

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

6th to 12th July,
2020

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

History

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Mahalwari (Land Revenue Settlement) system**:

1. It involved detailed surveys of fields and classification of lands according to soil.
2. The land assessments were fixed for a definite period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: when the Company's rule was more securely established, the view gained ground that the State would benefit more from periodical settlements.

- Further, in certain parts of the Company's territories, viz., the U.P. (now Uttar Pradesh) and the Punjab, there were well organised village communities and, barring a portion of the U.P., there were no local chieftains or large farmers of land in this area.
- These areas thus presented a different problem, and settlement was concluded with village communities and the villagers were held jointly and severally responsible for the payment of revenue. This came to be known as the **Mahalwari system** of land revenue, as the land revenue was assessed on the 'mahal'.
- In some parts of Madras, the land revenue was directly settled with individual ryots in view of, the difficulty of making settlements with the whole villages. This initiated the ryotwari system which was later introduced in Bombay and other neighboring provinces.
- **Both these systems—mahalwari and ryotwari involved detailed surveys of fields and classification of lands according to soil. The assessments were fixed not in perpetuity but for a definite period.**

Q.2) "We place a resident, who really is king of the country, whatever injunctions of non-interference he may act under. As long as the prince acts in perfect subservience, and does what is agreeable to the residents, that is, to the British Government, things go on quietly; they are managed without the resident appearing much in the administration of affairs ... but when anything of a different nature happens, the moment the prince takes a course which the British Government think wrong, then comes clashing and disturbance"- was said by which of the following?

- a) David Ricardo
- b) James Mill
- c) Lord Cornwallis
- d) Lord Wellesley

ANS: B

Explanation: This is what **James Mill**, the famous economist and political philosopher from Scotland, wrote about the **residents appointed by the Company**.

"We place a resident, who really is king of the country, whatever **injunctions** of non-interference he may act under. As long as the prince acts in perfect **subservience**, and does what is agreeable to the residents, that is, to the British Government, things go on quietly;

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they are managed without the resident appearing much in the administration of affairs ... but when anything of a different nature happens, the moment the prince takes a course which the British Government think wrong, then comes clashing and disturbance”.

Q.3) The “**Policy of Paramountcy**” was initiated under which of the following Governor-General?

- a) Warren Hastings
- b) Lord Cornwallis
- c) Lord Hastings
- d) Lord William Bentinck

ANS: C

Explanation: Under **Lord Hastings** (Governor General from 1813 to 1823) a new policy of “paramountcy” was initiated.

- Now the Company claimed that its authority was paramount or supreme, hence its power was greater than that of Indian states.
- In order to protect its interests it was justified in annexing or threatening to annex any Indian kingdom.
- This view continued to guide later British policies as well.

Q.4) Who among the following is called as “**Liberator of the Indian Press**”?

- a) John Adams
- b) Lord William Bentinck
- c) Charles Metcalfe
- d) Lord Rippon

ANS: C

Explanation: **Charles Metcalfe** (Governor General – 1835 – 36) known as the “liberator of the Indian press”.

- He repealed the Licensing regulation, 1823.
- During his tenure Printing Press grew rapidly.
- The new Metcalfe act 1835 required the publisher to follow a registration procedure and give a precise account of premises of publication.

Q.5) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Organization	:	Founder
1. Dharma Sabha	:	Raja Radhakant Deb
2. Tattvabodhini Sabha	:	Rabindranath Tagore
3. Brahma Samaj of India	:	Rammohan Roy

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: Dharma Sabha: The orthodox Hindu led by **Raja Radhakant Deb** organised the ‘Dharma Sabha’ with the object of countering the propaganda of BrahmaSamaj.

Tattvabodhini Sabha: Debendranath Tagore, father of Rabindranath Tagore founded the Tattvabodhini Sabha in 1839 to propagate Rammohun Roy’s ideas. The Tattvabodhini Sabha

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and its organ the Tatvabodhini Patrika promoted a systematic study of India's past in Bengali language and helped spread rational outlook.

Brahmo Samaj of India: Keshubsen and his followers broke away from Brahmo samaj in 1866 and established what was called the 'Brahmo Samaj of India'.

Q.6) The "**Life of Shivaji**" book/publication was written by which of the following?

- a) Jyotirao Phule
- b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- c) Gopala Krishna Gokhale
- d) B. R. Ambedkar

ANS: A

Explanation: Jyotirao Phule, a gardener by caste who was fascinated by the founding principles of the United States, espoused a radical view of social change.

- Shivaji, to him, stood up not only to the tyranny of Aurangzeb that emanated from Agra, but also to the tyranny within Hindu society of its hereditary elite.
- Phule in his book/publication Life of Shivaji wanted the ordinary peasant to emulate Shivaji and stand up against every variety of oppression, domestic as well as foreign.

Q.7) "**Swadesh Sevak Home**" is related to which of the following National freedom initiative?

- a) Home rule movement
- b) Swadeshi movement
- c) Ghadr movement
- d) Non-cooperation movement

ANS: C

Explanation: The Ghadr Party was a revolutionary group organised around a weekly newspaper The Ghadr with its headquarters at San Francisco and branches along the US coast and in the Far East.

- These revolutionaries included mainly ex-soldiers and peasants who had migrated from the Punjab to the USA and Canada in search of better employment opportunities.
- They were based in the US and Canadian cities along the western (Pacific) coast.
- Pre-Ghadr revolutionary activity had been carried on by Ramdas Puri, G.D. Kumar, Taraknath Das, Sohan Singh Bhakna and Lala Hardayal who reached their in 1911.
- To carry out revolutionary activities, the earlier activists had set up a '**Swadesh Sevak Home**' at Vancouver and 'United India House' at Seattle. Finally in 1913, the Ghadr was established.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **Karachi session (1931) of Congress**:

1. Gandhi-Irwin pact was endorsed.
2. Goal of Purna Swaraj was reiterated.
3. Resolution on fundamental rights was adopted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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ANS: D

Explanation: In March 1931, a special session of the Congress was held at Karachi **to endorse the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.**

- Six days before the session (which was held on March 29) Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were executed.
- Throughout Gandhi's route to Karachi, he was greeted with black flag demonstrations by the Punjab Naujawan Bharat Sabha, in protest against his failure to secure commutation of the death sentence for Bhagat and his comrades.
- While disapproving of and dissociating itself from political violence, the Congress admired the 'bravery' and 'sacrifice' of the three martyrs.
- The Delhi Pact or Gandhi-Irwin Pact was endorsed.
- The **goal of purna swaraj was reiterated.**
- **Two resolutions were adopted-one on Fundamental Rights and the other on National Economic Programme-** which made the session particularly memorable.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **August Offer:**

1. Complete independence as the objective for India.
2. Expansion of viceroy's executive council which would have a majority of Indians.
3. No future constitution to be adopted without the consent of minorities.

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: C

Explanation: Hitler's astounding success and the fall of Belgium, Holland and France put England in a conciliatory mood.

- As the war in Europe had undertaken a new turn, the dominant Congress leadership was again in a dilemma.
- Both Gandhi and Nehru strongly opposed the idea of taking advantage of Britain's position. The Congress was ready to compromise, asking the
- British government to let it form an interim government during the war period but the government was not interested.

The government came up with its own offer to get the cooperation of India in the war effort. Linlithgow announced the August Offer (August 1940) which proposed:

- **Dominion status** as the objective for India;
- **Expansion of viceroy's executive council** which would have a majority of Indians (who would be drawn from major political parties);
- **Setting up of a constituent assembly** after the war where mainly Indians would decide the constitution according to their social, economic and political conceptions, subject to fulfillment of the obligation of the government regarding defense, minority rights, treaties with States, all India services; and
- **No future constitution** to be adopted without the consent of minorities.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Home Rule Movement:**

1. Tilak was set up his Home Rule League in April 1916 and it was restricted to Maharashtra (except Bombay city), Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar.
2. Annie Besant was set up her league in September 1916 in Madras and covered the rest of India (including Bombay city).

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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: By early 1915, Annie Besant had launched a campaign to demand self-government for India after the war on the lines of white colonies.

- She campaigned through her newspapers, New India and Commonweal, and through public meetings and conferences.
- At the annual session of the Congress in 1915, the efforts of Tilak and Besant met with some success. It was decided that the Extremists be admitted to the Congress.
- Although Besant failed to get the Congress to approve her scheme of Home Rule Leagues, the Congress did commit itself to a programme of educative propaganda and to a revival of local-level Congress committees.
- Not willing to wait for too long, Besant laid the condition that if the Congress did not implement its commitments, she would be free to set up her own league—which she finally had to, as there was no response from the Congress.
- Tilak and Besant set up their separate leagues to avoid any friction.
- There was an informal understanding between both the leagues wherein Tilak's league worked in Maharashtra (except Bombay), Karnataka, Berar and the Central Provinces. Besant's league worked in the rest of the country.
- Tilak's league had its headquarters in Delhi. It had 6 branches. Besant's league had 200 branches and was a looser organisation compared to Tilak's.

