

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

1st to 5th July,
2020

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

History

Q.1) The places “**Kupgallu, Piklihal and Tekkalkota**” are related to which of the following?

- a) Ashoka’s Inscriptions
- b) Early rock paintings
- c) Sacred groves
- d) Ancient cave temples

ANS: B

Explanation: First discovery of rock paintings in the world was made in India (1867-68) by an Archaeologist, **Archibold Carlleyle**, and twelve years before the discovery of Altamira in Spain (site of oldest rock paintings in the world).

- In India, remnants of rock paintings have been found on the walls of caves situated in several districts of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Bihar, and Uttarakhand.
- Some of the examples of sites early rock paintings are **Lakhudiyar in Uttarakhand, Kupgallu in Telangana, Piklihal and Tekkalkotta in Karnataka, Bhimbetka and Jogimara in Madhya Pradesh etc.**

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **bronze-casting technique** of Indus-valley civilization:

1. The bronze statues were made using the ‘lost wax’ technique.
2. Bronze casting was popular at all the major centres of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The art of bronze-casting was practised on a wide scale by the Harappans. Their **bronze statues were made using the ‘lost wax’ technique** in which the wax figures were first covered with a coating of clay and allowed to dry.

- Then the wax was heated and the molten wax was drained out through a tiny hole made in the clay cover.
- The hollow mould thus created was filled with molten metal which took the original shape of the object. Once the metal cooled, the clay cover was completely removed.
- In bronze we find human as well as animal figures, the best example of the former being the statue of a girl popularly titled ‘Dancing Girl’.
- Amongst animal figures in bronze the buffalo with its uplifted head, back and sweeping horns and the goat are of artistic merit.
- **Bronze casting was popular at all the major centres of the Indus Valley Civilisation.**
- The copper dog and bird of Lothal and the bronze figure of a bull from Kalibangan are in no way inferior to the human figures of copper and bronze from Harappa and Mohenjodaro.
- Metal-casting appears to be a continuous tradition.

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Q.3) The **Badakshan mines** (Present day it is located in Afghanistan) of Indus valley civilization is famous for which of the following?

- a) steatite
- b) Lapis lazuli
- c) Diamonds
- d) Agate-carnelian

ANS: B

Explanation: Past human cultures used various raw materials found from the natural context, for example, **shell species of Turbinella pyrum from the Gulf of Kachchh, agate-carnelian from Khandak** near the Harappan site of Surkotada and other locations in Gujarat, **lapis lazuli from the Badakshan mines of Afghanistan, high quality steatite from northern Rajasthan**, and **turquoise from Central Asia**.

Q.4) The **Sripavata Arama project** supported by the Government of India and executed by the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC), is an attempt to develop which of the following?

- a) Buddhist Heritage
- b) Jain heritage
- c) Folk-deities of tribal people
- d) None

ANS: A

Explanation: The Sripavata Arama project supported by the Government of India and executed by the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC), is an **attempt to capture the Buddhist heritage of the Telugu country** and interpret it to the present generation.

- The project also seeks to revive the forgotten Buddhist visual art traditions. Of the three schools of Buddhist art, the Madhura School, the Gandhara School and the Amaravati School, the last one belongs to the Telugu country.
- It is this School that flourished all over the South-India, even in Sri Lanka. It is also this school which is celebrated for its quality of ‘moving images’ and for capturing social and cultural life of the times in addition to religious imagery.
- Our artists and sculptors gave up Buddhist architecture and sculpture after the decline of Buddhism around the 7th Century CE; the later temple architecture and sculpture belong to the Pallavan and Chalukyan art traditions.
- The Arama project seeks to revive the forgotten Amaravati School of Art.

Q.5) The **Krishna’s Butterball** is a massive 20 feet high and 5 meter wide rock stands on a slippery slope of a hill on less than 4-feet base is located in which of the following state?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: D

Explanation: The Krishna’s Butterball is a massive 20 feet high and 5 meter wide rock stands on a slippery slope of a hill on less than 4-feet base is located in **Tamil Nadu**.

- It is called as Krishna’s butterball because butter is his favourite food and it is a myth that it falls from heaven.
- It is also known as ‘Vaairai Kal’ in Tamil which means ‘Stone of the Sky God’.

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- Recently in October 2019 it is visited by Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Q.6) The **Ravan Chhaya Rock Shelter paintings** are located in which of the following state?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Odisha
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: B

Explanation: Located in the **Keonjhar district of Odisha**, these ancient fresco paintings on a rock shelter are in a shape of half-opened umbrella.

- It is believed that this shelter acted like the royal hunting lodge.
- The most noticeable painting is that of a royal procession that dates back to 7th century.
- The remains of Chola period paintings, belonging to 11th century, are also of importance.

Q.7) The **Sohrai and Khovar folk art paintings** are related to which of the following state?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Gujarat
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

ANS: A

Explanation: Sparrows, peacocks, squirrels and cows inhabit the world of Sohrai and Khovar paintings. Popular in Hazaribagh region of **Jharkhand**, the folk art draws heavily from the forest life. It is an art form practised by women at home, usually the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law combine.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sattriya dance**:

1. Sattriya dances are devotional in nature as they were intended for propagation of neo-Vaishnavism.
2. Sattriya was given the status of a classical dance in the year 2000 by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
3. Dr. Sunil Kothari was recently bestowed the prestigious Madhabdev Award by the Government of Assam for his work in making Sattriya popular in India and abroad.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: **Sattriya originated in Sattri, monastery, as a part of neo-Vaishnavite movement started by Srimanta Sankardev in the 15th Century.** He propagated the “ek sharan naama dharma” (chanting the name of one God devotedly).

- “Sattriya dances are devotional in nature as they were intended for propagation of neo-Vaishnavism. Its highlights are intense emotional fervour, and in its solo avatar now dramatic abhinaya is prominent in contrast to nritya, pure dance”.

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- **Dr. Sunil Kothari was recently bestowed the prestigious Madhabdev Award by the Government of Assam for his work in making Sattriya popular in India and abroad.**
- **Though long recognised as a traditional dance form, Sattriya was given the status of a classical dance in the year 2000 by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.**
- Highlighting on how it differs from other forms, Kothari says, “In its basic stance for male and female known as Purush Pak and Prakriti Pak, Sattriya dances differ from other dance forms.
- They have special mnemonic bols, typical Assamese music known as Borgeet, musical instruments like large cymbals, drums, colourful costumes which stand out from other dance styles, besides complicated choreographic patterns using various talas for each stanza sung by the vocalist.
- Dance-dramas are distinct living tradition and use vachikabhinaya, dialogues. Special masks are also used in dance-dramas.”

Q.9) The **Kathputli** is a traditional string puppet of which of the following state?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Kerala
- d) Uttar Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: The traditional **string puppets of the Rajasthan area known as Kathputli**, which derives its name from kath meaning wood and putli meaning doll.

