

## *10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation*

July, 2020

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

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

**Q.1)** Which of the following monk(s) contributed to the spread of **Buddhism** in China?

1. Bodhidharma
2. Kasyapa Matanga
3. Kumarajiva

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** During first, second and third centuries A.D. several Buddhist pilgrims and scholars traveled to China on the historic silk route.

**Kashyapa Matanga and Dharmaratna** made the White Horse monastery at Luoyang, China their abode. Monk-scholars such as **Kumarajiva, Bodhidharma and Dharmakshema** contributed to the spread of Buddhism in China. (Source: MEA brief of India-China)

**Bodhidharma** (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century) is credited as the transmitter of Chan Buddhism to China.

**Kumarajiva** (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century) is mostly remembered for the prolific translation of Buddhist texts written in Sanskrit to Chinese he carried out during his later life.

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID-19 RT-PCR test**:

1. The test sample is collected from upper or lower respiratory system.
2. Positive results are indicative of the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in sample.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **COVID-19 RT-PCR test** is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in **upper and lower respiratory specimens** (such as nasal, nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs, sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage, and nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal aspirate) collected from individuals suspected of COVID-19.

Statement 2 is correct. **COVID-19 disease is caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is an RNA virus.** They rely on infiltrating healthy cells to multiply and survive. Positive results are indicative of the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

*In order for a virus like the COVID-19 virus to be detected early in the body using real time RT-PCR, the RNA is converted to DNA in RT-PCR testing. This is a process called 'reverse transcription'. Scientists amplify a specific part of the transcribed viral DNA many times to have a large enough quantity of the target sections of viral DNA to accurately confirm that the virus is present.*

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)**:

1. All members of SAARC except Afghanistan are signatories to the agreement.
2. India and Pakistan are yet to ratify the agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

**South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA)** is an agreement reached on January 6, 2004, at the 12th SAARC summit in Islamabad, Pakistan. The agreement **came into force in 2006**, succeeding the 1993 SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement.

**India and Pakistan both have ratified the agreement.** Afghanistan became 8<sup>th</sup> member of SAARC in 2007 and joined SAFTA in 2011.

The agreement allows parties to notify sensitive (negative) list and concessional tariffs for the least developed countries.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding initiatives of **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)**:

1. e-SANCHIT enables computerized handling of indirect tax documents of the importers and exporters in the country.
2. ICEDASH provides daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** has launched **eSanchit (e-Storage and Computerized Handling of Indirect Tax documents)** for paperless processing, uploading of supporting documents and to facilitate the trading across Borders. It has already been made available to importers and exporters in the country and as a next step; CBIC is extending this facility to PGA (Participating Government Agencies).

**ICEDASH** is an Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) monitoring **dashboard of the Indian Customs**, putting out the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports. This dashboard has been developed by CBIC in collaboration with NIC. ICEDASH can be accessed through the CBIC website.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **State of World Population report 2020**:

1. It has been released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
2. India accounts for almost one third of globally 'missing females' due to pre- and post-natal sex selection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

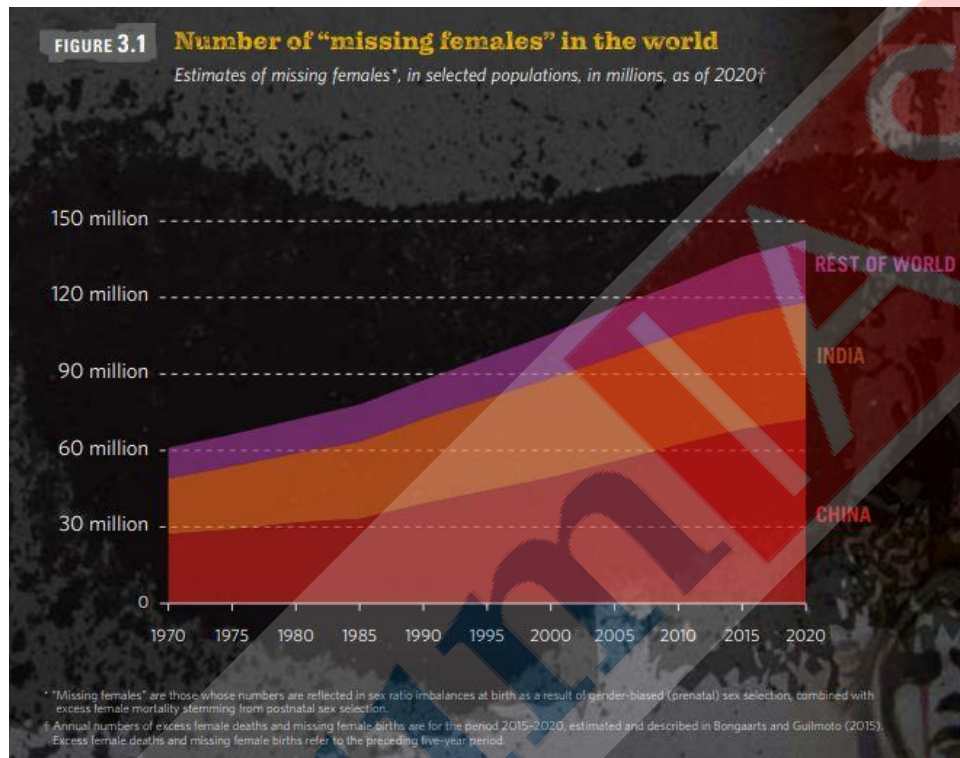
**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

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The ‘**State of World Population 2020: Against my will**’ highlighting the state of female population statistics in the world has been released by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**.

As per the report one in three girls missing globally due to sex selection, both pre- and post-natal, is from India — 46 million out of the total 142 million.

“**Missing females**” are those whose numbers are reflected in sex ratio imbalances at birth as a result of gender-biased (prenatal) sex selection, combined with excess female mortality stemming from postnatal sex selection.



**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Influenza viruses**:

1. SARS-CoV-2 is an influenza virus.
2. Swine flu is caused by H1N1 subtype of Influenza A virus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **SARS-CoV-2 is a type of coronavirus** and not an influenza virus. Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that are common in both humans and animals that usually cause mild-to-moderate respiratory illnesses.

There are **four types of influenza viruses: A, B, C and D**. Human influenza A and B viruses cause seasonal epidemics of disease (known as the flu season).

Statement 2 is correct. The influenza A and B viruses that routinely spread in people (human influenza viruses) are responsible for seasonal flu epidemics each year. Influenza type C infections generally cause mild illness and are not thought to cause human flu epidemics. Influenza D viruses primarily affect cattle and are not known to infect or cause illness in people.

**Swine flu is caused by the H1N1 Influenza A virus strain.**

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**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **external debt of India**:

1. U.S. dollar-denominated debt is more than the Rupee denominated component of India's external debt.
2. Commercial borrowing is the largest component of external debt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

As per **RBI release on "India's External Debt as at the end of March 2020"**: US dollar denominated debt continued to be the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 53.7 per cent at end-March 2020, followed by the Indian rupee (31.9 per cent), yen (5.6 per cent), SDR (4.5 per cent) and the euro (3.5 per cent).

**Commercial borrowings remained the largest component of external debt**, with a share of 39.4 per cent, followed by non-resident deposits (23.4 per cent) and short-term trade credit (18.2 per cent).

**Table: External Debt - Outstanding (data in US\$ billion).**

Component	Outstanding as at end of March		
	2018 R	2019 PR	2020 P
1	2	3	4
1. Multilateral	57.2	57.5	60.0
2. Bilateral	25.4	25.6	27.2
3. IMF	5.8	5.5	5.4
4. Trade Credit	9.5	7.9	7.2
5. Commercial Borrowings	201.8	206.6	220.3
6. Non-resident Deposits	126.2	130.4	130.6
7. Rupee Debt	1.2	1.2	1.0
8. Short-term Debt	102.2	108.4	106.9
Of which:			
Short-term trade credit	100.4	102.4	101.4
Total Debt	529.3	543.1	558.5

*R: Revised. PR: Partially Revised. P: Provisional.*

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding **Core Sector Industries of India**:

1. Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is released by Office of the Economic Adviser.
2. Core industries form more than half of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement is correct. The monthly **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** is a production volume index. ICI measures collective and individual performance of production



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in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

It is compiled and released by **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA)**, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Eight Core Industries comprise **40.27** per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020** notification:

1. It has been issued under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. It provides for conditional post facto clearances for projects in violation of environmental norms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Statement 1 is correct.** The **Environment Impact Assessment** rules are notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** for imposing certain restrictions and prohibition on the undertaking some projects or expansion or modernization of such existing projects entailing capacity addition in any part of India.

Statement 2 is correct. Projects operating in violation of the Environment Act will now be able to apply for clearance.

The draft guidelines provide that the **Appraisal Committee** shall stipulate the implementation of Environment Management Plan, comprising remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan corresponding to the **1.5 times the ecological damage assessed and economic benefit derived** due to violation in case of the **suo moto** applications.

Two times the ecological damage assessed and economic benefit derived due to violation in cases reported by any Government Authority or found during the appraisal of Appraisal Committee or during the processing of application if any by the Regulatory Authority, as a condition of Environment Clearance.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**:

1. It has been launched as a limited time measure in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Scheme provides Wheat or Rice and pulse free of cost by the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** was launched in March, 2020 for three months in view of the hardships faced by the lower strata of population due to economic closure during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has now been extended till November 2020.

During this period, more than 80 crore people will be provided **5 kg wheat/rice per month along with 1 kg whole chana** will also be provided to each family per month free of cost by the Government of India.

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**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967**:

1. It empowers the Central Government to declare an individual as terrorist.
2. It gives power to NIA to seize properties that may be connected with 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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct and both provisions were added by the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019**.

The **Central Government** may, by notification add an organization to the **First Schedule** or the name of an individual in the **Fourth Schedule**. The first schedule contains list of terrorist organizations while fourth schedule contains list of terrorists. Further, an application can be made to the Central Government to remove an organization from the First Schedule, or as the case may be, the name of an individual from the Fourth Schedule. Under the Act, an **investigating officer** is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism. The Amendment act provided that if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**, the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.

**Q.12)** Which of the following is/are **vaccines** under development for **COVID-19 disease**?

1. ChAdOx1 nCoV-19
2. COVAXIN
3. Ad5-nCoV

Select the correct answer using the code give below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All are vaccines under development for COVID-19 disease.

**Oxford University vaccine: ChAdOx1 nCoV-19** is made from a virus (ChAdOx1), which is a weakened version of a common cold virus (adenovirus) that causes infections in chimpanzees, that has been genetically changed so that it is impossible for it to replicate in humans.

**Bharat Biotech India: Covaxin** is a vaccine candidate to developed by BBIL against the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Virology (NIV).

**CanSino Biologics' COVID-19 vaccine, China: Ad5-nCoV** vaccine candidate is a genetically engineered vaccine candidate with the replication-defective adenovirus type 5 as the vector to express SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

**Q.13)** Which of the following **rights(s) is/are available to prisoner(s)** in India?

1. Right to speedy trial
2. Protection against ex-post facto legislation

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3. Right against involuntary administration of brain mapping, narco analysis and polygraph test.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Section 309 in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973** provides for right of speedy trial. Further Supreme Court has held the right to speedy trial as part of right to life and liberty under **the article 21 of the constitution**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 20(1) in the Constitution** states that 'no person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of the law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence'.

Statement 3 is correct. In **Selvi and Ors v. State of Karnataka**, Supreme Court declared involuntary administration of brain mapping, narco analysis and polygraph test as violative of human rights and the Constitution. The **Article 20(3) of the Indian constitution** regarding the right against self-incrimination states that 'no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself'.

**Q.14)** Which of the following provision(s) are available under the Constitution regarding **Linguistic rights**?

- 1. Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India having a distinct language and script have right to protect it.
- 2. President may direct a language spoken by substantial proportion of the population of a State to be officially recognized throughout that State.
- 3. Special Officer for linguistic minorities shall be appointed by the speaker to put forth their views in Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Article 29(1)** provides that any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a **distinct language, script or culture** of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 347 of the Constitution** states that on a demand being made in that behalf the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognized by that State, direct that such language shall also be officially recognized throughout that State or any part thereof for such purpose as he may specify.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Article 350B provides that there shall be a **Special Officer for linguistic minorities to be appointed by the President**.

It shall be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities in the Constitution and report to the President and the



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President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament, and sent to the Governments of the States concerned.

**Q.15)** Consider the following statements regarding **the Information Technology Act, 2000**:

1. The act empowers the Central Government to establish an Indian Computer Emergency Response Team as the national agency for cyber security.
2. The act provides penal provisions for acts of Cyber 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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Section 70B of the **Information Technology Act, 2000** states that the Central Government shall, by notification appoint an **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team**, to serve as the national agency for cyber incident response.

Statement 2 is correct. **Section 66F of the IT Act** provides that whoever with intent to threaten the unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of India or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people by

-denying or cause the denial of access to any person authorized to access computer resource; or

-attempting to penetrate or access a computer resource without authorization or exceeding authorized access; or

-introducing or causing to introduce any computer contaminant

-knowingly or intentionally penetrates or accesses a computer resource without authorization that can cause or likely to cause injury to the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence, or to the advantage of any foreign nation, group of individuals or otherwise, commits the offence of **cyber terrorism**.

Whoever commits or conspires to commit cyber terrorism shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to imprisonment for life.

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Environment Protection Act 1986.
2. Prime Minister is the Chairperson of the CZA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** was amended through an amendment Act in the year 1991. Chapter IVA was added to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for establishment of the Central Zoo Authority in India. Accordingly, the **Central Zoo Authority was established as a statutory body under the Ministry of**

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**Environment, Forests & Climate Change** by the Government of India in the year 1992. The Authority consists of a Chairman, ten members and a Member Secretary. Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change** is the chairperson of the CZA.

**Q.17)** The '**Global Trade Alert**' is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) World Bank
- c) Centre for Economic Policy Research
- d) The Economist

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** **Global Trade Alert** is an initiative of **Centre for Economic Policy Research** that provides timely information on state interventions that are likely to affect foreign commerce. It includes state interventions affecting trade in goods and services, foreign investment and labour force migration.

The Global Trade Alert (GTA) was launched in June 2009 when it was feared that the global financial crisis would lead governments to adopt widespread restrictions on trade.

As per its recent study, nearly 90 governments blocked the export of medical supplies while 29 restricted food exports during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Q.18)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Surety Bonds**:

- 1. It provides a financial guarantee that contract will be completed according to pre-defined and mutual terms.
- 2. It is a legally binding contract entered into by three parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

A surety bond is a **three-party agreement** that **legally binds** together a principal who needs the bond, an obligee who requires the bond, and a surety company that sells the bond.

A surety is common in contracts in which one party requires the counterparty to come forward with a guarantor in order to reduce risk, with the guarantor entering into a contract of surety. This is intended to lower risk to the lender. This surety can be in the form of a "surety bond."

**Surety bonds** provide financial guarantee that contracts will be completed according to pre-defined and mutual terms. When a principal breaks a bond's terms, the harmed party can make a claim on the bond to recover losses.

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the **culture of Assam**?

- 1. The Deodhani dance is associated with the worship of the snake goddess Manasa.
- 2. Bohag Bihu festival marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
- 3. Sattriya classical dance was introduced by Srimanta Sankardeva, in 15th century.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The **Deodhani dance** is associated with the worship of the snake goddess Manasa. A Deodhani girl, in an inspired state, goes on dancing to the accompaniment of Kham (drum) and Ciphung (flute) propitiating many a deity beginning with Shiva and ending with Lakshmi.

Bihu folk dance of Assam is performed mostly during the annual Bihu festival celebrated around April. **Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu** marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year. It is performed by both men and women. Bihu dance has been an integral part of the culture of various ethnic groups in Assam like the Deoris, Sonowal Kacharis, Moran, Borahis and others.

**Satriya Nritya** is the classic dance form of Assam which represents the Satriya culture, the core of Satriya Nritya has usually been mythological stories. Satriya has remained a living tradition since its creation by the founder of Vaishnavism in Assam, the great saint Srimanta Sankardeva, in 15th century.

**Q.20)** Consider the following statements regarding **the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC):**

1. IRCTC is a Mini Ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways.
2. IRCTC operates India's first corporate passenger train.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) is a "Mini Ratna (Category-I)" Central Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways, Government of India.

IRCTC was incorporated as an extended arm of the Indian Railways to upgrade, professionalize and manage the catering and hospitality services at stations, on trains and other locations and to promote domestic and international tourism through development of budget hotels, special tour packages, information & commercial publicity and global reservation systems.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express** was the first corporate passenger train run by the IRCTC. Indian Railways has decided to launch third corporate passenger train Kashi Mahakal Express on Varanasi-Indore Route after the successful run of the Tejas Express trains operating on the Lucknow-Delhi and Ahmedabad-Mumbai routes.

*For further private participation Ministry of Railways has invited Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for private participation for operation of passenger train services over 109 Origin Destination (OD) pairs of routes through introduction of 151 modern Trains (Rakes).*

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT):**

1. Convention prevents extradition by parties to a country where there is danger of torture.
2. India has signed the convention but has not ratified it.

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** 'United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment' seeks to ensure that countries put in place various institutional mechanisms to prevent the use of torture by legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent torture, and ensure that torture is a criminal offence, among others.

Statement 1 is correct. The convention states that no State Party shall expel, return or **extradite** a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.

Statement 2 is correct. India signed the convention in 1997 but has not **ratified it**.

**Q.22)** Consider the following statements regarding the **non-permanent membership of United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**:

1. A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.
2. At least five non-permanent members of the Council are mandated to be from African and Asian States.
3. The non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a simple majority of members present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Security Council consists of five permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States of America) and 10 non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years. **A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election in UNSC.**

Statement 2 is correct. At its eighteenth session, in 1963, the Assembly decided that the non-permanent members of the Council should be elected according to the following pattern: **Five from African and Asian States**; One from Eastern European States; Two from Latin American States; Two from Western European and other States.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a **two-thirds majority** of members present and voting of the General Assembly.

**Q.23)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)**:

1. It is an IT enabled surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends in India.
2. The data is collected and analyzed on epidemic prone diseases on weekly basis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)** is a disease surveillance scheme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; it was launched with World Bank assistance in November 2004.

It maintains decentralized laboratory-based IT enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends and to detect and respond to outbreaks in early rising phase through trained Rapid Response Team (RRTs).

Statement 2 is correct. Under the project **weekly disease surveillance data** on epidemic prone disease are being collected from reporting units such as sub centres, primary health centres, community health centres, hospitals including government and private sector hospitals and medical colleges.

The data are being collected on 'S' syndromic; 'P' probable; & 'L' laboratory formats using standard case definitions. Presently, more than 90% districts report such weekly data through e-mail/ IDSP portal. The weekly data are analyzed by **State/District Surveillance Units** for disease trends. Whenever there is rising trend of illnesses, it is investigated by the Rapid Response Teams to diagnose and control the outbreak.

**Q.24)** The **Ranbir Singh Committee** has been constituted to make recommendations on which of the following subject?

- a) Criminal Law Reforms
- b) Social Stock Exchanges
- c) Coal Sector Reforms
- d) Environment Impact Assessment

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has constituted a national level committee for **reform in criminal laws** of India, to be headed by **Ranbir Singh**, Vice-Chancellor National Law University (NLU).

