hand moves almost parallel to Eastern Ghats.

Statement 3 is correct. The **monsoon rains occur in wet spells** of few days duration at a time. The wet spells are interspersed with rainless interval known as 'breaks'. These breaks in rainfall are related to the cyclonic depressions mainly formed at the head of the Bay of Bengal, and their crossing into the mainland.

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime**:

1. It is a network of prominent law enforcement, governance and development practitioners.
2. It was established as a custodian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime** is a non-profit registered and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, working as a network of prominent law enforcement, governance and development practitioners who are dedicated to seeking new and innovative strategies and responses to organized crime.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** acts as custodian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its protocols.

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding **International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005**:

1. India is a member to this global health security agreement.
2. It puts obligations on States Parties to notify World Health Organization of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **International Health Regulations, (2005)**, represent an agreement between 196 countries including all **WHO Member States** (India as well) to work together for global health security.

Statement 2 is correct. **PHEIC** is defined in the IHR (2005) as “an extraordinary event which is determined to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response”.

The IHR (2005) puts obligations on States Parties to notify WHO of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern according to defined criteria.

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding **Rajyasabha membership**:

1. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir does not have any representation in the Rajyasabha.
2. A member nominated to the House is subject to disqualification if he/she joins a political party within the first six months of taking seat in the House.

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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have four members to the Rajyasabha. Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the provisions of the Tenth Schedule, a member may be disqualified as a member, if he voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party. A member nominated to the House by the President, however, is allowed to join a political party if he/she does so within the first six months of taking seat in the House.

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding **Cyclone Nisarga**:

1. It has developed over the Arabian Sea.
2. The name of the cyclone has been proposed by India.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Cyclonic Storm Nisarga** is a tropical cyclone which started as a deep depression in the Arabian Sea and headed towards the coastline of Indian state of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The word **Nisarga** literally means **nature**. This name has been proposed by **Bangladesh**.

Q.29) Which of the following is/are a public authority under the **Right to Information Act, 2005**?

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1. authority established by or under the Constitution
2. authority established by law made by Parliament or State legislature
3. non-Government organisation substantially financed by the appropriate government

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are termed as public authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

As per **section 2(h) of the act "public authority"** means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted—(a) by or under the Constitution;

(b) by any other law made by Parliament;

(c) by any other law made by State Legislature;

(d) by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government, and includes any—(i) body owned, controlled or substantially financed;

(ii) non-Government organisation substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding **Remdesivir**:

1. It is an anti-malarial drug.
2. It is part of the Solidarity Trials initiative of World Health Organisation.

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

Statement 1 is incorrect. Remdesivir is not an antimalarial drug. It is a broad-spectrum antiviral medication developed by the biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences.

Statement 2 is correct. Remdesivir was previously tested as an Ebola treatment and is now being tested for COVID-19. It is part of the Solidarity trials initiative of drug efficacy testing for COVID-19 launched by WHO. Other drugs part of the trial are: Lopinavir/Ritonavir, Interferon beta-1a and Hydroxychloroquine.

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**:

1. Women in parliament (1995–2020) report has been published by the IPU.
2. India and China both are members of the IPU.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Inter-Parliamentary Union** is the global organization of national parliaments. IPU was created in 1889 and it has 179 Member Parliaments, 13 Associate Members.

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“**Women in parliament: 1995–2020 - 25 years in review**” report has been published by the IPU, it states that overall percentage of women in parliaments has reached 24.9 per cent in 2020, up from 11.3 per cent in 1995.

Statement 2 is correct. Both **China (National People's Congress)** and **India (Sansad)** are members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

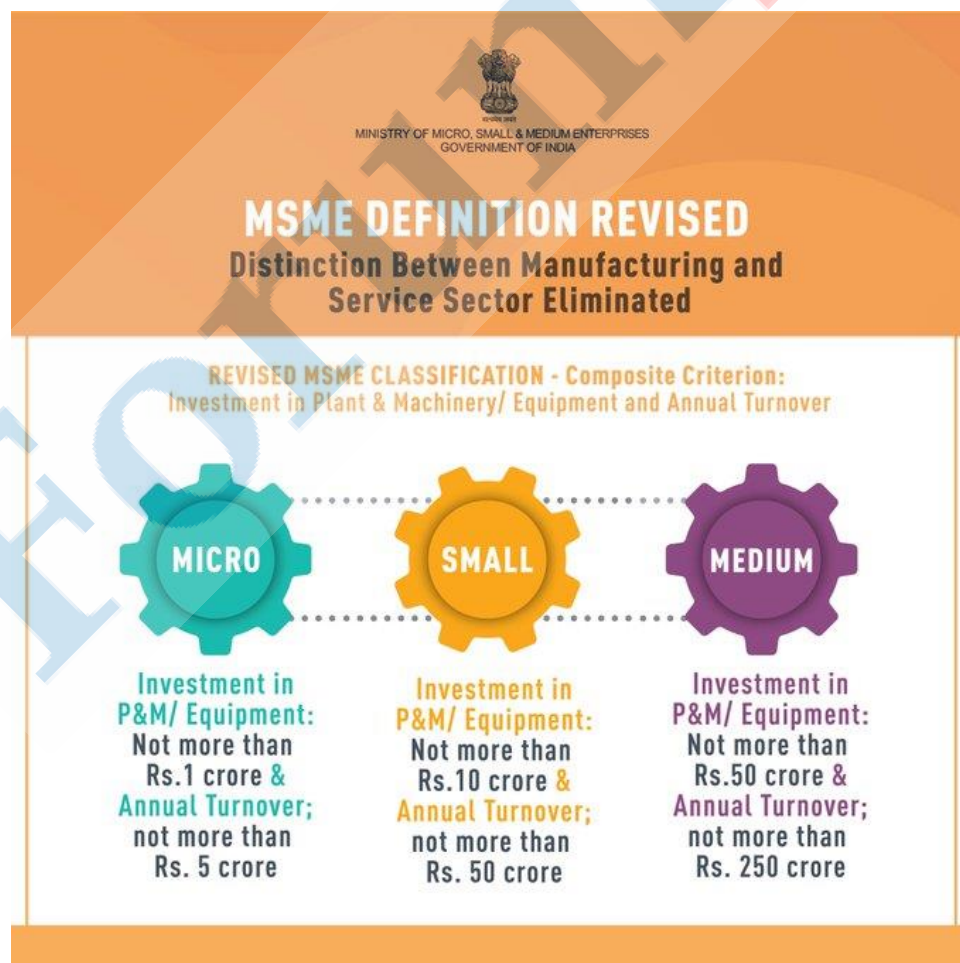
Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the **revised definition of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**:

1. The services and manufacturing sector units to have different criteria for classification into MSMEs.
 2. The criteria of classification to include investment as well as turnover of the enterprise.
- 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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the new definition of MSMEs a new composite formula of classification for manufacturing and service units has been notified. Now, there will be **no difference between manufacturing and service sectors**. Statement 2 is correct. The formula for classification of MSMEs will be based **on investment on plant & machinery/equipment and also the annual turnover**.



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NOTE: Aspirants are requested to take note that the definition of medium enterprise has been further revised from what was announced in the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan press briefings.

Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding **Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)**?

1. The patients of SARI are immune from the COVID-19 disease.
 2. SARI can be caused by the infection from Influenza A virus.
- 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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. SARI patients are not immune to COVID-19. Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) is an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$, difficulty in breathing and recent onset of cough. **The symptoms are very much similar to cases of COVID-19 disease** therefore the SARI and Influenza like Illness (ILI) patients are being priority tested and surveilled.

Statement 2 is correct. Influenza A (H1N1), human rhinovirus (HRV) and human adenovirus (HAdV) are some of the viruses causing SARI.

Q.34) Which of the following is correct regarding the proposed **Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020**?

1. It creates a barrier-free inter-state agricultural trade and commerce market outside the markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations.
2. The electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically has been proposed.
3. The farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the statements given above are correct.

The ordinance aims to create **One India, One Agriculture Market**. It will promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce **outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations**.

The ordinance also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.

The farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce under this Act. Further there will be a separate dispute resolution mechanism for the farmers.

Note: The ordinance is yet to be issued [04-06-2020]. Question is based on Cabinet briefing/PIB release.

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Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched **Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) scheme**:

1. The scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Commerce.
2. It aims to increase India's share in global textile production.

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: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing.

The scheme proposes production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.

Under this, the government will provide an incentive of 4% to 6% on goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments to eligible companies for a period of five years.

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding the **State of India's Birds Report 2020**:

1. It has been prepared and released by the Birdlife International.
2. The report warns about the steep decline in population of the Indian Peafowl over past decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

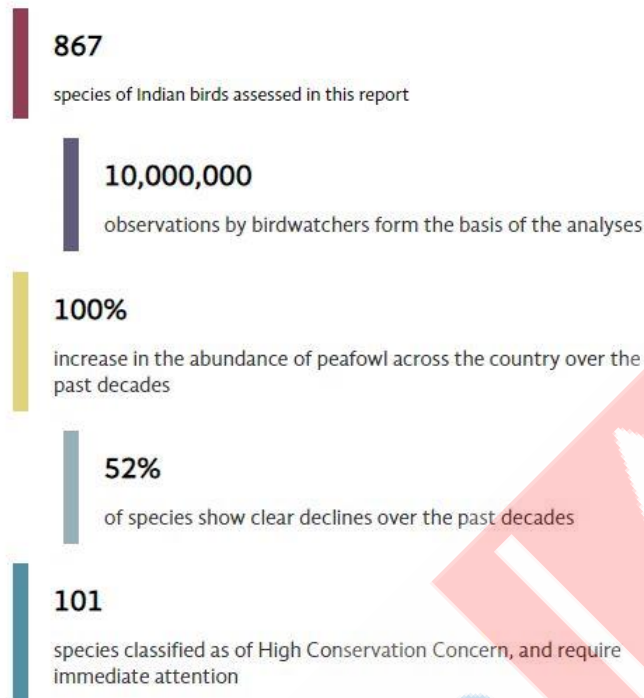
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: D

Statement 1 is incorrect. The report is a **collaboration of ten institutions**, spanning both governmental and non-governmental institutions: Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**, National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS-TIFR), Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Wetlands International South Asia (WI-SA), Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF-India).

Statement 2 is incorrect. Report points out the **abundance of India's national bird**, the Indian Peafowl (IUCN Status: Least Concern), has increased dramatically over the past decades.

Highlights



Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)**:

1. It addresses the water management of the Inter-State River Cauvery among the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union territory of Puducherry.
 2. It is chaired by a serving judge of Supreme Court or High Court of the party states.
- 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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal adjudicated on matters regarding the Inter-State River Cauvery and the river valley thereof among the States of **Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union territory of Puducherry**. The Central Government notified the 'Cauvery Water Management Authority' to give effect to the decision of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as modified by the Supreme Court vide its Order in 2018.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Chairman is appointed by the Central Government** with tenure of five years or till sixty-five years of age, whichever is earlier, amongst the serving officers, namely: - who is a **senior and eminent engineer** with wide experience in water resource management; **or an All India Service Officer**, in the rank of Secretary or Additional Secretary to the Government of India with experience in water resources and inter-State water sharing issues.

Q.38) Which of the following is/are components of the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)**?

1. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)

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2. Har Khet ko Pani
3. Per drop more crop
4. Watershed development

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are components of **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)**.

AIBP includes major and minor irrigation projects including national projects.

Har Khet Ko Pani covers command area development and water management, minor irrigation (both surface and ground water) Repair, restoration and renovation of water bodies.

Per Drop more Crop targets promoting efficient water conveyance and precision water application devices like drips, sprinklers, pivots, rain-guns in the farm (Jal Sinchan).

Watershed Development includes effective management of runoff water; in-situ soil and moisture conservation activities such as ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development etc.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding the **India Energy Exchange (IEX)**:

1. It provides a trading platform for renewable Energy Certificates and Energy Saving Certificates.
2. It is regulated by the Securities Exchange Board of India.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **IEX is a power exchange** providing the providing a nationwide, automated trading platform for electricity, Renewable Energy Certificates and Energy Saving Certificates.

Statement 2 is incorrect. IEX is approved and regulated by **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** which is a statutory authority constituted under the Electricity Act 2003.

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding the **SWADES initiative**:

1. It aims to create a skillset database of citizens returning under the Vande Bharat Mission.
2. The collected information will be shared with the companies for suitable placement opportunities in the country.

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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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Union Government has launched an initiative named '**SWADES**' (**Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support**) to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the citizens returning under the Vande Bharat Mission. This is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of External Affairs.**

SWADES aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience to tap into and fulfill demand of Indian and foreign companies.

The collected information is planned to 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.

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding the **Department of Military Affairs:**

1. It is headed by the Chief of the Army Staff.
 2. Its mandate includes promoting use of indigenous equipment by the defence Services.
- 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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Chief of Defence Staff** heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), created within the Ministry of Defence and functions as its Secretary.

Statement 2 is correct. **The mandate of DMA** includes:

- The Armed Forces of the Union, namely, Army, Navy and Air Force as well as the Territorial Army.
- Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising of Army Headquarters, Naval Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters.
- Procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions, as per prevalent rules and procedures.
- Promoting jointness in procurement, training and staffing for the Services through joint planning and integration of their requirements.
- Facilitation of restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint / theatre commands.
- **Promoting use of indigenous equipment by the Services.**

Q.42) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the **Indian Elephant?**

1. It has been declared as National Heritage Animal by the government.
2. It is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. The Asian Elephant is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

The Government of India has declared **Indian elephant as National Heritage Animal**. Indian elephant is also provided highest degree of legal protection by listing it in **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

Indian elephant is one of three extant recognized subspecies of the Asian elephant and native to mainland Asia.

Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus) of which Indian Elephant is a subspecies is listed as **Endangered in IUCN Red list**.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **Information Technology Act, 2000**:

1. The act provides for the legal recognition to the Electronic Signatures in India.
2. The act makes intermediaries liable for all third-party information made available by them.

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

Statement 1 is correct. Section 5 of the **Information Technology Act, 2000** provides for legal recognition to the authenticity of **electronic signature**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Section 79 provides for exemption from liability of intermediary**. It states that an intermediary shall not be liable for any third-party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by him, if-

(a) the function of the intermediary is limited to providing access to a communication system over which information made available by third parties is transmitted or temporarily stored or hosted; or

(b) the intermediary does not -(i) initiate the transmission, (ii) select the receiver of the transmission, and (iii) select or modify the information contained in the transmission.

(c) the intermediary observes due diligence while discharging his duties under this Act and also observes such other guidelines as the Central Government may prescribe in this behalf.

Q.44) Which of the following correctly defines the term **Factory Farming**?

- a) Intensive mechanized crop production
- b) Corporate farming
- c) Intensive livestock farming
- d) Contract farming

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Factory farming** refers to intensive livestock farming in which **large numbers of livestock are raised in a small area**. The main motive of the farming is to maximize production at minimal cost. The term is mainly used for farming of pigs, cattle, and chicken for producing meat, dairy products and eggs.

Factory farming is often criticized for cruelty to animals, unhygienic conditions and illicit use of chemicals and drugs to maximize production.

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Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**:

1. It is a decadal survey to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators in India.
2. It is released by the National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** was launched in April 2017. The first Annual Report (July 2017- June 2018) covering both rural and urban areas was released in 2019. The objective of PLFS is:

- to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS)
- to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both usual status (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

Statement 2 is correct. Second Annual Report has been recently released by the **National Statistical Office, MoSPI** on the basis of Periodic Labour Force Survey conducted during July 2018-June 2019.

Q.46) India has signed **military logistics support agreement** with:

1. United States of America
2. South Korea
3. France
4. Australia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: India has signed with Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) with the **United States (US)**, Implementing Arrangement Concerning Mutual Coordination, Logistics and Services Support with **Singapore**, Agreement for the Provision of Reciprocal Logistics Support between the Armed Forces with **France**, Agreement to Extend Logistical Support to each other's navies with the **Republic of Korea (ROK)** and most recent Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) with **Australia**.

Q.47) Which of the following is correctly matched?

1. Namkha Chu - Ladakh
2. Barahoti - Arunachal Pradesh
3. Trig Heights - Uttarakhand

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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- c) 3 only
- d) None of the above

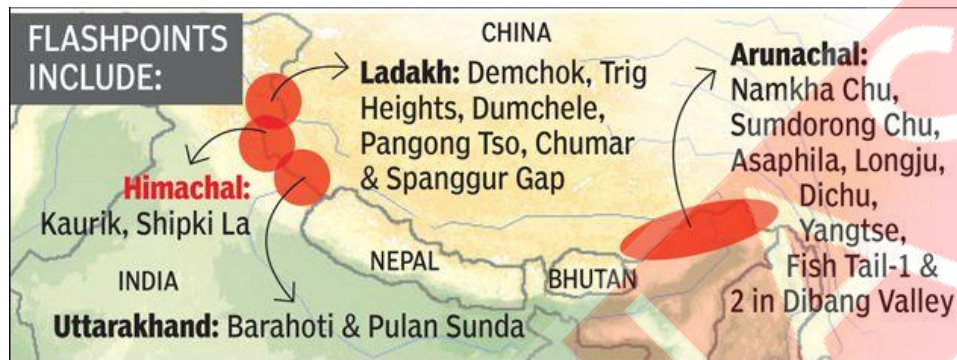
Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are incorrectly matched.

Namkha Chu is a stream in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Barahoti is in Chamoli district of **Uttarakhand**.

Trig Heights is in **Ladakh UT**.



Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding **'The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP):**

1. It aims to provide skilling resources to citizens returning under Vande Bharat Mission.
2. The program provides internship opportunities in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **'The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP)'** - A program for providing internship and experimental learning opportunities to fresh graduates in urban sector.

Statement 2 is correct. The program provides internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities** across the country and a portal for TULIP has been launched. An MoU has been signed between **MoHUA & AICTE** for Implementation.

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding the **Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code 2016:**

1. The code is applicable to partnership firms and individuals in relation to their insolvency or bankruptcy.
2. It is not applicable to the financial service providers unless notified by the Central government.

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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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code 2016** is applicable to companies incorporated under the companies act, limited liability partnerships, partnership firms and individuals in relation to their insolvency, liquidation, voluntary liquidation or bankruptcy.

Statement 2 is correct. The code provides exception for "**financial service provider**" engaged in the business of providing financial services in terms of authorization issued or registration granted by a financial sector regulator (like RBI, SEBI, IRDA etc.).

Article 227 of the code provides that the Central Government may, in consultation with the appropriate financial sector regulators, notify financial service providers for the purpose of their insolvency and liquidation proceedings, which may be conducted under this Code.

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Environment Day (WED) 2020**:

1. New Delhi is the host city for WED 2020.
2. The theme for WED 2020 is 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

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: D

Explanation: Both are incorrect statements.

Since 1974, **World Environment Day** has been celebrated every year on 5 June. **New Delhi was host city in 2018 and the theme that year was 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.**

Columbia is the host city for WED 2020. As per UN website "this year, the theme is **Biodiversity** – a concern that is both urgent and existential. Recent events, from bushfires in Brazil, the United States, and Australia to locust infestations across East Africa – and now, a global disease pandemic – demonstrate the interdependence of humans and the webs of life, in which they exist."

Some websites (including Wikipedia) are quoting theme as "Time for Nature" while some as "Biodiversity — it's time for nature".

Q.51) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Bhopal Gas tragedy - Potassium Isocyanate
2. Fukushima Daiichi - Nuclear radiation
3. Visakhapatnam gas leak - Styrene

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. The **Bhopal gas tragedy** was a **methyl isocyanate** (MIC) gas leak incident in December 1984 at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Option 2 is correct. The **Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster** was a nuclear radiation accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Okuma, Japan in 2011.

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Option 3 is correct. The **Visakhapatnam gas leak** was an industrial accident in May 2020 that occurred at the LG Polymers in which people were exposed to **Styrene**.

Q.52) Which of the following is/are **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)** recognized by the World Health Organisation?

1. Ebola
2. Dengue
3. Rabies
4. Leprosy
5. Snakebite envenoming

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of diseases that prevail in tropical and subtropical conditions in 149 countries. WHO lists includes:

Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, **Dengue** and Chikungunya, Dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease), Echinococcosis, Foodborne trematodiasis, Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Leishmaniasis, **Leprosy** (Hansen's disease), Lymphatic filariasis, Mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycoses, Onchocerciasis (river blindness), **Rabies**, Scabies and other ectoparasites, Schistosomiasis, Soil-transmitted helminthiasis, **Snakebite envenoming**, Taeniasis/Cysticercosis, Trachoma and Yaws (Endemic treponematoses).

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding the **Patents Act, 1970**:

1. Term of a patent granted under the act is twenty years from date of filing of the application.
2. The act provides for conditional compulsory licensing of patented products.
3. An invention mentioning new biological material that is not available in public is not patentable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Act provides **term of patent in India as 20 years** from the date of filing the patent application. In case of applications filed under the Patent Cooperative Treaty (PCT), the term of 20 years begins from the international filing date.

Statement 2 is correct. The act provides that at any time **after the expiration of three years** from the date of the grant of a patent, any person interested may make an application to the Controller of Patents for grant of compulsory license on patent on any of the following grounds, namely:

- (a) that the reasonable requirements of the public with respect to the patented invention have not been satisfied, or
- (b) that the patented invention is not available to the public at a reasonably affordable price, or

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(c) that the patented invention is not worked in the territory of India.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The act provides that if the applicant mentions a **biological material** in the specification and if such material is not available to the public, the application shall be completed by depositing the material to an international depository authority under the Budapest Treaty.

Q.54) Consider the following statements:

1. Follow on Public Offer refers to a private company issuing shares to public for the first time.
2. Rights issue refers to issue of shares to existing shareholders.
3. Preferential Offer refers to issue of shares to any select person or group of persons on a preferential basis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. A private company issuing its shares for first time to go public is called Initial-public offer (IPO). **FPO (Follow on Public Offer)** is a process by which a company, which is already listed on an exchange, issues new shares.

Statement 2 is correct. A **rights issue** is an offer to existing shareholders of a company to purchase additional new shares in the company.

Statement 3 is correct. A **preferential issue** is an issue of shares or convertible securities by companies to a select group of investors; it does not include rights issue or public issues.

Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding the **Solicitor General of India**:

1. It is a constitutional office.
2. A person appointed as Solicitor General is not eligible for reappointment.
3. He/she cannot defend an accused person in a criminal prosecution, without the permission of the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Solicitor General is not a constitutional** post, unlike the Attorney General of India which finds mention in the constitution.

Statement 2 is incorrect. A person who has held the post of Law officer such as Solicitor General is **eligible for reappointment**.

Statement 3 is correct. There are certain restrictions on the Law Officers of the government like they cannot defend an accused person in a criminal prosecution, without the permission of the Government of India or accept appointment to any office in any company or corporation without the permission of the Government of India.

Q.56) Consider the following statements regarding the **draft Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2020**:

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1. No person other than a Qualified Remote Pilot under these rules shall operate a Nano class UAS in India.
2. A citizen of India of age 18 years or more is eligible to be authorized by DGCA as UAS operator and owner.

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

Explanation: The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has issued draft **Unmanned Aircraft System Rules, 2020**.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The rules state that “no person other than a Qualified Remote Pilot 'under these rules shall operate a UAS in India *except* the Nano class of UA.”

Nano Unmanned Aircraft weigh less than or equal to 250 grams.

Statement 2 is correct. — To be authorized by the **Director-General of Civil Aviation** as Authorized UAS Importer, Authorized UAS Manufacturer, Authorized UAS Trader, Authorized UAS Owner or Authorized UAS Operator, an applicant shall be:

- (i) An individual who is— (a) **a citizen of India**, and (b) **18 years of age or more**; or
- (ii) a company or a body corporate provided that— (a) it is registered and has its principal place of business within India, and (b) the Chairman and at least two-thirds of its directors are citizens of India.
- (iii) a firm or an association of persons or body of individuals or a local authority or any legal entity, whether incorporated or not, Central and State Government or an agency thereof.

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding the **Near-Earth Objects (NEO)**:

1. Near-Earth objects (NEOs) refer to asteroids and comets close to the Earth's orbit.
2. A Potentially Hazardous Asteroid NEO is one that will necessarily enter the Earth's atmosphere.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Near-Earth Objects (NEOs)** 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.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Potentially hazardous objects** are NEOS with an orbit that can make close approaches to the Earth and large enough to cause significant regional damage in the event of impact on earth. As per **NASA**, **Potentially Hazardous Asteroids (PHA)** are NEAs whose Minimum Orbit Intersection Distance (MOID) with the Earth is 0.05 au or less. It is not necessary that asteroids classified as PHAs will impact the Earth; it only means there is a possibility for such a threat.

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Vaccine Summit, 2020**:

1. India participated in this summit hosted by the United Kingdom.
2. The summit raised funds for the World Health Organisation.

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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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Vaccine Summit 2020 was hosted recently by London, United Kingdom. India also participated in the summit.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The summit was to raise the funds for **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**. World leaders have pledged an additional US\$ 8.8 billion for Gavi. India also pledged \$15 million as India's contribution to the Gavi.

Q.59) Consider the following statements regarding the **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance 2020**:

- 1. It limits the regulation of supply of food stuffs to only under extraordinary circumstances like war, famine, steep price rise or calamity.
- 2. Stock limits may be imposed in case of hundred percent price rise of horticulture produce and fifty percent price rise of non-perishable agricultural food stuffs.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The ordinance states that the supply of such **food stuffs** (including cereals, pulses, potato onions, edible oilseeds and oils) as the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, may be **regulated only under extraordinary circumstances** which may include war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature.

Further any action on imposing stock limit shall be based on price rise and an order for regulating stock limit of any agricultural produce may be issued under this Act only if there is —

- (i) **Hundred percent** increase in the retail price of horticulture produce; or
- (ii) **Fifty percent** increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural foodstuffs, over the price prevailing immediately preceding twelve months, or average retail price of last five years, whichever is lower.

Q.60) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ordinance making power of the President**:

- 1. Constitution provides that an ordinance issued shall be void if it makes any provision which Parliament is not competent to enact under the Constitution.
- 2. Ordinance issued by the President is not subject to Judicial Review.

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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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The article **123(3) of the constitution** provides that if and so far as an Ordinance makes any provision which Parliament would not under this Constitution be competent to enact, it shall be void.

Therefore the Ordinance issued by the President has same limitations and powers as the laws enacted by the Parliament.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **ordinance is subject to judicial review** as any other act of the parliament.

In **RC Cooper vs. Union of India (1970)** the Supreme Court held that the President's decision could be challenged on the grounds that 'immediate action' was not required; and the Ordinance had been passed primarily to by-pass debate and discussion in the legislature.

In **AK Roy vs. Union of India (1982)** Supreme Court argued that the President's Ordinance making power is not beyond the scope of judicial review.

In **DC Wadhwa vs. State of Bihar (1987)** Court stated that the legislative power of the executive to promulgate Ordinances is to be used in exceptional circumstances and not as a substitute for the law-making power of the legislature.

Q.61) Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Security Council membership**:

1. The non-permanent members elected by General Assembly get a term of two years at UNSC.
2. India has not been a non-permanent member to UNSC in last decade.
3. European states are ineligible for non-permanent membership due to their over-representation as permanent members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Council is composed of 15 Members: Five permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ten non-permanent members elected for **two-year terms** by the General Assembly.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India have been permanent member of UNSC in: 1950 – 1951, 1967 – 1968, 1972 – 1973, 1977 – 1978, 1984 – 1985, 1991 – 1992 and **2011 – 2012**.