Economy

Q.1) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) defines the **Balance of Payments (BoP)** as a statistical statement that summarizes economic transactions between residents and non-residents during a specific time period. Which of the following **transactions** is/are consists of BoP?

1. Transactions in goods, services and income between an economy and the rest of the world.
2. Changes of ownership and other changes in economy's monetary gold, special drawing rights (SDRs), and financial claims on and liabilities to the rest of the world.
3. Unrequited transfers.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) defines the Balance of Payments (BoP) as a statistical statement that summarizes economic transactions between residents and non-residents during a specific time period.

The BoP, thus, includes all transactions showing:

- **transactions in goods, services** and income between an economy and the rest of the world,
- **changes of ownership and other changes** in that economy's monetary gold, special drawing rights (SDRs), and financial claims on and liabilities to the rest of the world, and
- **Unrequited transfers.**

These transactions are categorized into

- The "current account" including "goods and services", the "primary income", and the "secondary income",
- The "capital account", and
- The "financial account".

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS)**:

1. It compiles and releases monthly export & import data on merchandise trade.
2. It comes under Ministry of Statistics and 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

ANS: A

Explanation: The chequered history of evolution, developments, transformations and coming of age of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence And Statistics (Ministry

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of Commerce and Industry) has been a mammoth exercise spread over a span of one hundred and forty years and carried out under the stewardship of capable and pragmatic visionaries.

- The Organization traces its origin to a statistical branch established in the Finance Department of the Government of India way back in 1862. Sir William W. Hunter was the first DG of the DGCI & S or the Director General of Statistics as he was designated, back in 1871.
- The DGCI&S compiles and releases monthly export & import data on merchandise trade.
- It also compiles and releases yearly data on inter-state movement of goods in India by river, rail & air; customs & excise revenue collections of the Indian union, inland coasting trade consignments of India and foreign coastal cargo movements of India.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) organization**:

1. Its mandate is to formulating and implementing the Foreign Trade Policy with the main objective of promoting India's exports.
2. It is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) **organization is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade.

- Right from its inception till 1991, when liberalization in the economic policies of the Government took place, this organization has been essentially involved in the regulation and promotion of foreign trade through regulation.
- Keeping in line with liberalization and globalization and the overall objective of increasing of exports, DGFT has since been assigned the role of "facilitator".
- The shift was from prohibition and control of imports/exports to promotion and facilitation of exports/imports, keeping in view the interests of the country.
- **This Directorate, with headquarters at New Delhi, is responsible for formulating and implementing the Foreign Trade Policy with the main objective of promoting India's exports.**
- The DGFT also issues scrips/authorization to exporters and monitors their corresponding obligations through a network of 38 regional offices and an extension counter at Indore.

Q.4) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Committee/Panel	:	Significance
1. Ranga Rajan Committee	:	Balance of Payments
2. Vijay Kelkar Committee	:	Goods & Service Tax
3. Tarapore Committee	:	Currency Convertibility

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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d) 1 only

ANS: A

Explanation: Besides, economic reforms in various sectors, various Committees were set up from time to time (by the Government of India and by RBI) to discuss policy issues related to international trade and balance of payments.

Some of the important Committees were –

- Committee on Export – Import Policies & Procedures (Alexander Committee, 1978),
- Committee on Trade policy (Abid Hussain Committee, 1984),
- High – level Committee on Balance of Payments (Rangarajan Committee 1993), and
- Committee on Capital Account Convertibility (Tarapore Committee I 1997 & Tarapore Committee II 2006).
- In 2003, the Vajpayee government forms a task force under Vijay Kelkar to recommend tax reforms. In 2004, Vijay Kelkar, then advisor to the Finance Ministry, recommends GST to replace the existing tax regime.

Q.5) The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM) extends Lines of Credit (LOCs) to promote export and imports. Which of the following is/are **eligible** for EXIM Lines of Credits?

1. Overseas financial institutions
2. Regional development banks
3. Sovereign governments

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: Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) is a specialized financial institution, wholly owned by Government of India, set up in 1982, for financing, facilitating and promoting foreign trade of India.

EXIM Bank extends Lines of Credit (LOCs) to

- **overseas financial institutions,**
- **regional development banks,**
- **sovereign governments** and
- **other entities overseas,**

to enable buyers in those countries to import developmental and infrastructure projects, equipments, goods and services from India, on deferred credit terms.

Q.6) Which of the following **state taxes** is/are subsumed under Goods and Service Tax (GST)?

1. Luxury Tax
2. Entertainment tax and Amusement tax levied by local bodies
3. Taxes on advertisements

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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ANS: D

Explanation: The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a very significant step in the field of indirect tax reforms in India.

By amalgamating a large number of Central and State taxes into a single tax, GST will mitigate ill effects of cascading or double taxation in a major way and pave the way for a common national market.

The government rolled out GST with effect from 1st July 2017. State taxes that would be subsumed within the GST are:-

- State VAT
- Central Sales Tax
- Purchase Tax
- **Luxury Tax**
- Entry Tax (All forms)
- **Entertainment Tax and Amusement Tax (except those levied by the local bodies)**
- **Taxes on advertisements**
- Taxes on lotteries, betting and gambling
- State cesses and surcharges in so far as they relate to supply of goods and services.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **buyback tax**:

1. The government of India amended the Section 115QA of the Income Tax Act 1961 to introduce tax on buyback of shares.

2. It includes both listed and unlisted companies.

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 simple terms, buyback of shares means a situation when the company repurchases its own shares. A company may opt to buy back the shares under any one of the following situations:

- When the quoted price on the stock exchange for the company's share does not represent the true value of the shares; or
- When the company doesn't have paths to invest its accumulated funds, and it goes for buyback of shares with a view to return the capital; or
- When the promoters are planning to increase their shareholding in the company.

A company which has distributable surplus has the following two options:

- Declare dividend; or
- Purchase its own shares (i.e. buyback its shares).

The declared dividend is chargeable to Dividend Distribution Tax, whereas, earlier, the amount distributed as buy-back of shares was chargeable to capital gains. Being treated as capital gains, the income tax was paid at lower rates on buyback of shares.

In order to avoid the tax, unlisted companies started resorting to buyback of shares instead of declaring dividends. As an anti-tax avoidance measure, the government introduced Section 115QA under the Income Tax Act vide the Finance Act, 2013.

Provisions of Section 115QA were initially applicable only to unlisted companies. However, vide the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2019, the provisions of Section 115QA were amended and the same is made applicable to the listed companies also. The amended

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Section 115QA basically aims to bring the tax on dividend and the tax on buyback of shares at par.

Q.8) The “**Operation Twist**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- Buy and sale of government securities
- Foreign trade
- Lines of Credit
- Buying foreign assets

ANS: A

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will **simultaneously buy and sale government securities worth ₹10,000crore** each in December 2019 under its open market operations — a move aimed at managing the yields.

- The RBI will purchase the longer-term maturities, that are trading at a spread of 150 bps (basis points) over the repo rate, so that the yield of these papers will soften and sell the shorter duration ones.
- The central bank said it will buy ₹10,000 crore of 6.45% government bonds maturing in 2029 and simultaneously sell ₹10,000 crore of short-term bonds maturing in 2020.
- Operation Twist is a move taken by U.S. Federal Reserve** in 2011-12 to make long-term borrowing cheaper.

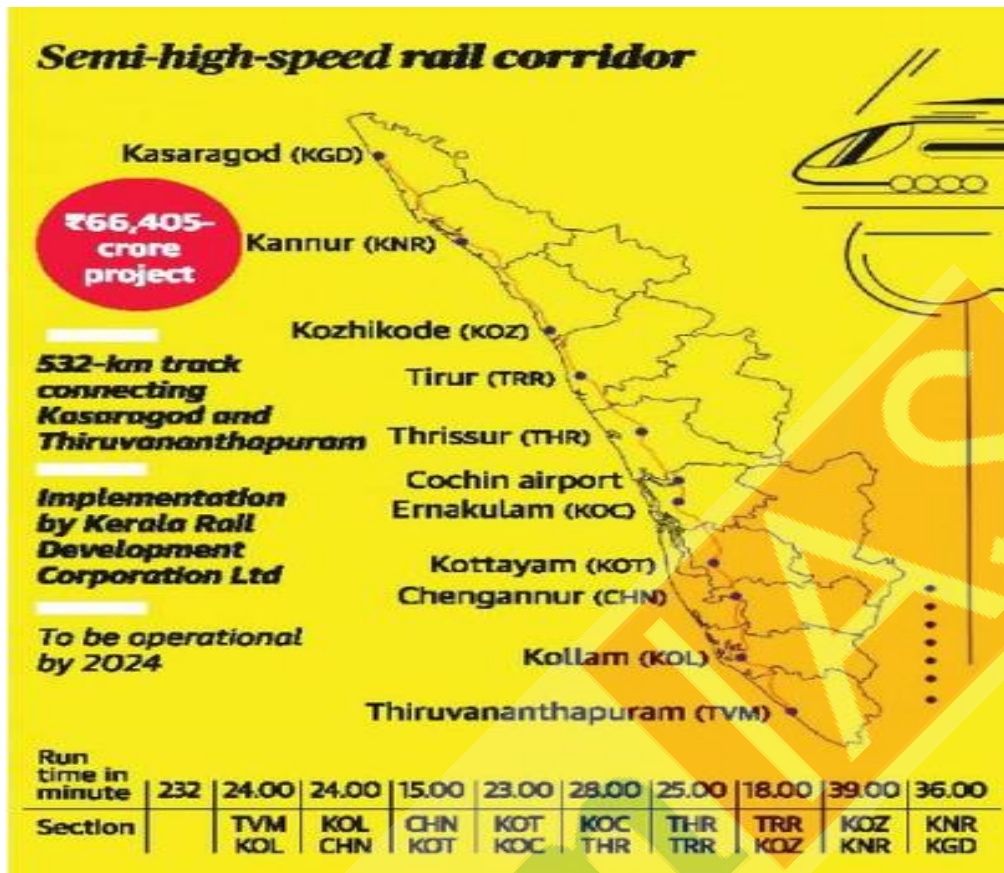
Q.9) The **Silver line project**, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following state?