The Indian Penal Code 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, Indian Evidence Act 1872 etc. are the constituents of criminal law in India. The committee has recently invited experts in the field of criminal law to participate in the exercise through an online consultation mechanism.

**Q.25)** Consider the following statements regarding exposure of **India's economy to China** in last five years:

- 1. Among its trade partners, India has largest trade deficit with China.
- 2. China is one of the top five contributors to the Foreign Direct Investment in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **India has its largest trade deficit with China.** India's trade deficit with China fell to \$48.66 billion in FY 2019-20 on account of the decline in imports.



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**Bilateral Trade Surplus/Deficit (Sorted on Year: 2018-19)**

(Values in US\$ Billion)

	Country	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (April-November)
Trade Surplus Countries	U S A	20.63	18.55	19.90	21.27	16.86	10.91
	United Arab Emirates	6.89	10.87	9.67	6.41	0.34	0.25
Trade Deficit Countries	China PRP	-48.48	-52.70	-51.11	-63.05	-53.57	-35.32
	Saudi Arabia	-16.95	-13.94	-14.86	-16.66	-22.92	-14.32
	Iraq	-13.42	-9.83	-10.60	-16.15	-20.58	-13.98
	Germany	-5.25	-5.00	-4.40	-4.61	-6.26	-3.09
	Korea RP	-8.93	-9.52	-8.34	-11.90	-12.05	-7.80
	Indonesia	-10.96	-10.31	-9.94	-12.48	-10.57	-6.99
	Switzerland	-21.06	-18.32	-16.27	-17.84	-16.90	-11.97
	Hong Kong	8.03	6.04	5.84	4.01	-4.99	-3.88
	Singapore	2.68	0.41	2.48	2.74	-4.71	-3.15

Source: Computed from latest data available on Department of Commerce's website, 'https://commerce-app.gov.in/eidb/default.asp'.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per data from Reserve Bank of India; **Singapore, Mauritius, USA, Japan and Netherlands** are top sources of FDI in India.

Foreign Direct Investment Flows to India: Country-wise and Industry-wise					
Source/Industry	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 P (US\$ million)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Total FDI	24,748	36,068	36,317	37,366	38,744
Country-wise Inflows					
Singapore	5,137	12,479	6,529	9,273	14,632
Mauritius	5,878	7,452	13,383	13,415	6,570
USA	1,981	4,124	2,138	1,973	2,823
Japan	2,019	1,818	4,237	1,313	2,745
Netherlands	2,154	2,330	3,234	2,677	2,519
United Kingdom	1,891	842	1,301	716	1,211
South Korea	138	241	466	293	982
Cayman Islands	72	440	49	1,140	863
UAE	327	961	645	408	853
Germany	942	927	845	1,095	817
Hong Kong	325	344	134	1,044	598
Canada	153	52	32	274	548
Ireland	11	8	12	108	427
France	347	392	487	403	375
British Virgin Islands	30	203	212	21	290
Switzerland	292	195	502	506	280
Luxembourg	204	784	99	243	251
Others	2,846	2,476	2,012	2,464	1,959

**Q.26)** Which of the following **Tiger Reserve(s)** is/are correctly matched to the corresponding state?

1. Rajaji Tiger Reserve - Tamil Nadu
2. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve - Uttar Pradesh
3. Kamlang Tiger Reserve - Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** **Project Tiger** is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Government of India which was launched on the 1st of April, 1973 for in-situ conservation of wild tigers in designated tiger reserves.

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**Rajaji Tiger Reserve**/ National Park is in **Uttarakhand** having more than 50 species of mammals. Besides tiger, leopard, Himalayan Black bear, sloth bear, Civet, Marten, Jackal, Hyena etc. it is estimated that there are more than 350 Asian elephants in the park.

**Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**/National Park located on the Indo-Nepal border in the district Lakhimpur-Kheri in Uttar Pradesh, together with Kishanpur and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuaries represent the natural forests and grasslands left in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh.

**Kamlang Tiger Reserve**/Wildlife Sanctuary is a small sanctuary located in the southeastern part of Lohit District in Arunachal Pradesh. This reserve though small it has varieties of animal species like Tiger, Hollock gibbon, Elephant, Stump tailed macaque, Boar, Civets, Capped Langur, Deer, Hornbills and flying squirrels etc.

**Q.27)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**:

1. It is one of the principal organs of the United Nations.
2. It is the only means of dispute resolution under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** is an intergovernmental organization located at The Hague in the Netherlands, established in 1899 by the first Hague Peace Conference. The PCA is not part of the UN system.

The six principal organs of the United Nations are the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Trusteeship Council, **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, and the UN Secretariat.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Pursuant to Article 287(1) of UNCLOS, when signing, ratifying, or acceding to UNCLOS, a State may make a declaration choosing one or more of the following means for settling disputes:

- the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany;
- the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands;
- ad hoc arbitration (in accordance with Annex VII of UNCLOS); or
- a "special arbitral tribunal" constituted for certain categories of disputes (established under Annex VIII of UNCLOS).

Arbitration under Annex VII is the default means of dispute settlement if a State has not expressed any preference with respect to the means of dispute resolution available. **PCA have administered most of the UNCLOS Annex VII arbitrations** to date including the Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration between Bangladesh and India.

**Q.28)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**:

1. All members of the Cabinet Committee on Security are ex-officio members of the DAC.
2. Minister of Defence is the Chairperson of the DAC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Cabinet Committee on Security** members are Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and Minister of External Affairs. Of all CCS members only Minister of Defence is part of DAC.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Minister of Defence** is the chairman of the DAC; its members include MoS Defence, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Chief of Air Staff (CAS), Defence Secretary etc.

*The DAC decides on Capital acquisitions in the for defence forces, it recently accorded approval for Capital Procurement for the Defence forces amounting over Rs. 3300 crores of indigenously designed and developed equipment.*

**Q.29)** Which of the following **weapon system(s)** is/are correctly matched to their country of origin?

1. THAAD - United States of America
2. Spice 2000 - India
3. Pinaka - France

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correctly matched. **Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)** is an American anti-ballistic missile defense system designed to shoot down short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The "**SPICE**" ("**Smart, Precise Impact, Cost-Effective**") is an Israeli-developed, guidance kit for converting air-droppable unguided bombs into precision guided bombs. The "Spice" is a product of Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. Spice 2000 is an add-on kit for 900 kg warheads. Indian Air Force is one of the users of SPICE technology.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Pinaka** is a multiple rocket launcher produced in India and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army.

**Q.30)** Consider the following statements regarding the provisions of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**:

1. The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is a statutory body under the act.
2. The act does not recognize or regulate the Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)** is **statutory body** under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. As per Section 5 (1) of the act the Central Government shall constitute the Drugs Technical Advisory Board to advise the Central Government and the State Governments on technical matters arising out of the administration of this Act and to carry out the other functions assigned to it by this Act. Statement 2 is incorrect. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 also regulates the manufacture and sale of **Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs**.

As per the act Ayurvedic, Siddha or Unani drug includes all medicines intended for internal or external use for or in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of disease or disorder in human beings or animals, and manufactured] exclusively in accordance with the formulae described in, the authoritative books of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani system of medicine specified in the First Schedule of the act.

**Q.31)** Which of the following is/are potential impacts of long term use of **Single use plastics (SUP)**?

1. Economic loss in tourism, fishing and shipping industries
2. Food chain contamination
3. Spread of invasive marine organisms and bacteria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Plastic pollution is the major and widespread problem affecting the environment. It also threatens ocean health, food safety and quality, human health, coastal tourism, and contributes to the climate change.

- Plastic waste damages the **aesthetic value of tourist destinations**, leading to decreased tourism-related incomes and major economic costs related to the cleaning and maintenance of the sites.
- Invisible plastic has been identified in tap water, beer, salt and are present in all samples collected in the world's oceans, including the Arctic. Several **chemicals** used in the production of plastic materials are known to be **carcinogenic** and to interfere with the body's endocrine system, causing developmental, reproductive, neurological, and immune disorders in both humans and wildlife.
- Marine wildlife such as **seabirds, whales, fishes and turtles**, mistake plastic waste for prey, and most die of starvation as their stomachs are filled with plastic debris. They also suffer from lacerations, infections, reduced ability to swim, and internal injuries. **Floating plastics also contribute to the spread of invasive marine organisms and bacteria, which disrupt ecosystems.**





**Q.32)** Consider the following statements regarding the **active pharmaceutical ingredients (API)**:

- API is the term used exclusively for the diagnostic ingredient of a pharmaceutical product.
- India's pharmaceutical industry is self-reliant with regards to raw materials and does not import APIs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. As per World Health Organisation an '**active pharmaceutical ingredient**' (API) is a substance used in a finished pharmaceutical product (FPP), intended to furnish pharmacological activity or to otherwise have direct effect in the **diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease**, or to have direct effect in restoring, correcting or modifying physiological functions in human beings."

Statement 2 is incorrect. Indian pharmaceutical industry is **critically dependent** on imports for its raw materials.

As per the data submitted by ministry to the Lok Sabha; India imports various Bulk Drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for producing medicines. **Two-thirds of the total imports** of Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates are from China. The imports from China are mainly due to economic considerations. The details of India's imports of Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates in 2018-19 are as under:



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Year	Total imports (US \$ mn)	Imports from China (US\$ mn)	Percent of Imports from China
2018-19	3560.35	2405.42	67.56%

**Q.33)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**:

1. It is released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
2. It estimates the annual employment and unemployment indicators in usual status and Current Weekly Status in both rural and urban areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation release the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). Statement 2 is correct. The **objective of PLFS** is primarily twofold:

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

-to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both usual status and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

**Q.34)** Which of the following region(s) is/are correctly matched to their location:

1. West Bank - West Asia
2. Scarborough Shoal - South China Sea
3. Hagia Sophia - Eastern Europe

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All are correctly matched.

The **West Bank** is a landlocked territory disputed between Israel and Palestine near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by the Green Line separating it and Israel on the south, west and north. Most of it was occupied by **Israel** during the 1967 Six-Day War.

Istanbul's iconic **Hagia Sophia** museum is 1,500-year-old structure, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is on European side of **Turkey**.

**Scarborough Shoal** is a rock in South China Sea, disputed between China, Taiwan and Phillipines. There are no structures built on Scarborough Shoal, but the feature is effectively controlled by China, which has maintains coast guard presence at the feature since 2012.

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**Q.35)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Vaccination**:

1. Vaccination produces active immunity in human body.
2. To produce an immune response, live attenuated vaccines must replicate in the vaccinated person.
3. Inactivated vaccines do not cause disease from infection, even in an immune-deficient person.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Active immunity** is stimulation of the immune system to produce antigen-specific **humoral (antibody) and cellular immunity**. One way to acquire active immunity is to survive infection with the disease-causing form of the organism. **Another way to produce active immunity is by vaccination.** Vaccines interact with the immune system and often produce an immune response similar to that produced by the natural infection.

Statement 2 is correct. **Live vaccines** are derived from “wild,” or disease-causing, viruses or bacteria. These wild viruses or bacteria are **attenuated, or weakened**, in a laboratory, usually by repeated culturing. To produce an immune response, **live attenuated vaccines must replicate** (grow) in the vaccinated person. A relatively small dose of virus or bacteria is administered, which replicates in the body and creates enough of the organism to stimulate an immune response.

Statement 3 is correct. **Inactivated vaccines** are produced by growing the bacterium or virus in culture media, then inactivating it with heat and/ or chemicals (usually formalin). They are **not alive and cannot replicate** therefore entire dose of antigen is administered in the injection. These vaccines cannot cause disease from infection, even in an immune-deficient person.

**Q.36)** Consider the following statements regarding **DIKSHA platform**:

1. It enables teachers to learn and train themselves with assessment resources available on platform.
2. The platform is exclusive for Central Government bodies to integrate DIKSHA into their respective teacher initiatives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Diksha portal** enables, accelerates and amplifies solutions in realm of teacher education. It enables **teachers to learn and train themselves** for which assessment resources are available. It helps teachers to create training content, profile, in-class resources, assessment aids, news and announcement and connect with teacher community.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **States, government bodies and even private organisations**, can integrate DIKSHA into their respective teacher initiatives based on their goals, needs and capabilities.

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*LEAD (Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi) — developed by the Delhi government that contains 10,000 instructional materials and course content for Classes I to XII will be available on DIKSHA platform.*

**Q.37)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It implements and enforces the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** was constituted by a Government of India Resolution in 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.

Statement 2 is correct. Main **functions** of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:

- To **implement and enforce** the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
- To collect/ maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc., for bulk drugs and formulations.
- To undertake and/ or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/ pharmaceuticals.

**Q.38)** Consider the following statements regarding State government provisions in **the Constitution of India**:

1. Chief Minister is appointed by the Chief Justice or the senior-most Judge of the respective High Court.
2. Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of the State.
3. The number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister in a State cannot be less than twelve.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 164(1) of the Constitution states that the '**Chief Minister** shall be appointed by the **Governor** and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister, and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.'

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Council of Ministers** is collectively responsible to the **Legislative Assembly** of the State.

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Statement 3 is correct. Article 164(1A) states 'the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State **shall not exceed fifteen percent of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly** of that State; provided that the number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister in a State **shall not be less than twelve.**'

**Q.39)** Which of the following committee(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Bibek Debroy Committee - Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board
2. Rakesh Mohan Committee - National Transport Development Policy
3. Ishaat Hussain Committee- Norms of Social Stock Exchanges (SSE)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All are correctly matched.

The **Bibek Debroy Committee** was set for "*Mobilization of Resources for Major Railway Projects and Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board*" in 2014. It recommended more private participation, establishment of Independent Regulator- Railways Regulatory Authority of India, restructuring of Railway Zones etc.

**Dr Rakesh Mohan** chaired the *National Transport Development Policy* Committee, it recommended a single unified transport ministry with a clear mandate to deliver a multi-modal transport system, focus on development of North East India and reforms in Railways sector.

The **Ishaat Hussain Committee** was set up by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in 2019 to recommend on norms for *Social Stock Exchanges (SSE)*. The SSE was proposed in the budget speech in July 2019. The proposed exchange will be under the regulation of Securities and Board Exchange of India.

**Q.40)** The '**Hul Divas**' commemorates which of the following event?

- a) Tribal Contribution to the revolt of 1857
- b) Santhal rebellion against the British Raj in 1855
- c) Uprising of indigo farmers against plantation owners
- d) Rampa Rebellion of 1922

Correct answer: B

**Explanation:** On every **June 30 (Hul Diwas)**, people in Bhognadih village in Sahebgunj district, **Jharkhand** pay tributes to tribal heroes who were killed by the British forces.

The Hul Diwas marks the contributions made by **Sido, Kanhu, Chand and Bhairav**. The place is treated as the epicenter of the **Santhal Hul (rebellion)** against the British Raj in 1855, two years before Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

**Q.41)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Africa Communication and Information Platform (ACIP)**:

1. It has been launched by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).
2. The platform will serve as a two-way information and communication platform between citizens and governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)** has launched Africa Communication and Information Platform (ACIP) for Health and Economic Action to serve as a **two-way information and communication** platform between citizens and government.

The platform will bring together the major mobile network operators on the continent as well as other partners to support each country's National COVID-19 Taskforce, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Finance, Economy, and Planning, and international development organizations, including Africa CDC and ECA with intelligent information and analysis of live data for decision-making.

**Q.42)** Consider the following statements regarding **Operation Greens Scheme**:

1. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
2. Scheme provides subsidy for transportation of eligible crops from surplus production cluster to consumption center.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Operation Greens Scheme** is being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Statement 2 is correct. It has been **extended** from tomato, onion and potato (TOP) crops to other notified horticulture crops for providing subsidy for their transportation and storage from surplus production area to major consumption centers.

**Eligible Crops:** Fruits- Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit; Vegetables: - French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green), Okra, Onion, Potato and Tomato.

**Eligible entities:** Food Processors, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Societies, Individual farmers, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporters, State Marketing/Co-operative Federation, Retailers etc. engaged in processing/ marketing of fruits and vegetables.

Ministry will provide subsidy @ 50 % of the cost of two components, subject to the cost norms: transportation of eligible crops from surplus production cluster to consumption center; and/or hiring of appropriate storage facilities for eligible crops (for maximum period of 3 months).

**Q.43)** Consider the following statements regarding **Sample Registration System (SRS)** in India:

1. It is carried out by the Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
2. It provides annual estimates of birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate, fertility and mortality indicators.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **Sample Registration System (SRS)** in India is carried out by the **Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner**, India with an objective of providing reliable annual estimates of birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate and various other fertility and mortality indicators at the State and National level.

The system has a unique feature of dual recording, which involves continuous enumeration and retrospective half-yearly surveys.

Registrar General of India has released the **Sample Registration System – Statistical Report 2018**. For more visit [Factly](#).

**Q.44)** Consider the following statements regarding the ‘**Accelerate Vigyan**’ scheme:

1. It has been launched by NITI Aayog.
2. The program will initiate mechanisms of identifying research potential, mentoring, training and hands-on workshops, on national scale.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. To provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs, and workshops across the country, the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** has launched a new scheme called ‘Accelerate Vigyan’ (AV).

Statement 2 is correct. The primary objective of this inter-ministerial scheme is to give more thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and preparing scientific manpower.

Recognizing that all research has its base as development of quality and well-trained researchers, AV will initiate and strengthen mechanisms of identifying research potential, mentoring, training and hands-on workshop on a national scale.

This scheme is primarily to focus on young potential researchers with an aim to give an opportunity to them to spend quality time in the pre-identified premier institution, labs / organizations; specially those students who do not have access and exposure to such facilities and environment.

**Q.45)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Project Platina**:

1. It has been launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It aims to generate data on effects of convalescent plasma therapy in the treatment of COVID-19.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. Project **PLATINA** has been launched by the **Maharashtra** state government.

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Statement 2 is correct. The PLATINA project will be trial cum treatment project and will give robust data regarding the role of **convalescent plasma** in the treatment of COVID 19 patients.

Convalescent plasma therapy makes use of the antibodies developed in the recovered patient against the infections. Under this plasma from recovered patients are taken and then injected into critically ill patients so that the antibodies are transferred and boost their immune response against the virus.

**Q.46)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Open Government Data (OGD) Platform**:

1. It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
2. It facilitates Government Organizations to publish their datasets in open formats for free public use.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India** has been setup by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** in compliance with the Open Data Policy (NDSAP) of India.

It facilitates Government Organizations to publish their datasets in open formats for free public use. OGD is also available as Software as a Service (SaaS). OGD works as a connecting link for Government, citizen and community to create an Open Data ecosystem in the country.

Open Government Data Platform India has 4 (four) major modules: Data Management System (DMS), Content Management System (CMS), Visitor Relationship Management (VRM) and Communities module.

**Q.47)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Asian Productivity Organization (APO)**:

1. It promotes sustainable socioeconomic development of Asia and the Pacific through enhancing productivity.
2. National Productivity Council of India (NPC) is a constituent of the Asian Productivity Organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**The Asian Productivity Organization (APO)** was established on 11 May 1961 as a regional inter-governmental organization comprising of 21 member countries from Asia and the Pacific.

The APO headquarter is located in Tokyo, Japan. Its mission is to contribute to the socio-economic development of Asia and the Pacific through enhancing productivity. The APO is nonpolitical, nonprofit, and nondiscriminatory in character.