India is likely to be elected for eighth time for the 2021-22 term.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The **10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis**: 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.

Q.62) Which of the following is/are components of the PM-KUSUM scheme?

1. Installation of grid-connected solar power plants in the rural areas.
2. Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfill irrigation needs of farmers.
3. Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are components of **PM- Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)** scheme.

The KUSUM Scheme provides for:-

- (i) installation of **grid-connected solar power plants** each of Capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas;
- (ii) installation of **standalone off-grid solar water pumps** to fulfill irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid; and
- (iii) **solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps** to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM and get extra income.

Q.63) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Productivity Council (NPC)**:

- 1. It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- 2. It provides services in the areas of Consultancy and Capacity Building in the domains of Energy, Environment, Business process and Productivity improvement.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Productivity Council of India (NPC)**, established in the year 1958, is an autonomous organization under **Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

Statement 2 is correct. NPC has been providing consultancy and training services in areas of Industrial Engineering, Agri-Business, Economic Services, Quality Management, Human Resources Management, Information Technology, Technology Management, Energy Management, Environmental Management etc., to the Government and Public & Private sector organizations.

Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)**:

- 1. It is a statutory organization under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- 2. It has the mandate of publishing Pharmacopoeias for formulations used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy systems of Medicine.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. It is not a statutory body and comes under **Ministry of AYUSH**.

Cabinet has given its approval to re-establish Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) as Subordinate Office under Ministry of AYUSH by

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merging into it the Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL). Presently, Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) is an autonomous body under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH.

Statement 2 is correct. It has the primary mandate of publishing **Pharmacopoeias and Formularies for drugs/formulations used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H)** systems of Medicine.

Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Space Station**:

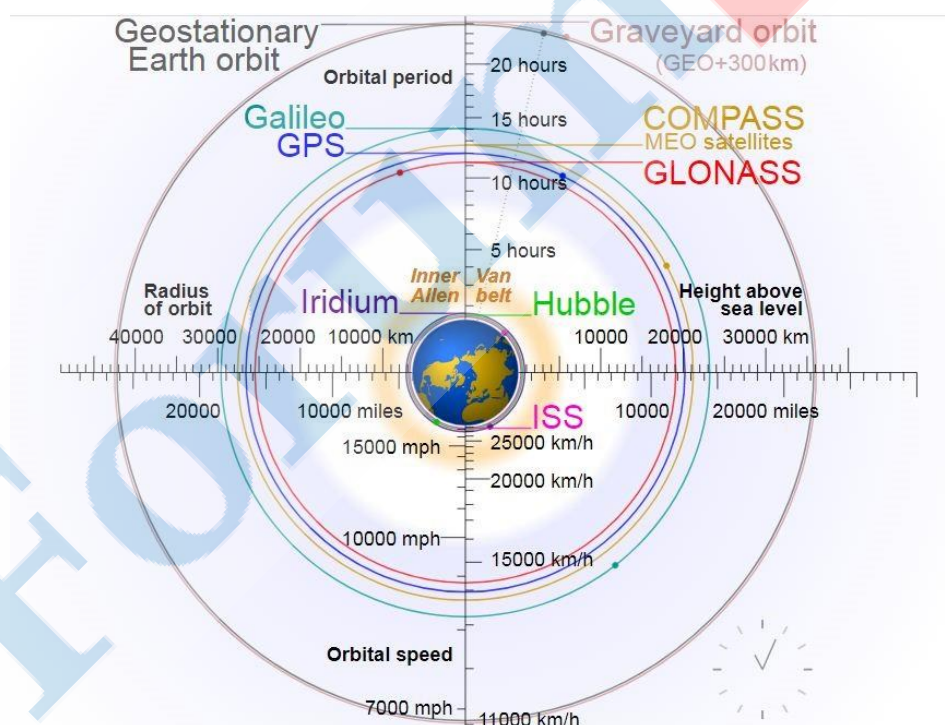
1. It revolves around earth in the geostationary earth orbit.
 2. It is a collaborative project between five participating space agencies including ISRO.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. A low Earth orbit (LEO) is an Earth-centered orbit with an altitude of 2,000 km (1,200 mi) or less. The ISS maintains an orbit with an average altitude of 400 km (250 mi) in **Low Earth Orbit**.

Geostationary orbit is the **orbit** at 35,785 km (22,236 miles) above Earth.



Statement 2 is incorrect. The ISS program does not include ISRO; it is a multi-national collaborative project between five space agencies: **NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).**

Q.66) Which of the following are threats for the **Gangetic Dolphin**?

1. Poaching for dolphin oil
2. Fragmented populations created by dams and barrages

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3. Killing through entanglement in fishing gear

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the mentioned factors are threats for already **endangered (IUCN status) Gangetic Dolphin**.

Major Threats for its population are:

- Unintentional killing through entanglement in fishing gear.
- Poaching for dolphin oil, used as fish attractant and for medicinal purposes.
- Habitat destruction due to development projects (e.g. water extraction and the construction of barrages, high dams and embankments), pollution (industrial waste and pesticides, municipal sewage discharge and noise from vessel traffic).
- Fragmented populations created by dams and barrages have degraded downstream habitat and created impoundments with high sedimentation and altered assemblages of fish and invertebrate species.

Q.67) Consider the following statements regarding the **Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)**:

- 1. It is an area of high pressure in equatorial latitudes.
- 2. The position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) shifts to Gangetic plains in summer.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)** is a broad trough of **low pressure** in equatorial latitudes. The northeast and the southeast trade winds converge in the ITCZ.

Statement 2 is correct. The ITCZ lies more or less parallel to the equator, normally positioned about 5°N of the equator but **moves north or south with the apparent movement of the sun**. The position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is over the **Gangetic plains in summer season**.

Q.68) Consider the following statements regarding **Legislative powers of Parliament**:

- 1. Parliament has exclusive powers to legislate on extra -territorial aspects in the interests of inhabitants of India.
- 2. Parliament has exclusive power to make any law with respect to any matter not enumerated in the Concurrent List or State List.

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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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 245(1)** of the Constitution states that parliament may make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India, and the Legislature of a State may make laws for the whole or any part of the State.

Article 245(2) states that no law made by Parliament shall be deemed to be invalid on the ground that it would have **extra territorial operation**.

Supreme Court has held that Parliament has powers to legislate with respect to extra-territorial aspects in the interests of the well-being or security of inhabitants of India, but it did not have powers to legislate for any territory other than the territory of India or any part of it.

Statement 2 is correct. As per **article 248(1)** in the Constitution parliament has exclusive power to make any law with respect to any matter not enumerated in the Concurrent List or State List.

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding the **Minor Forest Produce**:

1. Minor Forest produce is defined under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006.
2. Government provides Minimum Support Price to Tribal Gatherers for their minor forest produce.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006** defines minor forest produce as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin. It includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, Tendu leaves, medicinal plants, roots among others.

The scheme "**Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and development of Value chain for MFP**" of Ministry of Tribal affairs provides **MSP for MFP**.

Q.70) Consider the following statements regarding the **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)**:

1. It aims to produce agricultural products free from chemicals and pesticides residues.
2. It is a component of Soil Health Management (SHM) under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The objective of **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** is to produce agricultural products free from chemicals and pesticides residues by adopting eco- friendly, low- cost technologies.

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Statement 2 is correct. The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana is an elaborated component of **Soil Health Management (SHM)** of major project **National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**. Under PKVY Organic farming is promoted through adoption of organic village by cluster approach and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for India certification.

Q.71) Which of the following countries border the **Persian Gulf**?

1. Egypt
2. Jordan
3. Saudi Arabia
4. United Arab Emirates

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The Persian Gulf is bordered by **Bahrain, Oman, Iran, Qatar, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates.**



Q.72) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ayushman Bharat Scheme**:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. Only government hospitals are empanelled for implementation of the scheme.
3. State can expand the benefit cover beyond ₹5 lakh per family per year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Ayushman Bharat – PM Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** is a **centrally sponsored scheme**. The ratio of contribution towards premium between Centre and State is 60:40 in all States except North Eastern States and the three Himalayan States, where the ratio is 90:10.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. **Private hospitals are also empanelled** for the implementation of the scheme and one can go to public or empanelled private hospitals across the country and get treatment under the scheme.

Statement 3 is correct. If the State want, they can even expand the benefit cover beyond `5 lakh per family per year. However, in this case cost of additional cover will need to be completely borne by the State.

Q.73) Consider the following statements regarding the **Wild Boar**:

1. It is listed Least Concern species in IUCN Red List.
2. It is endemic to South and South East Asia.

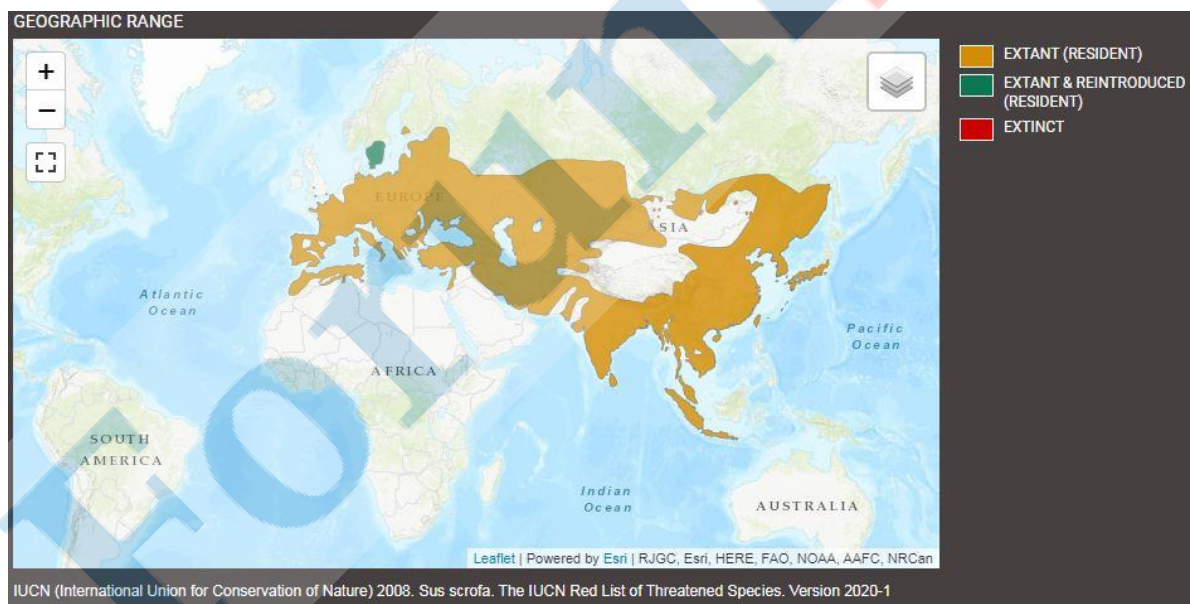
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Wild Boar** (*Sus scrofa*) is listed as least concern species in the IUCN red list.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a terrestrial animal with habitat ranging Forest, Savanna, Shrub land, Grassland, Wetlands (inland), Desert, Artificial/Terrestrial and Artificial/Aquatic & Marine environment. It is found in many regions of Asia and Europe as well.



Q.74) The **Ashok Dalwai Committee** is related to which of the following?

- a) Doubling Farmers' Income
- b) National Commission on Farmers
- c) Working group on Social Stock Exchanges (SSE)
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI)** chaired by Ashok Dalwai recommended on the strategies to achieve the target.

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The report was submitted in fourteen volumes focusing on:

Demand Driven Agricultural Logistics System.

Developing Hub and Spoke System at back-end as well as front-end.

Marketing Intelligence System.

Farmer-centric National Agricultural Marketing System.

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture.

Effective Input Management achieving Resource-Use-Efficiency (RUE) and Total Factor Productivity.

Enhancing Production through Productivity.

Farm Linked Activities to include secondary agriculture that utilizes local manpower and biological resource in the vicinity of farms.

Agricultural Risk Assessment and Management.

Empowering Farmers through Agricultural Extension, Knowledge Diffusion and Skill Development.

Research & Development and ICT designed to support the Doubling of Farmers' Income strategy.

Structural and Governance Reforms in Agriculture.

National Commission on Farmers was chaired by Professor M.S. Swaminathan, 2004.

Working group on Social Stock Exchanges (SSE) was chaired by Ishaat Hussain, 2020.

Q.75) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rajya Sabha membership**:

1. At present, eight members are elected from the Union territories to the Rajya Sabha.
2. The members of Legislative Council do not vote in the election of Rajya Sabha members.
3. Constitution provides no specific qualification for the members nominated to Rajya Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. At present, total eight members are elected from the Union territories (**3 from Delhi, 1 from Puducherry and 4 from Jammu & Kashmir**). Other Union territories are not represented in Rajya Sabha.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 80(4) of Constitution** of India provides that members of Rajya Sabha shall be elected by the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies through the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **Article 80 (3) of the Constitution** of India provides that the members to be nominated by the President to Rajya Sabha should have special knowledge or practical experience in matters like literature, science, art and social service.

Further, the article 84 (b) of constitution stipulates that a person shall be of not less than 30 years of age to be member of Rajya Sabha.

Q.76) Consider the following statements regarding **TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network**:

1. It was established by IUCN in collaboration with the UNFCCC.
2. The Elephant Trade Information system (ETIS) is managed by TRAFFIC on behalf of the CITES.

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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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **TRAFFIC**, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is a joint program of **WWF and IUCN** established in 1976. TRAFFIC works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. It has gained its greatest reputation from supporting CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Statement 2 is correct. **Elephant Trade Information system (ETIS)** is a comprehensive information system to track illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products. Since its inception, ETIS has been managed by TRAFFIC on behalf of the CITES Parties.

The report "Indian wildlife amidst the COVID-19 crisis: An analysis of poaching and illegal wildlife trade" has been released by TRAFFIC.

Q.77) Which of the following are potential results of a reduction in **Repo rate**?

- 1. Decrease in bank deposit rates
 - 2. Increase in lending rates by banks
- 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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. As Repo rates are decreased, money becomes easily available for banks through RBI route; therefore they may lower the deposit rates offered to retail customers.

Statement 2 is incorrect. With lower repo rates, the money becomes cheaper; therefore it is called **easy money policy**. The central bank encourages the banks to pass relaxed interest rates to end customers.

Q.78) Consider the following statements regarding the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**:

- 1. The killing of any wild animal in defence of oneself is not an offence.
- 2. Chief Wild Life Warden may allow an animal listed in schedule I to be hunted if it becomes dangerous to human life.
- 3. It empowers the State Governments to declare an animal as Vermin.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Section 11 (1)(a)** of the act states "the Chief Wild Life Warden may, if he is satisfied that any wild animal specified in Schedule I has become dangerous to human life or is so disabled or diseased as to be beyond recovery, by Order in

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writing and stating the reasons therefor, permit any person to hunt such animal or cause such animal to be hunted”.

Statement 2 is correct. **Section 11(2)** states the killing or wounding in good faith of any wild animal in defence of oneself or of any other person shall not be an offence.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **Section 62** of the act empowers Central government to declare any wild animal other than those specified in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II to be vermin for any area and for such period as may be specified therein.

Q.79) Strait of Hormuz is a passage between:

- a) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- b) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- c) Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- d) Andaman Sea and South China Sea

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Strait of Hormuz** is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

The **Bab-el-Mandeb** is a strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

The **Suez Canal** connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.

The **Strait of Malacca** is the waterway connecting the Andaman Sea and the South China Sea.



Q.80) Who among the following has released the Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2020?

- a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- b) Yale University & Columbia University
- c) Down to Earth
- d) IUCN and World Wildlife Fund for Nature

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: The Environmental Performance Index is a joint project of the **Yale University and Columbia University** institutes. The EPI is produced in collaboration with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.

India secured 168 rank in the 2020 edition of the biennial Environment Performance Index that measured the environmental performance of 180 countries.

Overall EPI rankings indicate which countries are best addressing the environmental challenges that every nation faces. All South Asian countries, except Afghanistan, are ahead of India in the ranking.

Q.81) Which of the following correctly defines the **Modern Monetary Theory**?

- a) Sovereign governments have limited means of raising money supply
- b) Sovereign governments can raise money supply without high taxes or increased borrowings
- c) A higher money supply is inadvertently causes higher government borrowing
- d) Sovereign government is bound by revenue constraints for raising money supply

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Modern Monetary Theory** argues that countries that issue their own currencies can **never run out of money** and are not operationally constrained by revenues (taxes) when it comes to government spending.

Monetarily sovereign governments do not need taxes or borrowing for spending since **they can print as much as they need** and are the monopoly issuers of the currency.

Q.82) Consider the following statements regarding the **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act**:

- 1. It states that under no circumstances shall the Central Government borrow from Reserve Bank of India.
- 2. It allows deviation from fiscal deficit target up to 0.5 percent on the grounds of structural reforms in the economy with unanticipated fiscal implications.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Section 5(2) of the act states that **Central Government may borrow from the Reserve Bank** by way of advances to meet temporary excess of cash disbursement over cash receipts.

Section 5(3) states Reserve Bank may subscribe to the primary issues of Central Government Securities grounds of national security, act of war, national calamity, collapse of agriculture severely affecting farm output and incomes, structural reforms in the economy with unanticipated fiscal implications, decline in real output growth of a quarter by at least three per cent.

Under Section 5(4) Reserve Bank may buy and sell the Central Government securities in the secondary market.

Statement 2 is correct. Section 4(2) provides for the **grounds of deviation from fiscal deficit targets**, these are: national security, act of war, national calamity, collapse of agriculture severely affecting farm output and incomes, structural reforms in the economy

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with unanticipated fiscal implications, decline in real output growth of a quarter by at least three percent points below its average of the previous four quarters.

While section 4(3) states that any deviation from fiscal deficit target under sub-section (2) **shall not exceed one-half percent of the gross domestic product in a year.**

Q.83) Consider the following statements:

1. Profession tax is an income tax levied by the Central government.
2. The Legislature of a State may by law authorize a Panchayat to levy, collect and appropriate taxes.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 276 empowers the **Legislature of a State** to make laws relating to taxes for the benefit of the State or of a municipality, district board, local board or other local authority therein in respect of **professions, trades, callings or employments.**

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 243H of the constitution** states that the Legislature of a State may, by law: (a) authorize a Panchayat to levy, collect and appropriate such taxes, duties, tolls and fees in accordance with such procedure and subject to such limits.

(b) assign to a Panchayat such taxes, duties, tolls and fees levied and collected by the State Government for such purposes and subject to such conditions and limits.

(c) provide for making such grants-in-aid to the Panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State; and

(d) provide for Constitution of such Funds for crediting all moneys received, respectively, by or on behalf of the Panchayats and also for the withdrawal of such moneys therefrom.

Q.84) Which among the following is the **first private company** to have successfully launched a crewed space flight to **International Space Station**?

- a) Blue Origin
- b) SpaceX
- c) Boeing
- d) Antrix Corporation

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The first crewed launch by a private company rocket and spacecraft to take astronauts to the International Space Station was successfully launched on March 30, 2020 **by Falcon 9 rocket of SpaceX.** It was a part of commercial crew program of NASA. Boeing is another company that is part of NASA's commercial crew program.

Antrix Corporation Limited, Bengaluru is a wholly owned Government of India Company under the administrative control of the Department of Space.

Q.85) Which of the following is/are levied under the **Income Tax Act, 1961**?

1. Corporate Tax
2. Personal Income Tax
3. Minimum Alternative Tax

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

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- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are levied as per the provisions of **Income Tax Act, 1961**.

As per the act all income accruing or arising, whether directly or indirectly, through or from any business connection in India and income which falls under the head "Salaries", if it is earned in India is deemed to be accrued in India under the act.

Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) is a tax introduced in India by Section 115JB of the **Income Tax Act, 1961** (IT Act), to tax those companies which show zero or negligible income to avoid tax.

Q.86) Which among the following is/are **aircraft carrier**?

- 1. INS Vikramaditya
- 2. INS Arihant
- 3. INS Vikrant

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) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **INS Vikramaditya** is a modified Kiev class carrier (ex-Russian) in service with Indian Navy since 2013.

INS Vikrant, also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier-1, is an aircraft carrier under construction by Cochin Shipyard in Kochi, Kerala for the Indian Navy; it is expected to be delivered by 2022.

INS Arihant is the lead ship of India's Arihant class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines.

Q.87) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Chumar - Ladakh
- 2. Gairsain - Uttarakhand
- 3. Dipsang La - Himachal Pradesh

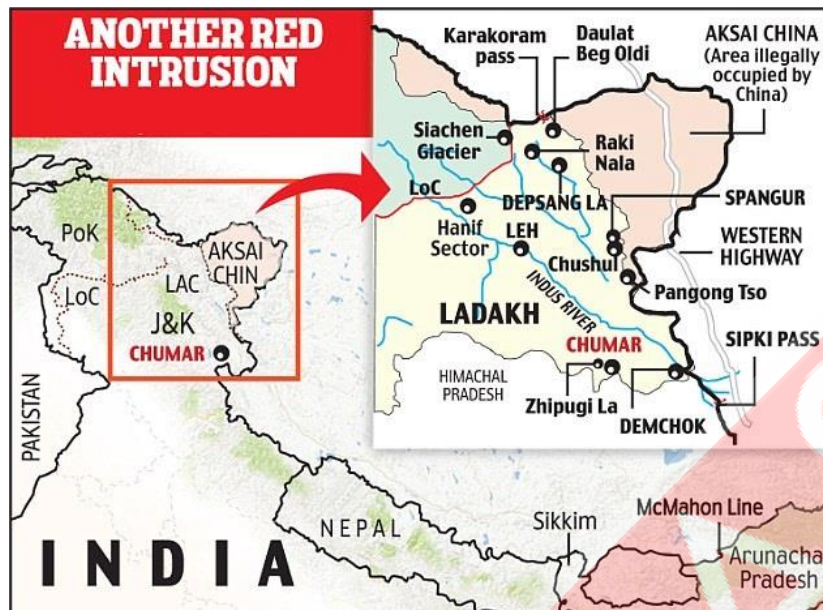
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Chumar and Dipsang La are in Union territory of Ladakh.

Gairsain in Uttarakhand has been declared its Summer Capital by the State government.



Q.88) Consider the following statements regarding the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**:

1. It was launched at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 held in New York City, USA.
2. Its secretariat is in New Delhi, India.
3. CDRI will support countries to upgrade their systems for ensuring disaster and climate resilience.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

India launched **global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 held in New York City, USA, on September 23, 2019.

CDRI will support countries to upgrade their systems for ensuring disaster and climate resilience of existing and future infrastructure. It seeks to rapidly expand the development of and retrofit resilient infrastructure to respond to the SDGs objectives of expanding universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity, and decent work.

The CDRI Secretariat located in **New Delhi, India** will anchor and coordinate these functions.

Q.89) Which of the following releases the **Global Economic Prospects** report?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary fund
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Global Economic Prospects is a **World Bank Group** 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**.

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As per the **June 2020 report** the global economy, which has plunged into a severe contraction, will shrink by 5.2 per cent this year due to COVID-19 pandemic. The advanced economies are expected to shrink 7.0 percent and the **Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs)** are expected to shrink by 2.5 per cent this year, their first contraction as a group in at least 60 years.

Q.90) Consider the following statements regarding the **Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China**:

1. It is an international cross-party group of legislators.
2. India is a founding member of the alliance.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China** is an international cross-party group of legislators working towards reform on how democratic countries approach China.

It is made up of global legislators and led by a group of co-chairs, who are senior politicians drawn from a representative cross-section of the world's major political parties.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, European Parliament, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the U.S. representatives launched the alliance on June 4, 2020, the anniversary of the **1989 Tiananmen Square protests**.

Q.91) Which of the following is/are emitted through the **Coal combustion**?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Mercury
3. Nitrogen Oxides
4. Sulphur dioxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Several emissions from the coal combustion are:

- **Sulfur dioxide (SO₂)**, which contributes to acid rain and respiratory illnesses
- **Nitrogen oxides (NO_x)**, which contribute to smog and respiratory illnesses
- **Particulate matter**, which contribute to smog, haze, and respiratory illnesses and lung disease
- **Carbon dioxide (CO₂)**, a primary greenhouse gas
- **Mercury and other heavy metals**, which cause neurological damage in humans and other animals
- **Fly ash and bottom ash**, which are residues created when power plants burn coal

Q.92) Consider the following statements:

1. Member countries in Paris Climate Summit agreed to hold the global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

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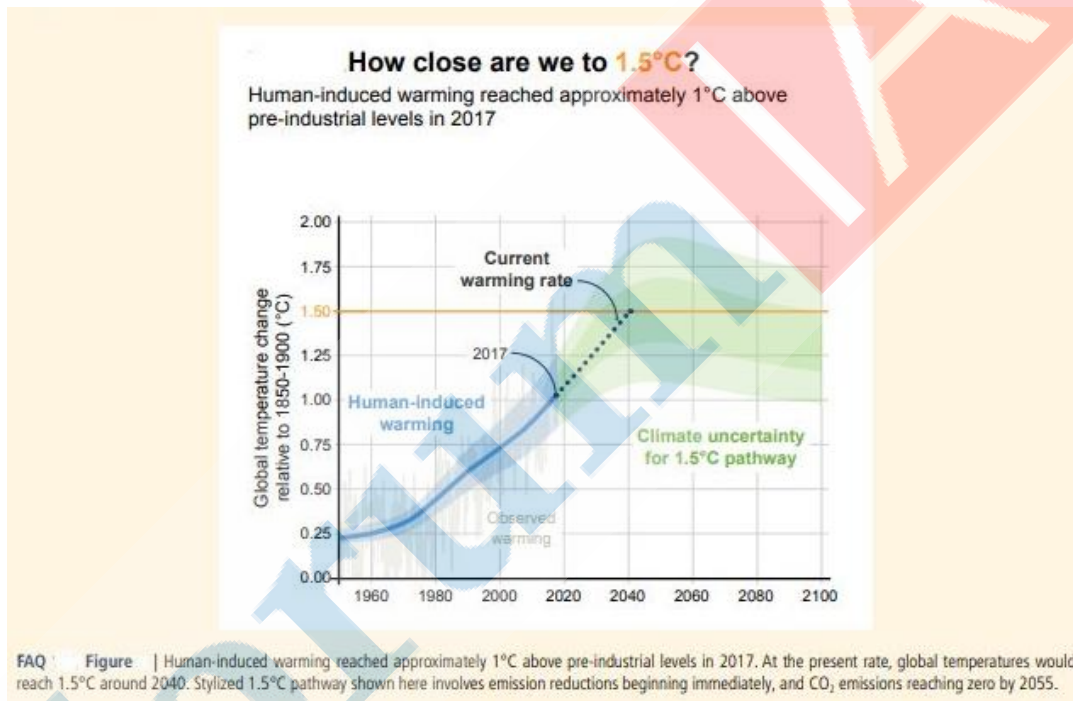
2. Human-induced warming has already reached about 1°C above pre-industrial levels. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. At the **21st Conference of the Parties (COP21)** in December 2015, 195 nations adopted the Paris Agreement. The agreement includes the aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by 'holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below **2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels**'.

Statement 2 is correct. As per IPCC reports, Human-induced warming had already reached about 1°C above pre-industrial levels in 2017.



Q.93) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization act provides for seats of Gilgit-Baltistan region in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative assembly.
 - 2. The Ladakh Union Territory shares its border with Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.
- 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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization act, twenty-four seats in the Legislative Assembly of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall remain vacant until the area of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the

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occupation of Pakistan. The region of **Gilgit Baltistan** however is part of **Ladakh Union Territory**.