- The puppets are covered in traditionally bright Rajasthani dress. The show is accompanied by a dramatic folk music.
- A unique feature of the puppets is the absence of legs. The strings are attached to the finger of the puppeteer.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sankirtana**:

1. It is artistic manifestation of Manipuri worship.
2. It is performed in a Mandala (circular area) inside a Mandapa (hall) attached to a temple or erected in a courtyard.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Sankirtana is the **artistic manifestation of Manipuri worship**. To the Manipuris Sankirtana is the visible form of God.

- Woven within the framework of sacrosanct rituals and ceremonies the art consists of narrative singing and dancing.
- **Always performed in a Mandala (circular area) inside a Mandapa (hall) attached to a temple or erected in a courtyard.**
- The rituals and formalities are strict and even the audience are seated according to set rules. It employs musical instruments like drums and cymbals.
- The artistes play these instruments and dance at the same time. An artiste spends a life-time specializing only in one aspect.

Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Ltd (REPCO BANK):**

1. It was created for the purpose of promoting the rehabilitation activities for repatriates from neighbouring countries mainly from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Burma.
2. Its rules and regulations are governed by Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Ltd., (REPCO BANK) was registered on 19.11.1969 as a Cooperative Society under the relevant provisions of Madras Cooperative Societies Act, 1961 with Jurisdiction over the State of Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Puducherry **for the purpose of promoting the rehabilitation activities for repatriates from neighbouring countries mainly from Sri Lanka and Burma.**

- Though originally registered under the Madras Cooperative Societies Act, 1961, the Bank is deemed to be registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- The Bank is under the administrative control of FFR Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. Constitutionally, the Bank is a Multi-State Cooperative Society.
- The Bank was promoted by Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs in association with the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. **The Society's rules and regulations are governed by its byelaws.**
- In terms of the byelaws, as the share of the Government is more than 51%, the Board of Directors are appointed by the Govt. of India.
- The area of operation of the bank covers the south Indian states viz., Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- As on March 31, 2019 the government of India held 49.15 per cent of the share capital, four southern state governments held 6.24 per cent and the remaining 45 percent was held by individual repatriates.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Currency Swap Arrangement:**

1. It is an arrangement, between two friendly countries, to basically involve in trading in their own local currencies.
2. The exchange of currencies is determined by market (float) exchange rate.
3. The disputes (SWAP) are settled by third party intervention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: A

Explanation: Currency Swap Arrangement is an arrangement, **between two friendly countries**, which have regular, substantial or increasing trade, to **basically involve in trading in their own local currencies**, where both pay for import and export trade, **at the pre-determined rates of exchange, without bringing in third country currency like the US Dollar.**

- In such arrangements no third country currency is involved, thereby eliminating the need to worry about exchange variations.
- The swap arrangement (in 2018) is an agreement between India and Japan to essentially exchange and re-exchange a maximum amount of USD 75 Billion for domestic currency, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments for meeting short-term deficiency in foreign exchange.

Q.3) Which of the following are the **pillars** of the Basel Norms?

1. Capital adequacy requirements
2. Supervisory review
3. Market discipline
4. Independence of Central Bank

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Basel is a city in Switzerland. It is the headquarters of Bureau of International Settlement (BIS), which fosters co-operation among central banks with a common goal of financial stability and common standards of banking regulations.

- Basel guidelines refer to broad supervisory standards formulated by this group of central banks - called the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).
- The set of agreement by the BCBS, which mainly focuses on risks to banks and the financial system are called Basel accord.
- The purpose of the accord is to ensure that financial institutions have enough capital on account to meet obligations and absorb unexpected losses. India has accepted Basel accords for the banking system.

In June 2004, Basel II guidelines were published by BCBS. The guidelines were based on three parameters, which the **committee calls it as pillars.**

- **Capital Adequacy Requirements:** Banks should maintain a minimum capital adequacy requirement of 8% of risk assets
- **Supervisory Review:** According to this, banks were needed to develop and use better risk management techniques in monitoring and managing all the three types of risks that a bank faces, viz. credit, market and operational risks
- **Market Discipline:** This need increased disclosure requirements. Banks need to mandatorily disclose their CAR, risk exposure, etc to the central bank. Basel II norms in India and overseas are yet to be fully implemented.

Q.4) APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of which of the following **scheduled products?**

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1. Fruits, Vegetables and their Products.
 2. Dairy Products.
 3. Alcoholic beverages.
 4. Herbal and Medicinal Plants.
 5. Sugar Products.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act 1985.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a Statutory Body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India, is the apex organization engaged in the work related to the development of export of agricultural and processed food products from India.

APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the following scheduled products:

- **Fruits, Vegetables and their Products.**
- Meat and Meat Products.
- **Poultry and Poultry Products.**
- **Dairy Products.**
- Confectionery, Biscuits and Bakery Products.
- Honey, Jaggery and Sugar Products.
- Cocoa and its products, chocolates of all kinds.
- **Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages.**
- Cereal and Cereal Products.
- Groundnuts, Peanuts and Walnuts.
- Pickles, Papads and Chutneys.
- Guar Gum.
- Floriculture and Floriculture Products.
- **Herbal and Medicinal Plants.**

Q.5) The Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF) has been setup under section 57 of the CGST Act, 2017. The **financial assistance** from CWF is given to which of the following?

1. Voluntary Consumer Organization (VCOs).
2. States.
3. Universities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Consumer Welfare Fund Rules were framed and notified in the Gazette of India in 1992, which have been incorporated in Consumer Welfare Fund Rule 97 of the

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CGST Rules, 2017. Consumer Welfare Fund has been setup under section 57 of the CGST Act, 2017.

Financial assistance from CWF is given to various **Institutions including Universities, Voluntary Consumer Organization (VCOs) and States to promote and protect the welfare and interests of the consumers, create consumer awareness and strengthen consumer movement in the country.** Grants from CWF have been given for the following major projects:

- Creation of Consumer Law Chairs/ Centres of Excellence in Institutions/Universities of repute to foster research and training on consumer related issues.
- Projects for spreading consumer literacy and awareness.
- Establish Corpus Fund at the State level, through co-contribution.

Q.6) Which of the following activities is/are undertaken by **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)**?

1. It facilitates, coordinates and promotes the marketing and trading activities of the cooperative institutions, partners and associates in agricultural, other commodities, articles and goods.
2. It undertakes or promotes Inter-State and international trade and commerce and undertakes sale, purchase, import, export and distribution of agricultural commodities, horticultural and forest produce.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The objectives of the NAFED shall be to organize, promote and develop marketing, processing and storage of agricultural, horticultural and forest produce, distribution of agricultural machinery, implements and other inputs, undertake inter-state, import and export trade, wholesale or retail as the case may be and to act and assist for technical advice in agricultural, production for the promotion and the working of its members, partners, associates and cooperative marketing, processing and supply societies in India. In furtherance of these objectives, the NAFED may undertake one or more of the following activities.