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**National Productivity Council of India (NPC)**, established in the year 1958, is an autonomous organization under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO).

**Q.48)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020**:

1. These are to be issued by Securities & Exchange Board of India on behalf of the Government of India.
2. The Interest on the bonds is payable semi-annually and interest rate will be reset every six months.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable)** are to be issued by **Reserve Bank India** on behalf of the Government of India. It will enable person resident in India/Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) to invest in a taxable bond, without any monetary ceiling.

Statement 2 is correct. The interest on the bonds is payable **semi-annually** on 1st Jan and 1st July every year. The coupon on 1st January 2021 shall be paid at 7.15%. The Interest rate for next half-year will be reset every six months, the first reset being on January 01, 2021. There is no option to pay interest on cumulative basis.

**Q.49)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Agni V - Beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile
2. Astra - Intercontinental ballistic missile
3. Maareech - Advanced Torpedo Defense System

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Agni-V** is a three-stage solid fueled **Intercontinental ballistic missile** with approximate range of 5,500-5,800 kilometers developed by DRDO.

**Astra** is a **beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM)** developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization. It is the first air-to-air missile developed by India. Astra has been integrated with Indian Air Force's Sukhoi Su-30MKI.

**Maareech Advanced Torpedo Defense System (ATDS)** is a torpedo detection and countermeasure system used by the Indian Navy, it has been developed as a joint project of the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi and the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam.

**Q.50)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Fishing Cat**:

1. Fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans in India.
2. It is listed as a vulnerable species in IUCN Red list.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Wetlands are the major habitats of the fishing cat.** In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys.

The fishing cat is an adept swimmer and enters water frequently to prey on fish as its name suggests. It is known to even dive to catch fish.

Statement 2 is correct. The fishing cat is listed as **Endangered on the IUCN Red List**, Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Appendix II of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

**Q.51)** Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary - Arunachal Pradesh
- 2. Nimu Village - Ladakh
- 3. Chumbi Valley - Sikkim

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

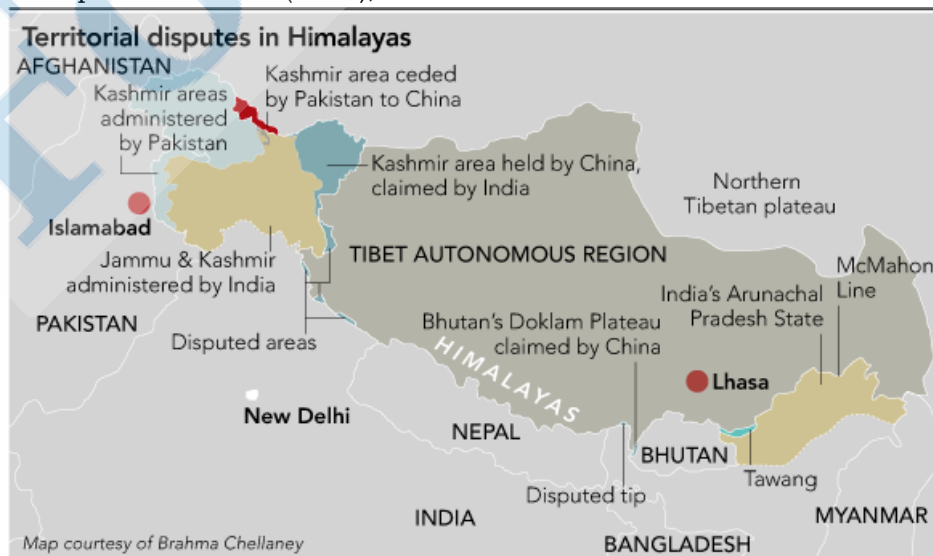
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS)** is a national park in the far eastern region of **Bhutan**, bordering the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. The sanctuary has a diverse ecosystem ranging from the warm broadleaf forests to alpine meadows. It is home to some of the rarest wildlife species in the country, such as the Red Panda and Himalayan Monal Pheasant.

**Nimo or Nimu** is a village located in **Leh, Ladakh UT**. The town is famous for nearby views of the confluence of the Indus and Zaskar Rivers.

**Chumbi Valley of Tibet Autonomous Region (China)** is a narrow valley projecting towards the tri junction point of Sikkim (India), Bhutan and Tibet borders.



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**Q.52)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Compulsory Licensing**:

1. It allows producing a patented product without the consent of the patent owner.
2. India's Patents Act 1970 makes provision for compulsory licensing in India.
3. Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement does not recognize the Compulsory Licensing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. As per **World Trade Organization (WTO)** "**Compulsory licensing** is when a government allows someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner or plans to use the patent-protected invention itself."

Statement 2 is correct. **Section 84 of the Patents Act 1970** states that "at any time after the expiration of three years from the date of the 1[grant] of patent, any person interested may make an application to the Controller for grant of compulsory licence on patent on any of the following grounds, namely:--

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

Further under **Section 92** if the Central Government is satisfied, in respect of any patent in force in circumstances of national emergency or in circumstances of extreme urgency or in case of public non-commercial use, that it is necessary that compulsory licences should be granted at any time after the sealing thereof to work the invention, it may make a declaration to that effect, by notification in the Official Gazette.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **Compulsory licensing** is one of the flexibilities in the field of patent protection included in the WTO's agreement on intellectual property — the **TRIPS** (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement.

**Q.53)** Consider the following statements regarding **Postal Ballot voting in India**:

1. Election Commission in consultation with the government can notify a class of voter that can vote by postal ballot.
2. A COVID 19 suspect or affected persons is allowed to vote by postal ballot in elections in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Representation of People Act, 1951** section 60(c) empowers the Election commission in consultation with the government to notify voters who can vote by postal ballot.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the **Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2020**, COVID 19 suspect or affected persons are eligible for voting by postal ballot. These are



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people : (i) tested as COVID 19 positive by the Government Hospital or the Hospital recognised by the Government as COVID Hospital; or (ii) under home quarantine or institutional quarantine due to COVID 19, and certified by such competent authority, as may be notified by the State Government or Union territory Administration.

**Q.54)** Which of the following scheme(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. e-Vidya - Unified access to digital, online and on-air education
2. Vidyadaan - Individuals & organizations contribute e-learning resources
3. YUKTI - Curriculum linked resources for teachers and students

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correctly matched. **PM e-VIDYA** is to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education. This will enable multi-mode access to education, and includes: DIKSHA (one nation-one digital platform), TV (one class-one channel), SWAYAM and other initiatives.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Vidyadaan** is a national program; a call to the nation, particularly individuals & organizations across the country to contribute e-learning resources in the education domain to ensure that quality learning continues for learners across India.

Contributions can be made by individuals, teachers, educationists, subject experts, schools, government and non-government organisations etc. after registering & nominating themselves.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **YUKTI (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation)** is a unique portal and dashboard to monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of MHRD. The portal will cover various initiatives and efforts of the institutions in academics, research especially related to COVID-19, social initiatives by institutions and the measures taken for the betterment of the well-being of the students.

*DIKSHA portal includes curriculum linked resources for teachers and students in an interactive and engaging format.*

**Q.55)** Consider the following statements regarding developments in **India's economy** in recent years:

1. Contribution of manufacturing sector to Gross Value Added has risen to more than that of the Agriculture & allied sectors.
2. Services sector now accounts for over half of the Gross State Added.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

As per Economic Survey the **contribution of agriculture to the GVA has decreased** from 18.2% in 2014-15 to 16.5% in 2019-20. The decline was mainly due to a decrease in share

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of GVA of crops from 11.2% in 2014-15 to 10% in 2017-18. The share has been declining on account of relatively higher growth performance of non-agricultural sectors.

Table below: Economic Survey 2019-20

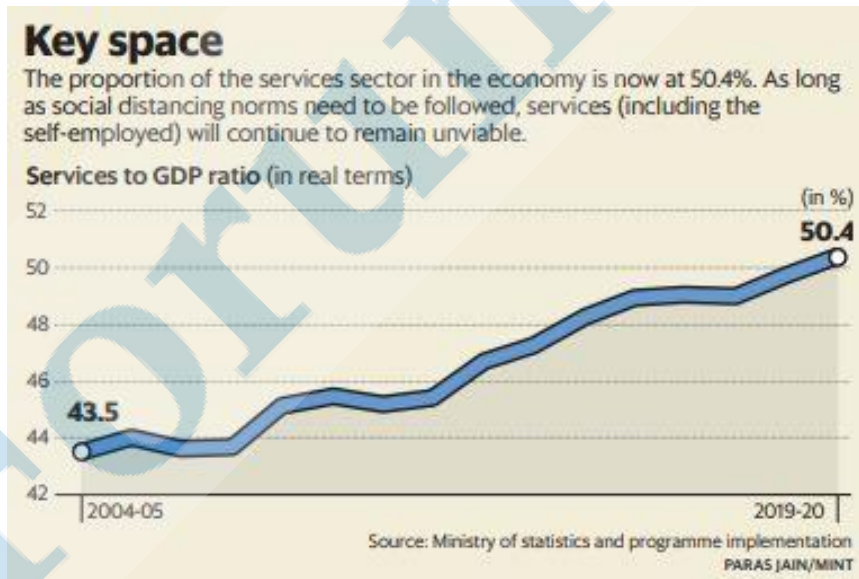
Table 5: Sectoral shares in GVA (per cent)

	2009-10 to 2013-14	2014-15 to 2018-19	2018-19	H1: 2019-20
<b>Agriculture, forestry &amp; fishing</b>	18.3	17.4	16.1	13.9
<b>Industry</b>	32.3	29.6	29.6	28.3
Mining & Quarrying	3.2	2.4	2.4	2.1
Manufacturing	17.5	16.6	16.4	15.4
Electricity, Gas, Water supply & other utility services	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.9
Construction	9.2	8.0	8.0	8.0
<b>Services</b>	49.4	52.9	54.3	57.8
Trade, Hotel, Transport, Storage, Communication and services related to broadcasting	17.5	18.3	18.3	18.1
Financial, Real estate & Professional services	19.2	20.9	21.3	24.5
Public Administration, Defence and other services	12.7	13.7	14.7	15.2

Source: National Statistical Office

**Services sector accounts for over 50% of the Gross State Added.** In 2004-05, services constituted 43.5% of the economy, by 2019-20; the proportion had jumped to 50.4% in real terms (LiveMint). The ES 2019-20 showed 54.3% share of services in GVA of 2018-19.

Graph Below: LiveMint



**Q.56)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Kawasaki disease**:

1. It causes inflammation in the walls of blood vessels in the body.
2. It primarily affects infants and young children.
3. Its first case was discovered in Japan in 1919.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Kawasaki disease/syndrome** is a condition that causes inflammation in the walls of some blood vessels in the body. Clinical signs include fever, rash, swelling of the hands and feet, irritation and redness of the whites of the eyes, swollen lymph glands in the neck, and irritation and inflammation of the mouth, lips, and throat.

Statement 2 is correct. It primarily **affects infants and children** younger than 5 years of age.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The disease was first described in **Japan by Tomisaku Kawasaki in 1967**, and the first cases outside of Japan were reported in Hawaii in 1976.

*Some symptoms common with the rare Kawasaki disease, have been affecting children with Covid-19 disease recently.*

**Q.57)** Consider the following statements **Winter grade diesel**:

1. It has lower pour-point temperature than ordinary diesel.
  2. It has been launched in India by the Indian Oil Corporation.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

When diesel fuel gets cold, it starts to get 'cloudy' and thicken up which reduces the flow rates through the fuel system. The **pour point of a liquid** is the temperature below which the liquid loses its flow characteristics.

**Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)** has introduced a special **winter-grade diesel** in India with a low pour-point of -33 Celsius, which does not lose its fluidity function even in extreme winter conditions.

**Q.58)** Which of the following limit(s) for coastal states is/are defined by **the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**?

1. Territorial Sea
2. Exclusive Economic Zone
3. Continental shelf

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above are defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

- Coastal States exercise sovereignty over their **territorial sea** which they have the right to establish its breadth up to a limit not to exceed **12 nautical miles**; foreign vessels are allowed "innocent passage" through those waters.
- Coastal States have sovereign rights in a **200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ)** with respect to natural resources and certain economic activities, and exercise jurisdiction over marine science research and environmental protection.

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- Coastal States have sovereign rights over the **continental shelf** (the national area of the seabed) for exploring and exploiting it; the shelf can extend at least 200 nautical miles from the shore, and more under specified circumstances. It comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines.

**Q.59)** Consider the following statements regarding **blood clotting**:

1. Hemophilia A is a genetic disorder caused by missing or defective a clotting protein.
2. Heparin is an anticoagulant that prevents clotting inside blood vessels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Blood clotting or coagulation is an important process that prevents excessive bleeding when a blood vessel is injured. The Platelets (blood cell) and proteins in plasma (the liquid part of blood) work together to stop the bleeding by forming a clot over the injury. Statement 1 is correct. **Hemophilia A**, also called factor VIII (FVIII) deficiency or classic hemophilia, is a genetic disorder caused by missing or defective factor VIII, a clotting protein. People with hemophilia A often, bleed longer than other people.

Statement 2 is correct. **Heparin** is a naturally occurring anticoagulant which is synthesized in Liver as well as blood cells such as basophils and mast cells. It prevents blood clotting inside blood vessels. It is also injected in body to prevent clotting.

**Q.60)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**:

1. It was established at 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.
2. It serves as a financial mechanism to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** was established on the eve of the **1992 Rio Earth Summit** to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems.

Statement 2 is correct. The GEF provides funding to assist developing countries in meeting the objectives of international environmental conventions. The **GEF serves as a "financial mechanism" to five conventions:** Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and **Minamata Convention on Mercury**.

**Q.61)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global warming**:

1. Nitrous Oxide has more Global Warming Potential (GWP) than Methane.
2. Without naturally occurring greenhouse gases, Earth's average temperature would be below freezing point of water.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Global Warming Potential (GWP)** of a greenhouse gas is its ability to trap extra heat in the atmosphere over time relative to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This is most often calculated over 100 years, and is known as the 100-year GWP. Specifically, it is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 ton of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 ton of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

- **Carbon dioxide** (CO<sub>2</sub>) by definition has a GWP of 1 regardless of the time period used.
- **Methane** (CH<sub>4</sub>) is estimated to have a GWP of 28–36 over 100 years.
- **Nitrous Oxide** (N<sub>2</sub>O) has a GWP 265–298 times that of CO<sub>2</sub> for a 100-year timescale.
- **Chlorofluorocarbons** (CFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) are sometimes called high-GWP gases because, for a given amount of mass, they trap substantially more heat than CO<sub>2</sub>. (The GWPs for these gases can be in the thousands or tens of thousands.)

Statement 2 is correct. Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are called greenhouse gases. The greenhouse effect causes some of this energy to be waylaid in the atmosphere, absorbed and released by greenhouse gases.

Without naturally occurring greenhouse gases, **Earth's average temperature would be near 0°F (or -18°C) instead of the much warmer 59°F (15°C).**

**Q.62)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Health Security Index**:

1. It is an assessment of health security in the States Party to the International Health Regulations 2005.
2. It is an initiative of the World Health Organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

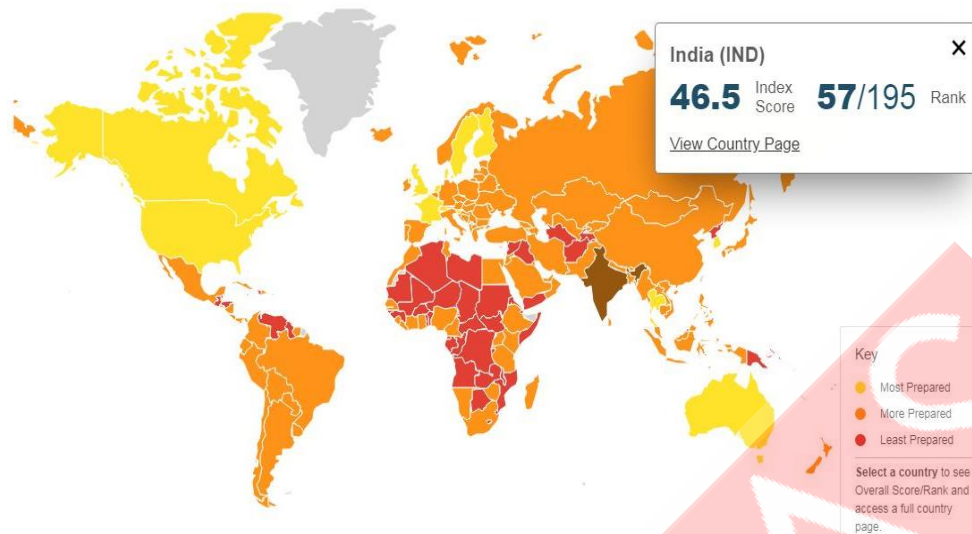
**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Global Health Security (GHS) Index** is a comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities across the 195 countries that make up the States Parties to the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).

Statement 2 is incorrect. The GHS Index is a project of the **Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security (JHU) and was developed with The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**. The GHSI 2019 stated that National health security is fundamentally weak around the world and no country is fully prepared for epidemics or pandemics, and every country has important gaps to address.



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**Q.63)** Consider the following statements regarding **India's national security architecture**:

1. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) consists of the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs and Finance.
2. Prime Minister is the chairperson of National Security Council (NSC).
3. National Security Advisor heads the Strategic Policy Group (SPG).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** chaired by Prime Minister comprises the minister of external affairs, the home minister, finance minister, and the defence minister.

Statement 2 is correct. **National Security Council**, chaired by the Prime Minister was established post-Kargil war with objective of integrated thinking and coordinated application of the political, military, diplomatic, scientific and technological resources of the State to protect and promote national security goals and objectives.

Statement 3 is correct. **Strategic Policy Group (SPG)** assists the National Security Council and is the principal mechanism for inter-ministerial coordination and integration of relevant inputs in the formulation of national security policies. SPG is chaired by the National Security Adviser.

**Q.64)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**:

1. It is viral respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus.
2. It gets transmitted among humans through respiratory droplets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)** is a viral respiratory illness caused by a **coronavirus**, called SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV). SARS was first reported in Asia in February 2003.

SARS-CoV is thought to be an animal virus from an as-yet-uncertain animal reservoir, perhaps bats, that spread to other animals (civet cats) and first infected humans in the Guangdong province of southern China in 2002.