- Kerala
- Karnataka
- Andhra Pradesh
- Tamil Nadu

ANS: A

Explanation: The Kerala Rail Development Corporation (KRDCL) is confident that the ₹66,405-crore Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod semi-high-speed rail corridor project (named Silver Line) for which year 2024 has been set as the deadline, will be economically feasible and attain operational break-even within 10 years of being commissioned.

- Of the total cost of the 532-km project, around 50% will be loan at less than 1% interest from multilateral lending agencies such as KfW, AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank), JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), or ADB (Asian Development Bank).
- Repayment is assured since there will be a rate of return of 8.1% on the investment. The balance amount will be raised from equity and (subordinate) debt from from the State and Central governments.



Q.10) The **Utkarsh 2022**, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Regulation and functions of Central Bank
- b) Foreign Trade
- c) Skill development
- d) Doubling farmer's income

ANS: A

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board finalized a three-year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank.

This medium term strategy — named **Utkarsh 2022** — is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.

Polity

Q.1) Which of the following Article (s) of Indian Constitution is/are deals with the **reservation in services/posts?**

1. Article 16
2. Article 46
3. Article 335

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 relevant Articles of the Constitution which govern the entire reservation set up are the following:

- **Article 16(4):** Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.
- **Article 46:** The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
- **Article 335:** 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.2) “**One is not born, but rather becomes, woman**” was said by which of the following?

- a) Karl Marx
- b) Simone de Beauvoir
- c) Margaret Mead
- d) Phyllis Kaberry

ANS: B

Explanation: “One is not born, but rather becomes, woman.” So wrote Simone de Beauvoir in her landmark 1949 book, *The Second Sex*.

- De Beauvoir’s statement still remains an important principle for women and health.
- March 8 marks International Women’s Day—a day that celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide.
- But International Women’s Day also signals a moment to reflect not only on what has been achieved, but also what remains to be done.
- And there is, indeed, much more to be done if the goal of gender equity, Sustainable Development Goal 5, is to be won.

Q.3) Which of the following is/are **Socialistic Principles** of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)?

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1. State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people.
2. State shall strive to secure equal justice and free legal aid.
3. State shall endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines.

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: B

Explanation: The Constitution does not contain any classification of Directive Principles. However, on the basis of their content and direction, they can be classified into three broad categories, viz, socialistic, Gandhian and liberal-intellectual.

Socialistic principles reflect the ideology of socialism. They lay down the framework of a democratic socialist state, aim at providing social and economic justice, and set the path towards welfare state. They direct the state:

A. To **promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order** permeated by justice—social, economic and political—and to minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities (Article 38).

B. To secure

- The right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens;
- The equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good;
- Prevention of concentration of wealth and means of production;
- Equal pay for equal work for men and women;
- Preservation of the health and strength of workers and children against forcible abuse; and
- Opportunities for healthy development of children (Article 39).

C. To **promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid** to the poor (Article 39 A).

D. To secure the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement (Article 41).

E. To make provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief (Article 42).

F. To secure a living wage, a decent standard of life and social and cultural opportunities for all workers (Article 43).

G. To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43 A).

H. To raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of people and to improve public health (Article 47).

NOTE: Article 48 - The State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle – represent both Gandhian and liberal-intellectual principles.

Q.4) The “**Global Social Mobility Index**” is released by which of the following International Institution?

- a) UNESCO
- b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) UNICEF

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ANS: C

Explanation: India has been ranked very low at 76th place out of 82 countries on a **new Social Mobility Index compiled by the World Economic Forum**, while Denmark has topped the charts.

The report, released ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the WEF, also lists India among the five countries that stand to gain the most from a better social mobility score that seeks to measure parameters necessary for creating societies where every person has the same opportunity to fulfill his potential in life irrespective of socioeconomic background.

Q.5) The **Time to Care** report, sometimes in news is related to which of the following?

- Wealth Inequality
- Climate change
- Financial exclusion
- Refugees

ANS: A

Explanation: India's richest 1% hold more than four-times the wealth held by 953 million people who make up for the bottom 70% of the country's population, while the total wealth of all Indian billionaires is more than the full-year budget.

- Releasing the study **Time to Care**, ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), rights group **Oxfam** also said the world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 per cent of the planet's population.
- The report flagged that global inequality is shockingly entrenched and vast and the number of billionaires has doubled in the last decade, despite their combined wealth having declined in the last year.

Q.6) The "**Bru/Reang community**", sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following state?

- Manipur
- Jharkhand
- Chhattisgarh
- Mizoram

ANS: D

Explanation: Twenty-three years after ethnic clashes in **Mizoram** forced 37,000 people of the **Bru (or Reang) community** to flee their homes to neighbouring **Tripura**, an agreement has been signed to allow them to remain permanently in the latter state.

The agreement among the Bru leaders and the governments of India, Tripura, and Mizoram, signed in New Delhi on January 16, gives the Bru the choice of living in either state. In several ways, the agreement has redefined the way in which internal displacement is treated in India.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Population Prospects 2019 report**:

- It is published and released by United Nations (UN).
- According to the report, India is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country by 2050.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The key message from the **UN's World Population Prospects 2019 report** is that national leaders must redouble their efforts to raise education, health and living standards for people everywhere.

- **India is projected to become the most populous country by 2027 surpassing China**, and host 1.64 billion people by 2050;
- The world as a whole could be home to 8.5 billion people in just over a decade from now, and the number could go up to 9.7 billion by mid-century.
- The **largest increases in population between 2019 and 2050 will take place in: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt and the United States of America** (In descending order of the expected increase).
- The UN report shows migration to countries with a falling ratio of working-age people to those above 65 will be steady, as those economies open up to workers to sustain economic production.
- Japan has the lowest such ratio, followed by Europe and the Caribbean; in over three decades, North America, Eastern and Southeastern Asia will join this group.
- India meanwhile will have a vast number of young people and insufficient natural resources left for exploitation. Preparing for the changes and opportunities migration offers will depend on a skills revolution.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC)**:

1. It is a government undertaking owned by both Central and state governments.
2. It is an apex corporation for the all-round socio-economic upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis, Scavengers and their dependants throughout India.
3. It is the nodal agency for implementation of the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).

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: C

Explanation: National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation(NSKFDC), A **wholly owned Govt. of India Undertaking** under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (M/o SJ&E) was set up on 24th January 1997 as a Company "Not for Profit" under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.

- NSKFDC is in operation since October, 1997, as an **Apex Corporation** for the all round socio-economic upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis, Scavengers and their dependants throughout India, through various loan and non-loan based schemes.
- Apart from operating various loan and non-loan based schemes for the upliftment of the target group, NSKFDC is playing a vital role in elimination of manual scavenging - the worst surviving symbol of untouchability.
- NSKFDC has been designated as the **Nodal Agency for implementation of the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual**

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Scavengers (SRMS) under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Dr. Ambedkar scheme for Social integration through Inter Caste Marriages:**

1. It is applicable to 1000 couples annually.
2. Each couple gets 5 lakh rupees.
3. To avail the scheme, one of the couple should belong to either schedule caste or schedule tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Under the Dr. Ambedkar scheme for Social integration through Inter Caste Marriages scheme, **500 couples can apply annually. Each couple gets Rs 2.5 lakh, of which Rs 1.5 lakh is paid up-front. The balance amount** is kept as a fixed deposit and released to the couple after three years

- The number of couples who can avail the scheme in a state depends on its Scheduled Caste population as per the 2011 census.
- **Among the beneficiary couple, one of the spouses should belong to Scheduled Caste and the other to a Non-Scheduled Caste.**
- It shall be the discretion of the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment & Chairman of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation to sanction the incentive to the Couple.