Statement 2 is correct. The new Union territory of Ladakh shares its border with Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.



Q.94) Which of the following local crafts of India is/are correctly matched to their Geographical indication area?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1. Channapatna Toys & Dolls | - | Telangana |
| 2. Pipli Applique Work | - | Odisha |
| 3. Sohrai Painting | - | Chhattisgarh |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Channapatna toys** are wooden toys and dolls that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna in the Ramanagara district of **Karnataka**.

Pipli Applique Work is well known craft in Pipli village, Puri in **Odisha** and the town is also famous for their colorful fabrics Applique handicrafts.

Sohrai is a harvest festival of **Jharkhand**, Bihar and the Sohrai paintings depict the same. All of the above are registered as Geographical Indication.

Q.95) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Tadoba-Andhari is one of the Tiger Reserves of India.
- 2. The vegetation of Tadoba forest is of tropical dry deciduous type.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Tadoba National Park is also Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve** as it is one of India's 47 project tiger reserves existing in India. The total area of the tiger reserve is 1,727 Sq.km, which includes the Tadoba National Park, created in the year 1955. The Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary was formed in the year 1986 and was amalgamated with the park in 1995 to establish the present Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. Statement 2 is correct. The vegetation of Tadoba forest is of **Southern tropical dry deciduous type** with flora including Teak, Ain, Bija, Dhauda, Hald, Salai, Semal, Tendu etc.

Q.96) Which of the following state(s) does *not* feature in **Crude Oil producing states of India?**

1. Rajasthan
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Assam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All states mentioned are crude oil producing states of India.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
Crude Oil Production during the month of April, 2020

Annexure-I (Para 1)

(Figures in TMT)

Name of Undertaking/Unit/State	Planned production during the month ²	Production during the		% variation during the month under review over last year's production in corresponding month	% variation during the month under review over planned production
		Month under review *	Corresponding month of last year **		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. ONGC	1692.83	1681.77	1690.78	-0.53	-0.65
Onshore	483.85	482.02	503.69	-4.30	-0.38
Andhra Pradesh	16.87	14.53	19.65	-26.05	-13.89
Assam ^	77.93	79.62	79.26	0.45	2.18
Gujarat	365.59	362.15	377.94	-4.18	-0.94
Tamil Nadu	23.46	25.72	26.85	-4.21	9.62
Offshore	1208.98	1199.74	1187.09	1.07	-0.76
Eastern Offshore	1.32	1.19	1.57	-24.16	-10.10
Western Offshore	1093.66	1105.42	1074.78	2.85	1.07
Condensates	113.99	93.14	110.73	-15.89	-18.30
2. OIL (Onshore)	250.52	248.25	265.21	-6.39	-0.90
Assam	247.76	245.22	262.91	-6.73	-1.03
Arunachal Pradesh	2.18	2.24	1.78	25.74	2.57
Rajasthan (heavy oil)	0.58	0.80	0.52	54.13	39.05
3. Private / JVC	639.68	615.80	762.55	-19.25	-3.73
Onshore	559.09	514.20	631.11	-18.52	-8.03
Andhra Pradesh	4.35	3.89	0.91	328.08	-10.69
Arunachal Pradesh	2.45	2.56	2.69	-4.90	4.46
Assam	3.10	1.28	2.74	-53.35	-58.65
Gujarat	13.72	9.00	10.20	-11.77	-34.43
Rajasthan	528.57	490.56	607.33	-19.23	-7.19
Tamil Nadu	6.90	6.92	7.24	-4.41	0.28
Offshore	80.59	101.59	131.44	-22.71	26.06
Eastern Offshore	54.41	73.61	43.73	68.34	35.29
Gujarat Offshore	26.18	27.98	56.09	-50.11	6.89
Western Offshore	0.00	0.00	31.62	-	-
GRAND TOTAL (1+2+3)	2583.03	2545.81	2718.55	-6.35	-1.44
Onshore	1293.46	1244.48	1400.02	-11.11	-3.79
Offshore	1289.57	1301.34	1318.53	-1.30	0.91

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Q.97) Which of the following is correct regarding **Tor Network**?

1. It is an anonymous communication network that can only be accessed with a special web browser.
2. It promotes online surveillance to promote law and order.
3. It is an open source software.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Tor project is a non-profit organization that conducts research and development in promoting the **online privacy and anonymity**. The TOR network is an anonymous network that can only be accessed with a special web browser, called the TOR browser.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Its basic aim is to promote anonymity; it is designed to **stop people, including government agencies and corporations** from learning about people's location or tracking their browsing patterns.

Statement 3 is correct. Tor released its code under a **free and open software license** in 2002.

Q.98) Which of the following **River-Tributary pair** is/are correctly matched?

1. Godavari - Pranhita
2. Kaveri - Hemvati
3. Krishna - Chandrabhaga

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) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Godavari River: Its tributaries include Indravati River, Pranhita (Combination of Penganga and Wardha), Manjira, Sabari etc.

Kaveri River: Tributaries are Shimsha, Hemavati, Arkavathy, Kapila, Honnuhole, Lakshmana Tirtha, Kabini, Lokapavani, Bhavani, Noyyal and Amaravati rivers.

Krishna River: Its tributaries include the Tungabhadra River, Koyna, Bhima, Mallaprabha, Ghataprabha, Musi and Dudhganga rivers.

Q.99) Which among the following has released the **State Food Safety Index** for India?

- a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: FSSAI has developed State Food Safety Index to measure the performance of states on various parameters of Food Safety. This index is based on performance of State/ UT on five significant parameters: **Human Resources and Institutional Data,**

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Compliance, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.

The second edition (2020) has been released recently. Gujarat, Goa and Chandigarh are the best performing large state, small state and union territory respectively.

Q.100) Consider the following statements regarding the **Coffee Board** of India:

1. It is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare.
2. The Coffee Board is involved activities in the areas of research, extension and promotion of coffee in export and domestic markets.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Coffee Board is a statutory organization constituted under Section (4) of the **Coffee Act, 1942** and functions under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India. Statement 2 is correct. The activities of the Board are broadly aimed at (i) enhancement of production, productivity & quality; (ii) export promotion for achieving higher value returns for Indian Coffee and (iii) supporting development of Domestic market.

Q.101) Consider the following statements regarding the **Biological Weapons Convention**:

1. It prohibits the development, production as well as stockpiling of biological weapons.
2. India has signed but not ratified the convention.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)**, the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the development, production and stockpiling of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, was opened for signature on 10 April 1972. The BWC entered into force on 26 **March 1975**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India is signed the convention in 1973 and ratified it in 1974.**

Q.102) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding G7 membership?

1. All permanent members of UN Security Council are member to the group.
2. No member country of the group has membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
3. No member country of the group is land locked.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **China and Russia** are permanent members of UNSC but not members of G7.

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Statement 2 is correct. **SCO comprises eight Member States** (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) and none of them is a member to G7.

Statement 3 is correct. G7 member countries are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. **None of them is land locked.**



Q.103) Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Essential Commodities Act, the Central government can control the pricing of drugs.
2. National List of Essential Medicines is prepared and released by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
3. The Patent Act has provisions to bar evergreening of patented drugs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Drugs are an essential commodity listed in **schedule of the Essential Commodities Act** and therefore Central Government is empowered to control production, supply, and distribution of the drugs including the Pricing. Government does it via the **Drug Price Control Order**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) is issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW).**

Statement 3 is correct. Evergreening refers to the practice of pharmaceutical firms to extend the patent period of a drug by minor reformulations or other iterations of the drug, without necessarily increasing its therapeutic efficacy.

Section 3(d) of the Patents Act in Chapter II which provide non-patentable inventions prohibits patents by “the mere discovery of a new form of a known substance which does not result in the enhancement of the known efficacy of that substance or the mere discovery of any new property or new use for a known substance or of the mere use of a known process, machine or apparatus unless such known process results in a new product or employs at least one new reactant.”

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Q.104) Consider the following statements:

1. Police and public order is part of State List under the seventh schedule of the Constitution.
2. Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. In Commissionerate system of Police, the control and direction over the police vests with the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police (SP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Police and Public Order** are part of the state list under the seventh schedule.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)**, under the Ministry of Home Affairs is not a statutory body; it was established by a **resolution of the Government of India** with the primary objective of modernization of police force.

Its functions include: to promote a speedy and systematic study of the police problems and to apply science and technology in the methods and techniques used by police.

Statement 3 is incorrect. In **dual system of policing**, the control and direction over the police vests with the **SP and the District Magistrate**. In **Commissionerate system**, there is a unified command structure with the **Commissioner of Police** as the sole head of the force within the city that allows for a quicker responses to law and order situations.

Q.105) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asiatic Lion**:

1. The Gir Forest is last remaining natural habitat of Asiatic lions.
2. It is protected under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
3. It is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above.

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Asiatic lions were once distributed upto the state of West Bengal in east and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, in central India. At present **Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary** is the last remaining natural habitat of Asiatic Lions.

Asiatic Lions are proposed to be reintroduced in the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh.

Statement 2 is correct. Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*) is listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in Appendix I of CITES and as **Endangered on IUCN Red List** (Statement 3 is incorrect).

Q.106) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**:

1. It implements the anti-doping rules in India as per the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code.
2. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **National Anti-Doping Agency** is mandated for Dope free sports in India. The primary objectives are to **implement anti-doping rules as per WADA code**, regulate dope control programme, to promote education and research and creating awareness about doping and its ill effects.

Statement 2 is incorrect. National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is set up as registered society under the **Societies Registration Act of 1860 under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.

Q.107) Which among the following correctly defines **HeiQ Viroblock** that has been in news recently?

- a) It is an anti-bacterial and antiviral textile technology
- b) It is a therapeutic drug against the SARS-COV-2 virus
- c) It is an antibody testing kit for COVID-19
- d) It is a non-alcohol hand sanitizer

Correct answer: A

Explanation: HeiQ Viroblock NPJ03 is a **Swiss textile technology** that is added to the fabric during the final stage of the textile manufacturing process. It is designed to **inhibit** the growth and persistence of **bacteria and enveloped viruses** on textile surfaces. It is suitable for all fiber types, from medical nonwovens (e.g. face masks) to fabrics for clothing and home textiles.

It has been claimed that HeiQ Viroblock NPJ03 has proven effective against SARS-CoV-2, the COVID-19 causing virus.

Q.108) Which among the following is/are bordered by the state of **Sikkim**?

- 1. Bhutan
- 2. Assam
- 3. Nepal
- 4. Bihar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Sikkim** is bordered by the Tibet Autonomous Region of **China** to the north and northeast, by **Bhutan** to the southeast, by the Indian state of **West Bengal** to the south, and by **Nepal** to the west. The capital is Gangtok, in the southeastern part of the state.

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Q.109) Consider the following statements regarding the **Wildlife Protection Act 1972**:

1. The act provides for constitution of a Central Zoo Authority.
2. As per the act no person shall carry on the business as a manufacturer of or dealer in the articles made from any animal listed in Schedule I.
3. The act provides protection to plants by prohibition on picking, uprooting, etc. of specified plant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are provisions under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

Section 38A of the act empowers the Central Government to constitute a body to be known as the Central Zoo Authority.

Section 49B provides **prohibition of dealings in trophies, animal articles**, etc., derived from scheduled animals: no person shall (a) commence or carry on the business as a manufacturer of, or dealer in, scheduled animal articles; or a dealer in ivory imported into India or articles made therefrom or a manufacturer of such articles.

Section 17A provides the prohibition of picking, uprooting, etc., of specified plant; no person shall-

- (a) willfully pick, uproot, damage, destroy, acquire or collect any specified plant from any forest land and any area specified, by notification, by the Central Government.
- (b) possess, sell, offer for sale, or transfer by way of gift or otherwise, or transport any specified plant, whether alive or dead, or part or derivative thereof.

Q.110) Which of the following cyclone(s) developed over the Bay of Bengal?

1. Cyclone Bulbul
2. Cyclone Amphan

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3. Cyclone Nisarga

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Cyclonic Storm Bulbul** was a tropical cyclone that developed over **Bay of Bengal** in November 2019 and made landfall over the state of West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Cyclonic Storm Amphan was another powerful tropical cyclone that developed over **Bay of Bengal** in May 2020 and made landfall over Odisha, West Bengal and Bangladesh region.

Cyclone storm Nisarga developed over **eastern Arabian Sea** region and made landfall over Mumbai, Maharashtra region in June 2020.

Q.111) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Treaty of Sugauli, 1816 between East India Company and Nepal Kingdom established the boundary between the British India and Nepal.
- 2. Treaty of Titalia, 1817 restored the territory west of Kali River to native Kings.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The border treaty signed between the East India Company and Nepal Kingdom in 1816 is known as the Sugauli Treaty. It established the boundary between the then British India and Nepal Kingdom.

Statement 2 is incorrect. By Treaty of Titalia, 1817 the East India Company restored the territory of Sikkim which was captured by Nepal's invasion. In return company got trading rights and passage to Tibet.

Q.112) Which of the following **international convention(s)** has been signed and ratified by India?

- 1. United Nations Convention against Torture
- 2. Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** seeks to ensure that countries put in place various institutional mechanisms to prevent the use of torture.

Each country that is party to the convention is required to carry out certain steps such as legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent torture, and ensure that torture is a criminal offence, among others.

India signed the convention on October 14, 1997 but has not ratified it so far.

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Option 2 is correct. **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women or CEDAW** is an international human rights treaty, which requires countries to eliminate discrimination against women in all areas and promotes equal rights of men and women. The Convention was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly. **India signed the convention on 30 Jul 1980 and ratified on 9 Jul 1993.**

Q.113) Consider the following statements regarding **Mahatma Gandhi's stay in Africa**:

1. He formed Natal Indian Congress to protest the oppressive treatment of Indians.
2. He organized the Indian Ambulance Corps for the British during Boer war.
3. Despite all his protests, Gandhi was never imprisoned in Africa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Natal Indian Congress** was founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1894 that aimed to fight discrimination against Indians in South Africa.

Statement 2 is correct. During the outbreak of the Boer War in 1899, Gandhi gathered around 1,100 Indians and organized **the Indian Ambulance Corps** for the British and was awarded Kaiser-I-Hind for his services.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **Mahatma Gandhi was imprisoned many times in Africa.** He was imprisoned once for refusing to take out a registration certificate, or a pass in terms of the Transvaal Asiatic Registration Act (TARA), and instigated others to do the same. In 1908, he was sentenced to jail for organising the non-violent movements. In 1909, he was sentenced to a three-month jail term in Volkshurst and Pretoria.

Q.114) Consider the following statements regarding the **Maguri Motapung Beel**:

1. It is in the state of Assam.
2. It is listed as an Important Bird area by Birdlife International.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Maguri Motapung beel** is located south of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Assam. It derives its name, 'Maguri', from the local term for an invasive catfish, and Motapung is the name of the village nearby.

Beel means wetland in Assamese.

Statement 2 is correct. Maguri Motapung Beels are listed **as Important Bird Area by Birdlife International.**

Q.115) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Sugauli - West Bengal
2. Kalapani - Uttarakhand
3. Chusul - Sikkim

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

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- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Sugauli is also known for Sugauli Treaty, is in **Purvi Champaran district of Bihar**.

Kalapani is in Pithoragarh district of **Uttarakhand** state.

Chushul Valley is in Union territory of **Ladakh**.



Q.116) Consider the following statements regarding the **Canine Distemper Virus**:

1. It is a zoonotic disease causing virus.
2. There has been no outbreak of CDV in India till date.
3. The vaccination against CDV is yet to be developed.

Which of the statements 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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are incorrect regarding the Canine Distemper Virus.

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Canine distemper is a viral disease that affects a wide variety of **animal** families, including domestic and wild species of dogs, coyotes, foxes, lions etc. Most terrestrial carnivores are susceptible to natural CDV infection.

There are no known cases of humans becoming infected with distemper. **CDV is not a zoonotic disease.**

In September 2018, an epizootic infection caused by canine distemper virus emerged in an Asiatic lion population in India that led to death of several Lions in the **Gir forest**.

Several vaccines against canine distemper for dogs have developed and are available.

Q.117) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Human Rights Commission** of India:

1. It submits report for Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC).
2. NHRC has been recognized as fully compliant to Paris principles by Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a mandated by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC)**; it emerged from the 2005 UN reform process. The UPR report by NHRC is submitted to the Human Rights Council mandated by the United Nations to hold the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights situations in all 193 member countries.

This report though is not the sole basis of UPR by UNHRC; country reviews are based on three documents: a national report prepared by the State under review, compilation of UN information prepared by OHCHR, summary of information received from stakeholders (including NHRIs).

Statement 2 is correct. **NHRC, India has 'A' status** of accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, **GANHRI**. It is given to those NHRIs, which, after a process of review every five years, are found fully compliant with the **UN mandated Paris Principles**.

Q.118) Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian Bison**:

1. It can be found in North East as well as Western Ghats of India.
2. It is listed as a vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.

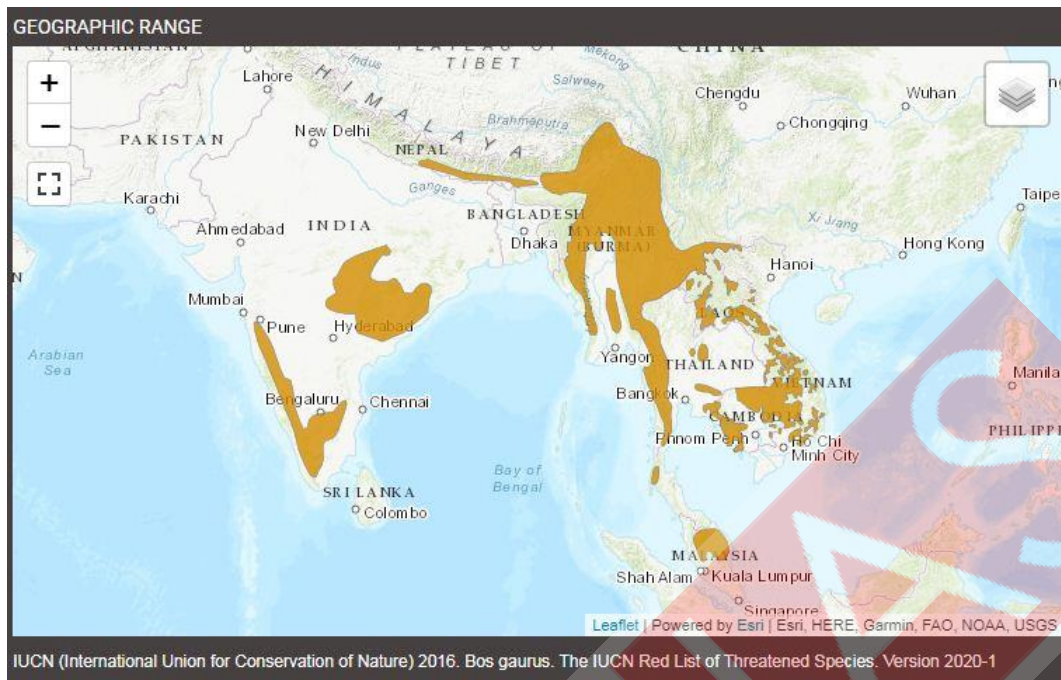
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Western Ghats** are natural habitats for Indian Bison (Gaur) are found in many national parks/biosphere reserves in the region. They have also been sighted in **Kaziranga and Manas National Park**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Indian Bison or Gaur (Bos gaurus)** is listed as vulnerable in IUCN red list.



Q.119) Which of the following releases the ranking for educational institutions in India under **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**?

- a) Ministry of Human Resource and Development
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Quacquarelli Symonds
- d) Pratham NGO

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was approved by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development in 2015. This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country. The parameters broadly cover “Teaching, Learning and Resources,” “Research and Professional Practices,” “Graduation Outcomes,” “Outreach and Inclusivity,” and “Perception”.

India Ranking 2020 highlights:

IIT Madras retains 1st Position in Overall Ranking as well as in Engineering,

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru tops the University list.

IIM Ahmedabad tops in Management Category and AIIMS occupies the top slot in Medical category for third consecutive year.

Miranda College retains 1st position amongst colleges for third consecutive year.

Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Delhi secures 1st position in “Dental” category, the dental institutions included for first time in India Rankings 2020.

Q.120) Which among the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Challenger Deep - Pacific Ocean
- 2. Lonar Lake - Ladakh, India
- 3. Baikal Lake - Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The average depth of the ocean is about 12,100 feet. The **deepest part of the ocean is called the Challenger Deep** and is located beneath the western Pacific Ocean in the southern end of the Mariana Trench which is approximately 36,200 feet deep.

Lonar Lake, Maharashtra is a nearly circular crater, suspected to have developed due to impact of a **large meteorite** on Deccan Basaltic rocks of Cretaceous age.

Lake Baikal, situated in south-east Siberia, Russia is the **oldest and deepest of the world's lakes containing nearly 20% of the world's unfrozen freshwater reserve**.

Q.121) Which of the following is/are **Massive open online course (MOOC)** provider(s)?

1. Coursera
2. Swayam Prabha
3. Udemy
4. edX

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: A **massive open online course** is an internet-based course offered in variety of fields aimed at unlimited participation and open access.

Coursera, Udemy and edX are MOOC providers offering courses on wide range of subjects in association with many institutions and universities across the world.

The **SWAYAM PRABHA** is a group of **32 DTH channels** devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.

SWAYAM is a MOOC programme initiated by Government of India, a platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.

Q.122) Consider the following statements regarding the **Lonar Lake**:

1. It is a crater formed by a meteorite impact.
2. It is a saline lake.
3. It is a recognized Ramsar Wetland site in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Lonar crater** in Buldhana district of Maharashtra is one of the youngest meteorite craters of the world.

Statement 2 is correct. **Lonar Lake** has salt water with value around 10.5 on pH scale.

Statement 3 is incorrect. It has been proposed but the Lonar Crater Lake **is yet to be declared as Ramsar wetland site**.

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India / Inde / India (37 Ramsar Sites, 1,067,939 hectares)

* Ashtamudi Wetland	19/08/2002	Kerala	6,140 ha	08°57'N 076°34'E
* Beas Conservation Reserve	26/09/2019	Punjab	6,429 ha	31°23'N 075°11'E
* Bhitarkanika Mangroves	19/08/2002	Odisha	65,000 ha	20°39'N 086°54'E
* Bhoj Wetland	19/08/2002	Madhya Pradesh	3,201 ha	23°13'N 077°19'E
* Chandertal Wetland	08/11/2005	Himachal Pradesh	49 ha	32°28'N 077°36'E
* Chilika Lake	01/10/1981	Odisha	116,500 ha	19°42'N 085°21'E
* Deepor Beel	19/08/2002	Assam	4,000 ha	26°07'N 091°39'E
* East Calcutta Wetlands	19/08/2002	West Bengal	12,500 ha	22°27'N 088°27'E
* Harike Lake	23/03/1990	Punjab	4,100 ha	31°13'N 075°12'E
* Hokera Wetland	08/11/2005	Jammu & Kashmir	1,375 ha	34°04'N 074°42'E
* Kanjli	22/01/2002	Punjab	183 ha	31°25'N 075°22'E
* Keoladeo National Park ^{MR}	01/10/1981	Rajasthan	2,873 ha	27°13'N 077°31'E
* Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve	26/09/2019	Punjab	344 ha	32°05'N 075°23'E
* Kolleru Lake	19/08/2002	Andhra Pradesh	90,100 ha	16°37'N 081°12'E
* Loktak Lake ^{MR}	23/03/1990	Manipur	26,600 ha	24°25'N 093°49'E
* Nalsarovar	24/09/2012	Gujarat	12,000 ha	22°46'N 072°02'E
* Nandur Madhameshwar	21/06/2019	Maharashtra	1,437 ha	20°01'N 074°06'E
* Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	26/09/2019	Punjab	116 ha	31°23'N 076°22'E
* Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	19/09/2019	Uttar Pradesh	225 ha	26°36'N 080°39'E
* Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	02/12/2019	Uttar Pradesh	722 ha	26°56'N 082°09'E
* Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	19/08/2002	Tamil Nadu	38,500 ha	10°19'N 079°37'E
* Pong Dam Lake	19/08/2002	Himachal Pradesh	15,662 ha	32°01'N 076°04'E
* Renuka Wetland	08/11/2005	Himachal Pradesh	20 ha	31°37'N 077°27'E
* Ropar	22/01/2002	Punjab	1,365 ha	31°01'N 076°30'E
* Rudrasagar Lake	08/11/2005	Tripura	240 ha	23°28'N 091°16'E
* Saman Bird Sanctuary	02/12/2019	Uttar Pradesh	526 ha	27°00'N 079°10'E
* Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	03/10/2019	Uttar Pradesh	799 ha	25°59'N 081°23'E
* Sambhar Lake	23/03/1990	Rajasthan	24,000 ha	27°00'N 075°00'E
* Sandi Bird Sanctuary	26/09/2019	Uttar Pradesh	309 ha	27°18'N 079°58'E
* Sarsai Nawar Jheel	19/09/2019	Uttar Pradesh	161 ha	26°58'N 079°15'E
* Sasthamkotta Lake	19/08/2002	Kerala	373 ha	09°01'N 076°37'E
* Sundarban Wetland	30/01/2019	West Bengal	423,000 ha	21°46'N 088°42'E
* Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	08/11/2005	Jammu & Kashmir	350 ha	32°45'N 075°12'E
* Tsomori	19/08/2002	Jammu & Kashmir	12,000 ha	32°54'N 078°18'E
* Upper Ganga River	08/11/2005	Uttar Pradesh	26,590 ha	28°33'N 078°12'E
* Vembanad-Kol Wetland	19/08/2002	Kerala	151,250 ha	09°49'N 076°45'E
* Wular Lake	23/03/1990	Jammu & Kashmir	18,900 ha	34°16'N 074°33'E

Q.123) Consider the following statements regarding **Anti-defection law**:

1. The Chairman or the Speaker of the House is the authority to take decision regarding disqualification by defection.
 2. A member voluntarily giving up the membership of his political party is not disqualified under the law.
 3. India is the only country to have a legal mechanism to prevent defection of legislators.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Statement 1 is correct. The **Chairman or the Speaker** of the House takes the decision to disqualify a member.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Disqualification rules apply:

- if a member of a house belonging to a political party - **voluntarily** gives up the membership of his political party or votes (or does not vote) in the legislature, contrary to the directions of his political party.

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However, if the member has taken prior permission, or is condoned by the party within 15 days from such voting or abstention, the member shall not be disqualified.

- If an **independent candidate** joins a political party after the election.
- If a **nominated member** joins a party six months after he becomes a member of the legislature.

Statement 3 is incorrect. There are such laws in many countries, the anti-defection law in **Bangladesh, Kenya, South Africa and Singapore** disqualifies a legislator on his ceasing to be member of the party or when he is expelled.

Q.124) Consider the following statements regarding the **Aarogyapath** portal:

1. It has been developed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
2. The portal aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies.

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: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Aarogyapath** portal has been developed by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** in partnership with Sarvodaya Infotech and institutional users and manufacturers / authorized suppliers of healthcare essentials are encouraged to register and participate actively.

Statement 2 is correct. This National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal that aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies, would serve manufacturers, suppliers and customers.