- to facilitate, coordinate and promote the marketing and trading activities of the cooperative institutions, partners and associates in agricultural, other commodities, articles and goods;
- to undertake or promote on its own or on behalf of its member Institutions or the Government or Government Organizations, Inter-State and international trade and commerce and undertake, wherever necessary, sale, purchase, import, export and distribution of agricultural commodities, horticultural and forest produce.
- to undertake purchase, sale and supply of agricultural, marketing and processing requisites, such as manure, seeds, fertilizer, agricultural implements and machinery, packing machinery, construction requisites, processing machinery for agricultural commodities, forest produce, dairy, wool and other animal products;
- to act as warehouseman under the Warehousing Act and own and construct its own godowns and cold storages;

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- to act as agent of any Government agency or cooperative institution, for the purchase, sale, storage and distribution of agricultural, horticultural, forest and animal husbandry produce, wool, agricultural requisites and other consumer goods;
- **to act as insurance agent** and to undertake all such work which is incidental to the same;
- to organize consultancy work in various fields for the benefit of the cooperative institutions in general and for its members in particular;

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)**:

1. Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is conducted by Central Statistics Office.
2. It covers formal industries only.

Which of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Annual Survey of Industries (**ASI**) is conducted by **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**. ASI is principal source of industrial statistics in India. **It does not cover unorganized or unregistered or informal sector enterprises.**

- ASI, an annual event, **not only facilitates suitable data collection based on appropriate sampling techniques but also ensures timely dissemination of statistical information to assess and evaluates the dynamics in composition, growth and structure of organized manufacturing sector.**
- The structure and function of the industrial sector is an important perspective of Indian Economy. It is imperative for industries to grow both qualitatively and quantitatively to boost the economy.
- The well-being of the industries depends truly on the formulation and promotion of industrial policies framed by the policy makers.
- To frame suitable industrial policies the policy makers need to be aware about the quantified aspect of the existing scenarios in the industries in the country.
- This is where the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is conducted by National Sample Survey Office, Government of India.

Q.8) Which of the following scheme/schemes is/are **Central Sector Scheme** for Agriculture Sector?

1. Formation and promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
2. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
3. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (Pm-Kisan).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (Pm-Kisan)** is a Central Sector Scheme. It provides income support to all small and marginal landholding farmer families having cultivable land.

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PM Fasal Bima Yojana is a centrally sponsored scheme and it replaced all other existing insurance schemes except the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme.

Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) is a Central Sector Scheme under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW).

NOTE: The central welfare schemes at the state level fall into two broad categories. The first category is centrally sponsored schemes, and the second is the central sector schemes. While the Union government fully funds the central sector schemes, centrally sponsored schemes are jointly funded by the Centre and states.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**:

1. PMMSY will be implemented over a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all coastal States/Union Territories.
2. More than 50% of the total estimated investment of the PMMSY is earmarked for creation and up-gradation of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
3. The scheme plans to reduce post-harvest losses from the present high of 25% to about 10% by modernizing and strengthening value chain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) aims to enhance fish production to 220 lakh metric tons by 2024-25 from 137.58 lakh metric tons in 2018-19 at an average annual growth rate of about 9%.

- The Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Giriraj Singh, said the ambitious scheme will result in doubling export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore and generate about 55 lakhs direct and indirect employment opportunities in fisheries sector over a period of next five years.
- Dedicating the PMMSY to fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, fish vendors and other stakeholders associated with the fisheries sector, Shri Giriraj Singh said that insurance coverage for fishing vessels is being introduced for the first time.
- **The PMMSY will be implemented over a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories.**
- **The Fisheries Minister said that about 42% of the total estimated investment of the PMMSY is earmarked for creation and upgradation of fisheries infrastructure facilities.**
- Focus areas include Fishing Harbours and Landing Centers, Post-harvest and Cold Chain Infrastructure, Fish Markets and Marketing Infrastructure, Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages and Development of Deep-sea Fishing.
- **Besides creating critical fisheries infrastructure by attracting private investments in fisheries sector, the scheme plans to reduce post-harvest losses from the present high of 25% to about 10% by modernizing and strengthening value chain.**
- Under the Swath Sagar plan, activities envisaged with a view to modernize the fisheries sector include promotion of Bio-toilets, Insurance coverage for fishing vessels, Fisheries Management Plans, E-Trading/Marketing, Fishers and resources survey and creation of National IT-based databases.

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Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS)**:

1. It is a series of conferences, sponsored by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other international development agencies.
2. It is conducted for every three years.
3. The 8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-VIII) was held from 18th to 21st November 2019 in New Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS) is a series of conferences, **sponsored by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank (WB), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other international development agencies.**

- ICAS started in 1998 in response to overarching need for better agricultural data worldwide and is **held every three years** to address issues of agricultural statistics (information/data) development.
- United States, Italy, Mexico, China, Uganda and Brazil have been the host countries for ICAS in the past.
- The **8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-VIII) was held from 18th to 21st November 2019 in New Delhi.**
- The theme of the conference is Statistics for Transformation of Agriculture to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities**:

1. It is a multilateral agreement between the nuclear weapon states.
2. It is entered into force in 1971.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Both India and Pakistan have exchanged their list of nuclear installations under the bilateral agreement.

- The list was handed over in accordance with Article-II of the **Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India**, signed on December 31, 1988, the Foreign Office (FO).
- The agreement was **entered into force on January 27, 1991**, provides, inter alia, that the two countries inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on the first of January of every calendar year.

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

- a) Diplomatic relations
- b) Foreign exchange reserves
- c) Defense treaties
- d) Bilateral defense exercises

ANS: A

Explanation: Following the killing of Iranian military and intelligence commander Major General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad in a drone attack carried out by the United States, the Iranian government registered its protest with the Swiss Embassy in Tehran.

- **Switzerland represents the interests of the US in Iran. This is because the US itself does not have an embassy there. Iran’s interests in the United States, on the other hand, are represented by the Pakistan Embassy in Washington.**
- In an arrangement such as this, **Switzerland is the “Protecting Power” of the United States’ interests in Iran. The instrument of Protecting Powers is provided for under the 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations.**
- “If diplomatic relations are broken off between two States, or if a mission is permanently or temporarily recalled... the sending State may entrust the protection of its interests and those of its nationals to a third State acceptable to the receiving State,” the 1961 Vienna Convention states.
- And the 1963 Convention reiterates: “A sending State may with the prior consent of a receiving State, and at the request of a third State not represented in the receiving State, undertake the temporary protection of the interests of the third State and of its nationals.”

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Q.3) Which of the following are the **priority areas of regional cooperation** within the framework of the East Asia Summit (EAS)?

1. Environment and energy
2. Pandemic diseases
3. Finance
4. Natural Disaster Management
5. Security

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The East Asia Summit is a **unique Leaders-led forum of 18 countries** of the Asia-Pacific region formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity.

- It has evolved as a forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern and plays an important role in the regional architecture.
- Established in 2005, EAS allows the principal players in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss issues of common interest and concern, in an open and transparent manner, at the highest level.
- The membership of EAS consists of ten ASEAN Member States (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the USA.
- EAS is an initiative of ASEAN and is based on the premise of the centrality of ASEAN.
- There are **six priority areas of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS. These are – Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, and ASEAN Connectivity.**
- India endorses regional collaboration in all six priority areas.

Q.4) Which of the following are the **founder members** of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?

1. Bangladesh
2. India
3. Sri Lanka
4. Myanmar
5. Bhutan
6. Nepal
7. Thailand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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ANS: C

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.