Statement 2 is correct. The main way that SARS seems to spread is by close person-to-person contact. The virus that causes SARS is thought to be transmitted **most readily** by **respiratory droplets** (droplet spread) produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

**Q.65)** Arrange the following locations in **Ladakh UT from North to South** direction:

1. Pangong Tso
2. Daulat Beg Oldie
3. Galwan Valley

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

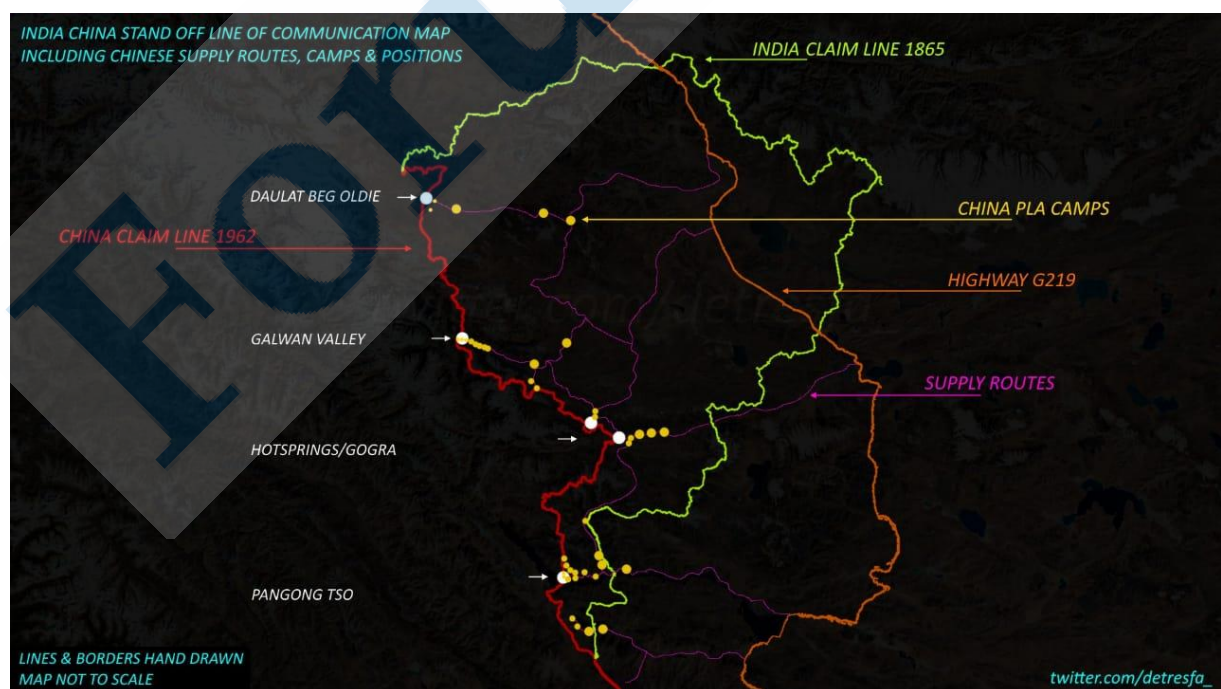
- a) 1-2-3
- b) 1-3-2
- c) 2-3-1
- d) 3-1-2

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Galwan River** flows from the Aksai Chin region in the area of Samzungling on the eastern side of the Karakoram Range and flows west to join the Shyok River.

**Pangong Tso** is an endorheic lake extends from India to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, China.

**Daulat Beg Oldi** is a campsite and India's military base located in north Ladakh on an ancient trade route connecting Ladakh to the Tarim Basin.



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**Q.66)** Which of the following committee(s) recommended on the issue of **Poverty estimation in India?**

1. Suresh Tendulkar committee
2. C Rangarajan committee
3. DT Lakdawala Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** In 1993, **Lakdawala Committee** to review methodology for poverty estimation recommended: (i) consumption expenditure should be calculated based on calorie consumption as earlier; (ii) state specific poverty lines should be constructed and these should be updated using the Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) in urban areas and Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) in rural areas; and (iii) discontinuation of 'scaling' of poverty estimates based on National Accounts Statistics.

**Tendulkar Committee (2009)** to review methodology for poverty estimation recommended: (i) a shift away from calorie consumption based poverty estimation; (ii) a uniform poverty line basket (PLB) across rural and urban India; (iii) a change in the price adjustment procedure to correct spatial and temporal issues with price adjustment; and (iv) incorporation of private expenditure on health and education while estimating poverty.

**C Rangarajan Committee (2014)** to Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty added two more items of expenditure in estimating the poverty line: (a) clothing expenses, rent, conveyance and education expenses; and (b) all non-food expenses that meet nutrition requirements. It computed and reduced average requirements of calories, proteins and fats based on ICMR norms. Its estimation is based on an independent large survey of households by Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

**Q.67)** Which of the following correctly defines **Big Data**?

- a) Data with large variety, increasing volumes and growing with increasing velocity.
- b) Delivery of servers, storage and databases over the internet.
- c) Ability of computers to learn from data, identify patterns and make decisions.
- d) A system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines.

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Big data** is data that contains greater **variety** arriving in increasing **volumes** and with ever-higher **velocity**.

- It provides high volumes of low-density, unstructured data which needs further processing.
- Velocity is the fast rate at which data is received and acted on. Some internet-enabled smart products operate in real time or near real time and will require real-time evaluation and action.
- Variety refers to the many types of data that are available. Unstructured and semi-structured data types, such as text, audio, and video, require additional preprocessing to derive meaning and support metadata.

**Cloud computing** is the delivery of computing services—including servers, storage, databases, networking, software, analytics, and intelligence—over the Internet ("the cloud").

**Machine learning** is a branch of artificial intelligence based on the idea that systems can learn from data, identify patterns and make decisions with minimal human intervention.

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**Internet of Things (IoT)** is a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines.

**Q.68)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** membership:

1. All members of the ASEAN group are party to the RCEP.
2. India and Japan have opted out of the RCEP agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is a proposed trade agreement among the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its free trade agreement (FTA) partners. It aims to cover trade in goods and services, intellectual property, etc. It is due to be signed in November 2020.

Member states of ASEAN and their FTA partners in RCEP are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

India also has FTA with ASEAN but has opted out of RCEP.

Statement 2 is incorrect. On November 4, 2019 India opted out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). **Prime Minister at RCEP Summit** said "the present form of the RCEP agreement does not fully reflect the basic spirit and the agreed guiding principles of RCEP. It also does not address satisfactorily India's outstanding issues and concerns in such a situation."

*Japan has not opted out of RCEP.*

**Q.69)** Consider the following statements regarding the **MSME Emergency Response program**:

1. It aims to support flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
2. It is a World Bank program in collaboration with the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **World Bank and the Government of India** have signed the \$750 million agreement for the MSME Emergency Response Programme which was recently approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors, to support increased flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (**MSMEs**), **severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis**.

The **World Bank has to date committed \$2.75 billion to support India's emergency COVID-19 response**, including the new MSME project. The first \$1 billion emergency support was announced in April this year for immediate support to India's health sector.



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Another \$1 billion project was approved in May to increase cash transfers and food benefits to the poor and vulnerable, including a more consolidated delivery platform – accessible to both rural and urban populations across state boundaries.

The \$750 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a maturity of 19 years including a 5-year grace period.

**Q.70)** Which of the following island(s) is/are in **Indian Ocean**?

1. Assumption Island
2. Agalega Island
3. Reunion Island

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above are territories in Indian Ocean.

**Assumption Island** is a small island in the Outer Islands of Seychelles north of Madagascar.

**Agalega** are two outer islands of Mauritius located in the Indian Ocean.

**Reunion** is an island of the Mascarene Islands and a French overseas department and overseas region in the western Indian Ocean.

### Geopolitical Chessboard

An agreement to use French bases could ensure that Indian warships move across the Indo-Pacific relatively unimpeded



**Q.71)** Which of the following island(s) is/are in **South China Sea**?

1. Scarborough Shoal
2. Pratas Islands
3. Kuril Islands

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



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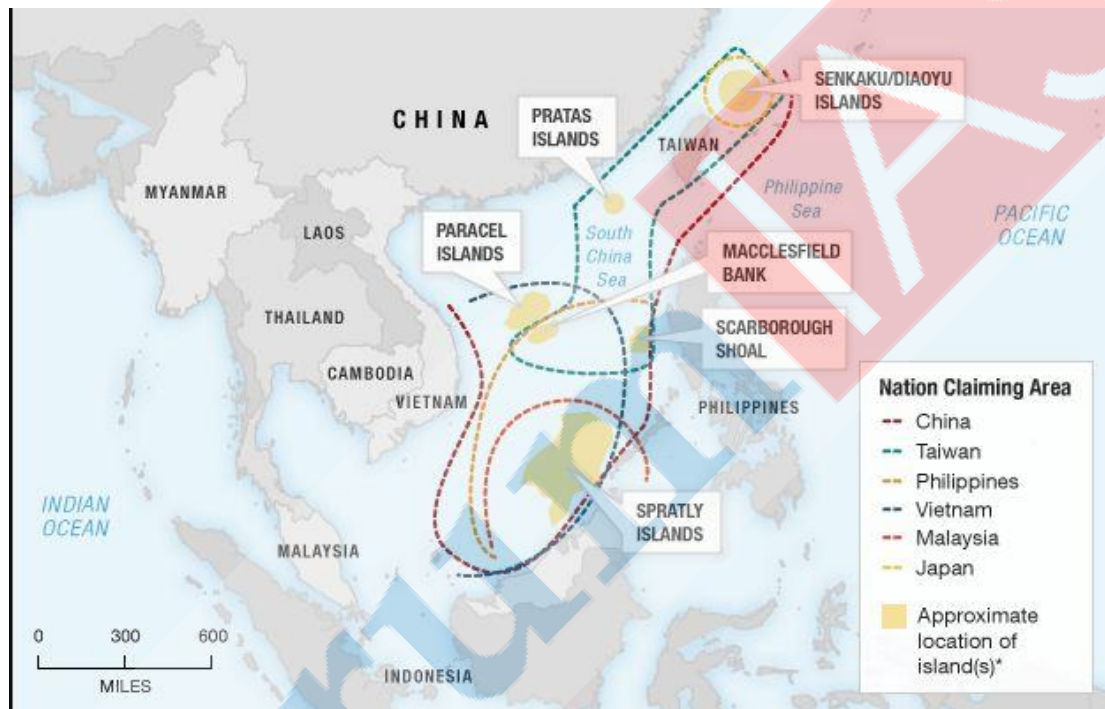
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Pratas islands** also known as the Tungsha or Dongsha Islands, are three atolls (Pratas Atoll, North Vereker Atoll and South Vereker Atoll) in the north of the South China Sea.

**Scarborough Shoal** is a disputed territory claimed by the Republic of the Philippines, People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan) in South China Sea.

**Kuril Islands**, also known in Japan as the Northern Territories, are a disputed territory between Japan and Russia. The Kuril Islands is a volcanic archipelago in Russia's Sakhalin Oblast stretching from northeast from Hokkaido, Japan to Kamchatka, Russia, separating the Sea of Okhotsk from the North Pacific Ocean.



**Q.72)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicle (MIRV)**:

1. MIRVs can carry multiple warheads targeted at different directions.
2. India's Astra missile is an MIRV.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

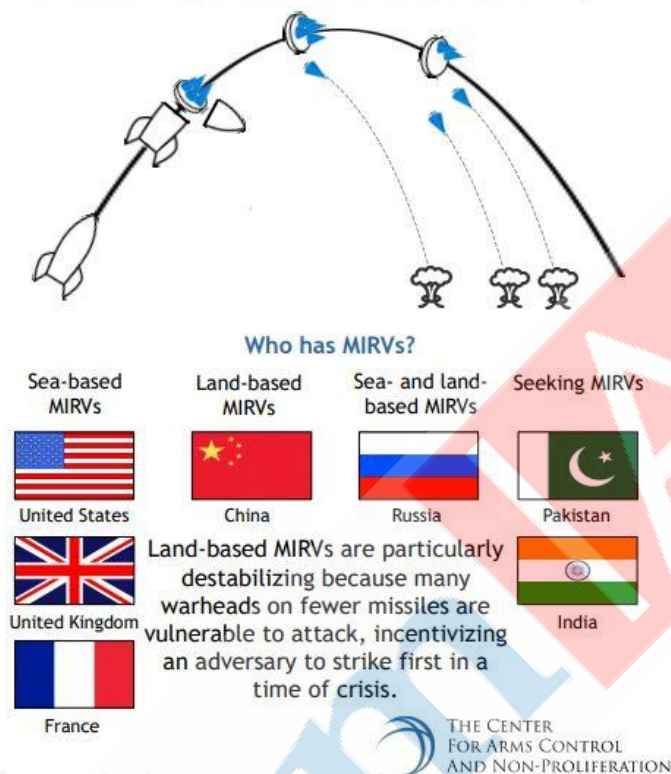
**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Multiple Independently-targetable Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs)** were developed in the early 1960s to permit a missile to deliver multiple nuclear warheads to different targets. In contrast to a traditional missile, which carries one warhead, MIRVs can carry multiple warheads.

Warheads on MIRVed missiles can be released from the missile at **different speeds and in different directions**.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. **Astra is a beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM)** developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation. It has been reported that India plans to upgrade its Agni ICBMs into MIRV.

Each re-entry vehicle can be independently targeted -  
launched from one missile, but hitting different targets



**Q.73)** Consider the following statements regarding the ‘Preventing the Next Pandemic’ Report:

1. It has been published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. It identifies the trend of rising zoonotic diseases as being driven by the degradation of natural environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The ‘Preventing the Next Pandemic - Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission’ Report is a joint effort by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

Its major observations are:

-COVID-19 is just one example of the rising trend of diseases – from Ebola to MERS to West Nile and Rift Valley fevers – caused by viruses that have jumped from animal hosts into the human population.

-It identifies One Health as the optimal way to prevent and respond to future pandemics.

-The rising trend in **zoonotic diseases** is driven by the degradation of our natural environment – through land degradation, wildlife exploitation, resource extraction, climate change, and other stresses.

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**Q.74)** Consider the following statements regarding **the state of states' finances in India:**

1. The Finance Commission, an independent constitutional body, determines the criteria for revenue sharing between states and the Centre.
2. Aggregating across all states, more than one-third of the states' total revenue came from central government transfers in past five years.

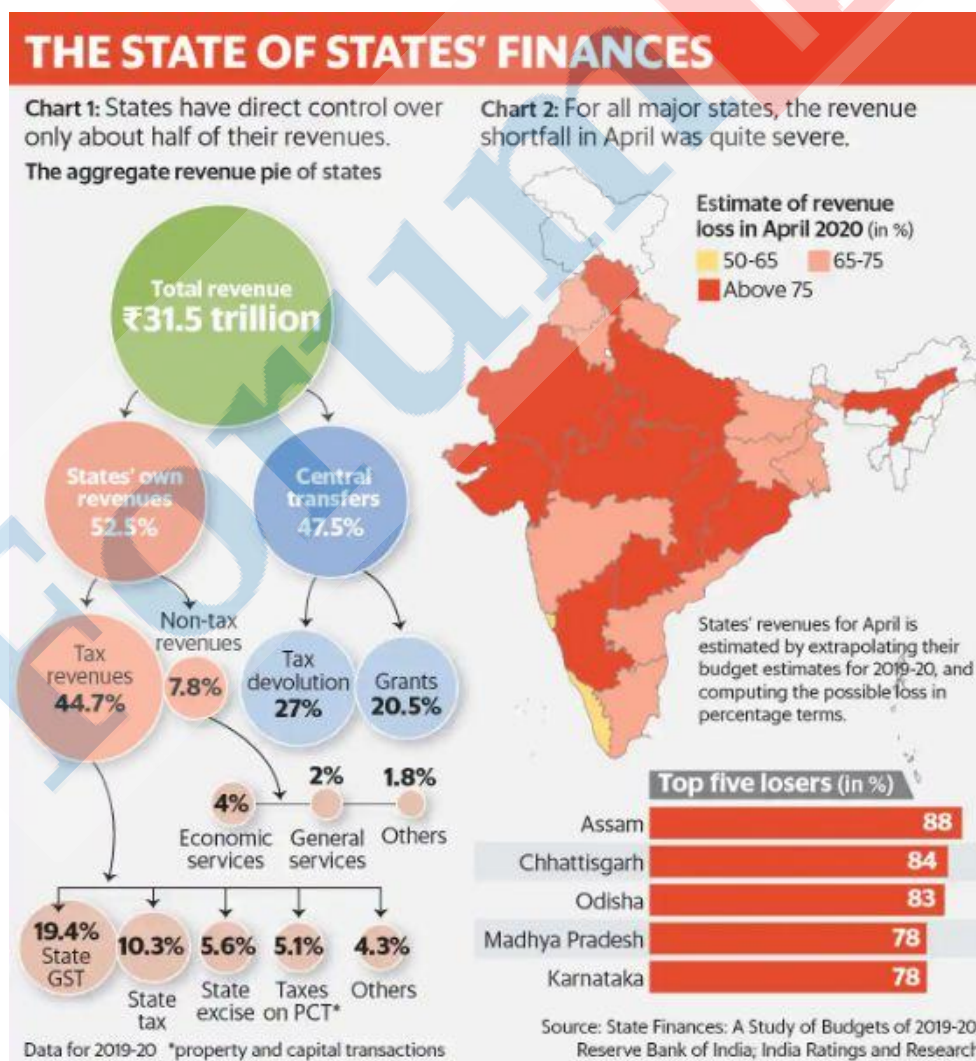
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Constitution provides for periodic creation of **Finance Commission** to make recommendations to the president about the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Union and States and also the allocation of the same among the States themselves.

Statement 2 is correct. During the 2015-20 period, 53% of revenue receipts of states has come from own sources and 47% from central transfers. According to budget estimates for 2019-20, aggregating across all states, 52.5% of the states' total revenue was to be generated on their own, while 47.5% came via central transfers.



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**Q.75)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**:

1. It is under administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It has a mandate of ensuring connectivity to strategic sectors during peace time as well as war time scenarios.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** is functioning under the administrative control of **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**. The budget for the BRO was **earlier** being reflected in the Demands for Grants under from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) until year 2014-15. Through a Gazette Notification in 2015, all matters relating to Border Roads Development Board and Border Roads Organisation have been placed under Ministry of Defence.

Statement 2 is correct. Role of BRO:

- **During Peace:** Develop and maintain the operational road infrastructure General Staff in the border areas. Contribute to the socio-economic development of the border.
- **During War:** To develop and maintain roads to keep the Line of Control (LOC) through original sectors and re-deployed sectors. To execute additional tasks as laid down by the Government contributing to the war effort.

**Q.76)** Which of the following correctly defines '**nine-dash line**'?

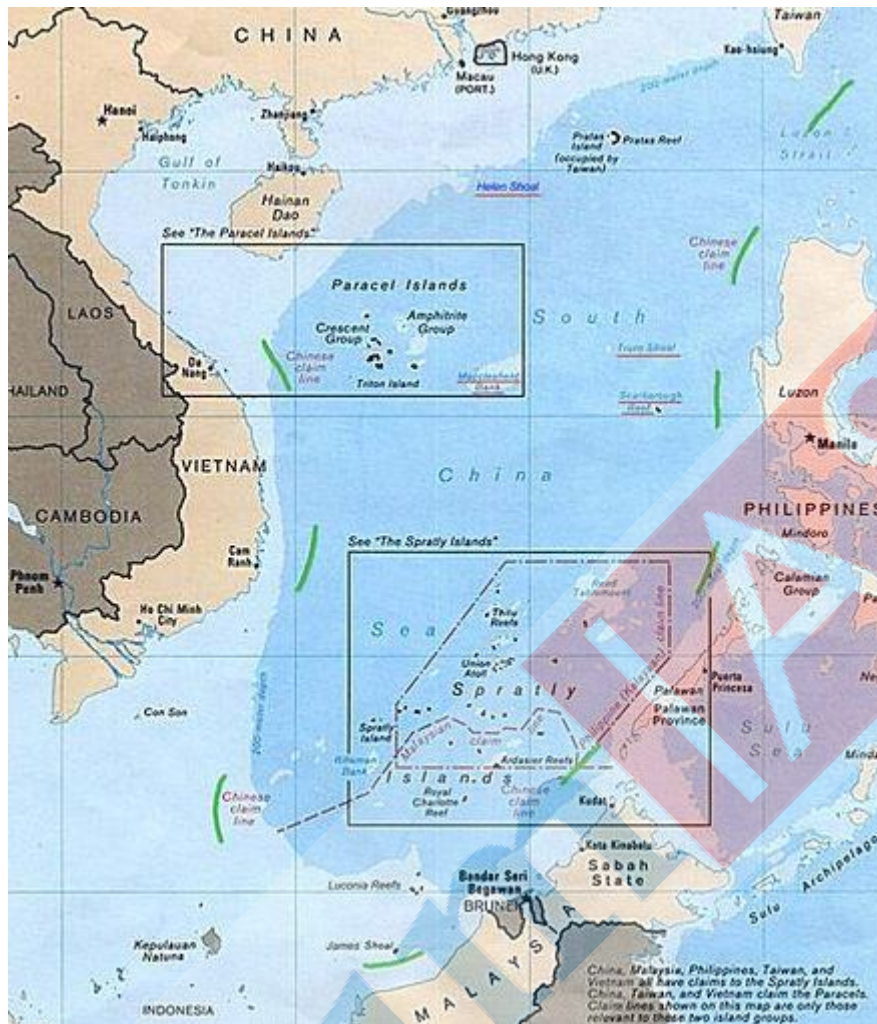
- a) India's claim line on Eastern border with China
- b) China's claim line in South China Sea
- c) Border between North Korea and South Korea
- d) Border dividing India and Pakistan in Sir Creek

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **9-dash line** often in news refers to **the China's claim line in the South China Sea** that has many disputed island territories. It is also sometimes referred to as the ten-dash line and the eleven-dash line given the vagueness of boundaries in the region.