Q.125) Consider the following statements writ of **Habeas Corpus**:

1. The power of Supreme Court and High Courts to issue such writ is part of fundamental rights under the constitution of India.
2. Parliament may empower any other court to exercise within the local limits of its jurisdiction the power to issue writ of Habeas Corpus.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The power of Supreme Court to issue writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari for enforcement of fundamental rights is enshrined is part of fundamental rights itself under **article 32(2)**.

The power of High Courts to issue such writs is under article 226 and not part of fundamental rights.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 32(3)** of the constitution states that without prejudice to the powers of the Supreme Court, Parliament may by law empower any other court to exercise within the local limits of its jurisdiction all or any of the powers exercisable by the Supreme Court under article 32(2), i.e. issue writs.

Q.126) Which of the following has developed the **National Migrant Information System (NMIS)**?

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- a) India Migration Now
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Labour Bureau
- d) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

Correct answer: D

Explanation: 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).**

The online portal would maintain a central repository on migrant workers and help in speedy inter-State communication/coordination 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.

Q.127) Consider the following statements regarding the **iFLOWS- Mumbai**:

- 1. It is a flood warning system.
 - 2. It has been developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- 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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **The iFLOWS- Mumbai**, a state-of-the-art Integrated Flood Warning System for Mumbai has been launched recently. Floods to be estimated 3 days in advance, at ward-level and decision Support System will enable smart decision-making and field action based on risk assessment.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The system has been developed by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** using its in-house expertise, in close collaboration with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (BMC).

The system uses rain gauge data and local data such as data on land use, land topography, drainage systems, water bodies in the city, tide levels, infrastructure and population, which has been provided by BMC.

Using these as inputs, the prediction system models weather, rainfall, runoff and water movement, tide and storm surge impacts based on which early Flood Warnings for the city will be provided.

Q.128) Consider the following statements regarding the **GST Compensation to States**:

- 1. Government of India is legally obligated to provide compensation to states on account of implementation of Goods and Services Tax for ten years.
- 2. GST compensation Cess can only be levied on the inter-state sale of goods.

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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. As per provisions in **Section 7 of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017** loss of revenue to the States on account of

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implementation of Goods and Services Tax shall be payable during transition period (five years) and compensation payable to a State shall be provisionally calculated and released at the end of every two months during transition period of **5 years**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the **section 8 of GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017** the GST compensation cess can be levied on **both interstate and intra state supply of goods and services**.

The receipts from the cess are deposited to a GST Compensation Fund and used for compensating states for any loss due to the implementation of GST.

Q.129) Consider the following statements regarding the **Nature Index 2020**:

1. It has been released by World Wildlife Fund for Nature.
2. It ranks countries based on their proactive environment protection policy initiatives.

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: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

The Nature Index is a database of **author affiliation information** collected from **research articles**. It is based on the **institution's or country's share of articles published in the 82 prestigious scientific journals** selected by an independent panel of experts and tracked by the Nature Index database. The database is compiled by Nature Research.

India has been placed at 12th position in country wise ranking. Globally the top-rated Indian institutions in this list are Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), a group of 39 institutions at the 160th position and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore at the 184th position.

Q.130) Consider the following statements regarding the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**:

1. It was set by the Government of India in collaboration with the Indian Industry.
2. The Central Board of Film Certification is a constituent of QCI.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Quality Council of India (QCI)** was set up in 1997 jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (**ASSOCHAM**), Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**), to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign.

Statement 2 is incorrect. QCI functions through 5 main accreditation boards:

National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (**NABCB**), National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (**NABET**), National Board for Quality Promotion (**NBQP**), National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (**NABH**) and the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (**NABL**).

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Q.131) Which of following form part of Reserve Bank of India's **Foreign Exchange Reserves**?

1. Foreign Currency Assets
2. Gold
3. Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) with IMF

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: RBI maintains India's foreign currency reserve which constitutes **Foreign currency assets, Gold, SDRs and Reserve Tranche position** with IMF.

The objectives of maintain forex are:

- (a) maintaining confidence in monetary and exchange rate policies,
- (b) enhancing capacity to intervene in forex markets,
- (c) limiting external vulnerability by maintaining foreign currency liquidity to absorb shocks during times of crisis including national disasters or emergencies.
- (d) providing confidence to the markets especially credit rating agencies that external obligations can always be met, thus reducing the overall costs at which forex resources are available to all the market participants, and
- (e) incidentally adding to the comfort of the market participants, by demonstrating the backing of domestic currency by external assets.

Q.132) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body.
2. All India Tiger Estimation is a quadrennial exercise on tiger population status in India.
3. India is a signatory to the St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All the statements are correct.

The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a statutory body of the Ministry, with an overarching supervisory/coordination role, performing functions as provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

All India Tiger Estimation conducted in 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018 is quadrennial exercise observing status of Tiger population in India by Wildlife Institute of India and NTCA.

India is a signatory to the **St. Petersburg Declaration** on Tiger Conservation which aimed to double the wild tigers in respective countries by 2022.

Q.133) Which of the following countries have demonstrated the capability of **Human Space Flight**?

1. Russia
2. United States of America
3. China

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4. India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: India is yet to demonstrate its Human space flight capability which is planned through the **Gaganyaan Mission**.

Russia has human spaceflight capability with the **Soyuz program**.

China has demonstrated its crewed space missions under **Shenzhou program**.

USA has demonstrated its crewed space flight capability many times including the Appolo missions to Moon and **recent Dragon Crew (SpaceX) launch**.

Q.134) Which among the following is/are involved in **Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative?**

- 1. World Bank
- 2. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- 3. International Solar Alliance (ISA)

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **World Bank**– Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (WB-ESMAP), in partnership with, **Agence Française de Développement** (AFD), **International Renewable Energy Agency** (IRENA) and **International Solar Alliance** (ISA) developed the Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI) to support countries in developing sustainable solar programs to attract private investment and reduce reliance on public funding.

It has three components to mitigate the risk of solar deployment: Sustainable Solar Targets, Transparent procurement and Viable Risk Mitigation Coverage.

Q.135) Consider the following statements regarding the **Securitisation** in economics:

- 1. It refers to the process of converting assets into securities.
- 2. For a bank, it frees up its capital by removing the assets from the balance sheet.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Securitisation is the process of pooling and repackaging of illiquid financial assets (residential mortgages, commercial mortgages, auto loans or credit card debt obligations) into marketable securities that can be sold to investors.

Securitisation frees up an originator's (owner of assets) capital by removing the assets from the balance sheet. It improves the liquidity position of the originator as the future receivables are replaced by cash.

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Q.136) Which of the following has launched the ‘**Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings**’ initiative?

- a) Bureau of Indian Standards
- b) International Energy Agency
- c) Energy Efficiency Services Limited
- d) Central Pollution Control Board

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **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 **Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE)**, under which this initiative has been launched, is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Ministry of Power and USAID and is aimed at accelerating the adoption of cost-effective energy efficiency as a standard practice within buildings, and specifically focuses on cooling.

Q.137) Which of the following correctly defines the **Magnetocaloric effect (MCE)**?

- a) Change in magnetic field of a material due to change in surrounding temperature
- b) Change in temperature of a material due to change in applied magnetic field
- c) Change in melting point of a material due to change in applied magnetic field
- d) Change in conductivity of a material due to change in applied magnetic field

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Certain materials in which **application and removal of a magnetic field** causes the materials to become **warmer or cooler** are called the magnetocaloric materials and the effect is called the **Magnetocaloric effect (MCE)**.

Scientists at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science and Technology (DST) have developed a rare-earth-based magnetocaloric material that can be effectively used for cancer treatment.

Q.138) Consider the following statements regarding Permafrost:

- 1. Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen for at least two years.
- 2. Permafrost is made of a combination of soil, rocks and sand.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen—32°F (0°C) or colder—for at least two years straight. These permanently frozen grounds are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth’s higher latitudes—near the North and South Poles.

Permafrost is made of a combination of soil, rocks and sand that are held together by ice. The soil and ice in permafrost stay frozen all year long.

Q.139) Consider the following statements regarding the **Brown Rock Chat:**

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1. It is endemic to South Asia.
 2. It is listed as least concern in IUCN Red List.
- 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

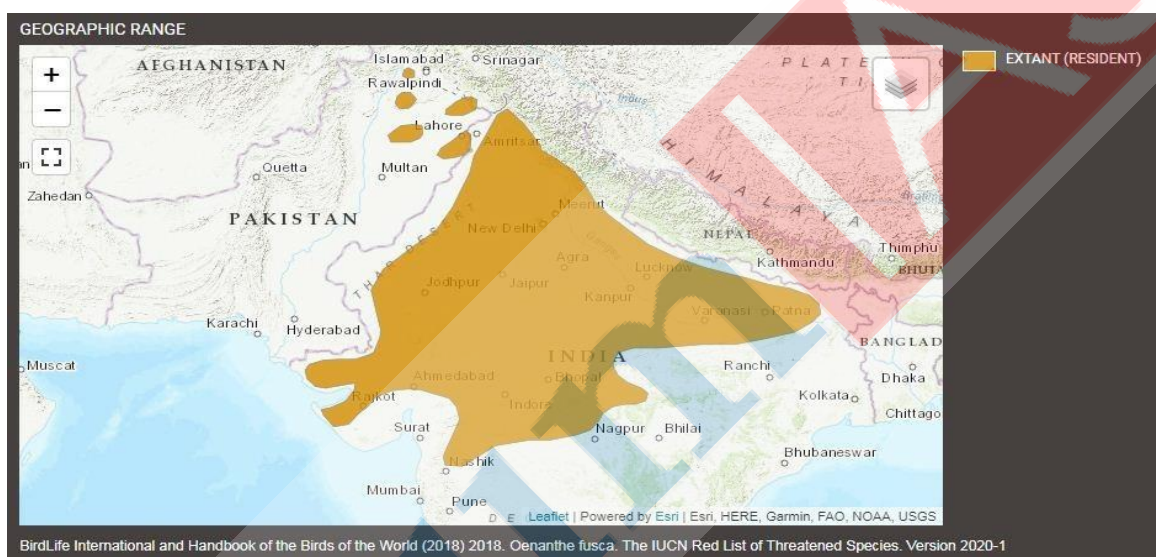
Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **brown rock chat** (*Oenanthe fusca*) or Indian Chat, is a bird species of the family Muscicapidae. Its habitat includes rocky areas (e.g. inland cliffs, mountain peaks).

It is listed as **Least Concern** in IUCN Red List.

Its range includes north and Central India and areas of Pakistan.



Q.140) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ulinastatin drug**:

1. It is a protease inhibitor drug.
 2. It is used to treat the severe sepsis because of its anti-inflammatory effects.
- 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: C

Statement 1 is correct. **Ulinastatin** is a multifunctional serine protease inhibitor. Protease inhibitors prevent viral replication by selectively binding to viral proteases. Ulinastatin is a glycoprotein that is isolated from healthy human urine or synthetically produced.

Statement 2 is correct. It is often used in treatment of **sepsis and acute pancreatitis**. It inhibits several pro-inflammatory proteases and decreases inflammatory cytokine levels and mortality in sepsis.

Bharat Serums and Vaccines Ltd. (BSVL) have received approval from DCGI to conduct phase III clinical study on Ulinastatin for mild to moderate Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) patients with COVID-19.

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Q.141) Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution of India provides for abolition of untouchability.
2. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 makes enforcement of religious and social disabilities a punishable offence.
3. A person convicted for preaching untouchability cannot be nominated to the Council of States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 17 of the constitution** states that untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of Untouchability is an offence punishable in accordance with law. Statement 2 is correct. **The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955** provides punishment for enforcing **religious disabilities**, punishment for enforcing **social disabilities**, punishment for refusing to admit person to hospitals, etc., punishment for refusing to sell goods or render services, punishment for other offences arising out of untouchability etc. Statement 3 is correct. Under **Section 8(1) of the Representation of People Act 1951**, a person convicted under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 which provides for punishment for the preaching and practice of "untouchability", and for the enforcement of any disability arising therefrom; is **disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament or of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State.**

Q.142) Consider the following statements regarding the **Goods & Services Tax Council**:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. The GST Council is chaired by the Minister of Finance, Government of India.
3. The decisions of the Goods and Services Tax Council are taken by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.
4. The vote of the Central Government has a weightage of one fourth of the total votes cast.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Goods & Services Tax Council** is a constitutional body under article 279A of the constitution for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.

Statement 2 is correct. 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.

Statement 3 is correct. Every decision of the Goods and Services Tax Council is taken at a meeting, by a majority of not less than **three-fourths of the weighted votes** of the members present and voting.

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Statement 4 is incorrect. The vote of the **Central Government have a weightage of one third** of the total votes cast, and the votes of all the State Governments taken together have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.

Q.143) Consider the following statements regarding **COVID-19 disease**:

1. Asymptomatic patients of COVID-19 can spread infection to others.
2. Transmission may occur through fomites in the immediate environment around the infected person.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **SARS-COV-2** virus is spread mainly from **person-to-person**. Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or **talks**. These **droplets** can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Statement 2 is correct. Transmission may also occur through **fomites in the immediate environment** around the infected person. Therefore, transmission of the COVID-19 virus can occur by direct contact with infected people and indirect contact with surfaces in the immediate environment or with objects used on the infected person.

Q.144) Consider the following statements regarding the **Malabar gliding frog**:

1. It is associated with freshwater habitats in Western Ghats of India.
2. It is listed as vulnerable species in IUCN Red List.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Malabar gliding frog** (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*), a rare amphibian can glide in the air up to 10 to 12 meters is associated with **freshwater habitats and is found in Western Ghats of India**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The *Rhacophorus malabaricus* is listed as **Least concern** in IUCN red list with a decreasing population trend.

Q.145) Consider the following statements regarding the **ELISA test**:

1. It is an antibody detection test.
2. ELISA test is conducted on nasal or throat swab sample of the patient.

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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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **An enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)** is a test that detects and measures **antibodies** in the body related to certain infectious conditions. Antibodies are proteins that your body produces in response to harmful substances called antigens.

Statement 2 is incorrect. An ELISA detects antibodies produced in patient **blood**. An ELISA test is of two types depending on the antibodies tested for — **immunoglobulin G (IgG)** and **immunoglobulin M (IgM)**. IgG detects antibodies developed in later stage of infection, and IgM detects antibodies produced in early stages of infection.

Q.146) Consider the following statements regarding **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**:

1. India is an observer state to the IOC.
2. India hosts the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) coordinated by IOC.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **The Indian Ocean Commission** is an intergovernmental organization of five member states: Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, France (in respect of Réunion) and Comoros. **India is the observer state to the commission since March 2020.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Madagascar hosts the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center (RMIFC)**. The Regional Agreement for the establishment of a mechanism for exchange and sharing of maritime information in the Western Indian Ocean region that establishes RMIFC was signed by the Union of Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, France and Kenya in 2018. It is coordinated by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), aims to promote and develop a regional mechanism for the exchange of maritime information.

Q.147) Which among the following river(s) flow from **Nepal into India**?

1. Gandak
2. Kosi
3. Ghagra

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

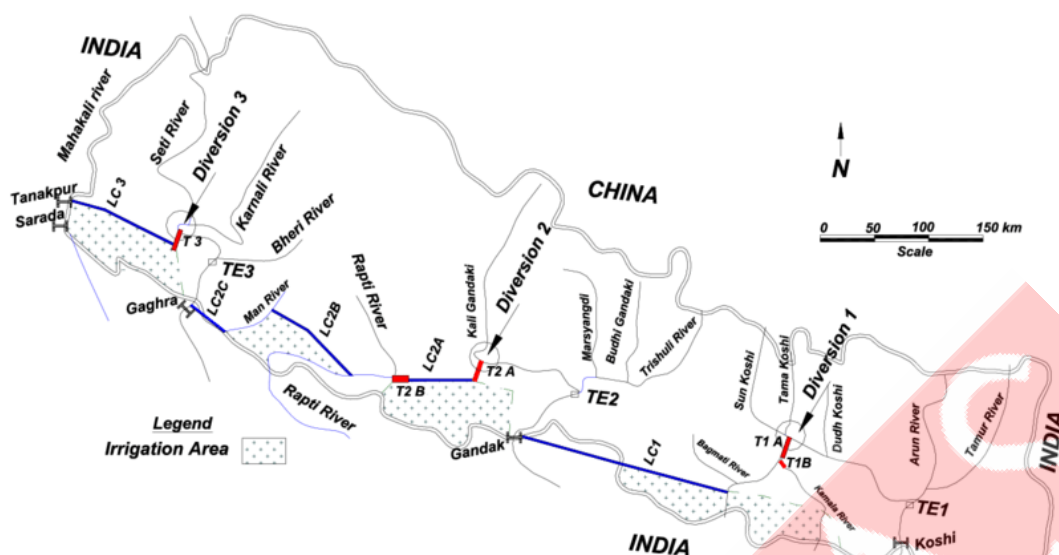
Explanation: All rivers mentioned above flow from Nepal into India.

The Gandak River (also called Narayani and Kali Gandak) is one of the major rivers of Nepal and a left bank tributary of the Ganges in India.

Kosi River also enters India from Nepal and joins Ganga at left bank.

Ghaghra River called Karnali in Nepal joins Sharda and late Ganga at left bank.

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Q.148) Consider the following statements regarding the **Finance Commission**:

1. No qualification for the chairperson of the Finance Commission is provided by the Constitution of India.
2. Constitution mandates the Commission to make recommendations regarding the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid to States out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Article 280(2) states that the **parliament may by law determine** the qualifications which shall be requisite for appointment as members of the Commission and the manner in which they shall be selected.

Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951 provides that the Chairman of the Commission shall be selected from among persons who have had experience in public affairs, and the four other members shall be selected from among persons who--

- (a) are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court; or
- (b) have special knowledge of the finances and accounts of Government; or
- (c) have had wide experience in financial matters and in administration; or
- (d) have special knowledge of economics.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 280(3)** provides that it shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to--

- (a) the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them under this Chapter and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds.
- (b) the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Q.149) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**:

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1. It is one of the accreditation boards under the Quality Council of India.
2. It conducts assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) in India.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** with its Head Quarter in Bengaluru. The Chairperson of the UGC is the President of the Governing Council of the NAAC.

Statement 2 is correct. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) conducts assessment and accreditation of **Higher Educational Institutions (HEI)** such as colleges, universities or other recognized institutions to derive an understanding of the 'Quality Status' of the institution.

Q.150) Consider the following statements regarding disease diagnostic tests:

1. RT-PCR test detects genetic material of the pathogen.
2. Antibody test detects the immune response of the human body against the infection.
3. Antigen test detects the surface proteins of the virus from swab sample.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

Real time **Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)** is a nuclear-derived method for detecting the presence of specific genetic material in any pathogen, including a virus.

Antibody tests detect the presence of proteins produced by the body in response to a infection, these are produced by the immune system to fight against viruses and other harmful pathogens that enter the body.

Antigen tests use a nasal or throat swab to detect viral proteins expressed on the outer surface of the virus. Antigens are recognized by the body to induce an immune response to fight off infection.

Q.151) Consider the following statements regarding **antibodies**:

1. They are part of the immune system response against a foreign antigen.
2. Immunoglobulin M (IgM) is the first antibody to appear in a humoral immune response.
3. Immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies remain in blood even after infection has passed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

Antibodies or immunoglobulin (Ig) are proteins produced by the immune system in response to an infection and are specific to that infection.

The first antibodies to be produced in a humoral immune response to an infection are IgM, it is also the largest antibody.

IgG antibodies take time to appear and remain in blood stream even after the infection has passed, largely responsible for **long-term immunity**.

Q.152) Consider the following statements regarding the **Shyok River**:

1. It is an Endorheic River that drains into the Pangong Tso.
2. The Col Chewang Rinchen Bridge connecting Durbuk to Daulat Beg Oldie is built over the Shyok River.
3. The Galwan River is a tributary of Shyok River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Shyok River** does not drain into the Pangong Tso, it originates in the Karakoram range and is a **tributary of the Indus river**.

Statement 2 is correct. '**Col Chewang Rinchen Setu**' is a bridge built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) over River Shyok, connecting Durbuk and Daulat Beg Oldie in Eastern Ladakh.

Statement 3 is correct. The **Chang Chen Mo River, Galwan River, Nubra River** and **Saltoro River** are the tributaries of Shyok River.

Q.153) Which of the following government program(s) is/are correctly matched?

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| 1. TULIP | - | Internship with National Cooperative Development Corporation and cooperatives |
| 2. Sahakar Mitra | - | Internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies |
| 3. SWADES | - | Skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 and 2 are incorrectly matched.

Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Program (SIP) will provide the young professionals an opportunity of practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC and cooperatives as a paid intern.

'The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP)' is a program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.

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Government of India launched the initiative **SWADES** (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission.

Q.154) Consider the following statements regarding **Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF)**:

1. SWF is an investment fund primarily owned by the national government.
2. Santiago principles promote good governance, accountability and transparency in SWF activities.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **sovereign wealth fund (SWF)** is a state-owned investment fund which comprises of pools of money derived from a country's reserves, assets or other commodities – that is then invested in shares, bonds, property or other areas of potential growth.

Statement 2 is correct. **Santiago Principles** promoted by International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF) are designed to promote good governance, accountability, transparency and prudent investment practices whilst encouraging a more open dialogue and deeper understanding of SWF activities.

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) often referred as India's Sovereign wealth fund has 49% contribution from the government of India.

Q.155) Consider the following statements:

1. The five permanent members of UN Security Council are the only ones recognized as nuclear weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
2. New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** recognizes five states as nuclear-weapon states: United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China (also the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council).

Statement 2 is correct. Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (**New START**), **2010** is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. It is set to expire in 2021.

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World nuclear forces, January 2020

Country	Deployed warheads*	Other warheads**	Total 2020	Total 2019
USA	1 750	4 050	5 800	6 185
Russia	1 570	4 805	6 375	6 500
UK***	120	95	215	200
France	280	10	290	300
China		320	320	290
India		150	150	130–140
Pakistan		160	160	150–160
Israel		90	90	80–90
North Korea	..	(30–40)	(30–40)	(20–30)
Total	3 720	9 680	13 400	13 865

Source: SIPRI Yearbook 2020

Q.156) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM Van Dhan Yojana**:

1. It is a livelihood generation program for tribal gatherers.
2. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is the nodal agency at national level for the scheme.
3. The scheme aims to set-up tribal community owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in predominantly forested tribal districts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) is a Market Linked Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program for forming clusters of tribal SHGs and strengthening them into Tribal Producer Companies.

TRIFED is nodal agency at national level for the scheme aiming at socio-economic development of the tribal population of the country.

It is an initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribal gatherers and transforming them into entrepreneurs. It aims to set-up tribal community owned **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)** in predominantly forested tribal districts.

Q.157) Consider the following statements regarding the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)**:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The Chairperson, PNGRB is a member to the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) was constituted under the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006** to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to promote competitive markets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Chairman of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** is the Finance Minister and its members include the heads of financial sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA) Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and Chief Economic Adviser. The Council can invite experts to its meeting if required.

Q.158) The **Talamaddale** is an ancient form of art practiced in which state of India?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Assam
- d) Odisha

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Talamaddale** is an ancient form of art practiced in the coastal regions of Karnataka and northern Kerala. It is now popular in Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Shimoga districts of **Karnataka** and Kasaragod district of **Kerala**.

A typical Tala-Maddale show consists of artists sitting in a circular fashion along with a **Bhagavata** (the singer, with "Tala" or pair of small hand cymbals) and a "**Maddale**" (a type of drum) player. Artists assume the characters depicted in the story, typically, from Ramayana, Mahabharata, and other puranas.

Q.159) Consider the following statements regarding the **Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection kit**:

1. It is an RT-PCR diagnostic kit for detection of SARS-COV-2 virus.
2. It has been indigenously developed at National Institute of Virology, Pune.

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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection kit** is not based on RT-PCR, it rather is an **antigen detection kit** that detects the viral proteins expressed on the outer surface of the virus.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection kit** is a rapid chromatographic immunoassay for detection of specific antigens to SARS-CoV-2. It has been developed by **SD Biosensor; a South Korea based company**.

In view of its high specificity while relatively low sensitivity, ICMR recommended [14-06-2020] the use of Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection assay as a point of care diagnostic assay for testing in specific containment zones, symptomatic ILI patients, asymptomatic patients of high-risk group.

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Q.160) Consider the following statements regarding Rashtrakuta King **Amoghavarsha I**:

1. His writings include the Kannada literary work Kavirajamarga.
2. He established the new Rashtrakuta capital at Manyakheta.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Amoghavarsha was a scholar in Kannada and Sanskrit literature. His writing **Kavirajamarga** is a landmark literary work in the Kannada language.

Amoghavarsha I was said to have **endorsed Jainism** and so a lot of Jain scholars flourished in his court, including the Jain mathematician Mahavirachariya.

He moved the Rashtrakuta regal capital from **Mayurkhandi in the Bidar district to Manyakheta** in the Gulbarga district in the modern Karnataka state.

Q.161) Consider the following statements regarding the **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)**:

1. Nominated members of Parliament are not eligible to receive funds under the scheme.
2. In case of a vacancy caused prematurely due to resignation, death, etc., balance funds of the MP gets lapsed.

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: D

Explanation: Under the **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)**, each MP has the choice to suggest to the District Collector for works to the tune of Rs.5 Crores per annum to be taken up in his/her constituency.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Nominated Members** of the Parliament may select any one or more Districts from any one State in the Country for implementation of their choice of work under the scheme.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Generally, a vacancy caused prematurely due to resignation, death, etc. of an elected/nominated MP is filled up by election/nomination for the remaining term of the MP vacating the seat. Under the scheme guidelines the new MP will be treated as a successor of the MP vacating the seat prematurely and balance funds are **transferred to MPLADS Account of the successor MP**.

Q.162) Consider the following statements regarding **Cooperative Societies in India**:

1. To form cooperative societies is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution.
2. Having experience in cooperative movement is one of the qualifications for nomination to the state Legislative Councils.
3. Cooperative Societies is a state subject under seventh schedule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Constitution (Ninety-seventh Amendment) Act, 2011** made formation of cooperative societies a fundamental right under article 19(1)(c).

Statement 2 is correct. People having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of **Literature, science, art, co-operative movement and social service** are nominated to the legislative council (one-sixth) by the Governor.

Statement 3 is correct. 'Cooperative Societies' is a **State Subject** under List II of Seventh Schedule to Constitution.

Q.163) Which among the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Galwan Valley - Ladakh
2. Nelong Valley - Himachal Pradesh
3. Nathu La - Uttarakhand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Galwan River valley** is Union territory of **Ladakh** near the Line of Actual Control with China.

Nelong Valley, part of the Gangotri National Park is in **Uttarakshi, Uttarakhand**.

Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East **Sikkim** district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Q.164) Consider the following statements regarding provisions of **reservation under the Indian Constitution**:

1. Constitution puts a limit of fifty percent on the caste-based reservation.
2. Constitution empowers the government to provide for reservation in promotion in favor of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
3. It provides that the claims of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The Constitution does not prescribe any such limit, in **Indra Sawhney vs Union of India, 1992**; the Supreme Court capped caste-based reservation to 50 percent.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 16(4A)** empowers the State to make any provision for reservation in matters of promotion, with consequential seniority, to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favor of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

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Statement 3 is correct. **Article 335** provides that the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.

Q.165) Consider the following statements regarding the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. It enables the procurement of goods as well as services by Government offices.
3. The purchases through GeM by Government users have been made mandatory by the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** is a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Statement 2 is correct. The National Public Procurement Portal—Government e Marketplace is a dedicated e-market for different **goods & services** procured by Government Organizations / Departments / PSUs.