- This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.
- **Initially, the economic bloc was formed with four Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).**
- Following the inclusion of Myanmar on 22 December 1997 during a special Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, the Group was renamed 'BIMST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).
- With the admission of Nepal and Bhutan at the 6th Ministerial Meeting (February 2004, Thailand), the name of the grouping was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC).

Q.5) Which of the following country is recently **re-joined** the Commonwealth group?

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Syria
- c) Oman
- d) Maldives

ANS: D

Explanation: The **Maldives re-joined the Commonwealth**, more than three years after the Indian Ocean island nation quit the association amid mounting criticism of its human rights record then.

- In 2016, the Maldives pulled out of the Commonwealth terming “unjust” the grouping’s decision to penalise the country over former President Mohamed Nasheed’s controversial ouster in 2012.
- It followed the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)’s warning to Maldives of suspension from the bloc, voicing “deep disappointment” over the country’s lack of progress in resolving the political crisis during former President Abdulla Yameen’s presidency, whose authoritarian slant sparked concern domestically and internationally.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **G-20**:

1. It is an inter-governmental treaty between 19 member countries and European Union.
2. It was created after the collapse of Soviet Russia to promote economic growth among developing and developed countries.
3. It has members from every continent.

Which of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

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

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ANS: B

Explanation: The Group of Twenty, or the G20, is the **premier forum for international economic cooperation.**

- **The G20 brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent.**
- Collectively, G20 members represent around 80% of the world's economic output, two-thirds of global population and three-quarters of international trade.
- Throughout the year, representatives from G20 countries gather to discuss financial and socioeconomic issues.
- **Originated in 1999** at the level of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the G20 gathered for high-level discussions on macro-financial issues.
- In the **wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, the G20 was elevated to include the leaders of member countries.**
- The first G20 Leaders' Summit took place in Washington D.C. in November 2008.
- Consequently, the G20 agenda expanded beyond macro-financial issues, to include socio-economic and development issues.

Q.7) Which of the following country is **NOT** part of QUAD?

- a) Australia
- b) South Korea
- c) Japan
- d) India

ANS: B

Explanation: In a significant development for the region, the Quadrilateral Strategic Dialogue ("the Quad") between **India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.** held its first Minister-level meeting since it was revived in 2017.

- The group is seen as a regional counter-weight to China and has only met at the Joint or Assistant Secretary level since 2017.
- Members of the Quad, barring Australia, are currently engaged in the annual Malabar exercises – military exercises that started between India and the U.S. in 1994 and became trilateral (with Japan) in 2015.
- India has not permitted Australia to participate in these exercises, concerned about what message it would send to China, which is wary of the exercise.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**:

1. It is the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.
2. The permanent secretariat of A-WEB is located at Seoul.
3. Election Commission of India hosted the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A- WEB) at Bengaluru.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The **Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) is the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.**

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- It is established on October 14, 2013 in Song-do, South Korea and the **permanent secretariat is located at Seoul**.
- Representatives from election bodies in over 50 countries will congregate **in Bengaluru to share their electoral experience with programmes connected to the Fourth General Assembly of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**.
- Currently, the A-WEB has 115 members and 20 regional associations/organizations as associate members.
- The members include 24 from Asia, 37 from Africa, 31 from America, 17 from Europe, and six from Oceania.
- The ECI will continue to remain on the executive board of the A-WEB for 2021–23 in its capacity as immediate former chair of the A-WEB.

Q.9) Which of the following Multilateral Export-Control Regime is also called as **London Club**?

- a) Nuclear Suppliers Group
- b) MTCR
- c) Wassenaar arrangement
- d) Australia Group

ANS: A

Explanation: The **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) first met in November 1975 in London, and is thus popularly referred to as the “London Club”**. It is a Group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Q.10) Which of the following countries are **Baltic nations**?

1. Estonia
2. Latvia
3. Lithuania

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: **Baltic States, the northeastern region of Europe, includes the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea.**

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu concluded his 5-day tour to the three Baltic nations Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in August 2019.
- The visit was aimed at strengthening the bilateral engagements with the three nations, besides giving the relationships a fresh impetus in the context of a changing global order.
- Besides considering the strategic interests, the focus of the visit was also on improving cooperation in the fields of security, especially countering terrorism.

Q.11) The **Abdul Kuddus v Union of India 2019** case, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Citizenship
- b) Preventive Detention

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- c) Environmental Concern
- d) Fake encounters

ANS: A

Explanation: On May 17, 2019 in a very short hearing, a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court (the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna) decided a batch of 15 petitions under the title **Abdul Kuddus v Union of India**.

The case involved the status of an “opinion” rendered by a Foreigners Tribunal, as to the citizenship (or the lack thereof) of any individual. The issue arose because, in the State of Assam, there are two ongoing processes concerning the question of citizenship.

- The first includes proceedings before the Foreigners Tribunals, which have been established under an executive order of the Central government.
- The second is the NRC, a process overseen and driven by the Supreme Court. While nominally independent, both processes nonetheless bleed into each other, and have thus caused significant chaos and confusion for individuals who have found themselves on the wrong side of one or both.

In short, the petitioners’ case was that the two processes — that of the Foreigners Tribunal and of the NRC — should be kept entirely independent of each other, and without according primacy to one over the other.

Q.12) The term **Principle of Non-Refoulement** often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Economic offender
- b) Refugees
- c) Right to property
- d) Polluter pay principle

ANS: B

Explanation: Non-refoulement is a fundamental principle of international law. It prohibits states from forcibly returning **refugees** to conditions that caused them to flee their homes in the first place, where they would be likely in danger of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**:

1. It is a Constitutional body.
2. It derives its mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The CGA is the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India. The office is in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. **Controller General of Accounts derives his mandate from Article 150 of the Constitution.** This statutory mandate as incorporated in the Allocation of Business Rules 1961.

- The office of the CGA has the mandate to establish and maintain a technically sound Management Accounting system.

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- It also prepares and submits the accounts of the Central Government.
- It is also in charge of the exchequer control and internal audits.

The difference between the CAG and the CGA are summed up in the table:

Office of CAG	Office of CGA
It is an independent body.	It is under the Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry.
It is a constitutional body.	It is not a constitutional body.
It audits the accounts and related activities of the 3 tiers of government: Federal, Provincial and Local.	It is the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**:

1. It is an inter-governmental body set up in 1989 by the G7 countries.
2. It ensures a coordinated global response to prevent organized crime, corruption and terrorism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: 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**. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

- The **inter-governmental body** sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.
- As a policy-making body, the FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- With more than 200 countries and jurisdictions committed to implementing them.
- The FATF has developed the FATF Recommendations, or FATF Standards, which ensure a **coordinated global response to prevent organized crime, corruption and terrorism**.
- They help authorities go after the money of criminals dealing in illegal drugs, human trafficking and other crimes. The FATF also works to stop funding for weapons of mass destruction.
- The FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as crypto-currencies gain popularity.
- The FATF monitors countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively, and holds countries to account that do not comply.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**:

1. It is the world's first permanent, international judicial body and it is a court of last resort.

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2. It prosecutes both individuals and 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

ANS: A

Explanation: The **ICC is the world's first permanent, international judicial body capable of bringing perpetrators to justice and providing redress to victims** when states are unable or unwilling to do so.