The contested area in the South China Sea includes the Paracel Islands, the Spratly Islands, the Pratas Islands, the Macclesfield Bank and the Scarborough Shoal.





**Q.77)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Golden Birdwing**:

1. It is India's largest butterfly.
  2. It is listed as Vulnerable species in IUCN Red List.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Himalayan butterfly named **Golden Birdwing (Troides aeacus)** is India's largest butterfly.

With Golden Birdwing's wingspan of 194 mm, the female of the species is marginally larger than the Southern Birdwing (190 mm) that Brigadier William Harry Evans, a British military officer had recorded in 1932. But the male Golden Birdwing (Troides aeacus) is much smaller at 106 mm.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Troides aeacus** is listed as *least concern* species under the IUCN Red List. Birdwing butterflies of Troides genus are listed in Appendix II of CITES.

**Q.78)** The **Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)** imposes sanctions on which of the following country(s)?

1. China



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2. Russia
3. Iran
4. North Korea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)** is a United States federal law that imposed sanctions on **Iran, North Korea, and Russia**. The act further provides secondary sanctions on those who conduct significant transactions with the defense or intelligence sectors of the Government of the Russian Federation. This provision has been in news with regards to potential impact of India's recent fighter jet, S-400 deals with Russia.

**Q.79)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Bubonic plague**:

1. It is an infectious bacterial disease.
  2. It can be successfully treated with antibiotics.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Plague** is an infectious disease that affects rodents, certain other animals, and humans. It is caused by the *Yersinia pestis* bacteria.

In **Bubonic plague** patients develop sudden onset of fever, headache, chills, and weakness and one or more swollen, tender and painful lymph nodes (called buboes).

Bubonic plague is usually the result of an **infected flea bite**. The bacteria multiply in the lymph node closest to where the bacteria entered the human body. If the patient is not treated with appropriate antibiotics, the bacteria can spread to other parts of the body.

**Plague can be successfully treated with antibiotics.**

**Q.80)** The **CogX Innovation Awards** are given in which of the field?

- a) Artificial Intelligence
- b) Organic Farming
- c) Space Technology
- d) Public Service

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** CogX is the world's leading **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** festival and CogX Awards celebrate the best-of-the-best in AI and emerging technologies.

AI enabled **MyGov Corona Helpdesk** bagged two awards under categories (1) "Best Innovation for Covid-19 – Society" and (2) "People's Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner", at the recently held CogX 2020, a Global Leadership Summit and Festival of AI & Emerging Technology held annually. The awards were won by Technical Partner of Mygov, JioHaptik Technologies Limited.

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**Q.81)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Income Gini Index**:

1. It is a measure of income inequality in a region/country.
2. A higher Gini index indicates lower inequality in distribution of income.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

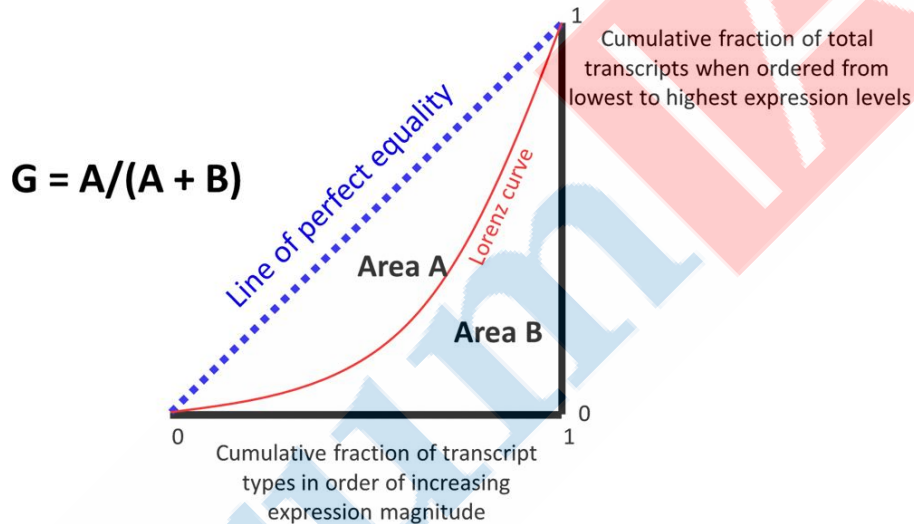
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Gini index** or **Gini coefficient** is a statistical measure of distribution developed by the Italian statistician Corrado Gini in 1912.

**Income Gini coefficient** is a measure of the deviation of the distribution of income among individuals or households within a country from a perfectly equal distribution.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The coefficient ranges from 0 (or 0%) to 1 (or 100%), with **0** representing perfect equality and **1** representing perfect inequality.



**Q.82)** Consider the following statements:

1. Labour force participation rate (LFPR) is defined as the number of persons in the labour force per 1000 persons.
2. Persons who are either working or seeking or available for work together constitute the labour force.
3. Unemployment rate (UR) is defined as the number of persons unemployed per 1000 persons in the labour force.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All statements are correct.

Persons who are either *working (or employed) or seeking or available for work (or unemployed)* during the reference period together constitute the **labour force**.

**-Labour force participation rate (LFPR)** is defined as the number of persons in the labour force per 1000 persons.

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-**Worker-population ratio (WPR)** is defined as the number of persons employed per 1000 persons.

-**Unemployment rate (UR)** is defined as the number of persons unemployed per 1000 persons in the labour force (employed & unemployed).

**Q.83) Tigers** are found in which of the following conservation zone(s) in India?

1. Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Panna National Park
3. Bandhavgarh National Park

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

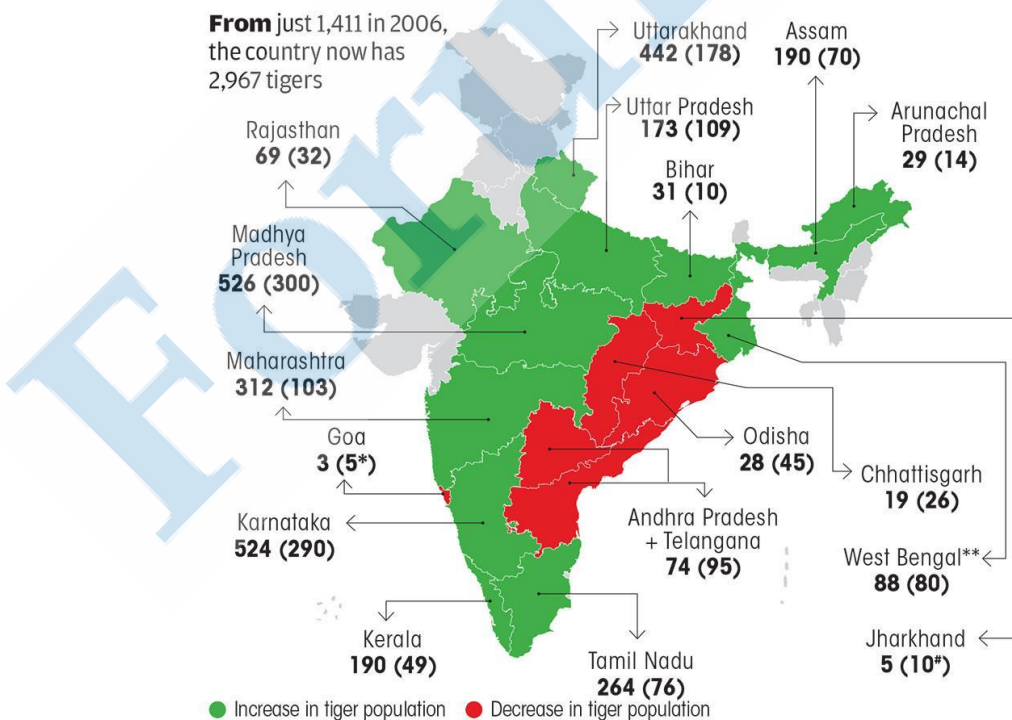
**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above conservation zones are part of **Tiger range in India**.

**Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts of Assam. Bengal Tiger, Elephants, hoolock gibbon, slow loris, Assamese macaque etc. are found in the region.

**Panna National Park** is located in Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh in India. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) approved a proposal to translocate two tigers and two tigresses to the reserve which sustained the decreasing Tiger population in this reserve.

**Bandhavgarh National Park** is located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh. It is a Tiger reserve and the density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is one of the highest known in India.



Tiger population in 2018 (2006)

\*The figure is for 2014; \*The figure is for 2010; \*\* includes north West Bengal and Sunderbans; Sampling not done for Mizoram and Nagaland

Source: The Status of Tiger in India, 2018, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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**Q.84)** Consider the following statements:

1. The National Civil Aviation Policy (NACP) allows government to enter into open sky air services agreement on reciprocal basis with SAARC nations.
2. India is signatory to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** An **open sky agreement** is an agreement between two nations which generally permits unrestricted air travel between them.

Statement 1 is correct. The **National Civil Aviation Policy (NACP)** 2016 states that the government will enter into an 'Open sky' Air Service Agreements (ASA) on a *reciprocal basis* with SAARC countries and countries with territory located entirely beyond a 5000 km radius from New Delhi.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Chicago Convention** established the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the UN charged with coordinating international air travel. India signed the Convention in 1944 and ratified it in 1947.

**Q.85)** Which of the following correctly defines the term '**Social Contract**' in political system?

- a) Obligation of the young generation to the elders in society
- b) A contract among the people and the rulers in the society defining rights and duties
- c) A contract between government and NGOs for public service
- d) A contract between corporates and government for social expenditure

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **social contract** is the agreement by which individuals mutually transfer their natural right. It is an agreement between the ruled and their rulers, defining their rights and duties. The aim of a social contract theory is to show that members of some society have reason to endorse and comply with the fundamental social rules, laws, institutions, and/or principles of that society.

According to this theory, individuals were born into an anarchic **state of nature** in primeval times, which was happy or unhappy according to the particular version. They then, by exercising natural reason, formed a society (and a government) by means of a **contract** among themselves.

*Major philosophers of this theory are the Englishmen Thomas Hobbes and John Locke and the Frenchman Jean-Jacques Rousseau.*

**Q.86)** Which of the following mission(s) of **Indian Navy** is/are correctly matched to the respective crisis?

1. Operation Raahat - Lebanon War
2. Operation Sukoon - Yemen crisis
3. Operation Samudra Setu - COVID-19 pandemic

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** **Operation Raahat** was an operation of the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Yemen during the 2015 military intervention by Saudi Arabia and its allies

**Operation Sukoon** was an operation launched by the Indian Navy to evacuate Indian, Sri Lankan and Nepalese nationals from the conflict zone during the 2006 Lebanon War.

Indian Navy launched **Operation Samudra Setu** as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during COVID-19 pandemic. Landing Platform Dock INS Jalashwa and Landing Ship Tanks INS Airavat, Shardul and Magar participated in this operation

**Q.87)** Consider the following statements regarding **Lithium**:

1. Lithium generally gets depleted in a star by process of burning.
2. Sun has lower amount of Lithium than Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** **Lithium** was produced in the Big Bang, around 13.7 billion years ago along with other elements. The present abundance of lithium in the universe is four times the original [Big Bang] value.

Statement 1 is correct. **Lithium burning** is a nucleosynthetic process in which lithium is depleted in a star. Nucleosynthesis is the process that creates new atomic nuclei from pre-existing nucleons (protons and neutrons) and nuclei.

Statement 2 is correct. The vast majority of stars with mass similar to that of the Sun are expected to destroy lithium (Li) gradually over the course of their lives, via low-temperature nuclear burning.

Planets are known to have more lithium than their stars, as is the case with the Earth-Sun pair. **The Sun, has about a factor of 100 lower amount of lithium than the Earth.**

*A new study by Bharat Kumar, a post-doctoral fellow at the National Astronomical Observatories of China, Beijing, and an international team of co-workers have shown that when stars grow beyond their Red Giant stage into the Red Clump stage, they produce lithium in what is known as a Helium Flash and this is what enriches them with lithium.*

**Q.88)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global value chains (GVCs)**:

1. It is international production sharing concept where production is broken into activities and tasks carried out in different countries.
2. Outsourcing by trans-national companies is a major phenomenon of GVCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Global value chains (GVCs)** refer to international production sharing, a phenomenon where production is broken into activities and tasks carried out in different countries.



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The full range of activities (design, production, marketing, distribution, support to the final consumer etc.) is divided among multiple firms and workers across geographic spaces to bring a product from its conception to its end use and beyond.

Statement 2 is correct. The development of GVCs has largely been driven by **transnational corporations (TNCs)**, which continuously restructure their businesses and reorganize/relocate their operations for reasons of competition. The major factor being the *offshoring of labor-intensive stages* of production from industrialized economies to low wage, labor abundant developing countries.

**Outsourcing** refers to the procurement of material inputs or services by a firm from another, the outside supplier being located in another country.

**Q.89)** Consider the following statements regarding the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**:

1. Only States can apply to and appear before the ICJ in the contentious cases.
2. Judges of the ICJ are nominated by the UN Security Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The ICJ's jurisdiction is twofold: disputes of a legal nature that are submitted to it by States (**contentious cases**); and advisory opinions on legal questions at the request of the organs of the United Nations, specialized agencies or one related organization authorized to make such a request, i.e. IAEA (**advisory jurisdiction**).

Statement 1 is correct. In the exercise of its jurisdiction in **contentious cases**, the International Court of Justice settles disputes of a legal nature that are submitted to it by States in accordance with international law.

**Only States** may apply to and appear before the International Court of Justice. International organizations, other authorities and private individuals are not entitled to institute proceedings before the Court.

The Court can only deal with a dispute when the States concerned have recognized its jurisdiction. No State can therefore be a party to proceedings before the Court unless it has in some manner or other consented thereto.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **The International Court of Justice** is composed of 15 judges **elected** to nine-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs vote simultaneously but separately. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies.

In order to ensure a degree of continuity, one third of the Court is elected every three years. All States parties to the Statute of the Court have the right to propose candidates.

**Q.90)** The '**Climate Solver program**' is an initiative of which of the following organization?

- a) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- b) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Climate Solver is a World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) global initiative** to strengthen the development and widespread use of innovative low carbon technologies. The

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platform provides an interface between low carbon technology innovators and industry associations, investors, government, incubation centers and the media.

Climate Solvers are small and medium enterprises that are selected based on their potential to develop cutting edge technologies that are projected to lower carbon emissions by 20 million tonnes annually (ten years onwards) or provide sustainable solutions to enhance energy access.

WWF India (World Wide Fund for Nature) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) have released a report titled "Sustainable Space Heating Solutions in the Himalayan Region". This report is part of an ongoing initiative of WWF-India's 'Climate Solver' program.

**Q.91)** On which of the following ground(s) can the Central Government block public access of any information on internet under the **Information Technology Act**?

1. Sovereignty and integrity of India
2. Friendly relations with foreign States
3. Public order

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Article **69A of the Information Technology Act** empowers the Central Government where it is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do, in the interest of: **-sovereignty and integrity of India**, defence of India, security of the State, **friendly relations with foreign States or public order** or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above; **-it may by order, direct any agency of the Government or intermediary to block for access by the public or cause to be blocked for access by the public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource.**

**Q.92)** Which of the following country(s) is/are permanent partner in the **Malabar Exercise**?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation: Malabar Naval Exercise** is a trilateral naval exercise involving the **United States, Japan and India**. It originally began as bilateral exercise between India and United States in 1992; Japan became a permanent partner in 2015.

There have proposals in past and recently as well to include Australia as a permanent member to the Exercise. Inclusion of Australia in the Malabar exercise would complete the military aspect of the Quad group.

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**Q.93)** Consider the following statements regarding the **criminalization of politics**:

1. Constitution bars a person having criminal case against him or her from contesting elections to Parliament.
2. A person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years is disqualified from the membership of the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

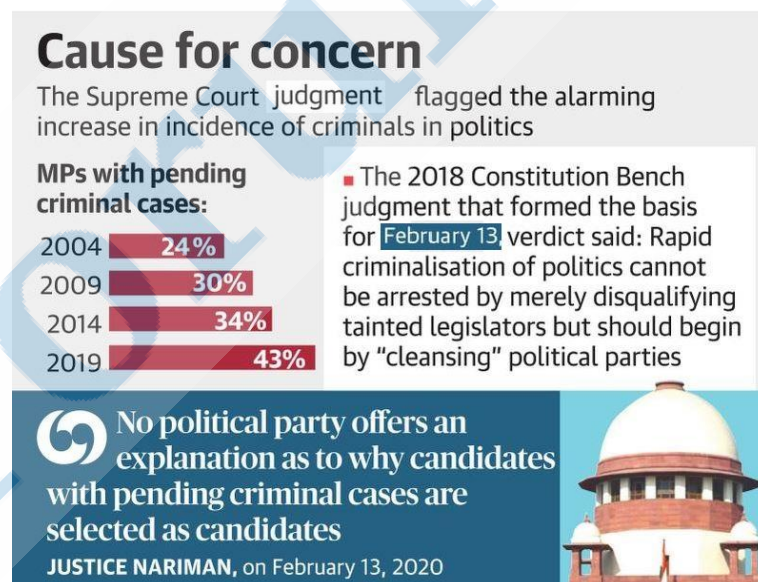
**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. No such qualification for contesting election exists in the Constitution. **Article 84 of the Constitution** provides for qualification for membership of Parliament: a person shall not be qualified to be chosen to fill a seat in Parliament unless s/he

-is a citizen of India, and makes and subscribes before some person authorized in that behalf by the Election Commission an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule;

-is, in the case of a seat in the Council of States, not less than thirty years of age and, in the case of a seat in the House of the People, not less than twenty-five years of age; and

-possesses such other qualifications as may be prescribed in that behalf by or under any law made by Parliament.