Statement 3 is correct. The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorized and made mandatory by Ministry of Finance through **General Financial Rules, 2017**.

Q.166) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**:

1. It is a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
2. It provides support to marketing, storage and export of minor forest produce through cooperatives.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** was established by NCDC Act, 1962 as a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Statement 2 is correct. Its functions include planning, promoting and financing programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, food stuffs, certain other notified commodities; supply of consumer goods and collection, processing, marketing, storage and export of **minor forest produce through cooperatives**.

Q.167) Consider the following statements:

1. Dexamethasone is an anti-inflammatory drug.
2. Corticosteroids are produced by the adrenal glands.

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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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, is similar to a natural hormone produced by adrenal glands. It relieves inflammation (swelling, heat, redness, and pain) and is used to treat certain forms of arthritis; skin, blood, kidney, eye, thyroid, and intestinal disorders (e.g., colitis); severe allergies; and asthma.

Corticosteroids (adrenal cortical steroids) are natural hormones made by **the adrenal cortex** which are important in maintaining good health. They are mainly of two types, the glucocorticoids and the mineralocorticoids. Synthetic pharmaceutical drugs with corticosteroid-like effects are used in a variety of conditions.

Initial clinical trial results from the United Kingdom (UK) that show dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, can be lifesaving for patients who are critically ill with COVID-19.

Q.168) Consider the following statements regarding the **Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 therapy (RECOVERY)**:

- 1. It is a global clinical trial for COVID-19 vaccine.
- 2. The trial is being financed and evaluated by the World Health Organization.

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: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 therapy (RECOVERY) is a national clinical trial in **United Kingdom** that aims to identify treatments that may be beneficial for people hospitalised with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. It is not a vaccine trial, it is looking at the effects of **Lopinavir-Ritonavir, Dexamethasone, Hydroxychloroquine, Azithromycin, Tocilizumab and Convalescent plasma** (collected from donors who have recovered from COVID-19 and contains antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus).

This trial is supported by a grant to the **University of Oxford** from UK Research and Innovation/National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

Q.169) Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Security Council**:

- 1. Each year the UN General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term.
- 2. The UNSC can authorize armed intervention to maintain or restore international peace and security.

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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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **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.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 42 of the United Nations Charter** gives the Security Council the authority to take action by air, sea or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Q.170) Which of the following is/are credit rating agency(s)?

1. Standard and Poor
2. Moody's
3. Fitch's
4. CRISIL

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: A rating agency is a company that assesses the financial strength of companies and governments. A credit rating can be assigned to any entity that seeks to borrow money—an individual, corporation, state or provincial authority, or sovereign government.

Globally, **Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's and Fitch group** are recognized as the **Big Three** credit rating agencies.

CRISIL is an Indian analytical company providing ratings and is a subsidiary of American company S&P Global.

Q.171) Consider the following statements regarding the **state of Sikkim**:

1. It was an associate state of India with representation in Parliament from 1947 to 1975.
2. Sikkim joined as state of India after a referendum abolishing monarchy in the Kingdom of Sikkim.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Sikkim was a protectorate state** till the **35th Constitution Amendment Act** made it an associate state and further **36th Constitution amendment act** made it a full-fledged state of Indian Union.

Statement 2 is correct. In 1975, the Prime Minister of Sikkim appealed to the Indian Parliament for Sikkim to become a state of India. A **referendum** on abolishing the monarchy was held in the Kingdom of Sikkim on 14 April 1975. It was approved by 97% of voters and resulted in the country becoming an Indian state.

Q.172) Consider the following statements regarding the **India and United Nations**:

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1. India has been elected to the non-permanent membership of UN Security Council for the first time, for the term of 2021-22.
2. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, an Indian diplomat was the first female to be elected president of the United Nations General Assembly.
3. International Solar Alliance (ISA) is registered with the UN as a treaty-based inter-governmental organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. India has been elected to the non-permanent membership of UNSC for the **eighth time** for the term of 2021-22.

India have been permanent member of UNSC in: 1950 – 1951, 1967 – 1968, 1972 – 1973, 1977 – 1978, 1984 – 1985, 1991 – 1992 and 2011 – 2012.

Statement 2 is correct. Mrs. **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit** led the Indian delegation to the United Nations and served as India's ambassador to Moscow, Washington and Mexico. In 1953 Pandit became the first woman to be elected president of the UN General Assembly.

Statement 3 is correct. **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is registered with the UN as a treaty-based inter-governmental organization with effect from 9th Feb 2018. ISA was launched at the climate summit in 2015 by leaders of France and India.

Q.173) Which of the following is/are correctly matched:

1. Hypoxia - absence of enough oxygen supply to body
2. Hypothermia - drop in body temperature much below normal
3. Ischemia - reduced blood flow to a part of body

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are correctly matched.

Hypoxia refers to a condition in which the body or a part of the body is deprived of enough oxygen supply at the tissue level.

Hypothermia is a medical emergency that occurs when the body loses heat faster than it can produce heat, causing a dangerously low body temperature. Normal body temperature is around 98.6 F (37 C) and hypothermia is said to have occurred when it falls below 35 C.

Ischemia is a condition in which the blood flow (and therefore oxygen) is restricted or reduced in a part of the body. Cardiac ischemia refers to decreased blood flow and oxygen to the heart muscle.

Q.174) Consider the following statements:

1. Bioremediation is the use of microorganisms to degrade the contaminants into less toxic forms.
2. Bioaugmentation refers to addition of bacterial cultures to a contaminated medium.
3. Biosparging refers to the injection of air under pressure to enhance biological degradation.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Bioremediation** is the use of living microorganisms to degrade the environmental contaminants into less toxic forms. It uses naturally occurring bacteria and fungi or plants to degrade or detoxify substances hazardous to human health and/or the environment.

Statement 2 is correct. **Bioaugmentation** is the addition of bacterial cultures to a contaminated medium; frequently used in bioreactors and ex situ systems.

Statement 3 is correct. **Biosparging** is the injection of air under pressure can enhance biological degradation; usually performed in situ.

Other methods of Bioremediation include Bioventing, Composting, Bioreactors, Phytoremediation etc.

Q.175) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Disaster Management Plan 2019**:

- 1. It has been prepared by the National Executive Committee and approved by the National Disaster Management Authority.
- 2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW) is the nodal ministry for management and mitigation of Biological Emergencies.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. As per the **Disaster Management Act 2005**, the National Executive Committee shall prepare the National plan for disaster management; to be approved by the National Disaster Management Authority. The NDMP 2016 was revised after necessary changes was approved and published as NDMP 2019.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the **NDMP 2019**, **Biological Hazards** include Exposure to germs and toxic substances, epidemics: viral, bacterial, parasitic, fungal, or prion infections Insect infestations Animal stampedes. **Min. of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW)** is the nodal ministry for management/mitigation of the **Biological emergencies**.

Q.176) The **Shanta Kumar Committee** made recommendations on which of the following?

- a) Restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- b) Doubling Farmer's Income
- c) Rationalization of Fertilizer Subsidy
- d) Railways Modernization

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **High Level Committee for Restructuring of FCI** was chaired by Shanta Kumar. The report highlighted the issues relating to procurement, storage and distribution of food grains.

Some recommendations:

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FCI should hand over all procurement operations of wheat, paddy and rice to states that have gained sufficient experience reasonable infrastructure for procurement.

Negotiable warehouse receipt system (NWRs) should be taken up on priority and scaled up quickly.

Rationalization of PDS and NFSA coverage.

FCI should outsource its stocking operations to various agencies such as Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporation, and Private Sector.

Total end to end computerization of the entire food management system, starting from procurement from farmers, to stocking, movement and finally distribution through TPDS.

Q.177) Consider the following statements regarding **Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)**:

1. Only a stock exchange listed company can go for QIP.
 2. QIP in India is regulated by the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- 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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

In order to make Indian markets more competitive and efficient, **SEBI** allows an additional mode for listed companies to raise funds from domestic market in the form of "Qualified Institutions Placement" (QIP).

Qualified institutional placement (QIP) is the means whereby a listed company can issue equity shares, fully and partly convertible debentures, or any securities other than warrants which are convertible to equity shares to a Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB). The guidelines and regulations for QIP and QIB are issued by **SEBI**.

Q.178) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Housing Bank (NHB)**:

1. It is a wholly owned entity of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. It is the authority to regulate the Housing Finance Companies in India.

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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Housing Bank** was set up in 1988 under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987. NHB is regulated by RBI but is a **wholly owned entity of the Government of India**. Second Narasimham committee report had recommended that RBI cannot own the entities regulated by it. RBI has sold its stake from NHB to government of India in 2019.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The power of regulation of housing finance companies has been transferred to **Reserve Bank of India** in 2019, which treats them as a category of NBFCs.

Q.179) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Investment Report 2020**:

1. It is an annual publication of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
2. India is globally the largest Foreign Direct Investment recipient country in 2019.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

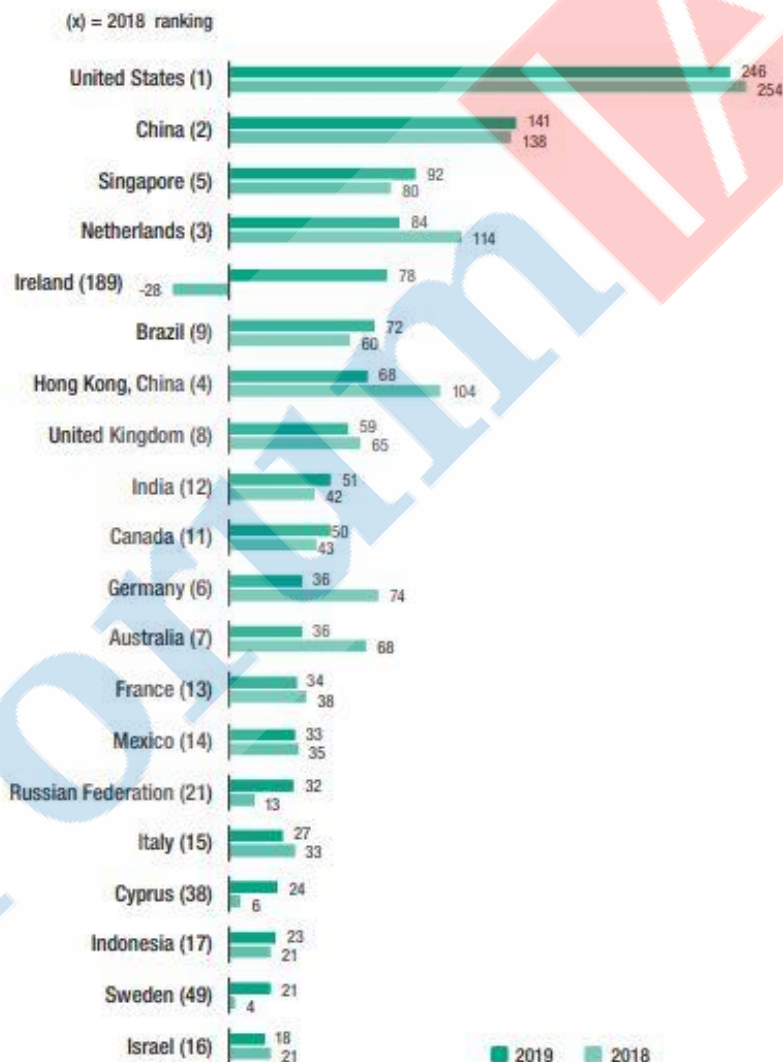
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **World Investment Report of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, published annually since 1991 focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **India was the world's 9th largest** recipient of foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2019 with \$51 billion of foreign investment.

Figure 3. FDI inflows, top 20 host economies, 2018 and 2019
(Billions of dollars)



Source: UNCTAD, FDI/MNE database (www.unctad.org/fdistatistics).

Q.180) Consider the following statements regarding **the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)**:

1. It is the first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform in India.

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2. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX).

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Indian Gas Exchange (IGX), the first nationwide online delivery-based gas trading platform has been launched. IGX will be a delivery-based trading platform for delivery of natural Gas.

It has been incorporated as **a wholly owned subsidiary of the IEX - India's energy market platform**. IGX will enable market participants to trade in standardized gas contracts. The platform is fully automated with web-based interface to provide seamless trading experience to the customers.

Q.181) Which of the following have been declared as India's priorities for its term at **United Nations Security Council**?

- 1. Reform of the Security Council to reflect contemporary realities
- 2. Effective response to international terrorism
- 3. Promoting technology as a driver of solutions for humanitarian challenges

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above have been declared as India's priorities for its term as non-permanent member of the UNSC.

The **Priorities Paper**, issued as a brochure by the **Ministry of External Affairs**, set out the key priorities for India, as under:

- i. New Opportunities for progress
- ii. An Effective response to international terrorism
- iii. Reforming the multilateral system
- iv. A comprehensive approach to international peace and security
- v. Promoting technology with a human touch as a driver of solutions

India's overall objective during this tenure in the UN Security Council will be the achievement of **N.O.R.M.S: New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System**.

Q.182) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Criminal Court**:

- 1. It was established by the Rome Statute.
- 2. India is not a state party to the International Criminal Court.
- 3. It prosecutes individuals for genocide and crimes against humanity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct regarding the International Criminal Court.

It is a permanent judicial body created by the 1998 Rome Statute which entered into force in 2002.

It prosecutes individuals for international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, crime of aggression and war crimes.

India is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, nor is China. USA signed the statute but has not ratified.

Q.183) Consider the following statements regarding election to **Council of States**:

1. Provisions of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution relating to disqualifications on the ground of defection are applicable to legislators voting in the election.
2. NOTA option is not available in the voting for membership of Council of States.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Anti-defection law is not applicable** to voting in election of members to Rajyasabha. The Supreme Court in its judgment in the matter of Kuldip Nayar Vs Union of India and Ors, 2006 observed that that an MLA at the most attracts action from the political party to which s/he belongs for voting against party candidate.

Statement 2 is correct. **NOTA is not available** to electors of Rajyasabha elections, as per Supreme Court NOTA is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.

Q.184) Consider the following statements regarding the **foreign investment**:

1. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is generally preferred over the Foreign Portfolio investment (FPI).
2. China has been one of the top five sources of FDI in India for past five years.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Foreign direct investment** tends to involve establishing more of a substantial, long-term interest in the economy of a foreign country such as buying or establishing a manufacturing business, building warehouses, or buying buildings. This makes it much more difficult to liquidate or pull out of the investment.

Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) on other hand refers to investing in the financial assets of a foreign country, such as stocks or bonds available on an exchange. It is often viewed less favorably than FDI because portfolio investments can be sold off quickly and are seen as short-term attempts to make money, rather than a long-term investment in the economy.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. As per Economic Survey 2019-2020; nearly 80 per cent of FDI have come mainly from Singapore, Mauritius, Netherlands, USA and Japan in 2019-20. Also per Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (table below) report **Mauritius, Singapore, Netherlands, Japan and USA** have been top source of FDI in India for past few years.

D. SHARE OF TOP INVESTING COUNTRIES FDI EQUITY INFLOWS (Financial years):

Amount in Rupees Crores (in US\$ Million)						
Rank s	Country	2017-18 (April – March)	2018-19 (April – March)	2019-20 (April – March)	Cumulative Inflows (April, 00 – March, 20)	%age to total Inflows (in terms of US \$)
1.	MAURITIUS	102,492 (15,941)	57,139 (8,084)	57,785 (8,241)	795,941 (142,710)	30%
2.	SINGAPORE	78,542 (12,180)	112,362 (16,228)	103,615 (14,671)	609,562 (97,670)	21%
3.	NETHERLANDS	18,048 (2,800)	27,036 (3,870)	46,071 (6,500)	208,322 (33,852)	7%
4.	JAPAN	10,516 (1,633)	20,556 (2,965)	22,774 (3,226)	196,105 (33,499)	7%
5.	U.S.A.	13,505 (2,095)	22,335 (3,139)	29,850 (4,223)	176,222 (29,779)	6%
6.	U.K.	5,473 (847)	9,352 (1,351)	10,041 (1,422)	150,411 (28,211)	6%
7.	GERMANY	7,245 (1,124)	6,187 (886)	3,467 (488)	68,944 (12,196)	3%
8.	CYPRUS	2,680 (417)	2,134 (296)	6,449 (879)	57,993 (10,748)	2%
9.	FRANCE	3,297 (511)	2,890 (406)	13,686 (1,896)	50,511 (8,539)	2%
10.	CAYMAN ISLANDS	7,932 (1,237)	7,147 (1,008)	26,397 (3,702)	49,848 (7,536)	2%
TOTAL FDI INFLOWS FROM ALL COUNTRIES *		288,889 (44,857)	309,867 (44,366)	353,558 (49,977)	2,732,444 (470,119)	-

*Includes inflows under NRI Schemes of RBI.

Note: (i) Cumulative country-wise FDI equity inflows (from April, 2000 to March, 2020) are at – Annex-'A'.

(ii) %age worked out in US\$ terms & FDI inflows received through FIPB/SIA+ RBI's Automatic Route + acquisition of existing shares only.

(iii) Figures are provisional.

Q.185) Which of the following correctly defines the term **Autarky**?

- Self-sufficient economic system
- Market structure with a small number of firms
- Abstention by governments from interfering in the workings of the free market
- Market structure with a single seller for a unique product in the market

Correct answer: A

Explanation: An **autarky** refers to the state of **self-reliance or economic independence**. It is an economic system or nation characterized by self-sufficiency for its needs and limited trade with outside world.

Oligopoly is a market structure with a small number of firms.

Laissez-faire is an economic system with abstention by governments from interfering in the workings of the free market.

A monopoly is a market structure characterized by a single seller, selling a unique product in the market.

Q.186) Consider the following statements regarding the **Infectious Disease Diagnostic Lab (I-Lab)**:

- It is a mobile testing facility for COVID-19 disease.
- It can perform RT-PCR as well as antibody-based tests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

I-Lab (Infectious disease diagnostic lab) is supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, under the COVID Command strategy. It is a **mobile testing facility** to be deployed in remote areas of the country. It has capability to perform 25 COVID-19 RT-PCR tests/Day, 300 ELISA tests/day, additional tests for TB, HIV etc.

The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is an antibody test.

Q.187) Consider the following statements regarding the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**:

1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance that considers an attack on one member as an attack on all members.
2. Japan is the only Asian country that is member of NATO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

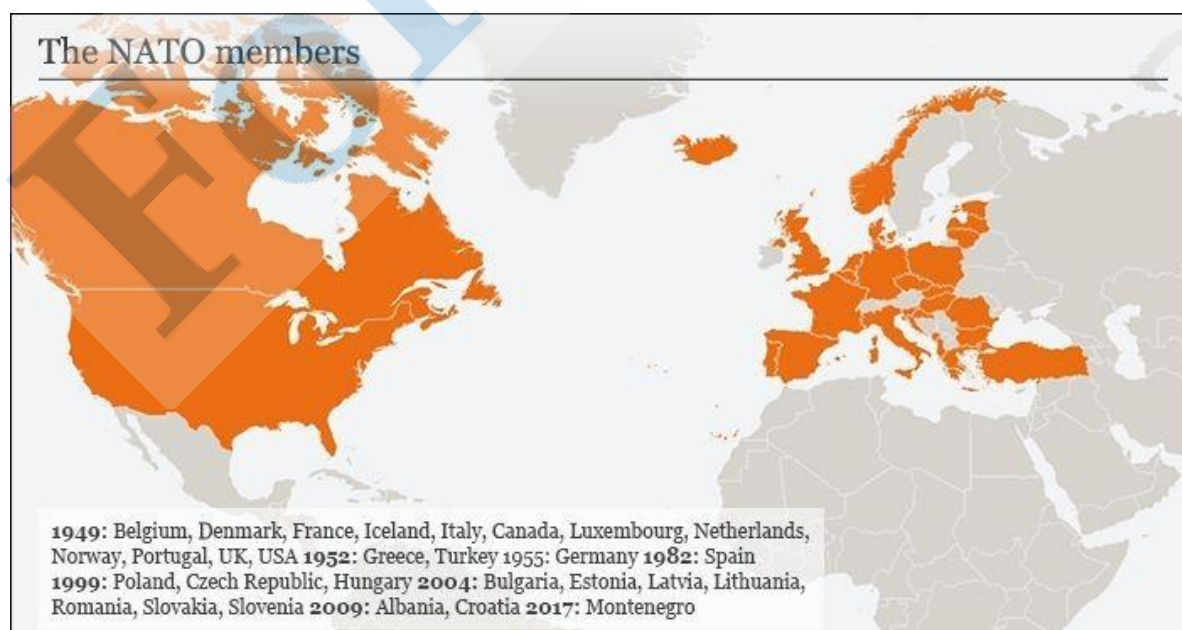
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance** between 30 North American and European countries. It implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed in 1949. Article Five of the treaty states that if an armed attack occurs against one of the member states, it shall be considered an attack against all members.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Japan is not a member of NATO.** Turkey is a part-Asian country member of the organization. Other countries like France, USA etc. also have small territories in other continents.

North Macedonia became NATO's 30th member in March 2020 (*not shown in image below*).



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Q.188) Consider the following statements regarding the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**:

1. It is recognized as a Biosphere Reserve under Man and Biosphere Program of UNESCO.
2. Moyar River flows through this Biosphere Reserve.
3. It is one of the major habitats of Bengal Tigers in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** is part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, based on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Moyar River** is one of the tributaries of the Bhavani which is a tributary of Kaveri River and it flows through the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Statement 3 is correct. The reserve encompasses tiger reserve of **Bandipur, Nagarhole, Mudumalai** which are natural habitats of Tigers in India., The faunal elements of the reserve include *Panthera tigris* (Tiger), *Elephas maximus* (Elephant), *Bos gaurus* (Gaur), *Macaca silenus* (Lion tail macaque) etc.

Q.189) Consider the following statements regarding the **Megaliths**:

1. Megalith refers to a large, usually rough stone used in prehistoric cultures as a monument or building block.
2. The ancient Megalith sites in India are limited to North West region only.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **megalith** is a large pre-historic stone that has been used to construct a structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones. These are usually **rough/undressed** stone that has been used in the construction of various types of Neolithic, Chalcolithic or Bronze Age.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Megalith sites are spread all over India. The oldest megaliths in India are found in the westernmost part of the country, in the present-day Afghanistan in the upper Indus Valley. **Burzahom** is a major megalith site in Kashmir.

In Southern part of country **Hire Benakal (Karnataka), Kudakkal (Thrissur), Chovvanur burial cave (Thrissur), Byse (Karnataka), Kodumanal (Tamilnadu)** are some of the major Megalithic sites.

Q.190) Which of the following correctly defines the **Placebo effect**?

- a) The immunity developed by community due to immunity of few people
- b) A therapeutic outcome derived from an inert treatment
- c) Developing immunity to a disease after moving out of the epidemic zone
- d) Failure of clinical trials of a drug due to comorbidities present in subject

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: The idea that one's brain can convince their body that a **fake treatment is the real one** is called placebo effect. It is the therapeutic outcome derived from an inert treatment, i.e. placebo drug.

A placebo is used in clinical trials to test the effectiveness of treatments. People in one group get the drug being tested, while the others receive a fake drug, or placebo, that they think is the real thing. This way, the researchers can measure if the drug works by comparing how both groups react. If they both have the same reaction (improvement or not) the drug is deemed not to work.

Q.191) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gig Economy**:

1. It is based on temporary or freelance jobs market.
2. Gig economy does not guarantee a consistent income to gig workers.
3. The increase in access to internet has powered the spread of Gig Economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct regarding **Gig Economy**.

A gig economy is characterized by market where **temporary, flexible jobs** are commonplace and companies tend toward hiring independent contractors and freelancers instead of full-time employees.

The gig economy is based on flexible, temporary, or freelance jobs rather than conventional full-time paid employment therefore it **does not guarantee consistent incomes** to Gig workers.

Contract or part-time employment though has been a feature of economies in past as well but the **digital revolution and easy access to internet** has provided boost to Gig works whereby people at distant places can work together on single project. The result is cheaper, more efficient services, such as Uber, Airbnb etc. powered by internet.

Q.192) Consider the following statements regarding the **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019**:

1. The Code covers workers employed in establishments with at least 10 workers or more.
2. It subsumes and replaces several labor laws including the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979.
3. The Code bars civil courts from hearing matters under the Code.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019** was introduced in Lok Sabha in July 2019 and then referred to standing committee. **The standing committee submitted its report in February 2020. The Bill is yet to be passed.** Statement 1 is correct. The Code applies to establishments employing at least 10 workers, and to all mines and docks. It does not apply to apprentices. Establishments covered by the

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Code are required to register with registering officers, appointed by the central or state governments.

Statement 2 is correct. It subsumes and replaces 13 labour laws including the Factories Act, 1948; Mines Act, 1952; Dock Workers Act, 1986; Contract Labour Act, 1970; and **Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979**.

Statement 3 is correct. The Code bars civil courts from hearing matters under the Code.

Q.193) The **38th parallel** passes through which of the following regions?

- a) North Korea - South Korea boundary.
- b) United States of America - Canada boundary
- c) Great Lakes of USA
- d) Russia - China boundary

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The 38th north parallel formed the border between **North and South Korea** prior to the Korean War. After the Armistice agreement 1953, **demarcation line between the two countries crosses the 38th parallel**.

All other options fall north of 38 north parallel.



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Q.194) Which of the following is/are provided for by the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**?

1. Right to confidentiality in respect of one's mental health and treatment.
2. Persons with mental illness living below the poverty line even without BPL cards are entitled to free mental health treatment.
3. A person who attempts suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from mental illness and will not be punished under the Indian Penal Code.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All are the provisions of the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**.

Section 18(7) of the act provides "persons with mental illness living **below the poverty line whether or not in possession of a below poverty line card**, or who are destitute or homeless shall be entitled to mental health treatment and services free of any charge and at no financial cost at all mental health establishments run or funded by the appropriate Government and at other mental health establishments designated by it."

Act provides **right of confidentiality** to the patients, section 23(1) states "a person with mental illness shall have the right to confidentiality in respect of his mental health, mental healthcare, treatment and physical healthcare."

The act **decriminalized the attempt to suicide**; Section 115(1) states "notwithstanding anything contained in section 309 of the Indian Penal Code any person who attempts to commit suicide shall be presumed, unless proved otherwise, to have severe stress and shall not be tried and punished under the said Code."

*During COVID-19 Pandemic, it is natural to experience a wide variety of mental health concerns. To get help related to mental health, call toll-free number **080-4611-0007** (NIMHANS helpline for Psychosocial support).*

Q.195) The **Anti-defection law** relating to disqualifications on the ground of defection is not applicable to which of the following cases?

1. Voting in the elections of the President of India.
2. Merging of political parties when at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favor of the merger.
3. A member of the house voluntarily giving up the membership of the political party after his/her election to the post of Speaker.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Members of the Electoral College can vote according to their wish and are not bound by any party whips. The voting is by secret ballot. Therefore, Party whip does not apply in this election and **Anti-Defection Law is not applicable in Presidential elections**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Anti-defection law allows a party to merge with another party provided that **at least two-thirds of its legislators** are in favour of the merger. Neither the

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members who decide to merge, nor the ones who stay with the original party face disqualification in such case.

Statement 3 is correct. As per the law; a person who has been elected to the office of the **Speaker/Deputy Speaker** of the House of the People or the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States or the Chairman/Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State or the Speaker/Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of a State, shall not be disqualified under this Schedule-

(a) if he, by reason of his election to such office, voluntarily gives up the membership of the political party to which he belonged immediately before such election and does not, so long as he continues to hold such office thereafter, rejoin that political party or become a member of another political party; or

(b) if he, having given up by reason of his election to such office his membership of the political party to which he belonged immediately before such election, rejoins such political party after he ceases to hold such office.