- This represents a major stride for international justice. On July 17, 1998, at a diplomatic conference in Rome, the international community adopted the **Rome Statute** of the International Criminal Court.
- The ICC can prosecute and bring to justice individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. These crimes are defined in the Rome Statute, and reflect existing international law.
- The **ICC is located in The Hague, the Netherlands**. The Court is composed of three branches: the judiciary, which is made up of 18 judges, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Office of the Registrar, which runs the administration of the Court.
- The **ICC is a court of last resort**. It acts essentially as a safety net when national courts are unable to prosecute, either because the criminal justice system is unequipped or collapsed, or because the perpetrators continue to wield influence over the government.
- The **International Court of Justice (ICJ) is a civil court that hears disputes between countries. The ICC is a criminal court that prosecutes individuals**.
- Other international criminal tribunals, namely the ad hoc tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, are similar to the ICC but are temporary and have a limited geographical scope. The ICC is a permanent court, and is global in its reach.

Q.16) The **Umbrella Movement** is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Hong Kong
- b) Taiwan
- c) Tunisia
- d) North Korea

ANS: A

Explanation: Umbrella movement is the first ever homegrown pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong (2014), which is the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

- The name has its origin from the use of umbrellas as a tool against the Hong Kong Police's use of pepper spray to disperse the crowd.
- It was a British colony from 1841 until sovereignty was returned to China in 1997.
- Hong Kong is now part of China under the – “one country, two systems” principle.
- Huge crowds had gathered to mark the fifth anniversary (September 2019) of the “Umbrella Movement”, the failed pro-democracy campaign that laid the groundwork for the massive protests currently engulfing the finance hub.

Q.17) Recently which of the following country published a “**dirty list**” of employers that have engaged in slave labour?

- a) Argentina
- b) Brazil

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- c) United States of America
- d) Canada

ANS: B

Explanation: Brazil's "dirty list" of employers that have engaged in slave labour is considered one of the country's best tools in its efforts to end slave labor.

- It is a registry of employers that have been found by the government to have engaged in slave labour.
- It gives transparency to a decision already reached by the Brazilian state.
- Created in 2004, it has been hailed by the United Nations as a key tool in Brazil's anti-slavery drive.

Q.18) The **Operation Peace Spring**, recently seen in news, was launched by which of the following?

- a) France
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Ukraine
- d) Turkey

ANS: D

Explanation: Operation Peace Spring is a military operation **launched by Turkey** against the Syrian Democratic Forces in Northeast Syria.

- The Turkish Armed Forces together with the Syrian National Army launched this after U.S. troops pulled back from the border area last week.
- It is to prevent the creation of a terror corridor across border, and to bring peace to the area.
- It is to create a safe zone to ensure that Syrian refugees return to their home countries.

Q.19) The Yuelu Proclamation made by the UNESCO at Changsha, the People's Republic of China, in 2018 is related to which of the following?

- a) Language
- b) Child rights
- c) Women rights
- d) Education rights

ANS: A

Explanation: Yuelu Proclamation was adopted at the first international conference on language resources protection in Changsha, Central China's Hunan province in 2018 by UNESCO. It is a document on protection and promotion of the **world's linguistic diversity**. The Yuelu Proclamation, says: "The protection and promotion of linguistic diversity helps to improve social inclusion and partnerships, helps to reduce the gender and social inequality between different native speakers, guarantee the rights for native speakers of endangered, minority, indigenous languages, as well as non-official languages and dialects to receive education, enhance the social inclusion level and social decision-making ability by encouraging them to participate in a series of actions to promote cultural diversity, endangered language protection, and the protection of intangible cultural heritage..."

Q.10) The "**Section 124-A**" of Indian Penal Code is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Transgender

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- b) Domestic Violence
- c) Sedition
- d) Extra marital affairs

ANS: C

Explanation: The **section 124-A deals with the offence of sedition**, a term that covers speech or writing, or any form of visible representation, which brings the government into hatred or contempt, or excites disaffection towards the government, or attempts to do so.

- It is punishable with three years in prison or a life term. “Disaffection”, it says, includes disloyalty and feelings of enmity.
- However, it also says expressing disapproval of government measures or actions, with a view to getting them changed by lawful means, without promoting hatred or disaffection or contempt towards the government will not come under this section.
- Sedition was introduced in the penal code in 1870; a decade after the Indian Penal Code came into force. It was a colonial law directed against strong criticism of the British administration.
- Its most famous victims included Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi. **Gandhi called it “the prince among the political sections of the IPC designed to suppress the liberty of the citizen”.**
- Two high courts had found it unconstitutional after Independence, as it violated the freedom of speech and expression. The Constitution was amended to include ‘public order’ as one of the ‘reasonable restrictions’ on which free speech could be abridged by law.
- Thereafter, the Supreme Court, in **Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar (1962) upheld its validity**. At the same time, it limited its application to acts that involve “intention or tendency to create disorder” or incitement to violence.
- Thus, even strongly worded remarks, as long as they do not excite disloyalty and enmity, or incite violence, are not offences under this section.

Science & Technology

Q.1) The “**LOx methane**” is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Space rocket engine fuel
- b) High speed diesel variant
- c) Bio-diesel
- d) None

ANS: A

Explanation: The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is developing methane-powered rocket engines.

- The space agency is developing two ‘LOx methane’ engines (liquid oxygen oxidiser and methane fuel) engines.
- One of the two projects is trying to convert the existing cryogenic engine, which uses liquid hydrogen for fuel, into a LOx methane engine.
- The other is a smaller engine of 3 tonnes thrust, which will feature an electric motor.
- These are being developed at ISRO’s Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Trivandrum.

Q2. The “**Head on Generation (HOG)**” technology is sometimes in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Driverless car
- B. Drones
- C. Tractors
- D. Trains

ANS: D

Explanation: The **South Central Railway (SCR) announced the introduction of a new technology – Head On Generation (HOG) system – in Telangana Express where power from the engine would be supplied to the entire train for lighting and air-conditioning.**

- The trains like these have two power cars known as End On Generators (EOG) on either end to provide electricity to all the coaches.
- These power cars produce electricity by the diesel generators with each using 40 litres of fuel per hour for a non-AC coach and 65-70 litres of diesel per hour per coach in case of an AC coach.
- The new HOG technology obviates the need for using diesel as power is tapped from the overhead electric traction lines through a pantograph to the train engine and the same is distributed to the trailing coaches.
- Earlier, the power supply from the overhead electric traction was being used to only run the engine and haul the coaches.
- “The new system does not require any diesel and hence, will reduce air and noise pollution, besides providing uninterrupted illumination in all the coaches.
- On an average, it will reduce carbon emission by 700 metric tonnes per year per train”.

Q.3) The “**EChO Network**” is sometimes in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Space radar system
- b) Defense radar system
- c) Cross-disciplinary leadership

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d) Network of Government data

ANS: C

Explanation: EChO Network, a national program to provide a template for **cross-disciplinary leadership** in India with the specific focus of increasing research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment.