Q.10) The **Sanitation** is related to which of the following List of Schedule 7 of Indian Constitution?

- a) Union list
- b) State List
- c) Concurrent list
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: The **State List** lists subjects under which the legislature of a state may make laws. Public order, police, public health and **sanitation**; hospitals and dispensaries, betting and gambling are some of the subjects that come under the state.

Science and technology

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)**:

1. It is characterized as acute-onset of fever and a change in mental status and/or new-onset of seizures in a person of any age at any time of the year.
2. The causative agents of AES are viruses, Bacteria, fungus, Chemicals and toxins.

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: Acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) is a serious public health problem in India. It is characterized as acute-onset of fever and a change in mental status (mental confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma) and/or new-onset of seizures in a person of any age at any time of the year.

- The syndrome most commonly affects children and young adults and can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality.
- **Viruses are the main causative agents in AES cases, although other sources such as bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals, toxins and noninfectious agents have also been reported over the past few decades.**
- In May-June 2019, the acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Sheohar and East Champaran districts has so far claimed the lives of over 100 children.
- More than 400 children with AES have been admitted to various hospitals. **Most of the deaths have been attributed to low blood sugar level (hypoglycaemia).**
- In Bihar, convulsions in children (which is AES) are found in combination with hypoglycaemia.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Japanese Encephalitis (JE)**:

1. It is a mosquito-borne viral infection of the brain.
2. It will spread from one person to another.
3. There is no cure for JE.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

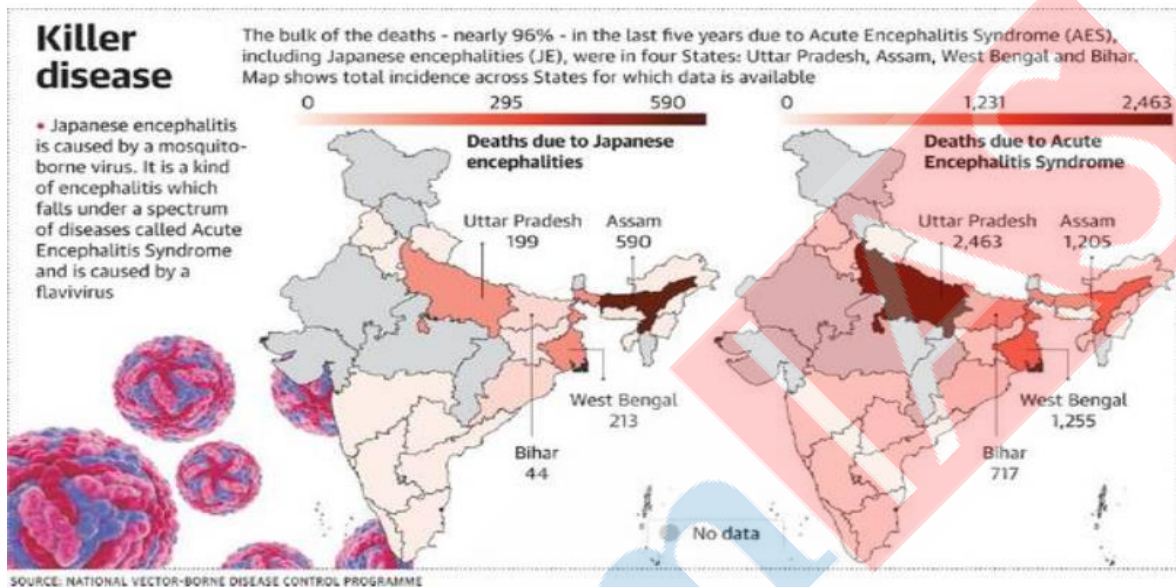
ANS: C

Explanation: Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is a mosquito-borne viral infection of the brain. There is, however, a debate about the origin of the disease and whether it is enteroviruses — caused by virus found in pigs and birds. There is no cure for JE.

- The efficacy of the JE vaccine is between 85-90%. The lessons learnt from polio vaccination drives is that people left out of each round of vaccination are the most disenfranchised, most likely to take ill and least likely to seek medical care in time.

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- One hundred and ninety positive cases of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) have been reported and 49 people have died of the vector-borne disease in Assam since January 2019 to June 2019.
- Assam is an ecologically favorable region for the spread of JE due to heavy rainfall, large paddy fields and water bodies and pig farming almost throughout the State.
- Pigs act as amplifying host for the JE virus transmitted through culex mosquito, as do wading birds such as herons and egrets.



Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **Nipah Virus**:

1. It is a zoonotic virus.
2. It is an RNA or Ribonucleic Acid virus.
3. It is classified under Bio-safety Level 4.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A virus named after Kampung Sungai Nipah, a village in Malaysia, where it was first discovered in 1998-99.

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) **Nipah is Zoonotic Virus**. “A zoonosis is any disease transmitted from vertebrate animals to humans.”
- It **could be caused by a virus, bacteria, fungi or parasite**; some examples include anthrax, bird flu, ebola, dengue, rabies, malaria, swine flu and leptospirosis.
- **Nipah is believed to be transmitted from what are called flying foxes, or mega bats**, so called because they are the largest bat species. They eat fruits and live in trees.
- These are a part of the old-world fruit bat family, called pteropid bats. **Bats often end up being reservoirs for a number of severe infectious diseases, including Ebola, SARS coronavirus, Nipah and Hendra.**

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- **Nipah is an RNA or Ribonucleic Acid virus.** “RNA viruses are the most common cause of emerging diseases in humans, attributable to the high mutation rate in RNA viruses compared to DNA viruses,” says the book Essential Human Virology.
- Nipah belongs to a genus (category, in layperson speak) called the Henipavirus; the Hendra virus, also found on pteropid bats, belongs to this category too.
- **The virus, which is classified as Bio-safety Level 4, meaning that it is highly infectious and needs a maximum containment facility, can be confirmed by an ELISA, RT-PCR or Serum Neutralization Test.**
- The incubation period is anywhere between 5-14 days, but it can soon affect the respiratory and nervous system and patients can go into delirium or coma. Unfortunately, there is no definite treatment, except intensive supported care.

Q.4) Which of the following countries of World Health Organization’s south-east Asia region is/are successfully controlled **hepatitis B**?

1. Bangladesh
2. Bhutan
3. Nepal

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: On September 3 (2019), Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Thailand became the first four countries in the World Health Organization’s south-east Asia region to have successfully controlled hepatitis B. The virus is said to be controlled when the disease prevalence is reduced to less than 1% among children less than five years of age.

Q.5) The **ETVAX vaccine** is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Diphtheria
- b) Diarrhea
- c) Tuberculosis
- d) Encephalitis

ANS: B

Explanation: A potential vaccine against diarrhea has been proven safe and effective in an early stage clinical trial carried out in Bangladesh in November 2019.

- The study, published in the journal The Lancet Infectious Diseases, studied the safety and effectiveness of an oral, inactivated vaccine candidate -- **ETVAX** -- against toxin-producing **E. coli bacteria** which caused diarrhea.
- According to the researchers, including those from the **University of Gothenburg in Sweden**, the specific type of the bacteria are the primary cause of diarrhea, leading to substantial illness and death in children in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) as well as in travelers to LMICs.

Q.6) According to the Directorate General Foreign Trade (DGFT), **Beach Sand Minerals (BSM)** comprised a suite of seven minerals. Which of the following minerals are consists of BSM?

1. Limonite
2. Rutile

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3. Zircon
4. Strontium
5. Monazite

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: According to the Directorate General Foreign Trade (DGFT) Beach Sand Minerals (BSM) comprised a suite of seven minerals.

- They are **limonite, rutile, leucoxene (titanium being mineral), zircon (zirconium being mineral), garnet, sillimanite and monazite (a proscribed substance under the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 since it covers uranium and thorium).**
- The suites of BSM were also called atomic minerals. Except garnet and sillimanite, others were proscribed substances under the Atomic Energy Act.

Q.7) Which of the following scientist (s) is/are **defined the weight** of a hydrogen atom as one?

1. Dalton
2. Johann Dobereiner
3. Dimitri Mendeleev

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: Mankind has known materials such as gold, silver, mercury, iron, phosphorous, sulphur and others since antiquity.

- Alchemists tried making gold out of “base” metals — with no success. But we had to wait until the English school teacher John Dalton who in 1808 came up with his “new system of chemical philosophy”, where he proposed that chemical elements are made of atoms;
- Any given element is made entirely of one kind of atom and that each atom has a characteristic weight; chemical reactions occur when atoms of different elements interact with one another.
- **Dalton and Thomas Thomson from England and Berzelius from Europe defined the weight of a hydrogen atom as one, and the atomic weights of other elements were measured using this standard.**
- By the 1860s, the atomic weights of a large number of elements were published.

Q.8) The **genetic strategy** known as RIDL (the Release of Insects carrying Dominant Lethal genes), sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Mosquito
- b) Locusts
- c) Butterfly
- d) Beetles

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ANS: A

Explanation: A new initiative aims at reducing the population of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito by introducing genetically modified version of mosquitoes.