Statement 2 is correct. **Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951** provides that a person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release.



**Q.94)** Consider the following statements regarding the **International Health Regulations (2005)**:

1. India is signatory to International Health Regulations 2005.
2. The IHR is a legally binding International Law.
3. As per IHR 2005, all countries must report events of international public health importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **India is signatory** to WHO's International Health Regulations 2005.

The **International Health Regulations (2005)** aims to prevent, protect against, control and respond to the international spread of disease while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

Statement 2 is correct. It is an international law that entered into force on 15 June 2007 and is **binding on 194 countries** across the globe, including all WHO Member States.

The IHR (2005) were agreed upon by consensus among WHO Member States as a balance between their sovereign rights and shared commitment to prevent the international spread of disease. *But the IHR (2005) do not include an enforcement mechanism per se for States which fail to comply with its provisions.*

Statement 3 is correct. The IHR (2005) require **States to notify WHO** of all events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern and to respond to requests for verification of information regarding such events.

**Q.95)** Consider the following statements regarding modes of **disease transmission**:

1. Droplet transmission occurs with microorganisms that spread when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
2. Airborne transmission takes place when droplet nuclei or dust particles containing microorganisms remain suspended in air for long periods of time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Droplet transmission** can occur through direct, indirect, or close contact with infected people through infected secretions such as saliva and respiratory secretions or their respiratory droplets, which are expelled when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks or sings.

*Respiratory droplets are >5-10µm in diameter whereas droplets <5µm in diameter and are referred to as droplet nuclei or aerosols.*

Statement 2 is correct. **Airborne transmission** is defined as the spread of an infectious agent caused by the dissemination of **droplet nuclei (residue from evaporated droplets)** that remain infectious when suspended in air over long distances and time.

These organisms must be capable of surviving for long periods of time outside the body and must be resistant to drying.

**Q.96)** The **Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India** case relates to which of the following?

- a) Disqualification of Member of Parliament
- b) Passive Euthanasia
- c) The Freedom of Speech on Internet platforms
- d) Right to privacy



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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Supreme Court in **Shreya Singhal v Union of India (2015)** case struck down section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 which provided provisions for the arrest of those who posted allegedly offensive content on the internet, upholding freedom of expression.

In **Lily Thomas v. Union of India** case, Supreme Court ruled that any Member of Parliament (MP), Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) or Member of a Legislative Council (MLC) who is convicted of a crime and given a minimum of two years' imprisonment, loses membership of the House with immediate effect. Section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act, which allowed elected representatives three months to appeal their conviction, was declared unconstitutional.

Supreme Court in **Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug v. Union of India** and Others allowed passive euthanasia by means of the withdrawal of life support to patients in a permanent vegetative state.

A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court in the case of **Puttuswamy v. Union of India** declared that the right to privacy is a fundamental right under the Constitution.

**Q.97)** Which of the following disease(s) is/are capable of **Airborne transmission**?

1. Tuberculosis
2. Chickenpox
3. Measles

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation: Tuberculosis** is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *M. tuberculosis* is carried in airborne particles, called droplet nuclei, of 1– 5 microns in diameter. Infectious droplet nuclei are generated when persons who have pulmonary or laryngeal TB disease cough, sneeze, shout, or sing.

**Varicella (chickenpox)** is an acute infectious disease that is caused by varicella-zoster virus (VZV). It is highly infectious; the virus can spread from person to person by direct contact, inhalation of aerosols from vesicular fluid of skin lesions of acute varicella or zoster, and possibly through infected respiratory secretions that also may be aerosolized.

**Measles** is a highly contagious virus that lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person. It can spread through the air from respiratory droplets and small aerosol particles. Also, measles virus can live for up to two hours in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed.

**Q.98)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)**:

1. It is hosted by the UNFCCC for stocktaking of the Paris Climate Summit outcomes.
2. It is an annual meeting attended by ministers and high-level representatives from several countries including 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

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)** is an annual meeting attended by ministers and high-level representatives from over 30 countries, including ministers from the G20 and chairs of key party groupings in the UN climate negotiations. The MoCA meetings are co-hosted by **Canada, the EU and China**.

The meetings provide a space for discussions on the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Statement 2 is correct. **India** was represented at the virtual MoCA 2020 by the Union Environment Minister. **The Minister highlighted that:**

- India has achieved *reduction of 21% in emission intensity* of its GDP between 2005 and 2014, thereby achieving its pre-2020 voluntary target.
- India's renewable energy installed capacity has *increased by 226% in last 5 years* and stands more than 87GW.
- The share of non-fossil sources in installed capacity of electricity generation increased from *30.5% in March 2015 to 37.7% in May 2020*.
- India provided *80 million LPG connections in rural areas*, providing them with clean cooking fuel and healthy environment.
- India's total forest and *tree cover is 8,07,276 sq. km. which is 24.56%* of the total geographical area of the country.
- More than *360 million LED bulbs* have been distributed under UJALA scheme, which has led to energy saving of about 47 billion units of electricity per year and reduction of 38 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- India has also leapfrogged from *Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI emission norms* by April 1, 2020.
- India had levied a coal cess of INR 400/- as, part of one of the most explicit green initiatives & this is now subsumed under Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- Under Smart Cities Mission, *Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2019* has been launched.

**Q.99)** The **Galactic Archaeology with HERMES (GALAH) survey** is a program of which of the following organization?

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)
- Australian Astronomical Observatory
- National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ)

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **GALactic Archaeology with HERMES (GALAH)** survey is a Large Observing Program using the HERMES (High Efficiency and Resolution Multi-Element Spectrograph) instrument with the Anglo-Australian Telescope of the **Australian Astronomical Observatory**.

The formation and evolution of galaxies is one of the great outstanding problems of modern astrophysics. The goal of galactic archaeology is to reconstruct the lost stellar substructures of the early Milky Way, thereby obtaining a detailed physical picture of its formation and evolution.

GALAH will obtain precise radial velocities and abundances of over 15 different chemical elements per star for approximately one million stars. **Elemental abundances** representing the main nucleosynthetic processes in both dwarf and giant stars will allow chemical tagging of the individual stars to their original formation event.

It will allow us to investigate the history of star formation in the Galaxy, the regularity, and importance, of merger events, and the changes in stellar dynamics over time.

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**Q.100)** Consider the following statements regarding **Balance of Payments (BoP)**:

1. It records economic transactions of a country with the rest of the world.
2. India's annual Current Account ran continuously in deficit for last five years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

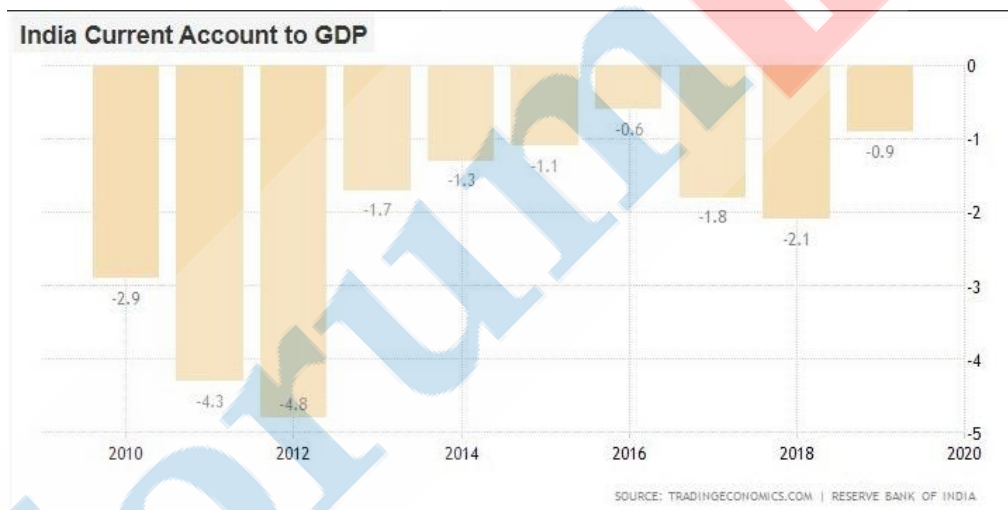
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Balance of Payments (BoP)** records economic transactions between a country and the rest of the world. The BoP account mainly consists of the current account and the capital account.

Statement 2 is correct. Economic transactions that enter the **current account** are presented in two parts viz., i) Merchandise and ii) Invisibles. A surplus on current account leads to an acquisition of assets or repayment of debts previously contracted and a deficit involves withdrawal of previously accumulated assets or is met by borrowings.

India has managed a small current account surplus of US\$ 0.6 billion (0.1 percent of GDP) in fourth quarter of 2019-20; for the entire fiscal 2019-20m the current account deficit narrowed to 0.9 per cent of GDP. The last time current account had ended in a surplus in any quarter was in January-March'2007.



**Q.101)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Solar Energy production of India**:

1. Solar Energy production in India is more than that of Wind Energy.
2. The National Solar Mission (NSM) has a target of installing 100 GW grid-connected solar power plants by the year 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

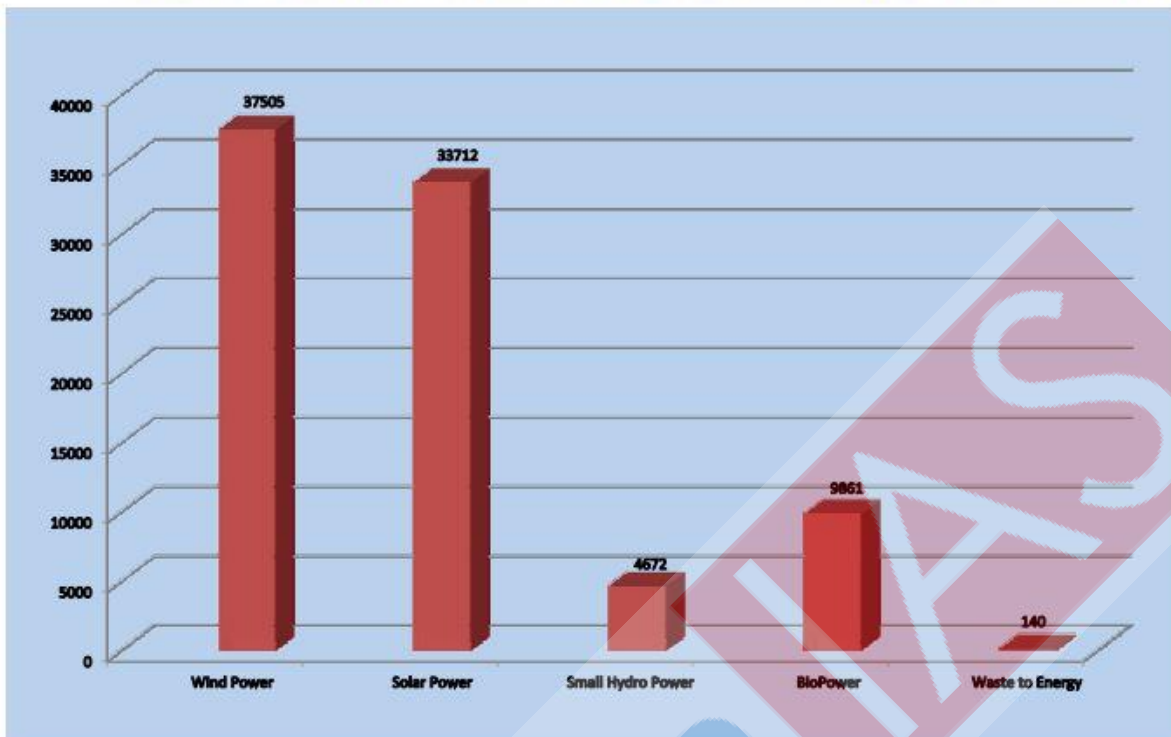
**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Wind power generation** capacity is highest followed by the Solar Power in the Renewable Energy Installed Power Generation Capacity of India.

*Data Source: Annual Report of MNRE*

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Sector Wise Renewable Energy Cumulative Achievements (MW as on 31.12.2019)



Statement 2 is correct. The initial target of **the National Solar Mission** of installing 20 GW grid-connected solar power plants by the year 2022 was enhanced to **100 GW** to be achieved by the same target year.

**Q.102)** Consider the following statements regarding **Serological Surveys** that are in news recently:

1. Serological Survey is done using the RT-PCR diagnostic test.
2. Its results can provide information on the past infections of the disease in the community.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Sero-prevalence** surveys are investigations that involve the use of serology test also known as **antibody tests** to better understand how many infections have occurred at **different points in time, in different locations, and in different populations**.

Statement 2 is correct. Reported cases of disease likely represent only a fraction of all infections. This may be because an unknown proportion of people:

- have mild or no symptoms,
- do not seek medical care, or
- do not get tested when they sought medical care.

As people produce antibodies against an infection that last longer than the infection, serological surveys give an insight into past prevalence of the disease in the community.



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**Q.103)** The Central government is mandated by the **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act** to:

1. Lay before both Houses of Parliament the Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement and the Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement in each financial year.
2. Entrust the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India to review the compliance of the provisions of this Act.
3. Take measures ensuring that the general Government debt does not exceed sixty percent of gross domestic product by financial year 2024-25.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Section 3 of the **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act** provides for **Fiscal policy statements** to be laid before Parliament along with the annual financial statement

- the Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement;
- the Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement;
- the Macro-economic Framework Statement;
- the Medium-term Expenditure Framework Statement.

Statement 2 is correct. Section 7A of the act provides that the Central Government may entrust the **Comptroller and Auditor-General of India** to review periodically as required, the compliance of the provisions of this Act and such reviews shall be laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament.

Statement 3 is correct. Section 4 of the Act providing **Fiscal principles** states that the Central Government shall endeavor to ensure that—

- (i) the general Government debt does not exceed sixty per cent.;
- (ii) the Central Government debt does not exceed forty per cent., of gross domestic product by the end of financial year 2024-2025.

**Q.104)** Consider the following statements regarding Constitutional provisions on **State Legislatures**:

1. Constitution does not provide any ground for extension of the five-year term of the Legislative Assembly.
2. Six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for first sitting in the next session of State Legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. Constitution provides **proclamation of emergency** as a ground for extension of the term of Legislative assembly of a state.

**Article 172(1) of the Constitution** provides that every Legislative Assembly of every State, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first

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meeting and no longer, and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as dissolution of the Assembly:

Provided that the said period may, while a **Proclamation of Emergency** is in operation, be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case beyond a period of six months after the Proclamation has ceased to operate.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 174(1) of the Constitution** provides that the Governor shall from time to time summon the House or each House of the Legislature of the State to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

**Q.105)** Consider the following statements regarding the **power sector in India**:

1. The electricity production by private sector is more than the combined production by Central and State sector.
  2. Domestic sector's consumption of electricity is more than that of the Industrial sector.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

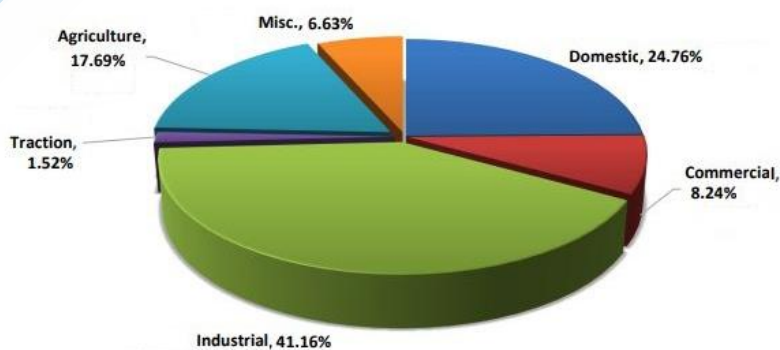
**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Private Sector accounts for around 47 percent** percent of India's installed power capacity.

1.Total Installed Capacity (As on 30.04.2020) - Source : Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

Sector	MW	% of Total
Central Sector	93,477	25.2%
State Sector	103,322	27.9%
Private Sector	173,549	46.9%
Total	3,70,348	

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Industrial sector's consumption of electricity in India is highest**, followed by domestic and agriculture sector.

**All India Electricity Consumption Sector Wise  
(Utilities & Non- Utilities)  
2018-19**



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**Q.106)** The **Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)** is developed by which of the following institution?

- a) Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
- b) International Organization for Standardization
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) International Renewable Energy Agency

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)** is developed by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power**. Its main objective is to establish minimum requirements for energy efficient design and construction of buildings.

The ECBC provides design norms for:

- Building envelope, including thermal performance requirements for walls, roofs, and windows;
- Lighting system, including day-lighting, and lamps and luminaire performance requirements;
- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, including energy performance of chillers and air distribution systems; Electrical system; and
- Water heating and pumping systems, including requirements for solar hot-water systems.

**Q.107)** Which of the following committee(s) relate to the **Criminal law reforms** in India?

- 1. Justice J.S. Verma Committee
- 2. Prof. Ranbir Singh Committee
- 3. Justice V.S. Malimath Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** **Justice J.S. Verma Committee (2013)** was constituted to recommend reforms in the **Criminal Law** so as to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals accused of committing **sexual assault against women**. The Committee submitted its report on January 23, 2013.

Ministry of home Affairs has recently constituted a Committee to Recommend **Criminal Reforms** in India, headed by **Prof. Ranbir Singh**, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi.

**Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System (2003)** was headed by **Justice V.S. Malimath**. It recommended borrowing features from the inquisitorial system of investigation, modification to Article 20 (3) of the Constitution such that the accused should be required to file a statement to the prosecution disclosing his/her stand and several other reforms in investigation, victim rights, witness protection etc.

**Q.108)** Consider the following statements regarding **Silicon**:

- 1. It is the most abundant element in the Earth's crust.
- 2. It is used to make photovoltaic cells.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

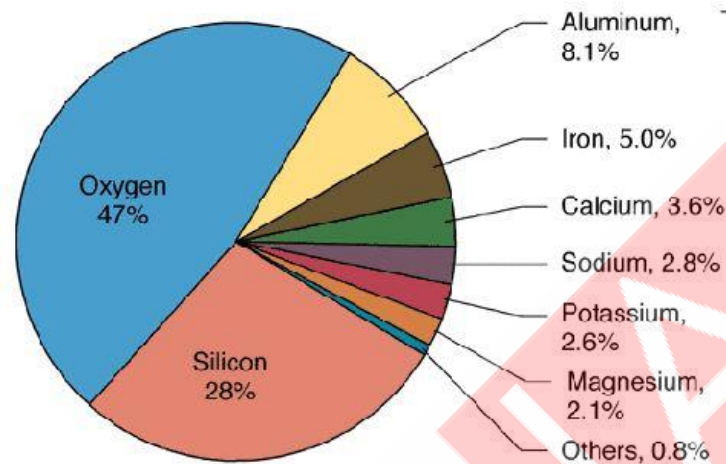
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d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Silicon** is also the **second** most abundant material on **Earth's crust** after oxygen.

*Note: Distribution below is of materials in Earth's crust, not entire earth.*



Statement 2 is correct. **Solar Cell or Photovoltaic (PV) cell** is a device that is made up of **semiconductor materials such as silicon, gallium arsenide and cadmium telluride**, etc. that converts sunlight directly into electricity. Silicon is one of the most common materials used in solar cells and computer chips.

**Q.109)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Code on Wages, 2019**:

1. It prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the work of similar nature.
2. The minimum wages decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Code on Wages, 2019** prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the **same work or work of similar nature**. Work of similar nature is defined as work for which the skill, effort, experience, and responsibility required are the same.