- India faces unprecedented threats to its human environmental and ecosystems, solving which requires a confluence of India's strong technological expertise and knowledge of the natural world itself.
- EChO Network would develop a national network to catalyse a new generation of Indians who can synthesize interdisciplinary concepts and tackle real-world problems in medicine, agriculture, ecology, and technology.
- With no precedent for such a network anywhere in the world, EChO Network establishes a new platform to change how science is embedded in our modern society.
- Through interactive sessions with citizens, industry, academia, and the government, the Network will identify gaps in knowledge regarding selected topics in human and environmental ecosystems.
- The program will then train postdoctoral leaders in research and outreach on these topics, while also incorporating current public and private efforts into a national network.
- It would then go on to establishing nation-wide awareness in these issues through public discourse and education for citizens, industry, and government with information exchange at all educational levels.
- Over time EChO Network intends to create an international distributed institute comprising individuals housed within industry, government, private, and academic sectors, combining their expertise and resources collectively to tackle large scale problems.

Q.4) Recently a **Bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)** pilot program has commenced between the Indian Patent Office (IPO) and which of the following?

- a) Switzerland Patent Office
- b) Japan Patent Office
- c) The United States Patent and Trademark Office
- d) The National Industrial Property Institute (France)

ANS: B

Explanation: A Bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program has commenced between the Indian Patent Office (IPO) and the **Japan Patent Office (JPO)**.

The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) is a set of initiatives for providing accelerated patent prosecution procedures by sharing information between some patent offices.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Local Treatment of Urban Sewage streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS-HR) program**:

1. It is jointly supported by Government of India and Government of Sweden.
2. It aims to demonstrate a novel holistic waste-water management approach that will produce clean water that can be reused for various proposes.
3. The partners in the project are IIT-Delhi, NEERI and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Department of biotechnology (DBT) and NWO, the Netherlands Science Agency announced a joint call for proposals to clean the Barapullah drain in New Delhi.

- LOTUS-HR stands for Local Treatment of Urban Sewage streams for Healthy Reuse plant.
- **The project was initiated in 2017. It aims to demonstrate a novel holistic waste-water management approach that will produce clean water that can be reused for various proposes.**
- The project also aims to simultaneously recover nutrients and energy from the urban wastewater thus converting drain into profitable mines.
- **The project is jointly supported by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, Government of the Netherlands.**
- **The partners in the project are IIT-Delhi, NEERI and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).**

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **deep sea mining**:

1. Allocation of deep sea mining areas is vested with International Seabed Authority.
2. India was the first country to receive the status of a Pioneer Investor in 1987 for nodule exploration in Indian Ocean.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The **International Seabed Authority (ISA)**, an autonomous international organisation established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, allots the 'area' for deep-sea mining.

- **India was the first country to receive the status of a Pioneer Investor** in 1987 and was given an area of about 1.5 lakh sq km in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) for nodule exploration.
- In 2002, India signed a contract with the ISA and after complete resource analysis of the seabed 50% was surrendered and the country retained an area of 75,000 sq km.

Q.7) The **National Genome Grid** is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) All non-communicable diseases
- b) Cancer
- c) Tuberculosis
- d) CoVID-19

ANS: B

Explanation: In a move to take **cancer research** to the next level and make treatment viable for people of different economic classes, the government has plans to set up a National Genomic Grid, which will study genomic data of cancer patients from India.

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- The grid to be formed will be in line with the National Cancer Tissue Biobank (NCTB) set up at the Indian Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.
- And it will collect samples from cancer patients to study genomic factors influencing cancer and identifying the right treatment modalities for the Indian population.
- “The NCTB is functioning in close association with the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).
- NCTB, which has the capacity to stock 50,000 genomic samples from cancer patients, already has samples from 3,000 patients.
- The genomic samples will help researches to have India-specific studies on cancers.
- The government plans to set up the National Genomic Grid in the same style with pan-India collection centres by bringing all cancer treatment institutions on board.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ramanujan Machine**:

1. It is developed by scientists from Technion — Israel Institute of Technology.
2. It is a computer machine that performs high end data assessment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Scientists from Technion — Israel Institute of Technology has developed a concept they have named the Ramanujan Machine, after the Indian mathematician.

- It is not really a machine but an algorithm, and performs a very unconventional function.
- With most computer programs, humans input a problem and expect the algorithm to work out a solution.
- With the Ramanujan Machine, it works the other way round. Feed in a constant, say the well-know pi, and the algorithm will come up with a equation involving an infinite series whose value, it will propose, is exactly pi. Over to humans now: let someone prove that this proposed equation is correct.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Prithvi-II missile**:

1. It is a surface-to-air tactical missile with a strike range of 1500 km.
2. It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads, both conventional as well as nuclear.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Prithvi-II missile is a **surface-to-surface tactical missile with a strike range of 350 km.**

- It is developed by DRDO under Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
- **It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads, both conventional as well as nuclear.**
- The state-of-the-art missile is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.

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- It uses an advanced inertial guidance system with maneuvering orbit to hit its target.
- It was inducted into armour of the defence forces in 2003.

Q.10) The **Spike missile** is newly acquired from Israel by Indian government is related to which of the following?

- a) Anti-tank missile
- b) Torpedo
- c) Nuclear payload capable missile
- d) None

ANS: A

Explanation: The Indian Army successfully tested two newly acquired **Spike long-range (LR) anti-tank guided missiles** at the Infantry School at Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.

- The Army has recently procured a small batch of 12 launchers and 250 missiles from Israel using its new financial powers to make emergency procurements sanctioned by the Defence Ministry.
- “Spike-LR is a fourth generation missile, which can engage a target with precision at ranges up to 4 km.
- In addition to the fire-and-forget capability, the missile has the ability to fire, observe and update, providing substantial flexibility to the firer to pinpoint the impact point, as also the ability to switch to a different target mid-flight,” the manufacturer, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, of Israel.

Geography

Q.1) Which of the following State (s) of India is/are **share (s) border** with 3 countries?

1. Sikkim
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. West Bengal

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: India has a land frontier of 15,106.7 km. The total length of the coastline of India is 7,516.6 km. India shares its border with seven countries namely Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Country	Capital	Border Length	Bordering States
Afghanistan	Kabul	106 Km	Ladakh (PoK)
Bangladesh	Dhaka	4096.7 Km	West Bengal, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Assam
Bhutan	Thimphu	699 Km	West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh & Assam
China	Beijing	3488 Km	Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh
Myanmar	Naypyidaw, Yangon	1643 Km	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur
Nepal	Kathmandu	1751 Km	Bihar, Uttarakhand, UP, Sikkim and West Bengal
Pakistan	Islamabad	3323 Km	Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat
Sri Lanka	Colombo (Commercial), Jayawardenepura (Legislative)	Sri Kotte	Sea Border It is separated to India by Gulf of Mannar
Maldives	Male	Sea Border	It lies in the south-west part of India Ocean below the Lakshadweep Island

Q.2) Which of the following river (s) is/are **antecedent origin**?