- *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is the carrier of diseases such as Zika, dengue and chikungunya.
- The **genetic strategy employed to control *A. aegypti* population known as RIDL (the Release of Insects carrying Dominant Lethal genes)** is to reduce the population of the naturally occurring *A. aegypti* mosquitoes and not affect or alter their genetics.

Q.9) The term **ethephon**, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- Ripening agent
- Herbicide
- Vaccine
- None

ANS: A

Explanation: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) seized one tonne of artificially ripened bananas and plantains from a market in Tiruppur (Tamil Nadu). According to FSSAI officials, a trader had used **ripening agent ethephon (2-chloroethylphosphonic acid)** on the bananas and plantains kept for sale.

Q.10) The **Biorock or mineral accretion technology**, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- Mangrove protection
- Coral reefs restoration
- Carbon storage
- Shale gas extraction

ANS: B

Explanation: The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), with help from Gujarat's forest department, is attempting for the first time a **process to restore coral reefs using biorock or mineral accretion technology**.

- A biorock structure was installed one nautical mile off the Mithapur coast in the Gulf of Kachchh.
- **Biorock is the name given to the substance formed by electro accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater on steel structures that are lowered onto the sea bed and are connected to a power source, in this case solar panels that float on the surface.**
- The technology works by passing a small amount of electrical current through electrodes in the water.
- When a positively charged anode and negatively charged cathode are placed on the sea floor, with an electric current flowing between them, calcium ions combine with carbonate ions and adhere to the structure (cathode).
- This results in calcium carbonate formation. Coral larvae adhere to the CaCO_3 and grow quickly.

Geography

Q.1) The **Beaufort Gyre** (Sea water current), sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) Pacific Ocean
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) None

ANS: A

Explanation: According to the scientists, including those from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the US, a sea-water current called the Beaufort Gyre keeps the polar environment in balance by storing fresh water near the surface of the Arctic Ocean.

- Wind blows the gyre in a clockwise direction around the western Arctic Ocean, north of Canada, where it naturally collects fresh water from the melting of glaciers, and river runoff.
- The researchers said this fresh water is important in the Arctic since it floats above the warmer, salty water, and helps protect the sea ice from melting - in turn regulating the Earth's climate.
- As the fresh water is slowly released by the gyre into the Atlantic Ocean over a period of decades, it allows the Atlantic Ocean currents to carry it away in small amounts.
- However, since the 1990s, the researchers said, the gyre has accumulated a large amount of fresh water - 8,000 cubic kilometres - or almost twice the volume of Lake Michigan in the US.
- According to the new study, the cause of this gain in freshwater concentration is the loss of sea ice in summer and autumn.
- Due to this decades-long decline of the Arctic's summertime ice cover, the Beaufort Gyre is more exposed to the wind, which has spun the gyre faster, trapping the fresh water in its current.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)**:

1. It is a large system of ocean currents that carry warm water from the tropics northwards into the North Atlantic.
2. Its circulation effects the location of droughts and frequency of hurricanes.

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 Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is a large system of ocean currents that carry warm water from the tropics northwards into the North Atlantic.

- The AMOC is a large system of ocean currents, like a conveyor belt, driven by differences in temperature and salt content – the water's density.

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- As warm water flows northwards it cools and some evaporation occurs, which increases the amount of salt.
- Low temperature and a high salt content make the water denser, and this dense water sinks deep into the ocean.
- The cold, dense water slowly spreads southwards, several kilometres below the surface (As that water cools and sinks it drives a slow circulation of the oceans that **is critical to global climate, affecting the location of droughts and frequency of hurricanes**).
- Eventually, it gets pulled back to the surface and warms in a process called “upwelling” and the circulation is complete.
- This global process makes sure that the world’s oceans are continually mixed, and that heat and energy are distributed around the earth. This, in turn, contributes to the climate we experience today.
- As that water cools and sinks it drives a slow circulation of the oceans that **is critical to global climate, affecting the location of droughts and frequency of hurricanes**.
- It also stores heat-trapping carbon dioxide deep in the ocean.

Q.3) Which of the following Ocean current is called as “**Black Stream**”?

- a) Gulf Stream Current
- b) Labrador Current
- c) Kuroshio Current
- d) Alaska Current

ANS: C

Explanation: THE KUROSHIO IS a warm northeasterly ocean current off the coast of Japan. This current is also called the gulf stream of the Pacific or Japan Current.

- **Kuroshio means “the black stream” in Japanese**, named after the deep ultramarine color of the high salinity water, which is found flowing north of the current's axis.
- The system includes the following branches: Kuroshio, up to 35 degrees N; Kuroshio extension, extending eastward into two branches up to 160 degrees E longitude;
- North Pacific current, a further eastward continuation, which throws branches to the south as far as 150 degrees W;
- Tsushima current, branches of the main current that run into the Japan Sea, along the west coast of JAPAN;
- And Kuroshio counter-current, the large swirl or eddy on the east and south east of the Kuroshio.

Q.4) The “**RV Polarstern**”, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Research vessel and Ice breaker
- b) Deep sea mining vessel
- c) Tsunami research vessel
- d) Deep sea submarine

ANS: A

Explanation: The **German icebreaker RV Polarstern**, a hulking ship will set out for the Arctic packed with supplies and scientific equipment for a year-long mission to explore the planet’s frigid far north.

- The icebreaker will be the base for scientists from 17 nations studying the impact of climate change on the Arctic and how it could affect the rest of the world.

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- Spearheaded by the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany, MOSAiC (multidisciplinary drifting observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate expedition), the largest ever Arctic expedition in history, will be the first to conduct a study of this scale at the North Pole for an entire year.

Q.5) The “**Latosols**” are predominantly found in which of the following areas?

- a) Temperate areas
- b) Polar areas
- c) Desert areas
- d) Tropical areas

ANS: D

Explanation: **Latosols are soils found under tropical rainforests** which have a relatively high content of iron and aluminum oxides. They are typically classified as oxisols or ferralsols.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **stages of demographic transition theory**:

1. In the first stage there has been low fertility and high mortality.
2. In the second stage there has been high fertility and reduced mortality.
3. In the final stage both fertility and mortality decline considerably.

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: C

Explanation: Demographic transition theory can be used to describe and predict the future population of any area.

- The theory tells us that population of any region changes from high births and high deaths to low births and low deaths as society progresses from rural agrarian and illiterate to urban industrial and literate society. These changes occur in stages which are collectively known as the demographic cycle.
- The **first stage has high fertility and high mortality** because people reproduce more to compensate for the deaths due to epidemics and variable food supply.
- **Fertility remains high in the beginning of second stage but it declines with time. This is accompanied by reduced mortality rate.** Improvements in sanitation and health conditions lead to decline in mortality. Because of this gap the net addition to population is high.
- In the last stage, **both fertility and mortality decline considerably.** The population is either stable or grows slowly. The population becomes urbanized, literate and has high technical knowhow and deliberately controls the family size.

Q.7) According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which of the following five states account for more than **half of the growth in the labour force** in India?

1. Bihar
2. West Bengal
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Rajasthan
5. Uttar Pradesh

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Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: There is a clear demographic divergence between north-central and south-western regions; one is a young hinterland with vast labour force and the other ones are ageing with decreasing working age population.

- Most of the current and future demographic potential is locked in the north-central States, and largely located in **Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.**
- **As per population projections by UNFPA, these five States will account for more than half of the growth in the labour force in India.**
- Those who are under 15 years of age today will become India's working population in coming decades. Almost every second person in this age group resides in these five States.
- The accompanying figure shows that there is a gap of almost 20 years between the northern hinterland and southern States in terms of the peak of the working age ratios in these regions.

Q.8) Which of the following is/are the **approache (s)** to study of human development?

- 1. Income approach
- 2. Welfare approach
- 3. Sustainability approach

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: B

Explanation: There are many ways of looking at the problem of human development. Some of the important approaches are: (a) The income approach; (b) The welfare approach; (c) Minimum needs approach; and (d) Capabilities approach.

(a) Income Approach	This is one of the oldest approaches to human development. Human development is seen as being linked to income. The idea is that the level of income reflects the level of freedom an individual enjoys. Higher the level of income, the higher is the level of human development.
(b) Welfare Approach	This approach looks at human beings as beneficiaries or targets of all development activities. The approach argues for higher government expenditure on education, health, social secondary and amenities. People are not participants in development but only passive recipients. The government is responsible for increasing levels of human development by maximising expenditure on welfare.
(c) Basic Needs Approach	This approach was initially proposed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Six basic needs i.e.: health, education, food, water supply, sanitation, and housing were identified. The question of human choices is ignored and the emphasis is on the provision of basic needs of defined sections.
(d) Capability Approach	This approach is associated with Prof. Amartya Sen. Building human capabilities in the areas of health, education and access to resources is the key to increasing human development.

Q.9) The **truck farming** is related to which of the following?