Q.196) Consider the following statements regarding the report on '**Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region**':

1. It has been prepared and published by the Wildlife Institute of India.
2. It states that India's average temperature has risen by around 0.7°C during 1901–2018.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region has been published by the Union **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

Statement 2 is correct. India's average temperature has risen by **around 0.7°C during 1901–2018**. This rise in temperature is largely on account of GHG-induced warming, partially offset by forcing due to anthropogenic aerosols and land use and land cover changes.

Report states that average surface air temperatures over India could rise by up to 4.4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century as compared to the period between 1976 and 2005.

Q.197) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)**:

1. India and China both are member to this preferential trade agreement.
2. The agreement recognizes the special needs of least developed countries by allowing special concessions for them.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **The Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)**, previously the Bangkok Agreement, is a preferential tariff arrangement. Its current Members are Bangladesh, **China, India**, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR and Sri Lanka.

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Mongolia has concluded its bilateral negotiations on tariff concessions with the current Participating States and will become seventh member to agreement.

Statement 2 is correct. APTA recognizes the **special needs of LDCs** and calls for concrete preferential measures in their favour (Article 3). Participating States may grant special concessions to LDC members (Article 7).

Q.198) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**:

1. India is not a member of IAEA.
2. Signature and ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is a precondition for joining IAEA.

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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. India is a member to the agency since 1957.

The Agency's genesis was U.S. President Eisenhower's "**Atoms for Peace**" address to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

*The Nobel Committee selected the IAEA and its Director General Mohamed ElBaradei as the recipients of the **2005 Nobel Peace Prize** due to "their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way".*

Statement 2 is incorrect. India is not signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and neither is it mandatory for the membership of IAEA.

Q.199) Consider the following statements regarding the **Crocodile species in India**:

1. Gharial is the only crocodile species found in India.
2. Crocodiles are listed in Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. India is home to three crocodilian species: the **mugger or marsh crocodile** (*Crocodylus palustris*), the **estuarine or saltwater crocodile** (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the **gharial** (*Gavialis gangeticus*).

Statement 2 is correct. Crocodiles including the Estuarine or saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus* and *Crocodylus palustris*) and Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) are listed in **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972**.

Q.200) Which of the following endocrine gland(s) is/are correctly matched to the hormones they release?

1. Hypothalamus - Cortisol
2. Pancreas - Insulin
3. Adrenal glands - Oxytocin

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Hypothalamus:** major hormones are anti-diuretic hormone (ADH), **oxytocin** and various hormones that stimulate the pituitary gland. They influence the nervous and hormonal systems.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Pancreas:** major hormones released are **insulin**, glucagon, somatostatin; that influence blood sugar control in body.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Adrenal glands:** major hormones released are adrenaline, noradrenaline, **cortisol**, aldosterone; they influence the stress response and blood pressure/salt control.

Q.201) Consider the following statements regarding the **Coral Reefs in India:**

1. Lakshadweep coral reefs are atolls.
2. Coral reefs formations are found in the areas of Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Mannar.
3. Corals are protected under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

The major reef formations in India are restricted to the **Gulf of Mannar, Palk bay, Gulf of Kutch, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep islands.**

The **Lakshadweep reefs are atolls**; the others are mostly fringing reefs.

Major threats for the corals: Natural: Environmental-Temperature, Sediment Deposition, Salinity, pH etc.

Anthropogenic: Mining, Bottom Fishing, Tourism, pollution, etc.

Reef Building Coral, Black Coral, Organ Pipe Coral etc. are listed under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Q.202) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bose-Einstein condensates (BEC):**

1. It is regarded as the fifth state of matter.
2. Bose-Einstein condensates were first predicted theoretically by Satyendra Nath Bose.
3. The BEC constituent particles exist in their highest energy states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Bose-Einstein condensates (BEC)** are regarded as the fifth state of matter apart from the Gases, liquids, solids and plasmas.

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Statement 2 is correct. Bose-Einstein condensates were first predicted theoretically by **Satyendra Nath Bose (1894-1974)**, an Indian physicist. He sent his ideas to Albert Einstein who further worked on the phenomenon.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The constituent particles of BEC are at **low energy state** and at almost absolute zero (zero kelvin) temperature.

Bosons are named after the Indian physicist Satyendra Nath Bose.

Q.203) Consider the following statements regarding **Commercial Mining of Coal in India**:

1. The coal sector is open for foreign investment with 100% FDI allowed under automatic route.
2. There is no end-use restriction on the sale and utilization of coal from the coal mine.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Government has recently allowed the **commercial mining in the coal sector**, thereby ending the monopoly of Coal India Limited.

100% FDI through automatic route allowed in the coal sector, foreign firms therefore can also bid for the mine.

There is no end-use restriction on the sale and/or utilization of coal from the coal mine.

The commercial coal mining auctions are different from earlier regime of restricted sectors, use and price. Now there are **no such restrictions** at all. The proposed auctions have terms and conditions which are very liberal allowing even new companies to participate in the bidding process.

Q.204) Consider the following statements:

1. A recession in economy refers to reduction in Gross Domestic Product.
2. A depression in economy refers to a situation of prolonged economic recession.
3. India has never had a negative GDP growth since independence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Recession** refers to contraction of economic output, a reduction in GDP for two or more consecutive quarters (negative GDP growth) is generally termed as recession.

Statement 2 is correct. A **depression** is a sustained, long-term downturn in economic activity. It refers to a multi-year recession like that of the Great Depression (1930s) that lasted almost a decade.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **India had negative GDP growth** in 1957, 1965, 1972 and 1979.



Q.205) Consider the following statements regarding **the Indian pangolin**:

1. Major threats to Indian Pangolin are hunting and poaching for consumptive use and international trade of its scales.
2. It is listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Major threats to pangolins in India:** hunting and poaching for local consumptive use (e.g. as a protein source and traditional medicine) and international trade for its meat and scales in East and South East Asian countries, particularly China and Vietnam.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Indian Pangolin is listed as **Endangered in the IUCN Red list** and **Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

Q.206) Which among the following has released the **World Competitiveness Ranking 2020**?

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- c) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- d) Institute for Management Development (IMD)

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: **World Competitiveness Rankings 2020** has been released by the **Institute for Management Development (IMD)**. The rankings are based on four factors: economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure.

Singapore, Denmark and Switzerland are top performers. **India is ranked at 43rd place.**

Among BRICS countries India is ranked second after China (20th) followed by Russia (50th), Brazil (56th) and South Africa (59th).

Q.207) Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**:

1. India is one of the founding members of the GPAI.
2. GPAI secretariat is to be hosted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

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: C

Explanation: Both Statements are correct.

Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), a coalition launched on 15-06-2020, aims at ensuring that Artificial Intelligence is used responsibly, respecting human rights and democratic values.

India is a founding member. The GPAI will bring together experts from industry, government, civil society and academia to conduct research and pilot projects on AI. Its objective, set out by founding members Australia, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, **India**, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States, is to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI policy.

Q.208) Which of the following countries border the **Red sea**?

1. Egypt
2. Sudan
3. Saudi Arab
4. Eritrea

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Red Sea proper** is bordered by **Saudi Arabia and Yemen** on eastern shore; **Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti** on western shore.



Q.209) Consider the following statements regarding the **Scheme for Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing of aids/appliances (ADIP)**:

1. It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. An Indian citizen of any age who holds a forty percent Disability Certificate is eligible for benefits under the scheme.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **ADIP Scheme** is one of the major initiatives of the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**. This scheme is implemented to assist the needy disabled person in **procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances** to promote physical, social, psychological rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

Statement 2 is correct. An Indian citizen of any age, who holds a **40% Disability Certificate** and monthly income from all sources not exceeding Rs. 20,000/- per month is eligible beneficiary under the scheme given that s/he has not received assistance during the last 3 years for the same purpose from any source.

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Q.210) Which among the following is/are part of **Agroforestry**?

1. A combination of crops and trees such as alley cropping.
2. A combination of forestry and grazing of domesticated animals on pastures or on-farm.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: As per **Food & Agriculture Organization** of UN; agroforestry is a collective name for land-use systems and technologies where woody perennials (trees, shrubs, palms, bamboos, etc.) are deliberately used on the same land-management units as agricultural crops and/or animals. Major types of agroforestry are:

- **Agrisilvicultural** systems are a combination of crops and trees, such as alley cropping or home-gardens.
- **Silvopastoral** systems combine forestry and grazing of domesticated animals on pastures, rangelands or on-farm.

Q.211) Consider the following statements regarding the **Solar eclipse**:

1. It is an event of Moon blocking the sunrays coming towards Earth.
2. An annular solar eclipse is one when moon is at or near its apogee and between Sun and Earth.
3. The path of totality is the trail of moon's shadow as Earth rotates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

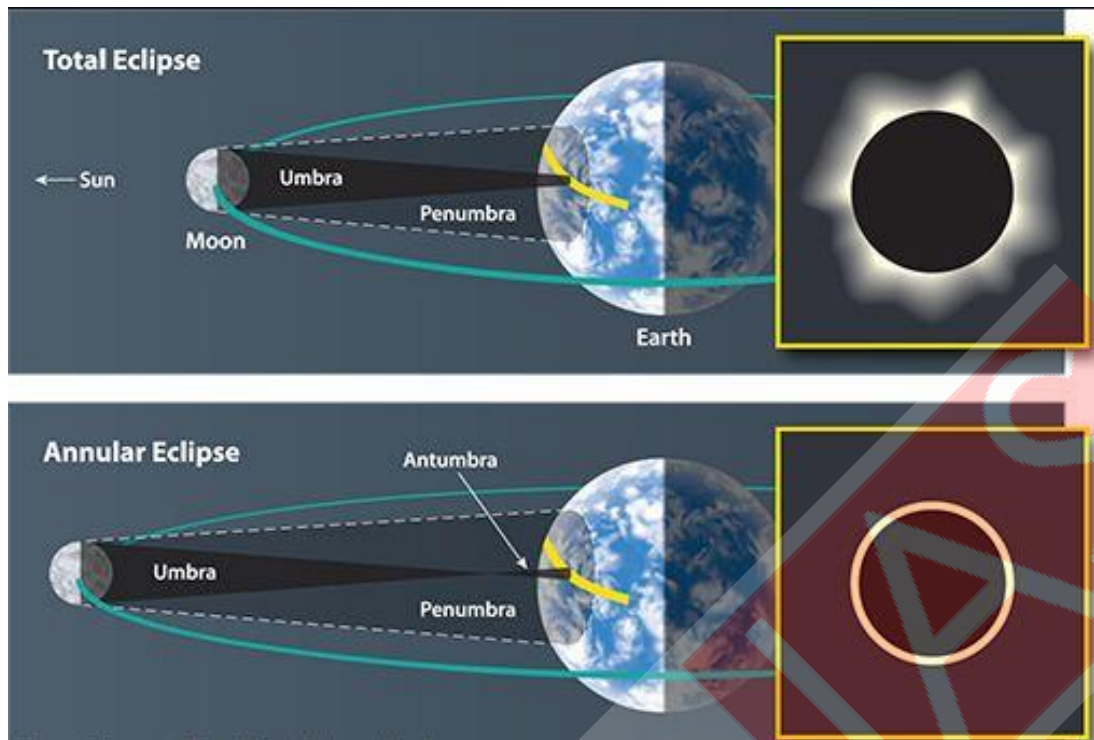
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **solar eclipse** happens when the moon passes between the sun and Earth. Sometimes the moon only blocks part of the sun's light, called a partial solar eclipse. Other times, the moon blocks all of the sun's light, called a total solar eclipse.

Statement 2 is correct. A **total solar eclipse** takes place when the Moon completely blocks out the Sun's light, and an **annular eclipse** happens when the Moon is farthest from Earth as the Moon seems smaller and doesn't block the entire view of the Sun.

Statement 3 is correct. As the moon blocks the sun's light, it casts a shadow on part of the Earth. The moon's shadow creates a trail as Earth rotates. This trail is called the **path of totality**.



Q.212) Which of the following are powers granted to **Rajya Sabha** by the Constitution?

1. Rajya Sabha may by a resolution passed by majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present empower parliament to legislate on a state subject.
2. Parliament becomes empowered to create an All India Services if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a simple majority to that effect.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 249** provides that the Rajya Sabha may pass resolution, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting, in the national interest to empower the Parliament to make laws on any **matter enumerated in State List**, for the whole or any part of the territory of India.

Such a resolution will remain in force for such period, not exceeding **one year**, as may be specified therein, but this period can be extended by one year at a time by passing further resolution

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Article 312** of the Constitution provides that if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting declaring that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest to create one or more All India Services common to the Union and the States, Parliament will have the power to create by law such services.

Q.213) Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution empowers the state to make special provisions for empowerment of Women and Children.

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2. India has signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
3. A child is entitled to relief under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Article 15(3)** provides that nothing in this article (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth) shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.

Statement 2 is correct. India signed the **CEDAW** on 30 July 1980 and ratified it on 9 July 1993.

Statement 3 is correct. A child is also entitled to relief under the **Domestic Violence Act**. The mother of such a child can make an application on behalf of her minor child (whether male or female). In cases where the mother makes an application to the court for herself, the children can also be added as co-applicants.

Q.214) Consider the following statements regarding **Tso Moriri**:

1. The lake is located at the Line of Actual Control with almost half of it under China's occupation.
2. It is notified in the List of Ramsar Wetland sites under the Ramsar Convention.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Tso Moriri** is not located at the LAC and none of its parts are under China's control. The **Pangong Tso** is the one on LAC and having China's control over half of it.

Statement 2 is correct. The Tso Moriri was notified in November 2002 under the List of **Ramsar Wetland sites** under the Ramsar Convention for its:

- Unique faunal assemblages with high diversity, endemism and number of rare or vulnerable species.
- Vital role as breeding grounds and key staging posts on migration routes for over 40 species of water birds.



Q.215) Consider the following statements regarding the **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)**:

1. It is a Statutory Authority under the Department of Food and Public Distribution.
2. The main objective of WDRA is to implement Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (NWR) System in the country.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **WDRA is a Statutory Authority under the Department of Food and Public Distribution**, Government of India established under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.

Statement 2 is correct. The main objective of WDRA is to implement **Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (NWR) System** in the country, which would help farmers to store their produce in scientific storage godowns nearby their farms and to seek loan from banks against their NWR.

The authority makes provisions for the development and regulation of warehouses which includes negotiability of warehouse receipts, registration of warehouses, promotion of scientific warehousing of goods, improving fiduciary trust of depositors and banks, enhancing liquidity in rural areas and promoting efficient supply chain.

Q.216) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Day of Yoga (IDY)**:

1. United Nations has proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by passing a resolution.
2. Ministry of AYUSH is the nodal Ministry for observation of International Day of Yoga in India.

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3. The theme for IDY 2020 is "Yoga for Health - Yoga at Home".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.

Statement 1 is correct. Recognizing its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the **United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131.**

The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states.

Statement 2 is correct. **Ministry of AYUSH** is the nodal Ministry for observation of International Day of Yoga across the country.

Statement 3 is correct. 2020 Theme for IDY, given the social distancing measures adopted by countries to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, is "**Yoga for Health - Yoga at Home**".

Q.217) Consider the following statements regarding **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**:

- 1. It aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.
- 2. It provides for technological interventions for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Jal Jeevan Mission** is to assist, empower and facilitate States/ UTs for creation of water supply infrastructure so that every rural household has **Functional Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024** and water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality is made available on regular basis.

Other objectives include: To promote and ensure voluntary ownership among local community by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labour and voluntary labour (shramdaan).

To assist in ensuring sustainability of water supply system, i.e. water source, water supply infrastructure, and funds.

To empower and develop human resource in the sector such that the demands of construction, plumbing, electrical, water quality management, water treatment, catchment protection, O&M, etc. are taken care of in short and long term.

Statement 2 is correct. Its components include Greywater management, **technological interventions** for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue.

Q.218) Which of the following is/are tributary of the **Brahmaputra River**?

- 1. Siang River
- 2. Lohit River
- 3. Tista River

4. Chindwin River

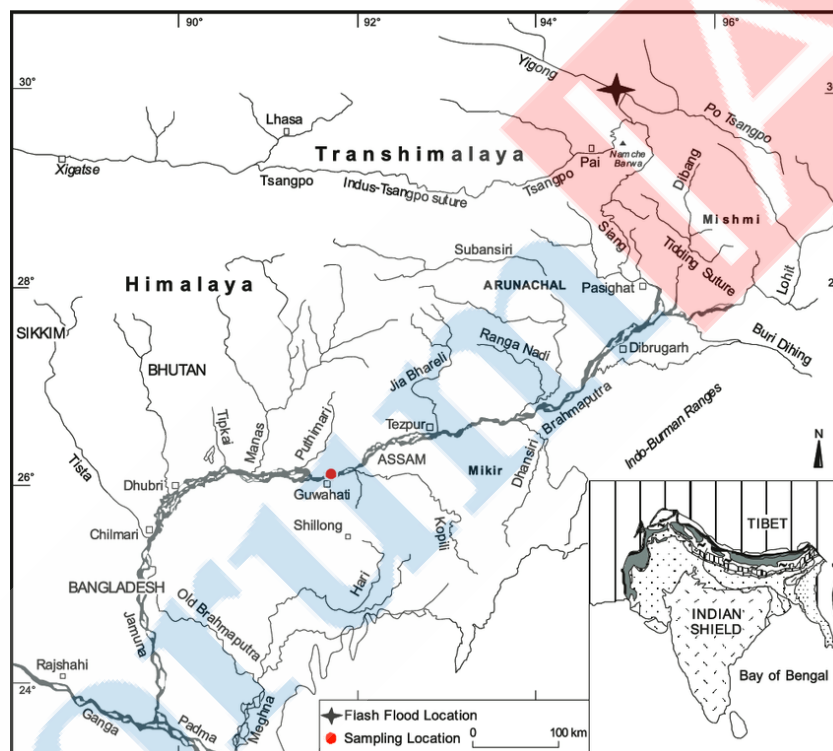
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Brahmaputra River** originates from Kailash ranges of Himalayas at an elevation of about 5150m and flows for about 2900 km through Tibet (China), India and Bangladesh and joins the Ganga. The principal tributaries of the river in India are the **Dibang, the Siang, the Lohit, the Subansiri, the Manas, the Tista, the Dhansiri and the Subhansiri.**

Chindwin River, main tributary of the Irrawaddy River, flows through Myanmar.



Q.219) Which of the following election(s) in India follows **Secret Ballot system**?

- 1. General Elections to House of People
- 2. Election of the President of India
- 3. Elections of the members of Council of States

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) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. General elections follow the secret ballot system whereby choice of the voter is confidential to him/her only. **Section 94 of the Representation of People Act** provides that Secrecy of voting is not to be infringed.

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Option 2 is correct. **As per Article 55(3)** of the Constitution of India, the election of the **President** shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Open ballot voting applies in election to Council of States.** Every political party which has its member(s) as MLAs can appoint an authorized agent to verify as to whom its members have voted. The authorized agent will be seated inside the polling station in seats provided by the R.O. In case of MLAs who are members of political parties, after they mark the vote and before inserting the ballot box, are required to show the marked ballot paper to the authorized agent of their party.

Q.220) Consider the following statements regarding the **Golden Langur**:

1. It is found exclusively in the Western Ghats of India.
2. It is protected under the Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The geographic range of golden langurs is limited to **Assam**, India and neighboring **Bhutan** where they live year-round. They occupy moist evergreen and tropical deciduous forests as well as some riverine areas and savannas in Assam and Bhutan.

Statement 2 is correct. They are listed in **Appendix I of CITES, Endangered in the IUCN Red List and in the Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**

Q.221) Which of the following is/are exempt from disclosure under the **Right to information Act 2005**?

1. Information received in confidence from foreign Government.
2. Information which would lead to commission of an offence.
3. If giving information infringes the copyright of any person.
4. Cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers.

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are exempt from disclosure of information under the RTI Act 2005.

Section 8 of the act provides that there shall be no obligation to give any citizen information on some matters, such as:

- Information that would prejudicially affect the sovereignty, integrity, security, scientific or economic interest and relation with a foreign state.
- Information which would lead **to commission of an offence.**
- Information whose release is forbidden by a court or tribunal or disclosure which might constitute contempt of court.
- Information whose release may lead to breach of privileges of Parliament or State Legislatures.
- Information received in confidence from **a foreign government.**

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- **Cabinet Papers** including deliberations of Ministers, Secretaries and other officers (but decisions and related reasons contained in them will be made public after the decision has been taken and the matter is complete or over)

Section 9 exempts if giving information infringes the copyright of any person other than the State.

Q.222) Which of the following service(s) is/are correctly matched to their nodal Ministry?

1. National Cadet Corps (NCC) - Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
2. National Service Scheme (NSS) - Ministry of Defence
3. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) - Ministry of Home Affairs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. The **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** provides opportunities to the youth for their all-round development with a sense of Duty, Commitment, Dedication, Discipline and Moral Values so that they become able leaders and useful citizens. The NCC provides exposure to the cadets in a wide range of activities, with a distinct emphasis on Social Services, Discipline and Adventure Training. **The Ministry of Defence deals with NCC at national level.**

Option 2 is incorrect. The **National Service Scheme (NSS)** is a Central Sector Scheme **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**. It provides opportunity to the student youth of 11th & 12th Class of schools at +2 Board level and student youth of Technical Institution, Graduate & Postgraduate at colleges and University level of India to take part in various government led community service activities & programs.

Option 3 is correct. The **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)** are the security forces under the authority of **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Their role is to defend the national interest mainly against the internal threats. They are Assam Rifles (AR), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

Q.223) Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**:

1. Coastal States exercise sovereignty over their territorial sea but foreign vessels are allowed innocent passage through those waters.
2. Land-locked States have the right of access to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit States.
3. India has signed and ratified the UNCLOS.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

Some of the key features of the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**:

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- **Coastal States** exercise sovereignty over their territorial sea which they have the right to establish its breadth up to a limit not to exceed **12 nautical miles**; foreign vessels are allowed "**innocent passage**" through those waters.
- Ships and aircraft of all countries are allowed "transit passage" through straits used for international navigation; States bordering the straits can regulate navigational and other aspects of passage.
- Coastal States have sovereign rights in a **200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ)** with respect to natural resources and certain economic activities, and exercise jurisdiction over marine science research and environmental protection.
- Coastal States have sovereign rights over the **continental shelf** (the national area of the seabed) for exploring and exploiting it; the shelf can extend at least 200 nautical miles from the shore, and more under specified circumstances.
- **Land-locked States** have the right of access to and from the sea and enjoy freedom of transit through the territory of transit States.

India signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982 and ratified in 1995.

Q.224) Consider the following statements regarding the **Convalescent Plasma Therapy**:

1. It is bone-marrow transplant therapy for treatment of viral diseases.
 2. The donor for the therapy can be any person who has never had the same disease.
- 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: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

The **people who've recovered** from a disease have antibodies/proteins; the body uses to fight off infections, in their blood. The blood from people who've recovered is called convalescent plasma. Plasma is the liquid portion of the blood.

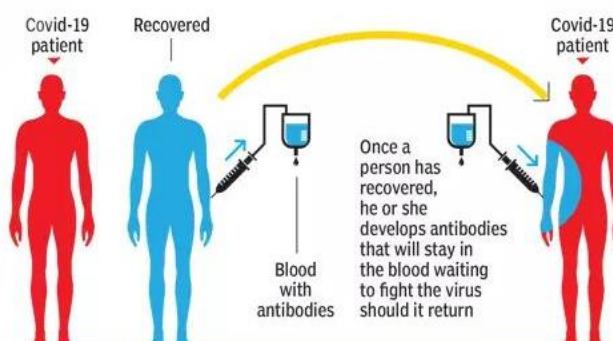
Therefore, donor for the Convalescent plasma therapy can only be a person who had the same disease and has recovered from it.

WHAT IS CONVALESCENT PLASMA THERAPY?

It involves transfusing plasma retrieved from the blood of people who have recovered from Covid-19 into people suffering from the disease

How does it work?

As people fight the Covid-19 virus, they produce antibodies that attack the virus. These antibodies are secreted by immune cells known as B lymphocytes, found in plasma or liquid part of blood, which helps the blood clot when needed and supports immunity



How many patients can be treated with plasma from a donor?

One person's donation of plasma can help two people. Scientists say that a patient needs only one transfusion to get enough antibodies to fight the virus

Is it a new treatment?

No, it isn't. The idea of using one person's plasma to help another has been used during the outbreak of SARS, also caused by a coronavirus

How many states in India are using it?

None. Delhi, Maharashtra, Kerala and Gujarat, among others, have sought approval from the regulatory bodies for clinical trials

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Q.225) Consider the following statements regarding **Immunity** to diseases:

1. Herd immunity can be achieved through large scale vaccination.
2. The vaccine-induced immunity in a person is a type of Active Immunity.
3. A newborn baby acquires passive immunity from its mother through the placenta.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Herd immunity** is the indirect protection from a contagious infectious disease that happens when a population is immune *either through vaccination or immunity developed through previous infection*. Therefore even people who aren't vaccinated, or in whom the vaccine doesn't trigger immunity, are protected because people around them who are immune can act as buffers between them and an infected person.

Statement 2 is correct. **Active immunity** results when exposure to a disease triggers the immune system to produce antibodies to that disease. It can occur through infection with the actual disease (resulting in **natural immunity**), or introduction of a killed or weakened form of the disease organism through vaccination (**vaccine-induced immunity**).

Statement 3 is correct. **Passive immunity** is provided when a person is given antibodies to a disease rather than producing them through his or her own immune system. A newborn baby acquires passive immunity from its mother through the **placenta**.

Q.226) Which of the following festival(s) is/are correctly matched to the State in which they are celebrated?

1. Ambubachi Mela - Assam
2. Hornbill Festival - Nagaland
3. Chapchar Kut - Meghalaya

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) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **Ambubachi Mela** is celebrated during the month of June in the **Kamakhya Temple, Assam**. It is the celebration of the annual menstruation course of goddess Kamakhya.

Option 2 is correct. **Hornbill Festival** is held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama which is about 12 km from Kohima. All the tribes of **Nagaland** take part in this festival.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Chapchar Kut** is an agriculture festival in **Mizoram**. Celebrated in the month of March every year, Chapchar Kut marks the time for planting in the state. The highlight of this festival is the bamboo dance called **Cheraw**.

Q.227) Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Arms Trade Treaty**:

1. It establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to reduce the illicit arms trade.
2. It also does not impact a state's domestic gun control laws.
3. The treaty is yet to enter into force.

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4. India has neither signed nor ratified the treaty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Statement 1 is correct. The **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)** establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to reduce the illicit arms trade. The treaty aims to reduce human suffering caused by illegal and irresponsible arms transfers, improve regional security and stability, as well as to promote accountability and transparency by state parties concerning transfers of conventional arms.