1. Alaknanda
2. Gandak
3. Kosi

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The drainage pattern was already present before a period of uplift and folding that formed the present structure.

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- As the uplift took place, the rivers were able to cut down at approximately the same rate and so maintain their courses.
- This process is called antecedence and the drainage system thus developed is called antecedent drainage.
- **Many of the Himalayan Rivers have antecedent origin** i.e. these rivers existed even before the Himalayan ranges were uplifted.
- These rivers originate in the Tibetan side beyond the mountain ranges of Himalayas. The **Indus, Satluj, Alaknanda, Gandak, Kosi, Brahmaputra** all has an antecedent origin.
- Since these rivers are antecedent, they run transverse to the mountain ranges cutting deep V-shaped, steep-sided valleys (deep gorges).

Q.3) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Pass	:	Significance
1. Zoji la (Pass)	:	Connects Srinagar to Leh
2. Banihal Pass	:	Satluj River flows through this Pass
3. Nathu la (Pass)	:	Chumbi River flows through this Pass

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Zoji La: Zoji La is a high mountain pass located in the Kargil district of Ladakh.

- The **pass links Leh and Srinagar** and provides an important link between Union Territories of Ladakh and Kashmir.
- In 2018, the Zojila tunnel project was launched.
- The tunnel is Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional tunnel, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.

Banihal Pass: It is in Jammu & Kashmir. The National Highway No.1A that links Srinagar to Jammu goes through it.

NOTE: Satluj River flows through Shipki La (Pass).

Nathu La: It is in Sikkim. It gives way to Tibet from Darjeeling and Chumbi Valley. The **Chumbi River flows through this pass.**

Q.4) The **Gersoppa falls** is located in which of the following state?

- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu
- Andhra Pradesh
- Kerala

ANS: A

Explanation: Jog Falls, also called Gersoppa Falls, cataract of the Sharavati River, western Karnataka state, southwestern India. The Jog Falls are located 18 miles (29 km) upstream from Honavar at the river's mouth on the Arabian Sea.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Dharwar Rock System:**

1. These are the oldest sedimentary rocks.
2. The Aravali mountain range has been made with these rocks.

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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

ANS: C

Explanation: Dharwar system is later than the Archean system but older than the other systems.

- The Dharwar period of rock formation has been largely fixed from 2500 million years ago to 1800 million years ago.
- Dharwar Rock System is special because it is the **first metamorphic sedimentary rocks in India.**
- They are named Dharwar system because they were first studied in Dharwar region of Karnataka.
- **But they are also found in Aravallis**, Tamil Nadu, Chota-nagpur plateau, Meghalaya, Delhi, and the Himalayas region.
- The Dharwar rocks are rich in iron ore, manganese, lead, zinc, gold, silver etc.

Q.6) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

River : **Adjacent Town**

- 1. Yamuna River : Etawah
- 2. Musi River : Bhadrachalam
- 3. Kaveri River : Chennai

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Rivers and their adjacent towns.

Tamil Nadu

CITY	RIVER
Chennai	Cooum, Adyar
Coimbatore	Noyyal
Erode	Kaveri
Madurai	Vaigai
Thiruchirapalli	Kaveri
Tirunelveli	Thamirabarani

Telangana

CITY	RIVER
Hyderabad	Musi

Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RIVER
Agra	Yamuna
Allahabad	Ganges
Auraiya	Yamuna
Ayodhya	Saryu
Chakeri	Ganges
Etawah	Yamuna
Farrukhabad	Ganges
Fatehgarh	Ganges
Gorakhpur	Rapti

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Q.7) Which of the following Soils is/are **NOT** Zonal Soil?

1. Alluvial Soils
2. Red Soils
3. Black Soils

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Soils can be classified on the basis of dominating factors:

Zonal Soil – These soils occur in broad geographical areas or zones.

- They are influenced more by the climate and vegetation of the area rather than the rock-type.
- They are mature, as a result of stable conditions over a long period of time.
- For example – **red soils, black soils, laterite soils, desert soils** etc.

Azonal Soil – It is that soil which has been developed by the process of deposition by the agents of erosion.

- It means that it has been made by the fine rocky particles transported from the far-off regions.
- These are immature soils and lack well-developed soil profiles.
- This may be due to the non-availability of sufficient time for them to develop fully or due to the location on very steep slopes which prohibits profile development.
- For Example – **alluvial and loess soils**.

Intrazonal Soil – These soils occur within other zonal soils.

- It is a well-developed soil reflecting the influence of some local factor of relief, parent material, or age rather than of climate and vegetation.
- For example, calcareous soil (soils which develop from limestone), peat soil.

Q.8) Which of the following state (s)/place (s) of India is/are come (s) under **Seismic Zone V**?

1. Entire North eastern India
2. Delhi-NCR region
3. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The **Bureau of Indian Standards has classified regions in India into four seismic zones on the basis of historical seismic activity.**

- These are zones II, III, IV and V. Among these, Zone V is the most seismically active region and zone II is the least active.
- According to Modified Mercalli scale, the seismic zone intensity is/are classified as zone II (low intensity zone), zone III (moderate intensity zone), zone IV (severe intensity zone) and zone V (very severe intensity zone).

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According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences:

- **Zone V includes entire northeastern India, parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, parts of North Bihar and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.**
- **Zone-IV** includes the remaining parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. **Delhi-NCR region**, Sikkim, northern parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, parts of Gujarat and small portions of Maharashtra near the west coast and Rajasthan also fall in this zone.
- Regions under zone III are Goa, Kerala, Lakshadweep, and remaining parts of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal, parts of Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Karnataka.
- The remaining portion of the country falls under zone II.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ground Nut production in India:**

1. It is endemic to India.
2. India is the largest producer of Ground Nut followed by China and USA

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Peanut or groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea*), is a species in the legume or "bean" family. **The peanut was probably first domesticated and cultivated in the valleys of Paraguay.**

- It is an annual herbaceous plant growing 30 to 50 cm (1.0 to 1.6 ft) tall. The leaves are opposite, pinnate with four leaflets (two opposite pairs; no terminal leaflet), each leaflet 1 to 7 cm long and 1 to 3 cm broad.
- Peanuts are known by many other local names such as earthnuts, ground nuts, goober peas, monkey nuts, pygmy nuts and pig nuts. Despite its name and appearance, the peanut is not a nut, but rather a legume.
- **India is the second largest producer of groundnuts in the world.** Indian groundnuts are available in different varieties: Bold or Runner, Java or Spanish and Red Natal.
- They have a rich nutty flavour, sweet taste, crunchy texture and over and above a relatively longer shelf life. Soil conditions in some producing regions are ideally suited for dry, clean and spotless Groundnuts in Shell.
- Groundnut is the major oil seed crop in India and it plays a major role in bridging the vegetable oil deficit in the country. Groundnuts in India are available throughout the year due to a two-crop cycle harvested in March and October. Ground Nuts are important protein crops in India grown mostly under rain-fed conditions.
- **Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Uttar Pradesh major growing states in India.**

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Lead mineral resources in India:**

1. The main ore of lead is galena and it is found in the sedimentary rocks of limestone and sandstone.

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2. Rajasthan is the sole producer of lead ore 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

ANS: C

Explanation: The **main ore of lead is galena. It is found in the sedimentary rocks of limestone and sandstone.**

- Rajasthan is the richest state in terms of availability and variety of minerals in the country and produces about 57 different minerals.
- **Rajasthan is the sole producer of lead & zinc ores, selenite and wollastonite.**
- The Zawar area (Udaipur) of Rajasthan is famous for the production of Lead.