- a) Paddy cultivation
- b) Sugar cane cultivation
- c) Vegetable cultivation
- d) Spices cultivation

ANS: C

Explanation: The **regions where farmers specialise in vegetables only, the farming is known as truck farming**. The distance of truck farms from the market is governed by the distance that a truck can cover overnight, hence the name truck farming.

Q.10) Which of the following animal (s) is/are examples of **pack animal (s)**?

- 1. Horses
- 2. Dogs
- 3. Mules

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A pack animal is a type of animal used by humans to carry heavy loads. These animals carry goods and supplies upon their backs across long distances or difficult terrain.

- They are not to be confused with draft animals, which pull weight on a cart or sled. The use of animals to carry cargo dates as far back as 3500 BC.
- Historical evidence suggests that donkeys have served as pack animals for longer than any other species. Other types of common pack animals include **camels, yaks, horses, llamas, oxen, and water buffalos**.
- Horses are used as a draught animal even in the Western countries.
- **Dogs and reindeer are used in North America**, North Europe and Siberia to draw sledges over snow-covered ground.
- **Mules are preferred in the mountainous regions**; while camels are used for caravan movement in deserts. In India, bullocks are used for pulling carts.

Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**:

1. It is an autonomous body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It offers a wide array of services like developing new green building rating programmes, certification services and green building training programmes.
3. It organizes Green Building Congress, its annual flagship event on green buildings.

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: C

Explanation: The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was formed in the year 2001.

- The vision of the council is, "To enable a sustainable built environment for all and facilitate India to be one of the global leaders in the sustainable built environment by 2025".
- The council offers a wide **array of services which include developing new green building rating programmes, certification services and green building training programmes.**
- **The council also organizes Green Building Congress, its annual flagship event on green buildings.**
- The council is committee-based, member-driven and consensus-focused.
- All the stakeholders of construction industry comprising of architects, developers, product manufacturers, corporate, Government, academia and nodal agencies participate in the council activities through local chapters.
- The council also closely works with several State Governments, Central Government, World Green Building Council, bilateral multi-lateral agencies in promoting green building concepts in the country.

Q.2) According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) report, Working on a warmer planet: The impact of heat stress on labour productivity and decent work, which of the following **sector** is the most affected?

- a) Agriculture sector
- b) Manufacturing sector
- c) Construction business
- d) Service sector

ANS: A

Explanation: According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) report, Working on a warmer planet: The impact of heat stress on labour productivity and decent work, **Globally two sectors projected to be hit worst are agriculture and construction, with agriculture worse affected.**

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- The ILO says 940 million people around the world work in the agricultural sector, which is projected to account for 60% of working hours lost due to heat stress by 2030.
- In construction, an estimated 19% of global working hours are likely to be lost.

Q.3) The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) ranks individual countries based on four categories. Which of the following are the **categories of CCPI**?

1. Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions
2. Renewable Energy
3. Climate Policy
4. Energy Use

Select the correct answer using the codes 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: D

Explanation: The CCPI (released by Germanwatch) is an independent monitoring tool of countries' climate protection performance.

- It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables the comparability of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.
- The ranking results are defined by a country's aggregated performance in 14 indicators within the **four categories "GHG Emissions", "Renewable Energy" and "Energy Use", as well as on "Climate Policy", in a globally unique policy section of the index.**

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **drought forecasting tool box**:

1. It was unveiled at 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
2. It aims to track, assess and deliver relevant information concerning climatic, hydrologic and water supply trends.

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: 'Drought-forecasting toolbox' was unveiled at UNCCD COP14 event. The 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- It **aims to track, assess and deliver relevant information concerning climatic, hydrologic and water supply trends.**
- It is developed through the close partnership among, UNCCD, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and global bodies.

Q.5) The "**4 per 1000**" initiative, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Renewable energy

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- b) Electric vehicles
- c) Carbon stock
- d) Biodiversity conservation

ANS: C

Explanation: The international initiative "4 per 1000", launched by France on 1 December 2015 at the COP 21, consists of federating all voluntary stakeholders of the public and private sectors (national governments, local and regional governments, companies, trade organizations, NGOs, research facilities, etc.) under the framework of the Lima-Paris Action Plan (LPAP).

- The aim of the initiative is to demonstrate that agriculture, and in particular agricultural soils can play a crucial role where food security and climate change are concerned.
- An annual growth rate of 0.4% in the soil carbon stocks, or 4‰ per year, in the first 30-40 cm of soil, would significantly reduce the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere related to human activities.
- This growth rate is not a normative target for each country, but is intended to show that even a small increase in the **soil carbon stock** (agricultural soils, notably grasslands and pastures, and forest soils) is crucial to improve soil fertility and agricultural production and to contribute to achieving the long-term objective of limiting the temperature increase to the +2°C threshold, beyond which the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) indicates that the effects of climate change are significant.
- The "4 per 1000" initiative is intended to complement those necessary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, globally and generally in the economy as a whole. It is voluntary; it is up to each member to define how they want to contribute to the goals.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the **1995 Basel Ban Amendment**:

1. It is a global waste dumping prohibition.
2. It was ratified by India.
3. It prohibits all hazardous exports from 29 wealthiest countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The 1995 Basel Ban Amendment, a **global waste dumping prohibition**, has become an international law after Croatia ratified it on September 6, 2019.

- Croatia became the 97th country to ratify the ban, which was adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention in 1995, to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes, according to Basel Action Network (BAN).
- The **Ban Amendment prohibits all export of hazardous wastes, including electronic wastes and obsolete ships from 29 wealthiest countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD countries.**

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- However, **countries like the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, India, Brazil, and Mexico are yet to ratify the ban.**

Q.7) “Bhavani wildlife sanctuary” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Kerala State government is set to declare the 148-sq-km buffer zone of the Silent Valley National Park as **Bhavani wildlife sanctuary**.

- Encompassing parts of the Mannarkkad and Nilambur (South) forest divisions, the region will become the 25th protected area in the State.
- Home to abundant faunal and floral wealth, the Bhavani wildlife sanctuary is also known to be an **emerging haven of dragonflies and damselflies**.
- A recent faunal survey revealed the presence of several rare species of odonates here.
- There are currently five national parks, 18 wildlife sanctuaries, including two tiger reserves at Parambikulam and Periyar, and one community reserve in the State.
- The government had notified the Karimpuzha wildlife sanctuary in Malappuram in December last.

Q.8) Arrange the following **Tiger reserves** from west to east direction:

1. Buxa tiger reserve
2. Manas tiger reserve
3. Pakke tiger reserve
4. Kaziranga tiger reserve

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Project Tiger was formally launched in India on 1st April 1973, with the goal of saving the tiger and its habitat in India.

- With an initial 9 Tiger Reserves, the Project went on to cover 50 Tiger Reserves across the country, incorporating an area of 71,027.10 sq. km.
- Although Project Tiger tackled various issues over the past 45 years, it was unable to keep pace with the rapid changes that affected the tiger landscape, including increased human pressures.
- In 2006, it was replaced by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).



Q.9) Which of the following specie (s) is/are considered to have gone **extinct** in India?

1. The cheetah
2. Sumatran rhinoceros
3. Pink-headed duck

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: Four species of fauna and 18 species of flora have gone extinct in India in the past few centuries, according to wildlife survey organisations.

- As per the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) 18 species of plants — four non-flowering and 14 flowering — have gone extinct.
- The notable among them are *Lastreopsis wattii*, a fern in Manipur discovered by George Watt in 1882 and three species from the genus *Ophiorrhiza* (*Ophiorrhiza*)

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brunonis, Ophiorrhiza caudate and Ophiorrhiza radican), all discovered from peninsular India.

- Corypha taliera Roxb, a palm species discovered in Myanmar and the Bengal region by William Roxburgh is also extinct.
- Among mammals, **the cheetah** (Acionyx jubatus) and the **Sumatran rhinoceros** (Dicerorhinus sumatrensis) are considered extinct in India.
- **The pink-headed duck** (Rhodonessa caryophyllaceai) is feared extinct since 1950 and the Himalayan quail (Ophrysia supercilios) was last reported in 1876.

NOTE: Director of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) said India is home to 11.5% of all flora in the world. According to the International Union for Conservation Of Nature (IUCN), a new study has shown that since 1750, more than double the number of plants have disappeared from the wild than birds, mammals and amphibians combined.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Nilgiri langur (s)**:

1. It is one of the New World Monkey.
2. It is endemic to Western Ghats in South India.
3. They are arboreal and diurnal in nature.

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: C

Explanation: The Nilgiri langur, also known as the hooded leaf monkey, black leaf monkey, Indian hooded leaf monkey, John's langur, Nilgiri black langur, and the Nilgiri leaf monkey, is a **species of Old World monkey endemic to South India**.