Statement 2 is correct. The treaty does not impact a state's domestic gun control laws or other firearm ownership policies.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The **UN General Assembly** endorsed the ATT by a vote of 156-3, with 23 abstentions in 2013. The treaty opened for signature on June 3, 2013 and **entered into force on Dec. 23, 2014.**

Statement 4 is correct. **India abstained** on voting on Arms Trade Treaty and has not signed the treaty saying that the treaty is weak on terrorism and non-state actors and these concerns find no mention in the specific prohibitions of the Treaty. *China has declared that it will join ATT.*

Q.228) Consider the following statements regarding **India's external trade** in last five years:

- 1. India had its highest trade deficit with China.
- 2. Value of India exports to United States of America have been consistently more than its imports.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. India has its largest **negative trade balance with China.**

Statement 2 is correct. India consistently had **a positive trade balance with USA** in last five years.

USA, China, UAE and Saudi Arab are India's largest trade partners.

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Bilateral Trade Surplus/Deficit (Sorted on Year: 2018-19)

(Values in US\$ Billion)

	Country	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (April-November)
Trade Surplus Countries	U S A	20.63	18.55	19.90	21.27	16.86	10.91
	United Arab Emirates	6.89	10.87	9.67	6.41	0.34	0.25
Trade Deficit Countries	China PRP	-48.48	-52.70	-51.11	-63.05	-53.57	-35.32
	Saudi Arabia	-16.95	-13.94	-14.86	-16.66	-22.92	-14.32
	Iraq	-13.42	-9.83	-10.60	-16.15	-20.58	-13.98
	Germany	-5.25	-5.00	-4.40	-4.61	-6.26	-3.09
	Korea RP	-8.93	-9.52	-8.34	-11.90	-12.05	-7.80
	Indonesia	-10.96	-10.31	-9.94	-12.48	-10.57	-6.99
	Switzerland	-21.06	-18.32	-16.27	-17.84	-16.90	-11.97
	Hong Kong	8.03	6.04	5.84	4.01	-4.99	-3.88
	Singapore	2.68	0.41	2.48	2.74	-4.71	-3.15

Source: Computed from latest data available on Department of Commerce's website, 'https://commerce-app.gov.in/eidb/default.asp'.

Q.229) Consider the following statements regarding the **Hyacinth Macaw**:

1. It is a parrot species native to central and eastern South America.
2. It has been accorded the protection under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) is a parrot species native to **Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay** region in South America.

Statement 2 is correct. It is listed as **Vulnerable** on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's **Red List**, and it is a protected species under **Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has busted a major wildlife smuggling syndicate and seized 22 exotic birds, including the Hyacinth Macaw, illegally brought into the country from Bangladesh.

Q.230) Who among the following organizes the **India Ideas Summit**?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Indian Chamber of Commerce
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) U.S.-India Business Council

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **India Ideas Summit** is organized by the **US India Business Council (USIBC)**. It is a platform to convene scholars, practitioners, diplomats and think tanks for high-level dialogue on key issues related to India.

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India Ideas Summit 2020 will be held virtually on July 21-22 with focus on geopolitics in the post-COVID world, shifting supply chains, digitization and technology trends, the future of healthcare and equitable growth.

Q.231) Consider the following statements regarding the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019**:

1. It makes illegal migrants who have entered India before 31st December 2014 from all SAARC nations, eligible for citizenship.</

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Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The **Sela Pass** is a high-altitude mountain pass located on the border between the Tawang and West Kameng Districts of **Arunachal Pradesh** state in India.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Zoji La pass** in the Himalayas in the Union territory of Ladakh connects the Kashmir Valley to its west with the Drass and Suru valleys to its northeast and the Indus valley further east.

The National Highway 1 between Srinagar and Leh in the western section of the Himalayan mountain range traverses the pass. Since vehicle flow stops during winter every year due to heavy snowfall, the all-weather **Zoji-la Tunnel** (14.2 km long road tunnel) under Zoji La pass between Sonmarg and Drass town of Kargil district.

Q.233) Which of the following correctly defines the term **Green Gross Domestic Product?**

- a) Measure of growth of Forest area per annum
- b) Percent of GDP expenditure on mitigating Climate Change
- c) GDP after adjusting for environmental consequences
- d) Share of primary sector in GDP

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Green GDP** is a term used generally for expressing GDP **after adjusting for environmental damage**. It monetizes the loss of biodiversity, and accounts for costs caused by climate change.

It requires environmental accounting, which converts the natural capital consumption, including resource depletion, environmental degradation into monetary valuation and the net change in natural resources in monetary terms is integrated into the Gross Domestic Product in order to reach the value of Green GDP.

The report of the Expert group convened by National Statistical Organization on *Green National Accounts in India: A Framework*, opines that the word green GDP is a misnomer as it is about the wealth of the nation that one is referring to (not income) while talking about accretion or depletion of natural resources.

Q.234) Consider the following statements regarding the **Government e Marketplace (GeM)**:

- 1. It is a public private partnership company with government having minority stake.
- 2. It provides online platform for procurement of use goods and services by government organizations.
- 3. It is mandatory for sellers to enter the Country of Origin while registering products on GeM.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Government e- Marketplace**, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is a **100% Government owned company** registered under the Companies Act, 2013.

Statement 2 is correct. Government e- Marketplace (GeM) is an **online platform for government users for procurement of common use goods and services**. It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government

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users, achieve the best value of their money. It is paperless, cashless and contactless platform giving end to end solution.

Statement 3 is correct. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has made it mandatory for sellers to enter the **Country of Origin** while registering all new products on GeM. Sellers, who had already uploaded their products before the introduction of this new feature on GeM, are being reminded regularly to update the Country of Origin. GeM has also enabled a provision for indication of the percentage of local content in products. [23-06-2020]

Q.235) Consider the following statements regarding the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations**:

1. The receiving State may refuse to accept officials of a particular category.
2. Diplomatic agents have immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving State.
3. India is a party to the convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961** states that the size of the sending State's mission should be reasonable, taking into account the needs of the mission, unless specific agreements are in place. The receiving State may refuse to accept officials of a particular category.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the convention a diplomatic agent shall **enjoy immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving State**. He shall also enjoy immunity from its civil and administrative jurisdiction, except in the case of:

- A real action relating to private immovable property situated in the territory of the receiving State, unless he holds it on behalf of the sending State for the purposes of the mission.
- An action relating to succession in which the diplomatic agent is involved as executor, administrator, heir or legatee as a private person and not on behalf of the sending State.
- An action relating to any professional or commercial activity exercised by the diplomatic agent in the receiving State outside his official functions.

Statement 3 is correct. **India ratified the convention in Oct 1965. Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Act, 1972** gives effect to the Vienna Convention on diplomatic Relations, 1961.

Q.236) Consider the following statements regarding the **Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954**:

1. It prohibits the misleading advertisements creating false impression regarding the true character of the drug.
2. Advertisements of magic remedies like talisman, mantra, kavacha for treatment of certain diseases and disorders is a cognizable offence.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954** provides for **prohibition of misleading advertisements** relating to drugs which directly or indirectly gives a false impression regarding the true character of the drug; or makes a false claim for the drug.

Statement 2 is correct. The act puts prohibition on advertisement of magic remedies for treatment of certain diseases and disorders. The **'magic remedy' includes a talisman, mantra, kavacha**, and any other charm of any kind which is alleged to possess miraculous powers for or in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of any disease. An offence punishable under this Act is cognizable.

Q.237) Which of the following correctly defines the **Gaia Hypothesis in ecology**?

- a) All organisms and their inorganic surroundings on Earth are closely integrated
- b) Climax community remains unchanged until destroyed by an event such as fire
- c) Organisms change over time as a result of changes in heritable physical or behavioral traits
- d) Human development is influenced by the different types of environmental systems

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Gaia hypothesis**, also known as Gaia theory or Gaia principle, proposes that all organisms and their inorganic surroundings on Earth are **closely integrated to form a single and self-regulating complex system**, maintaining the conditions for life on the planet.

It was originally proposed by James Lovelock as the earth feedback hypothesis. It was named the Gaia Hypothesis after the Greek supreme goddess of Earth.

As per the theory Earth is a self-regulating complex system involving the biosphere, the atmosphere, the hydrosphere and the pedosphere, tightly coupled as an evolving system. The theory sustains that this system as a whole, called Gaia, seeks a physical and chemical environment optimal for contemporary life.

Q.238) Which of the following are included in the **Reserve Money aggregate** published by the RBI?

- 1. Currency in circulation
- 2. Bankers' deposits with the RBI
- 3. Time deposits with the banking system

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) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India publishes weekly and fortnightly the monetary statistics through monetary aggregates.

Reserve Money= Currency in Circulation + Bankers' Deposits with RBI + 'Other' Deposits with RBI

Currency in circulation' includes notes in circulation, rupee coins and small coins.

'Bankers' deposits with the Reserve Bank' represent balances maintained by banks in the current account with the Reserve Bank mainly for maintaining Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and as working funds for clearing adjustments.

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'Other' deposits with RBI comprise mainly: (i) deposits of quasi-government and other financial institutions including primary dealers, (ii) balances in the accounts of foreign Central banks and Governments, (iii) accounts of international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, etc.

Q.239) Consider the following statements regarding **Moplah rebellion**:

1. It was a revolt by Mappila peasants of Malabar region.
2. It coincided with the Khilafat-Non Cooperation Movement at National level.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Molpah/Malabar rebellion was an armed uprising in **1921** against **British authority and Hindu landlords** in the Malabar region. The Mapillas were Muslim peasants of Malabar region where most of landlords were Hindus. Mapillah revolt merged with the ongoing Khilafat movement and after the arrest of National leaders, the leadership passed onto local leaders.

British government declared Martial law to suppress the revolt. The movement soon turned into a communal conflict. **By December 1921**, the movement was completely suppressed.

Q.240) Consider the following statements regarding the **Seabed 2030 project**:

1. It aims to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030.
2. It is a collaborative project of Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Seabed 2030** project aims to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the **definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030** and make it available to all.

Seabed 2030 will work to: incorporate all currently available data into its global grid, identify existing data that are not currently in publicly available databases and seek to make these data available, identify areas for which no data exists and encourage data in collection in these areas so we can 'map the gaps'.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between the **Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)**.

On the occasion of World Hydrography Day (June 21), The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project has announced the inclusion of 14.5 million square kilometres of new bathymetric data in the latest GEBCO Grid.

Q.241) Consider the following statements regarding **Shimla Agreement 1972**:

1. It was signed by India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan.

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2. It was agreed that parties will settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations.
3. It is the last Ceasefire agreement between India-Pakistan till date.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Shimla Agreement signed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan on 2nd July 1972**. It contains set of guiding principles, mutually agreed to by India and Pakistan, which both sides would adhere to while managing relations with each other.

Statement 2 is correct. Governments of India and Pakistan agreed that the two countries are resolved to settle their differences by peaceful means **through bilateral negotiations or by any other peaceful means** mutually agreed upon between them. Pending the final settlement of any of the problems between the two countries, **neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation**, and both shall prevent the organization, assistance or encouragement of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The last Ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan was declared on 25th **November 2003** whereby Directors-General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan agreed to observe a ceasefire along the international border, LOC and Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Jammu & Kashmir.

Q.242) Consider the following statements regarding the **Siachen glacier**:

1. It is located in the Karakoram Range of Himalaya.
2. Nubra River originates from the Siachen glacier.
3. Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) is the line dividing the area controlled by India and Pakistan in the Siachen region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Siachen Glacier** is a glacier located in the eastern Karakoram Range in the Himalayas; it is the longest glacier in the Karakoram.

Statement 2 is correct. **The Nubra River** is a tributary of the **Shyok River** and originates from the **Siachen Glacier**.

Statement 3 is correct. India shares a 3,323 km border with Pakistan. The border is divided into three parts:

International Border (IB): Stretches from Gujarat to the north banks of Chenab in Akhnoor in Jammu. **Line of Control (LoC):** Runs from parts of Jammu to parts of Leh. It is a ceasefire line which came into existence after the 1948 and 1971 wars between India and Pakistan. It was delineated in the Simla Agreement (July 1972) whereby both sides agreed not to alter it unilaterally.

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Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL): It divides the current position of Indian and Pakistani troops in the Siachen region. It is 110 km long and extends from NJ 9842 to Indira Col in the north.

Q.243) Consider the following statements regarding the **Disaster Management Act 2005**:

1. It empowers the Central Government to create a National Disaster Response Fund and a National Disaster Mitigation Fund.
2. The Act mandates National Disaster Management Authority to prepare annual reports that government shall lay before both Houses of Parliament.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The act empowers the Central Government to, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Fund to be called the **National Disaster Response Fund** for meeting any threatening disaster situation or disaster and **National Disaster Mitigation Fund** for projects exclusively for the purpose of mitigation.

The Section 70(1) of the Disaster Management Act 2005 states that **the National Authority shall prepare** once every year, an **annual report** giving a true and full account of its activities during the previous year and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Central Government and that Government shall cause the same to be laid before both **Houses of Parliament** within one month of its receipt.

Q.244) Consider the following statements:

1. The share of Gross Value Added by Manufacturing Sector has been consistently less than that of cumulative share of Agriculture, forestry & fishing, in last five years.
2. The weightage of manufacturing sector in Index of Industrial Production is more than that of Mining and Electricity combined together.

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

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Economic Survey** indicates that the share of agriculture and allied sectors in the total GVA of the country has declined from 2009-14 to 2014-19 mainly on account of relatively higher growth in other sectors.

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Table 5: Sectoral shares in GVA (per cent)

	2009-10 to 2013-14	2014-15 to 2018-19	2018-19	H1: 2019-20
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	18.3	17.4	16.1	13.9
Industry	32.3	29.6	29.6	28.3
Mining & Quarrying	3.2	2.4	2.4	2.1
Manufacturing	17.5	16.6	16.4	15.4
Electricity, Gas, Water supply & other utility services	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.9
Construction	9.2	8.0	8.0	8.0
Services	49.4	52.9	54.3	57.8
Trade, Hotel, Transport, Storage, Communication and services related to broadcasting	17.5	18.3	18.3	18.1
Financial, Real estate & Professional services	19.2	20.9	21.3	24.5
Public Administration, Defence and other services	12.7	13.7	14.7	15.2

Source: National Statistical Office

Statement 2 is correct. The weightage of **Manufacturing, Mining and Electricity** production in overall **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** is **77.63 per cent, 14.37 per cent and 7.99 per cent** respectively.

Q.245) Consider the following statements regarding the **Favipiravir drug**:

1. It is an anti-viral medication with activity against the RNA viruses.
2. It is one of the drugs being tested to treat COVID-19 disease under the Solidarity Trial of World Health Organization (WHO).

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Favipiravir** is a pyrazine-carboxamide derivative with activity against **RNA viruses**. It selectively inhibits the influenza viral RNA-dependent RNA polymerase. It has been approved to treat influenza in Japan. Originally it was manufactured by Japan's Fujifilm Toyama Chemical Ltd. Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has launched the drug under the brand name FabiFlu.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The treatment options under study in **Solidarity trial are: Remdesivir; Lopinavir/Ritonavir; and Lopinavir/Ritonavir with Interferon beta-1a.**

On 17 June 2020, WHO announced that the hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) arm of the Solidarity Trial to find an effective COVID-19 treatment was being stopped.

Q.246) Consider the following statements:

1. Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) aims to provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure.
2. New Space India Limited (NSIL) is a wholly owned Government of India company and a commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

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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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Union Cabinet has recently approved creation of **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)**. It will provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure. It will also hand-hold, promote and guide the private industries in space activities through encouraging policies and a friendly regulatory environment.

Statement 2 is correct. **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** is a wholly owned Government of India company, a commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with the primary responsibility of enabling Indian industries to take up high technology space related activities and is also responsible for promotion and commercial exploitation of the products and services emanating from the Indian space programme.

Q.247) Who among the following has published the **Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2020?**

- a) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- b) Oxfam International
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: “**Global Education Monitoring Report 2020: Inclusion and Education**” has been published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**). GEM Report is an editorially independent report, hosted and published by UNESCO.

It mainly reports on progress on education in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with particular reference to the SDG 4 monitoring framework; and the implementation of national and international strategies to help hold all relevant partners to account for their commitments, as part of the overall SDG follow-up and review process.

The **2020 report analyses the impact of COVID-19** on educational activities and shows 40% of poorest countries failed to support learners at risk during COVID-19 crisis and urges inclusion in education.

Q.248) Consider the following statements regarding the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**:

- 1. Only India is the member of Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) from SAARC region.
- 2. China and Iran are Observer countries to SAARC.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** is the regional intergovernmental organization of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

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The **Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)** is an initiative by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.

Statement 2 is correct. There are currently **nine Observers to SAARC**, namely: (i) Australia; (ii) **China**; (iii) the European Union; (iv) **Iran**; (v) Japan; (vi) the Republic of Korea; (vii) Mauritius; (viii) Myanmar; and (ix) the United States of America.

Q.249) Consider the following statements regarding the **Equalization Levy**:

1. It is levied as per the provisions of Income Tax Act 1961.
2. The levy is not applicable to e-commerce companies having permanent establishment in India.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Equalisation levy** was first introduced in **Finance Act, 2016** in respect of specified services like online advertisements. It has been further expanded by amendment through Finance Act 2020.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the emended provisions, there shall be charged an equalisation levy at the rate of two per cent of the amount of consideration received or receivable by an e-commerce operator from e-commerce supply or services made or provided or facilitated by it.

An "**e-commerce operator**" for **provisions of equalisation levy** has been defined as a non-resident who owns, operates or manages digital or electronic facility or platform for online sale of goods or online provision of services or both.

Further, the **equalisation levy shall not be charged** where the e-commerce operator making or providing or facilitating e-commerce supply or services has a permanent establishment in India and such e-commerce supply or services is effectively connected with such permanent establishment.

Similar question has been asked in UPSC CSE Prelims 2018.

Q.250) Who among the following is the **Central Licensing Authority under the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019?**

- a) Drugs Controller, India
- b) Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- c) President, National Medical Commission (NMC)
- d) Chairperson, Indian Medical Association (IMA)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Drugs Controller, India** appointed by the Central Government in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the Central Licensing Authority for the purposes of Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.

No person or institution or organisation is authorized to conduct clinical trial of a new drug or investigational new drug except in accordance with the permission granted by the **Central Licensing Authority** and without the protocol there of having been approved by the Ethics Committee for clinical trial registered in accordance with the provisions of rules.

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Q.251) Which of the following **glaciers** is/are correctly matched to their location?

1. Lambert-Fisher Glacier - Alaska, North America
2. Bering Glacier - Antarctica
3. Siachen Glacier - India, Asia
4. Vatnajökull Glacier - Iceland, Europe

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. The largest glacier in the world is the **Lambert-Fisher Glacier in Antarctica**.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. North America's longest glacier is the **Bering Glacier in Alaska, USA**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Siachen Glacier** is located in the eastern Karakoram Range in the **Himalayas, India**.

Option 4 is correctly matched. **Vatnajökull** is one of the largest and most voluminous ice caps of Europe in **Iceland**.

Q.252) Consider the following statements regarding the **Food grain stocking norms** in India:

1. Food grain stocking norms consists of operational stocks for PDS and reserve stocks for meeting any shortfall or exigencies at any point of time.
2. Food grain Stocking norms are specified for each quarter of the year.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

'Food grain stocking norms' refers to the level of stock in the Central Pool that is sufficient to meet the operational requirement of food grains and exigencies at any point of time. *Earlier this concept was termed as Buffer Norms and Strategic Reserve.*

Operational stocks: for meeting monthly distributional requirement under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme [TPDS] and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

Food security stocks/reserves: for meeting shortfall in procurement.

Stocking norms are for a quarter and consist of operational stock for the quarter and strategic reserve to take care of short fall in production or natural calamities.

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Foodgrain Stocking Norms for the Central Pool (Buffer Norms)

(In LMT)

As on	Operational Stock			Strategic Reserve		Total
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	
1st April	115.80	44.60	160.40	20.00	30.00	210.40
1st July	115.40	245.80	361.20	20.00	30.00	411.20
1st Oct	82.50	175.20	257.70	20.00	30.00	307.70
1st Jan	56.10	108.00	164.10	20.00	30.00	214.10

Q.253) Which of the following is/are characteristics of a **Public Good**?

1. One individual's consumption of the good does not affect another's opportunity to consume the good.
2. Individuals cannot deny each other the opportunity to consume the good.

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

In economics, a **public good** refers to a commodity or service that is made available to all members of a society. Generally, these services are administered by governments and paid for collectively through taxation.

Public Goods are non-rival in consumption and are non-excludable:

Non-rival in consumption: One individual's consumption of a good does not affect another's opportunity to consume the good.

Non-excludable: Individuals cannot deny each other the opportunity to consume a good.

Public goods include law enforcement, national defense, and the rule of law; it also refers to more basic goods, such as access to clean air and drinking water.

Q.254) Consider the following statements regarding the **Petrol and Diesel**:

1. Diesel has lower density than petrol.
2. Both petrol and diesel are derived from refining of the crude oil.

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

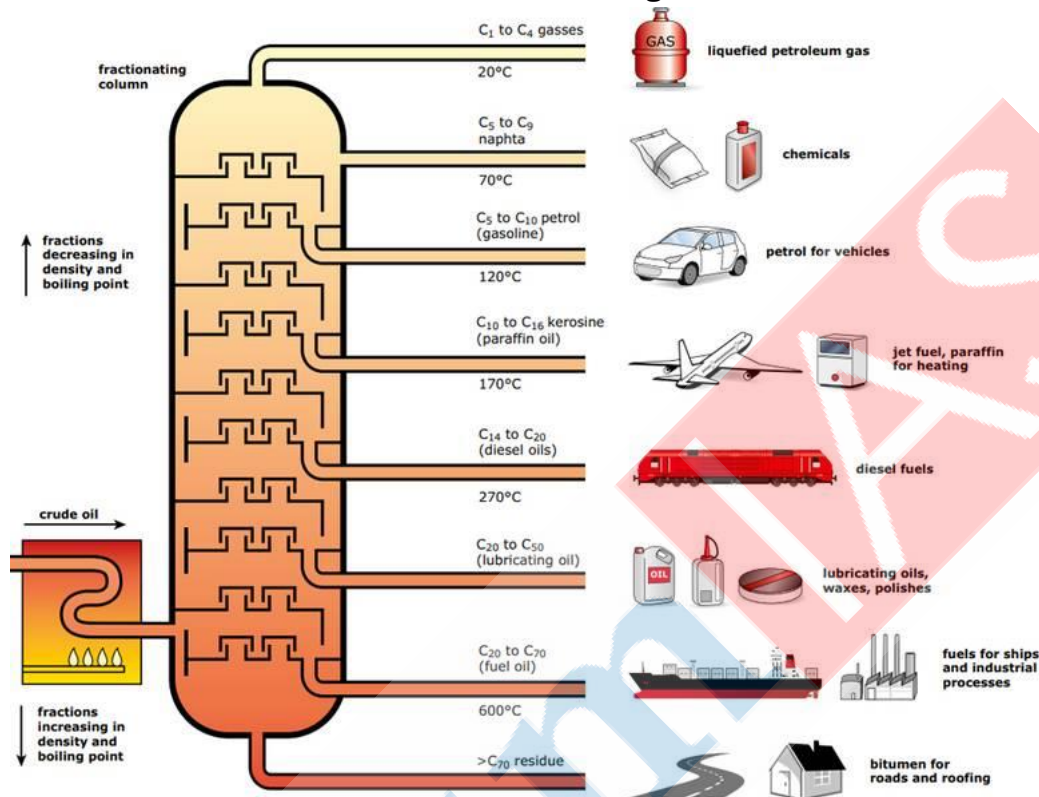
Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The calorific value of diesel fuel is roughly 45.5 MJ/kg (megajoules per kilogram), slightly lower than petrol which is 45.8 MJ/kg.

However, **diesel fuel is denser than petrol** and contains about 15% more energy by volume (roughly 36.9 MJ/litre compared to 33.7 MJ/litre).

Statement 2 is correct. **Crude oil contains different types of hydrocarbons** mixed together and, depending on the source of the crude oil, different impurities. Different hydrocarbon chain lengths all have progressively higher boiling points the longer the chain, so they can all be separated by a process known as fractional distillation.

Petrol and Diesel both are derived from the refining of Crude oil.



Q.255) Which of the following has published the **World Drug Report 2020**?

- a) World Health Organization (WHO)
- b) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- c) International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
- d) International Drug Discovery & Clinical Research (IDDCR)

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **World Drug Report** is published annually by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**. It analyzes market trends, compiling detailed statistics on international drug markets.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020:

Around **269 million** people used drugs worldwide in 2018, 30 per cent more than in 2009 and over 35 million people suffer from drug use disorders.

Cannabis was the most used substance worldwide in 2018. **Opioids**, however, remain the most harmful, as over the past decade, the total number of deaths due to opioid use disorders went up 71 per cent.

Drug use increased far more rapidly among developing countries over the 2000-2018 period than in developed countries.

Q.256) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Green Tribunal**:

- 1. The Tribunal has powers as of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- 2. Matters under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are out of the jurisdiction of tribunal.

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3. The decision of the tribunal is final and cannot be challenged in any court of law.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. Tribunal is not bound by procedure under the **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 or the Indian Evidence Act, 1872** and is guided by principles of natural justice. However, the Tribunal is vested with the powers of a **civil court** under the Code of Civil Procedure for discharging its functions.

Statement 2 is correct. **The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** are out of the jurisdiction that is exercised by the tribunal.

Any person seeking relief and compensation for environmental damage involving subjects in the legislations mentioned in Schedule I of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 may approach the Tribunal. The statutes in Schedule I are:

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991;
- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Tribunal has powers to review its own decisions. Further it can be challenged in the **Supreme Courts**. High Courts writs under article 226 are also a means to challenge the decision of NGT.

Q.257) Consider the following statements regarding **Lunar Gateway** project:

- 1. The Gateway is planned to orbit around the Earth in Geo-synchronous orbit.
- 2. Gateway will have facility to keep crew on board.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **NASA Lunar Gateway** will be an outpost **orbiting the Moon** to provide vital support for a sustainable, long-term human return to the lunar surface, as well as a staging point for deep space exploration. It is also part of **Artemis Program of NASA**.

Statement 2 is correct. The gateway will have facility to support the crew onboard. The **Habitation and Logistics Outpost (HALO)** will be the initial crew cabin for astronauts visiting the Gateway for further missions in space. Its primary purpose is to provide basic life support needs for the visiting astronauts.

Q.258) Consider the following statements regarding **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**:

- 1. It identifies jurisdictions with weak measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

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2. Pakistan has been placed in High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action by FATF.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** continually identifies and reviews jurisdictions with strategic anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) deficiencies that present a risk to the international financial system and closely monitors their progress. The FATF's International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) oversees the process.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **High-risk jurisdictions** have significant strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation. This list is often referred to as the "**blacklist**".

Jurisdictions under increased monitoring are actively working with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing. This list is often referred to as the '**grey list**'.

Pakistan is in Grey List.

Q.259) Consider the following statements regarding the **Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**:

- 1. VOCs are rare occurring organic chemicals that are only found at upper levels of atmosphere.
- 2. Exposure to VOCs has adverse health effects on humans.
- 3. VOCs combined with nitrogen oxides in the air forms smog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids, it that converts into vapors or gases. VOCs are released from **burning fuel** such as gasoline, wood, coal, or natural gas. They are also released from many consumer products: Cigarettes, **Paints and thinners, Adhesives**, Dry cleaning fluids, Glues, Wood preservatives, Cleaners and disinfectants, Moth repellants, Air fresheners, Building materials and furnishings, **Pesticides** etc.

Statement 2 is correct. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) commonly enter(s) the body through **inhalation or skin contact**. Short-term exposure health effects from VOCs may cause: Irritation of the eyes and respiratory tract, Headaches, Dizziness, Visual disorders, Memory problems.