Statement 2 is correct. According to the Code, the **central government will fix a floor wage**, taking into account living standards of workers. It may set different floor wages for different geographical areas. The central government may obtain the advice of the **Central Advisory Board** and may consult with state governments.

The **minimum wages** decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage. In case the existing minimum wages fixed by the central or state governments are higher than the floor wage, they cannot reduce the minimum wages.

*The Labour and Employment Ministry has recently notified the draft Code on Wages (Central) Rules under the Code on Wages, 2019. Visit [Factly, ForumIAS](#) for more.*



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**Q.110)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Clean Technology Fund (CTF)**:

1. The World Bank is the Trustee and Administrating Unit of the CTF Trust Fund.
2. India is one of the investment funds recipient countries of the CTF.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **Climate Investment Funds (CIF)**, established in 2008, is one of the world's largest climate finance mechanisms.

The CIF consists of **the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF)**.

CTF supports renewable energy, low carbon technologies, energy efficiency, and clean transport in middle-income countries. The **World Bank** is the Trustee and Administrating Unit of the CTF Trust Fund.

The World Bank Group, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank are **the implementing agencies** for CTF investments.

SCF finances new approaches or scales up activities through the Forest Investment Program, the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience and the Scaling-Up Renewable Energy in low-income countries.

**India** is receiving investment finance under CIF-CTF, majority of which supports the development of new installed solar power capacity and associated transmission infrastructure. The recently inaugurated **Rewa Solar plant** in Madhya Pradesh also got funding from Clean Technology Fund.

**Q.111)** Which of the following **Buddhist site(s)** is/are correctly matched to their event of importance?

1. Bodhgaya - Nirvana
2. Sarnath - Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta
3. Rajgir - Parinirvana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correctly matched. The **Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya** houses what is believed to be the Bodhi Tree where Prince Siddhartha attained enlightenment (Nibbana) and became known as Gautama Buddha.

Option 2 is correctly matched. After enlightenment at Bodhgaya, he remained silent for forty-nine days. The Buddha then journeyed from Bodhgaya to **Sarnath**, where he met his five former companions; they requested him to teach what he had learned. Thereupon the Buddha gave the teaching that was later recorded as the **Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta**.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Kusinagar** is where Gautama Buddha passed away and attained **Parinirvana**, nirvana-after-death.

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**Q.112)** Consider the following statements regarding **Swachh Survekshan Survey**:

1. It is an annual urban cleanliness survey conducted by the NITI Aayog.
2. Indore has retained the top position every year since the first Swachh Survekshan Survey.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Swachh Survekshan Survey** is an annual urban cleanliness survey conducted by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, Government of India since 2016.

The primary goal of Swachh Survekshans is to encourage large scale citizen participation and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities better places to reside in.

Statement 2 is incorrect. While **Mysuru** had won the award for the Cleanest City of India in the first edition of the survey, **Indore** has retained the top position for three consecutive years (2017, 2018, 2019).

*A new category of awards titled 'Prerak Dauur Samman' as part of Swachh Survekshan 2021 by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).*

**Q.113)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020**:

1. It is a joint initiative of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
2. It aims to identify drug candidates against SARS-CoV-2- by employing a hackathon for in-silico drug discovery.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020** is an open-source drug discovery Hackathon against Covid-19. DDH2020 is a joint initiative of **AICTE**, **CSIR** and supported by Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, Govt. of India, NIC and MyGov.

Its objective is identification of drug candidates that are effective against coronavirus **SARS-CoV-2-** by employing a hackathon for **in-silico** drug discovery, followed up by chemical synthesis and biological testing.

*In-silico means scientific experiments or research conducted or produced by means of computer modeling or computer simulation.*

**Q.114)** Consider the following statements regarding **Koalas**:

1. It is a marsupial animal found in Australia.
2. It is listed as a Vulnerable species in IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Koalas** are tree-dwelling marsupial animal native to **Australia** (Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales).

**Marsupials** are those animals which are born in an incompletely developed state and are typically carried and suckled in a pouch on the mother's belly. Well-known marsupials include kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, wombats, Tasmanian devils among others.

It is listed as **Vulnerable species with decreasing population trend on IUCN Red List**.

*According to Australian Parliamentary report, Koalas could become extinct by 2050 unless the government immediately intervenes to protect them and their habitat.*

**Q.115)** What does **Cetane Number/Rating** signify?

- a) Ignition value of a diesel fuel.
- b) Particulate matter released during combustion of a fuel.
- c) Volatile compounds in a Petroleum fuel.
- d) Pour-point temperature of a fuel.

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation: Cetane rating**, also known as cetane number is a measurement of the **quality or performance of diesel fuel**. The higher the number, the better the fuel burns within the engine of a vehicle. A higher cetane number resulting in quicker ignition of the fuel leads to less non-ignited fuels building up inside the combustion chamber, as well as more complete fuel combustion.

The cetane rating of a specific diesel mixture is based off of how much cetane, a clear, colorless hydrocarbon that ignites under high pressures, is in some fuel.

**Q.116)** Consider the following statements regarding the **AtmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge**:

1. The program will support promotion of existing applications as well as development of new applications.
2. Government will adopt suitable applications and list them on Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Ministry of Electronics & IT in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog** has launched Digital India AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge for Indian tech entrepreneurs and Startups.

The challenge will run in 2 tracks: Promotion of Existing Apps and Development of New Apps.

A specific Jury for each track with experts from Private Sector & Academia will evaluate the entries received. Shortlisted Apps will be given awards & will also feature on Leader boards

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for information of citizens. Government will also adopt suitable Apps, guide them to maturity and list on **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**.

**Q.117)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Mongolian Kanjur**:

1. It is Jain canonical text preserved in ancient manuscripts.
2. It is being republished under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) by Ministry of Culture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Mongolian Kanjur** is the **Buddhist canonical text** in 108 volumes, it is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia.

In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular. Mongolian Buddhists worship the Kanjur at temples and recite the lines of Kanjur in daily life as a sacred ritual. The Kanjur are kept almost in every monastery in Mongolia. Mongolian Kanjur has been translated from Tibetan. The language of the Kanjur is Classical Mongolian.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Ministry of Culture** has taken up the project of reprinting of 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur under the **National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM)**. The first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur has been published under the NMM.

It is expected that all the 108 volumes of the Mongolian Kanjur will be published by March, 2022.

**Q.118)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global E-waste Monitor 2020**:

1. It has been released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
2. Asia generated the greatest volume of e-waste in 2019 followed by the America and Europe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Global E-waste Monitor 2020** is a collaborative product of the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership (GESp), formed by **UN University (UNU)**, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA).

A record 53.6 million metric tonnes (Mt) of electronic waste was generated worldwide in 2019, up 21 per cent in just five years, according to the UN's Global E-waste Monitor 2020.

Statement 2 is correct. According to the report, **Asia generated the greatest volume (24.9 Mt)** of e-waste in 2019, followed by the Americas (13.1 Mt) and Europe (12 Mt), while Africa and Oceania generated 2.9 Mt and 0.7 Mt respectively.

**Q.119)** Consider the following statements regarding **Thirty Meter Telescope**:

1. The telescope is being built by an international collaboration in Mount Kea, Hawaii.
2. India is a full member in the TMT project.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

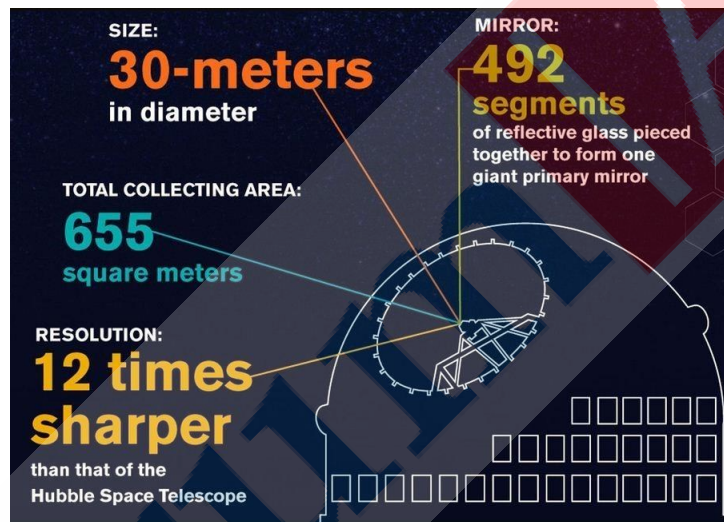
**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)** will be the world's most advanced and capable ground-based optical, near-infrared, and mid-infrared observatory.

The Thirty Meter Telescope at **Mount Kea, Hawaii** is planned with the 30-metre diameter of the mirror, with 492 segments of glass pieced together, which makes it three times as wide as the world's largest existing visible-light telescope.

The TMT project is an international partnership between CalTech, **Universities of California, Canada, Japan, China and India**. India TMT will be jointly funded by the Departments of Science and Technology and Atomic Energy.



**Q.120)** Which of the following has released the **Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2020**?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) JLL and LaSalle
- c) Oxford University
- d) The Energy and Resources Institute

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2020** has been released by **JLL and LaSalle**, a global real estate services company.

The index is released **biennially** and assesses real estate market transparency based on over 200 individual indicators relating to investment performance, market fundamentals, governance of listed vehicles, regulatory & legal environment, transaction process and sustainability. India has been ranked at 34th in the index.

**Q.121)** Consider the following statements regarding the **NATGRID**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It is exempt from Right to Information Act, 2005.

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)**, an attached office of **Ministry of Home Affairs**, has been created as an IT platform to assist the intelligence and law enforcement agencies in ensuring national and internal security, with the ultimate aim to counter terror.

It aims to allow investigation and law enforcement agencies to access real-time information from data stored with agencies such as the Income Tax Department, banks, insurance companies, Indian Railways, credit card transactions, and more.

Statement 2 is correct. **Section 24 of the Right to Information Act, 2005** exempts intelligence and security organizations from the purview of the Act. Section 24(2) allows Central Government to notify intelligence or security organization exempt from the RTI Act. NATGRID has been notified to be exempted from the RTI Act, 2005.

**Q.122)** Which of the following is/are potential benefit of **Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)** methodology?

- 1. Lower labor cost.
- 2. Seeds are never exposed to birds, rats, and snails.
- 3. The plants mature earlier than transplanted rice variety.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Transplanting after repeated puddling is the conventional method of rice growing, while 'Direct seeding' means applying seed directly to the site where plants are wanted.

Statement 1 is correct. **Direct seeding requires less labor.** Farmers do not have to prepare a nursery, care for it, and pull the seedlings.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In direct seeding, the **seeds are exposed to birds, rats, and snails**. There is also greater crop-weed competition because rice plants and weeds are of similar age.

Statement 3 is correct. Direct-seeded plants **mature 7 to 10 days earlier** than transplanted rice. They are not subjected to stress like being pulled from the soil of the nursery and do not need to reproduce fine rootlets.

**Q.123)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Itolizumab** drug:

- 1. It is a humanized monoclonal antibody.
- 2. It can be used for the treatment of cytokine storm.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Itolizumab** is a **humanized IgG1 monoclonal antibody** developed by Biocon Limited that selectively targets CD6 cells.

**Monoclonal antibodies** are antibodies produced by immune cells that are cloned from one parent immune cell. These antibodies are designed to bind to a specific type of proteins.

**Humanized antibodies** are antibodies from non-human species whose protein sequences have been modified to increase their similarity to antibody variants produced naturally in humans.

Statement 2 is correct. **Cytokine storm** is an overreaction of the immune system, generating a large number of cytokines that can cause severe damage to the lungs and other organs, and, in the worst scenario, multi-organ failure and even death.

Itolizumab, by binding to CD6, down regulates T cell activation, causes reduction in synthesis of pro-inflammatory cytokines and possibly plays an important role by reducing T cell infiltration at sites of inflammation.

*Itolizumab has recently been approved by DGCI for emergency use in India for the treatment of cytokine release syndrome (CRS) in moderate to severe ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome) patients due to COVID-19.*

**Q.124)** Consider the following statements:

1. 'One Sun One World One Grid' is a global initiative of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
2. Only nations situated between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn are eligible for membership of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. '**One Sun One World One Grid**' (**OSOWOG**) is an initiative of Govt of India through which India plans to push towards a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources that are seamlessly shared for mutual benefits and global sustainability.

**The initiative is planned across three phases:** Middle East-South Asia-South East Asia (MESASEA) interconnection, Solar and other Renewable Energy resources rich regions' interconnection and Global interconnection to achieve the One Sun One World One Grid vision.

*The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is "The Sun Never Sets" and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.*

Statement 2 is incorrect. When the International Solar Alliance was announced in 2015, 121 nations situated between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn and receiving 300 days of sunlight were deemed eligible for membership, it was later opened for all UN member countries.

**Q.125)** Which of the following subject(s) is/are listed in the **Twelfth Schedule of India's Constitution**?

1. Public health
2. Planning for economic and social development
3. Minor forest produce

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Article 243W** providing for Powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities states that *the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Municipalities with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon **Municipalities**, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to—*

- (i) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;
- (ii) the performance of functions and the implementation of schemes as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in **the Twelfth Schedule**.

The Twelfth Schedule lists 18 subjects including urban planning including town planning, Regulation of land-use and construction of buildings, **planning for economic and social development**, Roads and bridges Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes, **Public health**, sanitation conservancy and solid waste management, and others. *Minor forest produce is listed in the Eleventh Schedule which lists subjects to be devolved to Panchayats.*

**Q.126)** Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Lop Nur - China
- 2. Hagia Sophia - Turkey
- 3. Duqm - Yemen

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correctly matched. **Lop Nur** is a former salt lake, now largely dried up, located between the Taklamakan and Kumtag deserts in the **Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China**. It is major test site for China's military weapons.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Hagia Sophia, Turkey** was built as a Christian cathedral about 1,500 years ago and turned into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest of 1453.

This UNESCO World Heritage Site became a museum in 1934 under Turkish Republic founding father Ataturk. Recently Turkish court annulled the site's museum status; it has been decided by Turkish government to turn it into mosque.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Duqm** is a port town on the Arabian Sea in central-eastern **Oman** having heavy Chinese investment.

**Q.127)** The **Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)** is a proposed agreement between India which of the following country/region?

- a) United Kingdom
- b) European Union
- c) United States of America
- d) African Union



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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** India and the European Union have been negotiating a bilateral Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) since 2007.

The negotiations cover Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Rules of Origin, Customs and Trade Facilitation etc.

The agreement is long pending due to issues over labor, environment, data security, visa regulations and government procurement.

**Q.128)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Parliamentary privileges**:

1. Constitution does not provide any explicit privileges to members of Parliament and leaves them to be defined by Parliament.
2. The privilege of non-liability to any proceedings in any court, in respect of anything said in the Parliament, extends to parliamentary committees.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Constitution of India **explicitly specifies** some of the privileges for Houses of Parliament and of the **members and committees** thereof:

**-Article 105:** freedom of speech in Parliament; immunity to a member from any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or **any committee** thereof;

immunity to a person from proceedings in any court in respect of the publication by or under the authority of either House of Parliament of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.

**-Article 122:** Courts are prohibited from inquiring into the validity of any proceedings in Parliament on the ground of an alleged irregularity of procedure.

No officer or Member of Parliament empowered to regulate procedure or the conduct of business or to maintain order in Parliament can be subject to a court's jurisdiction in respect of exercise by him of those powers.

**-Article 361A:** No person can be liable to any civil or criminal proceedings in any court for publication in a newspaper of a substantially true report of any proceedings of either House of Parliament unless the publication is proved to have been made with malice.

Further, as per the Constitution any other powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament and MP's may be defined by Parliament.

**Q.129)** Consider the following statements regarding the **International Comparison Program (ICP)**:

1. It is an initiative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. It produces purchasing power parities (PPPs) based gross domestic product (GDP) for participating economies.
3. As per the International Comparison Program, USA, China and India are the largest economies of the World.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation: International Comparison Program 2017** has been released recently.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The ICP is managed by the **World Bank** under the auspices of the **United Nations Statistical Commission**, and relies on a partnership of international, regional, sub-regional, and national agencies.

Statement 2 is correct. The main **objectives of the ICP** are to:

- (i) produce purchasing power parities (PPPs) and comparable price level indexes (PLIs) for participating economies;
- (ii) convert volume and per capita measures of gross domestic product (GDP) and its expenditure components into a common currency using PPPs.

Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) are calculated based on the price of a common basket of goods and services in each participating economy and are a measure of what an economy's local currency can buy in another economy.

Statement 3 is correct. ICP 2017 notes that the two largest economies in the world in 2017 **were China and the United States**, each of whom recorded a PPP-based GDP of just under \$20 trillion. Together they accounted for a third of the global economy.

**South Asia** is home to nearly a quarter of the world's population and accounted for 8 percent of global GDP. **India with a GDP of \$8 trillion (PPP)** was the third largest economy in the world.

*The next ICP comparison will be conducted for reference year 2021.*

**Q.130)** Which of the following is/are listed as **Fundamental Duties** under the Constitution of India?

- 1. To provide early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years.
- 2. To protect and improve the natural environment.
- 3. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation: Fundamental duties under article 51A:** It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—

- (a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- (b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- (c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- (d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- (e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- (f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- (g) to **protect and improve the natural environment** including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- (h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- (i) to **safeguard public property and to abjure violence**;
- (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement;

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(k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

*After the **Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002**; article 45 reads “the State shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.” Further, right to education (Art. 21A) and under Fundamental duties, sub-section (k) was added.*

**Q.131)** What is/are the main objective(s) the recently launched **CHAMPIONS** technology platform?

1. Re-skilling of the migrant labors.
2. To help the MSMEs in this difficult situation in terms of finance, raw materials, labour etc.
3. To provide database of skilled individuals to employers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Option 1 and 3 do not relate to the CHAMPIONS platform.

**Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength (CHAMPIONS)** portal was launched recently basically for making the smaller units big by solving their grievances, encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding.

Objectives of CHAMPIONS:

-**Grievance Redressal:** To resolve the problems of MSMEs including those of finance, raw materials, labor, regulatory permissions etc.;

-To help them capture new **opportunities:** including manufacturing of medical equipment and accessories like PPEs, masks, etc. and supply them in National and International markets;

-To identify and encourage the **sparks:** i.e. the potential MSMEs who are able to withstand the current situation and can become national and international champions.

**Q.132)** Which of the following initiative(s) provides incentive for **promotion of MSMEs** in India?

1. Priority Sector Lending
2. Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)
3. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above programs provide benefits to MSME operations in India.

**Priority Sector Lending** is a mandate to the banks for providing a specified portion of the bank lending to few specific sectors. Priority Sector includes the following categories: Agriculture, **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**, Export Credit, Education, Housing, Social Infrastructure, Renewable Energy and others.

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**Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS):** The objective of TReDS is to create Electronic Bill Factoring Exchanges which could electronically accept and settle bills so that MSMEs could encash their receivables without delay.

MSMEs often face constraints in obtaining adequate finance, one big factor which affects the ability of MSMEs to convert trade receivables into liquid funds are slow paying invoices. To address these issues, RBI in 2014 introduced the concept of TReDS, a mechanism of trade receivables financing for MSMEs on a secure digital platform.

The **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme** is a specific response to the unprecedented situation COVID-19. It provides 100% guarantee coverage by NCGTC to MLIs on GECL of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs.