- It is found in the Western Ghats, particularly in the Nilgiri Hills from which it derives its name, but also in other hilly areas in that region.
- They prefer to live between 980 and 6,500 ft (300–2,000 m) above sea level, and typically settle in at around 4,600 ft (1,400 m).
- Since they are an **arboreal species**, they seek out habitat with trees, and are known to inhabit secondary moist deciduous forests and evergreen forests. Other considerations include proximity to water and distance from humans.
- This is a **diurnal species**, meaning they are active during the day. While active, they spend approximately half of their time eating and the other half resting.

MAP BASED QUESTIONS

Q.1) Who among the following person, **explored the Himalayan region for the British** and received a gold medal from the Royal Geographical Society for his contributions?

- a) Pundit Nain Singh Rawat
- b) Sir James Hector
- c) Alfred Russel Wallace
- d) Ahmed Hassanein Bey

ANS: A

Explanation: Early in the 19th century, the British were enjoying significant power in the India subcontinent, working with and often against the scattered royal kingdoms that ruled over patches of land, small and large.

- They had grown from just traders at the ports of southern India to a military power with influence all the way up to the plains fed by the great Ganges.
- But Tibet, located beyond the towering Himalayas, was still a mystic land for them. That's when they recruited three brothers: Dolpa, Mani Singh and Nain Singh Rawat.
- **Three brothers (mainly Nain Singh) explored the Himalayan region for the British. He received a gold medal from the Royal Geographical Society in the year 1876 for his contributions.**

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the different **types of Maps**:

1. General maps portray spatial associations of a variety of geographical phenomenon on a map.
2. Cadastral maps portray spatial variations of a single phenomenon or the relationship between phenomena.
3. Thematic Maps portray natural phenomena along with features produced by human activity.

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: A

Explanation: A map is a representation of a selection of real features on the Earth.

- It is designed to record the relationships between features and to allow these relationships to be analyzed.
- A map may be very simple (e.g. a sketch showing the location of plants in your garden) or very complex (e.g. a topographic map of the Australian Alps).

General Maps: These are simple maps showing important physical (natural and man-made) features in an area.

- Their main purpose is to summarize the landscape to aid discovery of locations.
- They are usually easy to read and understand. Most of the early mapping of the Earth falls into this group.

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Thematic Maps: These are maps which depict information on a particular topic or theme.

- The detail portrayed on a thematic map may be physical, statistical, measured, or interpreted, and sometimes requires specialist knowledge by the map user.
- Weather, population density and geology maps are examples of thematic maps.

Topographic Maps: Like General Reference Maps, Topographic Maps are a summary of the landscape and show important physical (natural and man-made) features in an area. The primary difference is that they show elevation in detail.

Cadastral Maps: The cadastre of a country is its register of property titles and is usually managed by government agencies.

- The information recorded includes an accurate description of the location of a parcel of land and who owns it.
- It may also record what the land can be used for (e.g. residential or not, national park etc) and may also show the location and shape of buildings.

Q.3) A system which allows the location of latitudes and longitudes (and heights) to be identified onto the surface of the Earth?

- a) Projection
- b) Grid
- c) Datum
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: A datum is a system which allows the location of latitudes and longitudes (and heights) to be identified onto the surface of the Earth - i.e. onto the surface of a 'round' object.

A projection is a process which uses the latitude and longitude which has already been 'drawn' on the surface of the Earth using a datum, to then be 'drawn' onto a 'flat piece of paper' - called a map.

Q.4) Which of the following pilgrimage centre is the nearest one to tropic of cancer?

- a) Dwaraka
- b) Ujjain
- c) Amarkantak
- d) Puri

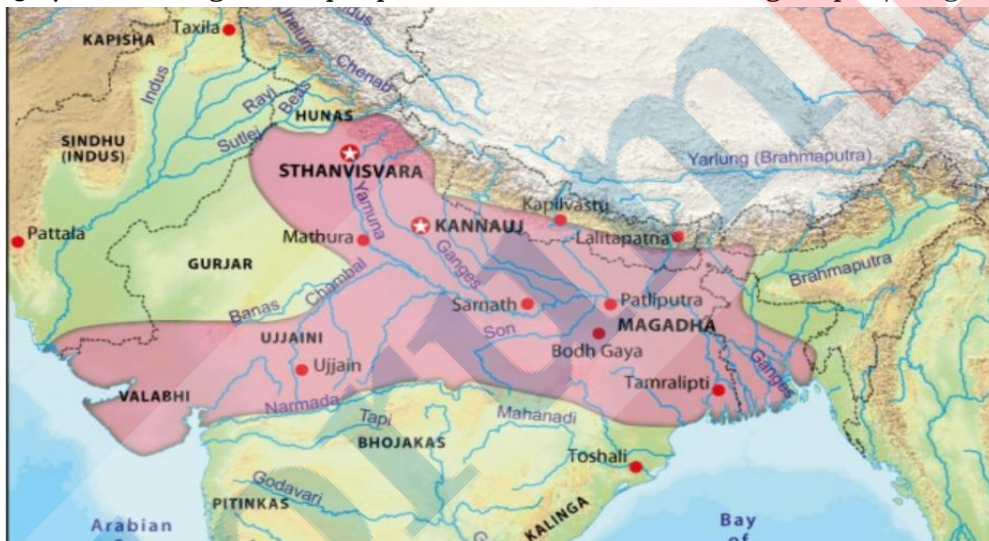
ANS: B

Explanation:

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Q.5) The below given map represents which of the following Empire/Kingdom?



- a) Gupta Empire
- b) Harshavardhan Empire
- c) Satavahana Kingdom
- d) Delhi Sultanates

ANS: B

Explanation: After the overthrow of the White Huns no supreme power existed in India until the beginning of the 7th century.

- The decline of the Gupta Empire was followed by a period of political disorder and disunity in North India.
- It was only in the beginning of the seventh century AD that Harshvardhana (606-647 or 648) succeeded in establishing a larger kingdom in north India.
- Harsha, originally king of Thaneswar, after a thirty-five years' war, became the lord paramount of the north, while Pulikesin II, the greatest of the Chalukya dynasty, was the leading sovereign in the south.

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Q.6) Arrange the following **Tiger reserves** from South to North:

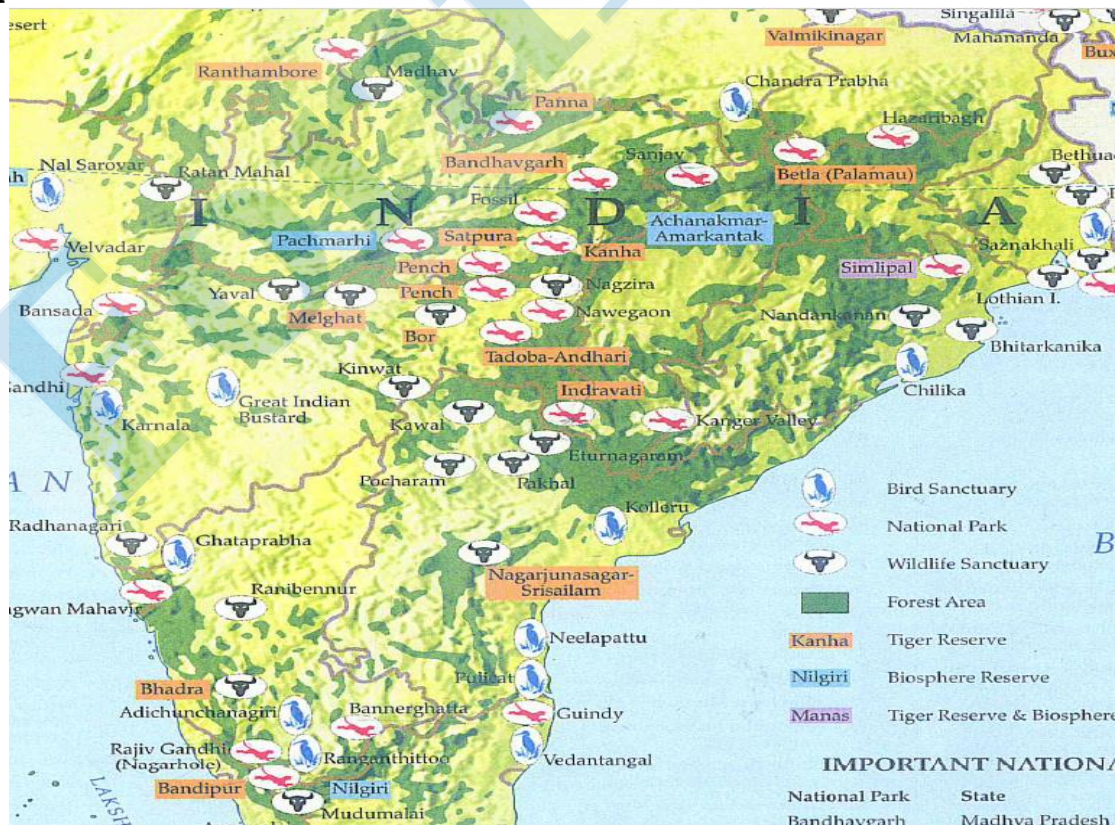
1. Bhadra
2. Bandhavgarh
3. Bandipur
4. Bor