Long-term exposure may cause Nausea, Fatigue, Loss of coordination, Dizziness, Damage to the liver, kidneys, and central nervous system and Cancer.

Statement 3 is correct. **Photochemical smog** is produced when sunlight reacts with nitrogen oxides and at least one volatile organic compound (VOC) in the atmosphere.

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Q.260) Consider the following statements regarding the **Skills Build Reignite** platform:

1. It has been launched by the NITI Aayog in partnership with industry.
2. It provides job seekers and entrepreneurs free online coursework and mentoring support.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Digital Learning Platform “Skills Build Reignite”** has been launched by **IBM India** in partnership with the Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

Statement 2 is correct. It aims to provide job seekers and entrepreneurs, with access to **free online coursework and mentoring support** designed to help them reinvent their careers and businesses. It provides industry relevant content on topics including Artificial intelligence, Cloud, Data analytics and security to reskill and upskill themselves, at no cost.

Another program launched was the **SkillsBuild Innovation camp**; a 10-week program which supports 100 hours of structured learning to learners who are interested in gaining hands-on project experience to enhance learning and are intent on building their network and enhance their employability.

Q.261) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sovereign Credit Rating**:

1. It is an independent assessment of the creditworthiness of a country.
2. Investment grade rating signifies low risk of default.
3. India's credit rating by international credit agencies has never reached above the speculative grade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A **sovereign credit rating** is an independent assessment of the creditworthiness of a country or sovereign entity. Investors use sovereign credit ratings as a way to **assess the riskiness** of a particular country's bonds.

Statement 2 is correct. **An investment grade is a rating that signifies a relatively low risk of default.** The speculative grade often referred to as 'junk grade' rating signifies a higher risk of default.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **India has been rated by in investment grade** for many years, and still is rated in investment grade.

Standard & Poor's gives a BBB- or higher rating to countries it considers investment grade, and grades of BB+ or lower are deemed to be speculative or "junk" grade. Moody's considers a Baa3 or higher rating to be of investment grade, and a rating of Ba1 and below is speculative.

RATING RUMBLE

Ratings agency	Ratings	Outlook
Moody's	Baa3	Negative
Standard & Poor's	BBB-	Stable
Fitch	BBB-	Stable

WHAT THE AGENCY SAID

- Moody's cited weak policy effectiveness, and slow reforms momentum even before the Covid-19 pandemic for rating downgrade
- The rating agency said while the action was taken in the context of Covid-19, it was not driven by the impact of the pandemic
- While rating for India was downgraded, a 'Baa3' rating is still investment grade, though it is the lowest rating in that grade
- India's real GDP to contract by 4.0% in FY20 due to Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown measures
- Expects 8.7% growth in FY21 and closer to 6.0% thereafter for India's real gross domestic product

Q.262) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' initiative:

- It provides online education facility of all the courses from Class 9 till post-graduation.
- Courses delivered on the platform are available free of cost to the learners.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. 'Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) is a platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from **Class 9 till post-graduation** to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.

Statement 2 is correct. Courses delivered through **SWAYAM are available free of cost** to the learners, however learners wanting a **SWAYAM certificate** should register for the final proctored exams that come at a fee and attend in-person at designated centers on specified dates.

Q.263) Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Water Commission**:

- It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- CWC is responsible for monitoring of flood situation and issuing flood forecasts.
- It maintains water resources information system for river basins in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only

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- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Central Water Commission** is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources and is presently **functioning as an attached office** of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. Major functions of CWC are:

- **Hydrological observations** and studies,
- Maintaining water **resources information system** for each river basin,
- Providing assistance in regulation and development of Inter-state Rivers,
- **Issuing flood/inflow forecasts**,
- Carrying out techno-economic appraisal of projects,
- Taking up survey and investigation of projects on request,
- Providing design consultancy, and
- Advising and assisting the Government of India on related matters

Q.264) Consider the following statements regarding '**Nai Talim**':

1. It was proposed by Mahatma Gandhi through his articles in newspaper 'Harijan'.
2. It emphasized on learning in mother tongue along with handicraft work.
3. It proposed Learning to be linked with socially productive vocational work.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct.

Mahatma Gandhi proposed his scheme of **Nai Talim (New Education)** in a well formulated approach to education in **1937 in his newspaper 'Harijan'**. It was a philosophy of education based on experiments he did from 1904 when he was in South Africa to his stay in ashrams in India at Sabarmati (Gujarat) and Sevagram (Maharashtra). Its features included:

- Education or learning in mother tongue along with handicraft work,
- Work should be linked with most useful vocational needs of the locality,
- Learning should be linked with vocational work, and
- Work should be socially useful and productive needed for living.

Q.265) Consider the following statements regarding **India-Afghanistan** relations:

1. India shares land border with Afghanistan through Jammu and Kashmir UT.
2. India-Afghanistan have signed Strategic Partnership Agreement with each other.
3. The Salma Dam and Parliament in Afghanistan have been built in collaboration with India.
4. Zaranj-Delaram highway built by India aims to boost bilateral economic relations with Afghanistan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. India has 106km land border with **Afghanistan through Gilgit Baltistan (Ladakh UT)**, under Pakistan's occupation.

Statement 2 is correct. India-Afghanistan signed the **Strategic Partnership Agreement in October 2011**.

It provides for assistance to help rebuild Afghanistan's infrastructure and institutions, education and technical assistance to rebuild indigenous Afghan capacity, encouraging investment in Afghanistan's natural resources, **support for an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, broad-based and inclusive process of peace and reconciliation**.

Statement 3 is correct. **Afghan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam)**, a hydroelectric and irrigation dam project located on the Hari River and Parliament in Afghanistan have been built in Collaboration with India.

Statement 4 is correct. One of the objectives of building **Zaranj-Delaram** road by India was to boost bilateral economic relations besides offering Afghanistan another outlet to a seaport (Chabahar).



Q.266) Consider the following statements regarding **Defence budget** of India:

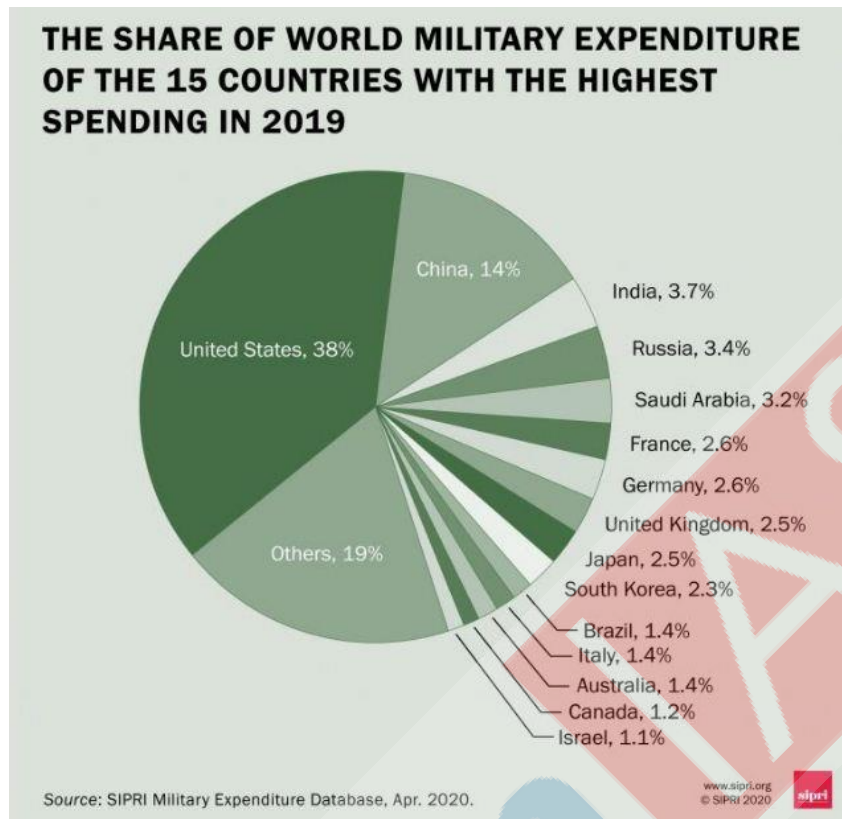
1. India was among top 3 global military spender countries in 2019 as per SIPRI Report.
2. India's defense budget has been continuously increasing in absolute terms in last five years.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. As per **SIPRI report 2020**, **India is third** largest military spender in the world after **USA and China**.



Statement 2 is correct. As per the table below (Source:PIB), **Defence Expenditure is increasing every year in absolute terms:**

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Defence Budget (BE)	GDP
2016-17	3,40,921.98	153,62,386 (2nd RE)
2017-18	3,59,854.12	170,95,005 (1st RE)
2018-19	4,04,364.71	1,90,10,164 (PE)
2019-20	4,31,010.79	2,04,42,233(RE)

In **Union Budget for the financial year 2020-21** allocation of **Rs 4,71,378** crore has been done for defence sector.

Q.267) Who among the following has published the **“COVID-19 and Child Labour Report”**:

- International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
- Save the Children Foundation and International Labour Organization (ILO)

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d) United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: “COVID-19 and child labour: A time of crisis, a time to act” has been published by International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). It states that with the COVID-19 pandemic, world is facing the risk of reverting years of progress and may see an increase in child labour for the first time in 20 years.

ILO Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age of Employment recognize the right of every child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to interfere with the child’s education or harm the child’s health.

Q.268) Consider the following statements regarding **drug abuse** monitoring in India:

1. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal ministry for drug demand reduction in India.
2. ‘National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India’ has been conducted by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) and AIIMS, New Delhi.
3. ‘Nasha Mukh Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21)’ has been launched for Most Affected Districts in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** is the nodal Ministry for drug demand reduction which coordinates and monitors all aspects of drug abuse prevention which include assessment of the extent of the problem, preventive action, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, dissemination of information and public awareness.

Statement 2 is correct. **National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India** was conducted by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi under guidance of MoSJ&E.

Statement 3 is correct. **Nasha Mukh Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21) for 272 Most Affected Districts** was launched by Ministry of State for Social Justice and Empowerment on the occasion of “**International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**” on **June 26**.

Q.269) Which of the following island(s) is/are in the South China Sea?

1. Paracel Islands
2. Spratly Islands
3. Senkaku Islands

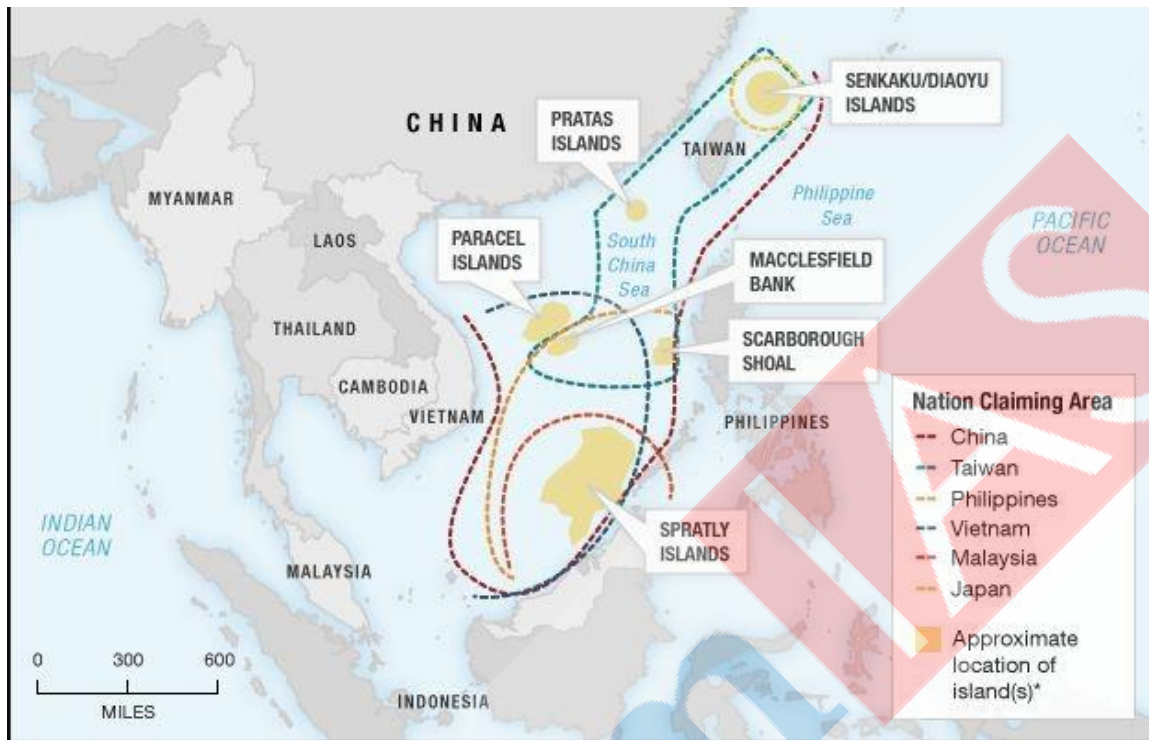
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Paracel islands and Spratly islands are in the South China Sea. The Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands are in East China Sea.



Q.270) Who among the following is/are entitled to vote by **postal ballot** for an election in India?

1. Members of the armed forces
2. Elector subjected to Preventive Detention
3. A voter on election duty

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The following classes of **electors** are entitled for postal ballots:

- **Service Voters:** members of the armed forces of the Union, members of an armed police force of a State who are serving outside that State, persons who are employed under the Government of India in a post outside India (e.g. Ambassadors of India abroad, their staff etc.).
- **Special Voter** means any person holding an office declared by the President to be an office to which the provisions of sub-section (4) of Section

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- **A voter on election duty**; means Polling agent, Polling Officer, or Presiding Officer, security personnel, or any other such public servant who is an elector in the constituency appointed for election duties
- any person belonging to a class of persons notified by the Election Commission in consultation with the Government to give his vote by postal ballot.

On June 19, the Ministry of Law and Justice notified a change in the rules, allowing those aged 65 years and above, COVID-19 suspect or affected persons to opt for postal ballot.

Q.271) Which of the following **navigation system(s)** is/are correctly matched to their respective Country/region of origin?

1. Beidou - China
2. QZSS - South Korea
3. GLONASS - Russia
4. Galileo - European Union

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) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System** is a **Chinese satellite** navigation system. It has recently completed its constellation.

The **Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS)**, also known as Michibiki is a regional navigation satellite system commissioned by the **Japanese** Government as a National Space Development Program.

GLONASS, or "GLObal Navigation Satellite System", is a space-based satellite navigation system operated by **Roscosmos (Russia)**.

Galileo is a global navigation satellite system that went live in 2016, created by the **European Union** through the European GNSS Agency.

NavIC is an independent regional navigation satellite system developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

Q.272) Consider the following statements regarding the **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana**:

1. It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
2. The scheme provides advance training and equipment to workers in clusters of traditional pottery development.

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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Kumhar Sashaktikaran Program is an initiative of the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** for empowerment of potters' community.

Under this program KVIC identify the areas where **clusters of traditional pottery workers** are available and provide them **training and electric pottery wheels** and other tools like

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blunger, Pug Mill, etc. The machines have eliminated drudgery from the process of pottery making and resulted in higher income of potters.

Several remote areas in states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, J&K, Haryana, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Telangana and Bihar have been covered by KVIC in the scheme.

Q.273) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Comparison Program (ICP)**:

1. It is a global statistical data initiative managed by International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. It produces purchasing power parities (PPPs) and comparable price level indexes (PLIs) for participating economies.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **International Comparison Program (ICP)** is one of the largest statistical initiatives in the world. It is managed by the **World Bank under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission**.

Statement 2 is correct. The main objectives of the ICP are to:

(i) **produce purchasing power parities (PPPs)** and comparable price level indexes (PLIs) for participating economies;

(ii) convert volume and per capita measures of gross domestic product (GDP) and its expenditure components into a common currency using PPPs.

India has retained its position as the third-largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) behind the US and China. Together USA and China accounted for a third of the global economy.

PPPs are calculated based on the price of a common basket of goods and services in each participating economy and are a measure of what an economy's local currency can buy in another economy.

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trade; and ensure that national laws and powers for law enforcement allow authorities to go after the finances of wildlife traffickers, and to pursue financial investigations.

Q.275) Government announces **Minimum Support Price** for which of the following crop(s)?

1. Bajra
2. Groundnut
3. Sunflower Seed
4. Cotton

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.

Crops covered are:

Kharif crops: Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Maize, Arhar, Moong, Urad, Cotton, Groundnut, Sunflower Seed, Soybean, Sesamum, Nigerseed.

Rabi Crops: Wheat, Barley, Masur, Gram, Rapeseed/Mustard, Safflower, Toria.

Others: Copra, Dehusked Coconut, Jute, Sugarcane (FRP).

Q.276) Consider the following statements regarding **Leishmaniasis**:

1. It is a neglected tropical disease affecting many countries including India.
2. It is caused by protozoan parasites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile** being developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia**. BrahMos has a flight range of up to 290km and can reach a maximum speed of Mach 3.

Statement 2 is correct. **BrahMos is powered by a two-stage propulsion system**. Initial acceleration is provided by a solid-propellant booster and supersonic cruise speed is provided by a liquid-fueled ramjet system.

A ramjet is a form of air-breathing jet engine that uses the vehicle's forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion without a rotating compressor.

Q.278) Consider the following statements regarding the **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**:

1. It is a statutory body created under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. It assists foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination in wildlife crime control.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau** is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. It is established under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

Statement 2 is correct. It is mandated by the act to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities, to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank, assist foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control etc.

Q.279) Who among the following organized the **Copenhagen Democracy Summit 2020**?

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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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **employment -cum- rural public works Campaign** named '**Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan**' has been launched to empower and provide livelihood opportunities in areas/villages witnessing large number of returnee migrant workers affected by the devastating COVID-19.

It will work in mission mode; will involve focused implementation of **25 categories of works/activities in 116 districts**, each with a large concentration of returnee migrant workers in 6 states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha.

The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for this campaign and the campaign will be implemented in close coordination with the State Governments.

Q.281) Consider the following statements regarding **BIMSTEC**:

- 1. All members of the group have coastal boundary with Indian Ocean.
- 2. The group includes members from SAARC and ASEAN.
- 3. BIMSTEC's sectors of cooperation include counter-terrorism, environment and climate change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

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4. Nepal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: India has 15,106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7,516.6 Km including island territories.

India's border (in Km): Bangladesh (4,096.7), China (3,488), Pakistan (3,323), Nepal (1,751), Myanmar (1,643), Bhutan (699), Afghanistan (106).



Q.283) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

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The **Tawang Monastery, Arunchal pradesh** is the second biggest and oldest in Asia and is known as the Tawang Gaden Namgyal Lhatse i.e., the celestial paradise of divine site chosen by the horse was founded by Merag Lodroe Gyamtso in the year 1680-81.

Q.284) Consider the following statements regarding the **Non-cooperation Movement**:

1. It was approved by Indian National Congress at a special session held in Calcutta, 1920.
2. Bal Gangadhar Tilak was responsible for the controlled movement in Maharashtra region.
3. Mohammad Ali Jinnah opposed the non-cooperation and boycott proposals, and left INC in 1920.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **The Congress approved** a non-cooperation programme demanding the Punjab and Khilafat wrongs removed and swaraj established at special session in **Calcutta, September 1920**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Tilak did not take part in the noncooperation movement. He **died on August 1, 1920**, before the movement started.

Statement 3 is correct. **Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Annie Besant, G.S. Kharpade and B.C. Pal** were among the leaders that left the Congress during NCM as they believed in a constitutional and lawful struggle.

Q.285) Which of the following correctly defines the phenomenon of **Gynandromorphism**?

- a) an organism containing more than two sets of chromosome
- b) organisms consuming another individual of the same species as food
- c) phenomenon of reproduction without fertilization by sperm
- d) an organism exhibiting characters of both male and female in body

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **CITES** is an international agreement between governments, aimed to ensure that international trade in specimens of **wild animals and plants** does not threaten their survival. **India ratified the convention in 1976.**

CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN, in 1975 CITES entered in force.

Statement 2 is correct. The **CITES Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)** Program is a site-based system designed to monitor trends in the illegal killing of elephants, build management capacity and provide information to help range States make appropriate management and enforcement decisions.

Q.287) Which of the following disease(s) is/are **transmitted by mosquitos?**

1. Yellow fever
2. West Nile Virus
3. Zika Virus
4. Chikungunya

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are transmitted by mosquitos.

Yellow fever is caused by a virus (Flavivirus) which is transmitted to humans by the bites of infected mosquitoes. It is an acute viral haemorrhagic disease.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of the flavivirus genus. Human infection is most often the result of bites from infected mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds.

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947

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cruise missiles, within the range of 400km at an altitude of up to 30km. The system can simultaneously engage many targets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The missiles are launched by a 6×6 tractor truck **Transporter-Erector-Launcher** (TEL) vehicle. The TEL vehicle can carry up to four launch tubes holding a mix of missiles.

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) is a similar air defense system developed by USA.

In October 2018, India signed a \$5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defense missile systems.

Q.289) Consider the following statements regarding the **Leucocytes**:

1. These are part of the immune system of body.
 2. These cells do not have nuclei in them.
 2. Hemoglobin is the oxygen-carrying protein that is found within all Leucocytes.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **White blood cells (WBCs), also called leukocytes** are the cells of the immune system that are involved in protecting the body against both infectious disease and foreign invaders.

Statement 2 is incorrect. All **white blood cells have nuclei**, which distinguishes them from the other blood cells, the non-nucleated red blood cells (RBCs) and platelets.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Hemoglobin** is the oxygen-carrying protein that is found within all **RBCs (erythrocytes)**. It picks up oxygen where it is abundant (the lungs) and drops off oxygen where it is needed around the body. Hemoglobin is also the pigment that gives RBCs their red color.

Q.290) Which of the following is/are potential application(s) of **Gold Nanoparticles**?

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GNP-based **biosensors** are used for the detection and measurement of enzyme activity, **colorimetric sensor** with gold nanoparticles can identify if foods are suitable for consumption.

Their biocompatibility, high surface area, stability, and nontoxicity make them suitable for various applications in therapeutic use including detection and **diagnosis of diseases, bio-labeling, and targeted drug delivery**.

As nano-carriers, GNPs are capable of transferring various drugs made out of peptides, proteins, plasmid DNAs, small interfering RNAs, and chemotherapeutic agents to target diseased cells of the human body.

Q.291) Consider the following statements regarding the **Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)**:

1. It provides for nationwide portability of benefits under the National Food Security Act.
2. The system works on the basis of Aadhar Card authentication of the Ration Card holder on ePoS device.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. “**Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)**” objective is to introduce **nation-wide portability of ration card** holders under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), to lift their entitlement food grains from any fair price shop (FPS) in the country without the need to obtain a new ration card, by integrating the existing PDS systems/portals of States/UTs with the Central systems/portals, etc.

Statement 2 is correct. “**One Nation One Ration Card**” plan is implemented to enable the NFSA ration card holders to lift their entitled quota of subsidized food grains from any ePoS enabled FPS of their choice anywhere in the country, by using the existing/same ration card after **Aadhaar authentication on ePoS device**.

20 states have joined the ‘Integrated Management of

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meets at the level of the Quartet Principals (United Nations Secretary General, United States Secretary of State, Foreign Minister of Russia, and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) and the Quartet Special Envoys.

Q.293) Consider the following statements regarding the **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS)**:

1. It is a World Bank program to improve quality and governance of school education in India.
2. Program will help improve learning assessment systems through 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' at national level.

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **World Bank** Board of Executive Directors recently approved a \$500 million **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS)** to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states (Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan). The initiative includes:

- Focusing more directly on the delivery of education services at the state, district and sub district levels.
- Addressing demands from stakeholders, especially parents, for greater accountability and inclusion.
- Equipping teachers to manage this transformation.
- Investing more in developing India's human capital needs.

Statement 2 is correct. At the national level, through the **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**, and in partnership with the states of **Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan**, STARS will also help improve learning assessment systems; strengthen classroom instruction and remediation; facilitate school-to-work transition; and strengthen governance and decentralized management.

Q.294) Consider the following statements regarding **Open Data Charter**:

1. It is a set of principles and best practices for the release of governmental open data.
2. India is a signatory to the Open Data Charter.

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North Macedonia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay and New Zealand.

India has not adopted the charter, but has Open Government Data (OGD) Platform that facilitates Government Organizations to publish their datasets in open formats for free public use.

Q.295) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVAXIN**:

1. It is a potential vaccine for COVID-19 indigenously developed in India.
2. The vaccine uses live attenuated SARS-COV-2 virus.

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

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Bharat Biotech** has successfully developed **COVAXIN**, a vaccine candidate for COVID-19, in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – National Institute of Virology (NIV)**. The SARS-CoV-2 strain was isolated in NIV, Pune and transferred to Bharat Biotech.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The COVAXIN is an **inactivated vaccine** and does not use live attenuated form of the SARS-Cov-2 virus.

The Drug Controller General of India – CDSCO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare granted permission to initiate Phase I & II Human clinical trials after the company submitted results generated from preclinical studies, demonstrating safety and immune response. Human clinical trials are scheduled to start across India in July 2020.

Q.296) Consider the following statements regarding the **Information Technology Act 2000**:

1. The act provides legal recognition to electronic records and digital signature.
2. It provides penalty for unauthorized access or copying of data and introducing virus into any computer

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public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource.

Q.297) Which of the following project(s) is/are built or proposed in collaboration between India and Bhutan?

1. Kholongchhu hydro-electric project
2. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project
3. Mangdechhu hydro-electric Project

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) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The ongoing cooperation between India and Bhutan in the hydro-power sector is covered under the 2006 bilateral agreement for cooperation and its Protocol signed in 2009. Four hydro-electric projects (HEPs) totaling 2136 MW are already operational in Bhutan and are supplying electricity to India.

The 720 MW **Mangdechhu** was commissioned in August 2019. Two HEPs namely, 1200 MW **Punatsangchhu-I**, 1020 MW **Punatsangchhu-II** in Inter-Governmental mode and **Kholongchhu HEP** (600 MWs) under the joint venture mode are under various stages of implementation.

India and Bhutan have recently signed a concession agreement on the 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project (KHEL). The joint venture partners of the project are India's **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN)** and Bhutan's **Druk Green Power Corporation Limited (DGPC)**.

Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is proposed on river Mahakali known as Sarda which forms international boundary between India and Nepal.

Q.298) Which of the following is/are part of the 'Operation Twist' of Reserve Bank of India?

1. Sale of government securities
2. Purchase of government securities
3. Lowering of Repo rate

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Q.299) Which of the following portal(s) is/are correctly matched to their utility?

1. SVANidhi - Micro-Credit Facility for street vendors
2. Aarogyapath - Real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies
3. SATYABHAMA - Science and Technology Program Scheme of Ministry of Mines

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) All of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above options are correctly matched.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a Special Micro-Credit Facility Scheme - PM **SVANidhi (Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi)** for providing affordable loans to street vendors. SVANidhi Portal will start accepting loan applications from **Street Vendors** from July 2nd, who can apply directly or with the help of CSCs/ ULBs/ SHGs.

A CSIR **National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal Aarogyapath**, which aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies, has been launched recently.

SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal has been launched for Science and Technology Program Scheme of Ministry of Mines. 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.

Q.300) Consider the following statements regarding the **Accessible India Campaign**:

1. It is a nationwide campaign of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
2. It aims at developing accessible physical environment, transportation system and Information & communication ecosystem suitable for persons with disabilities.