ForumIAS

Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**:

1. It is an autonomous body under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. The India Environment Portal is initiated and managed by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** is an independent, public interest organization (not-for-profit), which uses knowledge for activism.

- The Centre was started in 1980, by India's top environmentalist, Anil Agarwal and continues to work to push, prod and argue for environmental management in the country. It believes it can and must make a difference.
- The **India Environment Portal is initiated and managed by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** promoted by the National Knowledge Commission (NKC), Government of India.

Q.2) Which of the following **Act mandates to create** Local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC's)?

- a) Indian Forests Act, 1927
- b) Environment Protection Act, 1986
- c) Biodiversity Act, 2002
- d) Forest Rights Act, 2006

ANS: C

Explanation: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has formed a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) as per the Bio Diversity Act of 2002, which mandates the establishment of BMCs at the local body level across the country.

- The committee will work towards conservation and promotion of biological diversity.
- The primary responsibility of the committee includes documentation of biological diversity, preservation of natural habitats, conservation of landrace, local and regional breeds of animals and plants.
- One of the important functions of the committee would be to prepare or help prepare People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), which will contain comprehensive information on local flora and fauna, traditional and scientific knowledge, and information associated with species.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL)**:

1. It is established by Government of India in collaboration with the Norwegian Government.
2. It is a policy advocacy unit of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Government of India in collaboration with the Norwegian Government has established a “Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL)” in the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, to develop professional expertise in biodiversity policies and laws and develop capacity building.

- The Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL), a **policy advocacy unit of the National Biodiversity Authority**, came out with recommendations to increase India’s agro-biodiversity in 2019.
- These include a comprehensive policy on ‘ecological agriculture’ to enhance native pest and pollinator population providing ecosystem services for the agricultural landscape.
- It suggested promotion of the bio-village concept of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) for ecologically sensitive farming;
- conserving crop wild relatives of cereals, millets, oilseeds, fibres, forages, fruits and nuts, vegetables, spices etc. for crop genetic diversity healthier food;
- Providing incentives for farmers cultivating native landrace varieties and those conserving indigenous breeds of livestock and poultry varieties.

Q.4) Which of the following is/are **sites of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)** in India?

1. Kashmir (saffron)
2. Koraput (traditional agriculture)
3. Kuttanad (below sea-level farming)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Global Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) for the purpose of creating public awareness and safeguarding the World agricultural heritage sites. **There are three regions of India, which has been recognised as the Global Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) cities in India: Koraput, Odisha State; Kashmir Valley, Pampore region; and Kuttanad.**

Q.5) The **Prerana MyTree**, an eco-initiative by students is started in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) West Bengal
- d) Odisha

ANS: B

Explanation: In the wake of 16-year-old Greta Thunberg’s call for standing up for climate action, students all over the world are heeding her clarion call.

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- On Children's Day, students in Bengaluru and Karnataka are doing their bit for the environment by planting trees.
- **Prerana MyTree, an eco-initiative by students from 48,000 government schools across Karnataka will plant about 2.5 lakh trees across the state.**
- Prerana MyTree is supported by the state government, the NGO Sikshana Foundation, Dell and Bengaluru-based startup, Eyeris Media.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **Adaptation Fund (AF)**:

1. It was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
2. AF-funded projects are implemented around the world through accredited National Implementing Entities, Multilateral Implementing Entities and Regional Implementing Entities.
3. NABARD is the National Implementing Entity of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Adaptation Fund (AF) was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

- **It was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and since 2010** has committed funds for localized climate adaptation and resilience activities. Initiatives are based on country needs and priorities.
- **AF-funded projects are implemented around the world through accredited National Implementing Entities, Multilateral Implementing Entities and Regional Implementing Entities.**
- The original primary source of revenue for the Fund – the sale of Certified Emission Reduction credits through a 2% levy on UN Clean Development Mechanism projects that help meet Kyoto's emission reduction targets – has drastically diminished due to market forces.
- **NABARD has been accredited as National Implementing Entity (NIE) for Adaptation Fund in July 2012 and is the only NIE for India.**
- The NIEs are those national legal entities nominated by Parties (to the Kyoto Protocol) that are recognized by the Board as meeting the fiduciary standards established by the Board.
- The NIEs bear full responsibility for the overall management of the projects and programmes financed by the Adaptation Fund and have all financial, monitoring, and reporting responsibilities.

Q.7) The Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as the **financial mechanism** for which of the following conventions?

1. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
2. UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
3. Montreal Protocol of Ozone Depleting Substances
4. Minamata Convention on Mercury

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The **Global Environment Facility was established in October 1991 as a \$1 billion pilot program in the World Bank to assist** in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmental sustainable development.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) **unites 183 countries** in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.

The GEF also serves as the financial mechanism for the following conventions:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Minamata Convention on Mercury

Q.8) The Actions on Air Quality report is released by which of the following?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Environment Programme
- d) Greenpeace

ANS: C

Explanation: The Actions on Air Quality report is released by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Q.9) Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary is recently in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

ANS: A

Explanation: Wildlife researchers recently documented the presence of an Indian gaur in the Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary (PWS) in Roha and Murud talukas of Raigad district.

- According to the **Maharashtra** forest department, this is the first time a sighting of this species of bison has been reported or documented at the sanctuary.
- The Indian Gaur is listed as Schedule I species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and is tagged as 'vulnerable' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
- Gaurs are the world's largest and tallest wild bovines, with 85% of their current population found in India.
- Male gaurs weigh 1,000-1,500kg, while females weigh 700-1,000kg. Their height ranges from 165-220cm (5 to 7ft).

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Carbon Credit**:

1. The holder of the credit has the right to emit one ton of carbon dioxide or an equivalent of another greenhouse gas.
2. The Paris Agreement validates the application of carbon credits to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: A **carbon credit is a tradable permit or certificate that provides the holder of the credit the right to emit one ton of carbon dioxide or an equivalent of another greenhouse gas.**

- The main goal for the creation of carbon credits is the reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from industrial activities to reduce the effects of global warming.
- Carbon credits are market mechanisms of the minimization of greenhouse gases emission. The introduction of carbon credit was ratified in the Kyoto Protocol.
- The Paris Agreement validates the application of carbon credits to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases and sets the provisions for the further facilitation of the carbon credits markets.

Types of Carbon Credits

There are two types of the carbon credits:

- **Voluntary emissions reduction (VER):** A carbon offset that is exchanged in the over-the-counter or voluntary market for credits.
- **Certified emissions reduction (CER):** Emission units (or Carbon credits) created through a regulatory framework with the purpose of offsetting a project's emission. The main difference between the two is that there is a third party certifying body that regulates the CER as opposed to the VER.