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation:



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Q.7) Arrange the following **archaeological sites** from West to East:

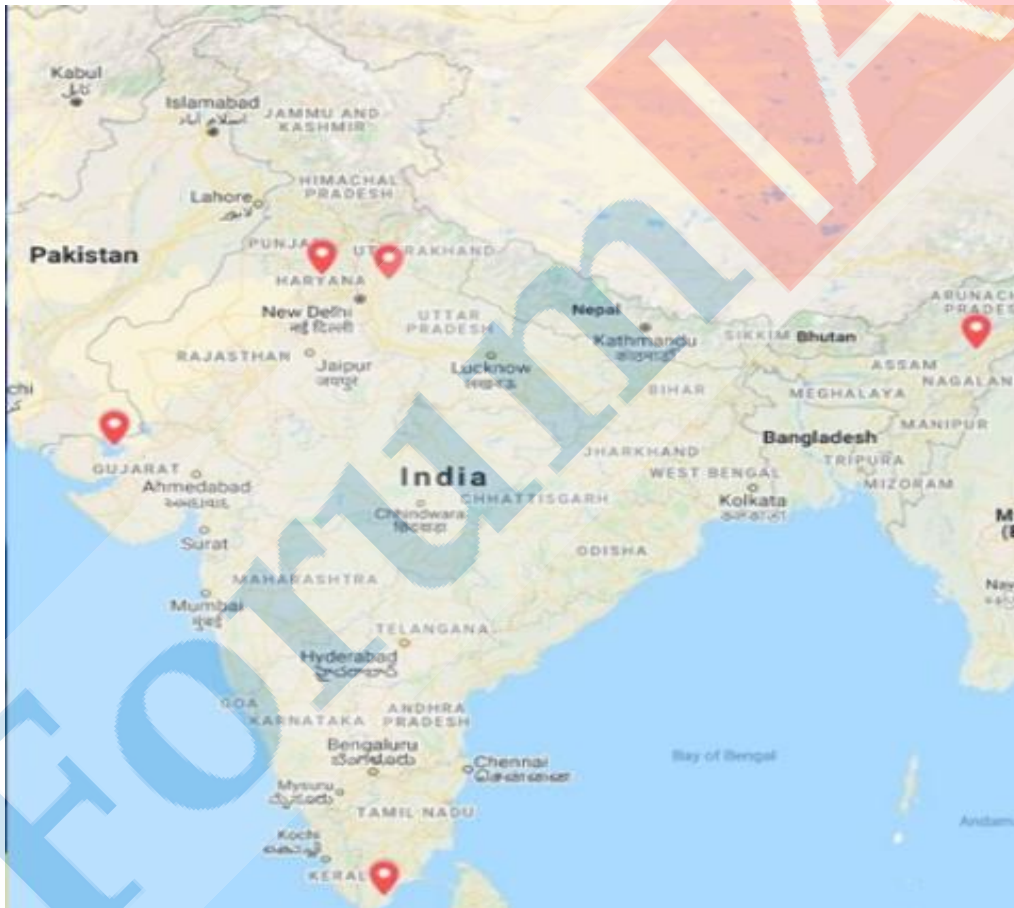
1. Rakhigarhi
2. Dholavira
3. Hastinapur
4. Sivasagar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Finance Minister has announced to develop five archaeological sites while presenting the budget 2020-21. These places are Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh), Sivasagar (Assam), Dholavira (Gujarat) and Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu).



Q.8) Which of the following place (s) is/are **manganese production** centre (s) in India?

1. Tumkur
2. Cuddapah
3. Balaghat

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

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ANS: D

Explanation: Manganese is not found as a free element in nature. It is often found in combination with iron. The most important manganese ore is pyrolusite. Manganese is primarily used in iron and steel industry.

Andhra Pradesh: 13% of India's manganese production comes from this state. Cuddapah, Vijayanagaram and Guntur are other manganese producing districts.

Karnataka: 6 per cent of India's manganese comes from this state. Uttara Kannada, Shimoga, Bellary, Chitradurg and Tumkur districts are manganese producing districts.

Madhya Pradesh: It produces about 27.59 per cent of India's manganese ore. The main belt extends in Balaghat and Chhindwara districts. It is just an extension of the Nagpur Bhandara belt of Maharashtra.

Q.9) Arrange the following **rivers** from west to east in India:

1. Sabarmati
2. Mahi
3. Parbatti
4. Betwa

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

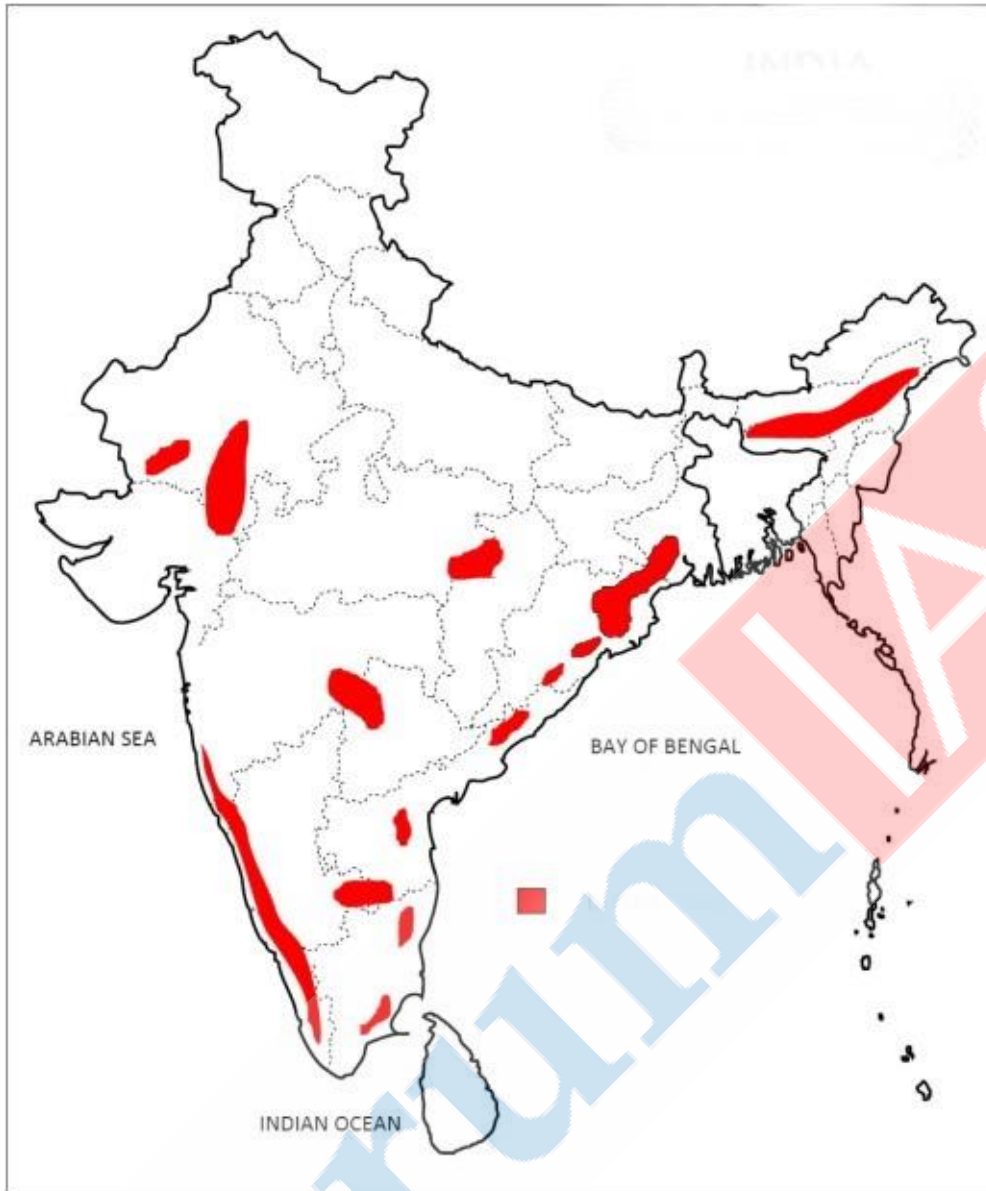
- a) 1-2-4-3
- b) 2-1-4-3
- c) 2-1-3-4
- d) 1-2-3-4

ANS: D

Explanation:



Q.10) In the below given figure, red colour represents which of the following soil type in India?



- a) Red soil
- b) Lateritic soil
- c) Montane soil
- d) Alluvial soil

ANS: B

Explanation: Lateritic is a soil and rock type rich in iron and aluminum and is commonly considered to have formed in hot and wet tropical areas.

- Nearly all lateritics are of rusty-red coloration, because of high iron oxide content.
- They develop by intensive and prolonged weathering of the underlying parent rock.
- The lateritic soils are commonly found in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and the hilly areas of Orissa and Assam.