**Q.133)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Infrastructure Pipeline:**

1. It is a country-wide natural gas pipeline project of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
2. The project is to be completely funded by the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** is an investment plan for enhancing infrastructure in identified sectors is a first-of-its-kind exercise to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens. The endeavor of the NIP would be to make this happen in an efficient manner.

NIP aims to improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic and foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by FY 2025. It is estimated to have an investment of **Rs 102 lakh crore**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The NIP consists of 39 per cent projects each by **the Centre and states** and the balance by 22 per cent by **private sector**.

*The Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) submitted its Final Report on NIP for FY 2019-25 in April 2020. The NIP project database would be hosted on India Investment Grid (IIG).*

**Q.134)** The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** has been released by which of the following institutions?

- a) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- b) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **World Wildlife Crime Report 2020** has been released recently by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**) emphasizing the threat that wildlife trafficking poses to nature and the biodiversity of the planet. It is the second report since 2016 report by UNODC.

- The report notes that **pangolins**, which were identified as a potential source of coronaviruses, are the most trafficked wild mammals in the world, with seizures of pangolin scales having increased tenfold between 2014 and 2018.

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-The report outlines key global wildlife crime trends and analyses markets for illicit rosewood, ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, live reptiles, big cats and European eel.  
-Trade in wildlife and wildlife products have also expanded into the **digital** sphere. Sales of certain products, like live reptiles and tiger bone products, have shifted to online platforms.

**Q.135)** Consider the following statements regarding the **rainfall distribution** over India:

1. The rainfall decreases moving westwards in North India.
2. In Peninsular India, except Tamil Nadu, rainfall decreases moving eastwards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

Rainfall decreases from the east to the west in Northern India because as the **moisture bearing winds** of the Bay of Bengal branch of the south west monsoon move further inland, the moisture content gradually decreases.

In Peninsular India, the **windward side of the Western Ghats** receives most of the rainfall, while the leeward side gets little rainfall. Further the, South-west monsoon branch moves **parallel to the Eastern Ghats**, which cause less rainfall in the Eastern Ghats. Tamil Nadu is an exception as it receives rainfall from retreating monsoons during winter season.

**Spatial Variations in the Rainfall:**

-Areas of Heavy Rainfall (Over 200cm): The highest rainfall occurs in west coast, on the Western Ghats as well as the Sub-Himalayan areas in North East and Meghalaya Hills, Assam, West Bengal, and Southern slopes of eastern Himalayas.

-Areas of Moderately Heavy Rainfall (100-200 cm): Moderate rainfall occurs in Southern parts of Gujarat, East Tamil Nadu, North-eastern Peninsular, Western Ghats, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and the middle Ganga valley.

-Areas of Less Rainfall (50-100 cm): Upper Ganga valley, eastern Rajasthan, Punjab, Southern Plateau of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu experience less rain.

-Areas of Scanty Rainfall (Less than 50 cm): Northern part of Kashmir, Western Rajasthan, Punjab and Deccan Plateau get scanty rainfall.

*Two significant features of India's rainfall are in the north India, rainfall decreases westwards and in Peninsular India, except Tamil Nadu, it decreases eastward.*

**Q.136)** Which of the following correctly defines **Apoptosis**?

- a) Cells death due to injury
- b) Cell division producing two new cells from one cell
- c) Loss of a cell's power of division and growth
- d) Programmed cell death in the body

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** **Apoptosis** is a form of **programmed cell death** that occurs in multicellular organisms. It removes cells during development and eliminates the potentially harmful, cancerous and infected cells.

**Necrosis** is a form of cell injury which results in the premature death of cells in living tissue.

**Senescence** or biological aging is the gradual deterioration of functional characteristics; loss of a cell's power of division and growth.



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**Mitosis** is a type of cell division that results in two daughter cells each having the same number and kind of chromosomes as the parent nucleus, typical of ordinary tissue growth.

**Q.137)** Consider the following statements regarding **Private final consumption expenditure (PFCE)**:

1. It includes final consumption expenditure of households as well as non-profit institutions serving households.
2. PFCE component of India's GDP is more than the Government final consumption expenditure (GFCE).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Private final consumption expenditure (PFCE)** includes final consumption expenditure of households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) like temples, gurdwaras.

The final consumption expenditure of households relates to outlays on new durable as well as non-durable goods (except land) and on services.

Statement 2 is correct. Growth in the Indian economy, for long, has been **dominated by consumption (PFCE)**, followed by investments (GFCF), government expenditure (GFCE) and net exports (NEX). Further PFCE forms largest component of GDP.

Table below: MoSPI

**STATEMENT : Second Advance Estimates of National Income and Expenditures of GDP, 2019-20**  
( At 2011- 12 Prices) (₹ crore)

S.No	Item	2017-18 ( 2 <sup>nd</sup> RE )	2018-19 (1 <sup>st</sup> RE)	2019-20 (2 <sup>nd</sup> AE)	Percentage change over previous year	
					2018-19	2019-20
1	<b>Domestic Product</b>					
	GVA at Basic Prices	12,074,413	12,803,128	13,434,606	6.0	4.9
2	Net Taxes on Products	1,100,747	1,178,298	1,249,229	7.0	6.0
3	GDP (1+2)	13,175,160	13,981,426	14,683,835	6.1	5.0
4	NDP	11,686,409	12,372,051	12,995,082	5.9	5.0
	<b>Rates to GDP</b>					
14	PFCE	56.0	56.6	56.7		
15	GFCE	10.2	10.6	11.1		
16	GFCF	30.8	31.9	30.2		
17	CIS	1.6	1.9	1.8		
18	Valuables	1.5	1.2	1.3		
19	Exports of Goods and Services	19.7	20.9	19.5		
20	Imports of Goods and Services	23.4	23.9	21.5		
21	Discrepancies	3.5	0.9	0.9		
22	GDP	100.0	100.0	100.0		

**Q.138)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Poonam Avlokan**:

1. It is an annual Lion Census carried out in Gir forest, Gujarat.
2. The 2020 exercise has noted a decline in Lion population since the previous census.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

**Lion Census** is carried out every five years; with last one carried out in 2015. The 2015 Census had counted 523 lions, up from 411 in 2010. Lion Census was due on June 5-6 this year, but was postponed after the lockdown was announced.

**Poonam Avlokan** is generally a monthly in-house exercise in protected area, carried out every full moon. In order to develop an understanding of the current population status and distribution of Asiatic Lions in the Asiatic Lion Landscape, the Gujarat Forest Department conducted an exercise familiarly called Poonam Avlokan on 05-06 June, 2020 using the **Direct Beat Verification** also known as the Block Count method.

The observation results point out that the **population of Asiatic Lions has shown a steady increase** with a population of 674 individuals with an increase rate of 28.87% (one of the highest growth rates so far) from the previous growth of 27% during 2015 (523 lions).

**Q.139)** Consider the following statements regarding the ‘**State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 (SOFI 2020)**’:

1. It has been published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
2. As per the report, Asia is home to the largest of the undernourished population of the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. ‘**State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 (SOFI 2020)**’ joint report is issued annually by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. It presents the latest estimates on food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition at the global and regional levels.

Statement 2 is correct. **Asia** remains home to the greatest number of undernourished (381 million). Africa is second (250 million), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (48 million).

-The **global prevalence of undernourishment** – or overall percentage of hungry people – has changed little at 8.9 percent, but the absolute numbers have been rising since 2014. This means that over the last five years, hunger has grown in step with the global population.

-In percentage terms, the prevalence of undernourishment in the total population in **India** declined from 21.7 per cent in 2004-06 to 14 per cent in 2017-19.

-The two subregions showing reductions in undernourishment—eastern and southern Asia—are dominated by the two largest economies of the continent—**China and India**.

**Q.140)** Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Changi - Singapore
2. Chabahar - Iran
3. Kyaukpadaung - Myanmar

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4. Guam - United States of America

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All are correctly matched.

**Kyaukpada** is a major town in Rakhine State, in western **Myanmar**. It has major Chinese investment.

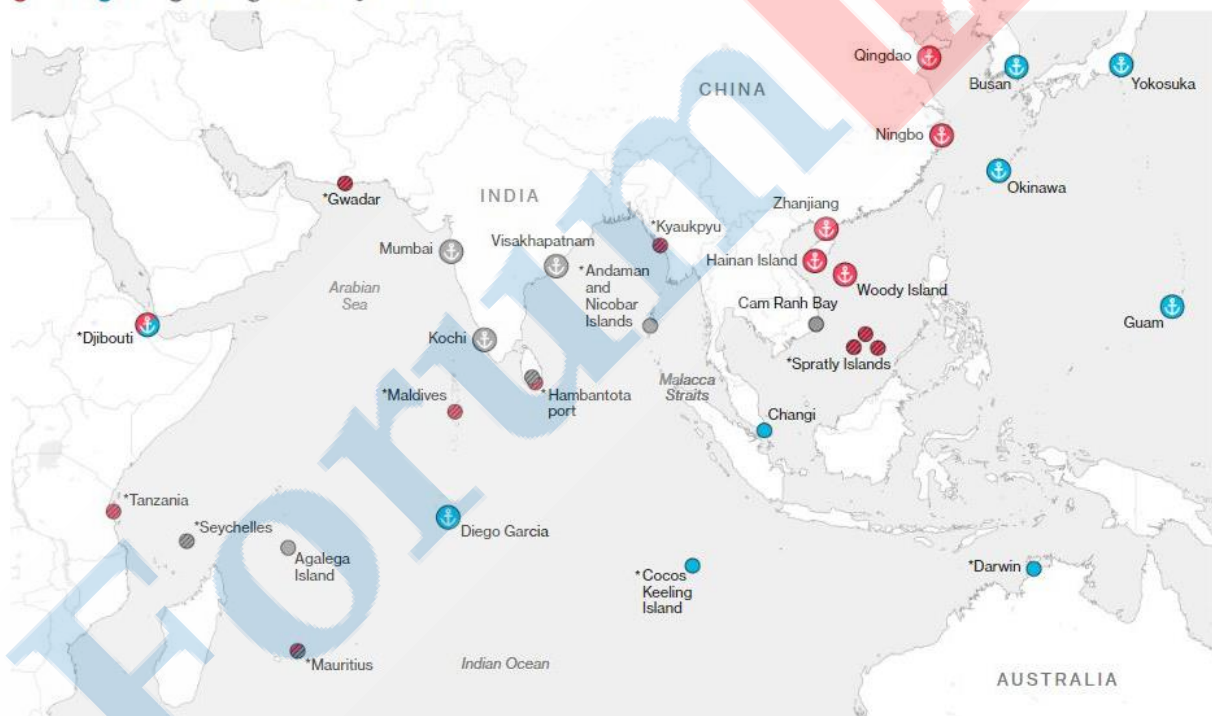
**Changi** is in the East Region of **Singapore**; it is a naval base of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). India and Singapore signed a bilateral agreement that will allow Indian Navy ships limited logistical support, including refueling, at CNB.

**Chabahar** Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern **Iran**, on the Gulf of Oman. India has major investments in development of Chabahar port facility.

**Guam** is a **U.S. island territory** in Micronesia, in the Western Pacific having US naval base.

### U.S.-China Balance

● China ● U.S. ● India ● Potential ⚓ Naval base



**Q.141)** Consider the following statements:

1. The Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) allows import-export of goods between India and Afghanistan through Wagah Border.
2. Chabahar port in Iran has potential to increase India-Afghanistan bilateral trade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Afghanistan–Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA)** is a bilateral trade agreement signed in 2010 by Pakistan and Afghanistan. The APTTA agreement allows Afghan trucks to transport exports to India via Pakistan up to the Wagah crossing point, but **does not allow** Afghanistan to import Indian goods across Pakistani territory.

Statement 2 is correct. The successful operation of the Chabahar port in Iran would capitalize on **Zaranj-Delaram** highway to offer a new transit route of Afghan products to India.



**Q.142)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019**:

1. It is based on the recommendations of the Justice B.N. Srikrishna committee.
2. It governs the companies incorporated in India as well as foreign companies dealing with personal data of individuals in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 states that the Bill is based on the recommendations of "**Committee of Experts on Data Protection**" chaired by Justice B.N. Srikrishna to examine the issues relating to data protection and the suggestions received from various stakeholders.



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Statement 2 is correct. It lays down obligations on entities collecting personal data (data fiduciary) to collect only that data which is required for a specific purpose and with the express consent of the individual (data principal).

-It governs the processing of personal data by **government, companies incorporated in India, and foreign companies** dealing with personal data of individuals in India. Personal data is data which pertains to characteristics, traits or attributes of identity, which can be used to identify an individual.

-It aims establish an Authority to be called the "**Data Protection Authority of India**" to protect the interests of data principals, prevent any misuse of personal data, ensure compliance with the provisions.

*The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha in December, 2019 and was referred to Standing Committee.*

**Q.143)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India-European Union relations**:

1. India-European Union Summit 2020 is the first ever Summit level meeting between India and European Union.

2. India is European Union's largest trade partner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The first **India-European Union Summit** took place on **28 June 2000 in Lisbon**. India-EU Summit 2020 is the **15th edition** of the engagement.

Statement 2 is incorrect. EU is one of the largest trade partners of India, accounting for €80 billion worth of trade in goods in 2019, around 11 percent of India's total trade value.

-**India is the EU's 10th largest trading partner**, accounting for 1.9% of EU total trade in goods in 2019.

-EU foreign direct investment stocks in India amounted to €68 billion in 2018.

**Q.144)** Consider the following statements regarding the **PRAGYATA Guidelines** for Digital Education:

1. These have been released by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

2. These guidelines are binding in nature for all States/UTs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Human Resource and Development Ministry** has announced **PRAGYATA Guidelines** for Digital Education for online classes operationalized by schools amid the COVID pandemic.



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Statement 2 is incorrect. These guidelines are **advisory in nature** and have been prepared by NCERT. States/UTs are required to come out with their own detailed guidelines by adapting/modifying these guidelines in accordance with their requirements and assessment of the local situation.

- The guidelines recommend a cap on the screen time for students depending on class.
- The PRAGYATA guidelines include eight steps of digital learning that is, Plan- Review- Arrange- Guide- Yak (talk) - Assign- Track- Appreciate.
- The Guidelines also emphasize the need to unify all efforts related to digital, online education, benefitting school going children across the country. The initiative includes DIKSHA, SWAYAM Prabha, Radio Vahini and Shiksha Vaani.

**Q.145)** Who among the following has published the **Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020** report?

- a) International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- b) World Bank Group
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- d) World Economic Forum

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The 'Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020: Technology and the future of jobs' has been released by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**.

-The number of young people currently **not in employment, education or training (NEET)** is rising, and young women are more than twice as likely as their male counterparts to be affected.

-Globally, one-fifth of young people currently have NEET status, which means they are neither gaining experience in the labour market, nor receiving an income from work, nor enhancing their education and skills.

-Young people (those aged 15-24) who are employed also face a greater risk than older workers of losing their jobs because of automation.

**Q.146)** Consider the following statements regarding **disease testing parameters**:

1. Sensitivity of the test refers to ability to detect true positives.
2. Specificity of the test refers to ability to detect true negatives.
3. Positivity rate refers to percentage of positive results out of all tests conducted.

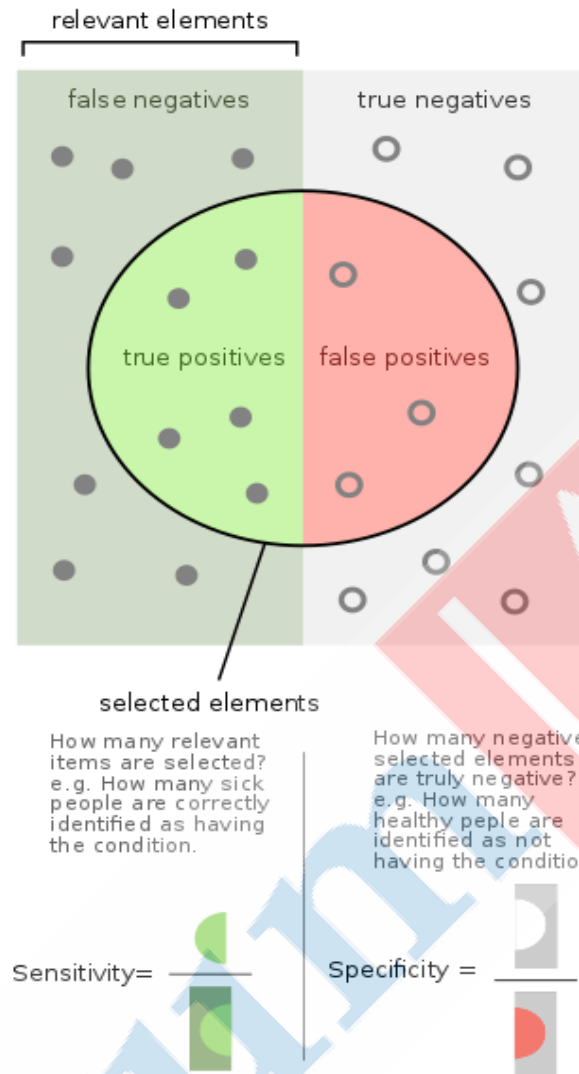
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Sensitivity of a test** means measures the proportion of actual positives that are correctly identified as such, percentage of infected people who are correctly identified as having the condition in a diagnostic test.

Statement 2 is correct. **Specificity** measures the proportion of actual negatives that are correctly identified as such.



Statement 3 is correct. **Positivity rate** refers to percentage of patients who have positive tests out of all tests conducted.

**World Health Organization (WHO)** advised governments that before reopening, rates of positivity in testing for COVID-19 should remain at 5% or lower for at least 14 days.

**Q.147)** Consider the following statements regarding **Cytokines**:

1. These are released as part of immune response of the body.
2. An uncontrolled and excessive release of Cytokines can result in fatal condition of hyper-inflammation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Cytokines** are small glycoproteins that synchronize immune system responses. These are released by many different cells in the body, including those of the **immune system** where they coordinate the body's response against infection and trigger inflammation.

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Statement 2 is correct. **Cytokine storms** occurs when excessive or uncontrolled levels of cytokines are released which then activate more immune cells, resulting in **hyperinflammation**. A cytokine storm can occur as a result of an infection, autoimmune condition, or other disease. Sometimes, a cytokine storm may be severe or life threatening and lead to multiple organ failure also called **hypercytokinemia**.

**Q.148)** Consider the following statements regarding **Comet NEOWISE**:

1. It was discovered by Hubble Space Telescope of NASA.
2. It is a periodic comet and appears in Earth's vicinity about every 75 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **C/2020 F3** is a retrograde comet with a near-parabolic orbit discovered by astronomers using the NEOWISE space telescope (hence called **comet NEOWISE**).

**NEOWISE telescope** is a NASA infrared-wavelength astronomical space telescope launched in December 2009, and placed in hibernation mode in February 2011. It was re-activated in 2013 to identify and characterize the population of near-Earth objects (NEO).

Statement 2 is incorrect. **NEOWISE comet** was discovered on March 27, 2020, and is a **non-periodic** comet.

*Trivia: There is a "periodic" comet that emerges in Earth's vicinity about every 75 years. The last time it was seen was in 1986, and is projected to return in 2061. English astronomer Edmond Halley examined reports of a comet approaching Earth in 1531, 1607 and 1682. He concluded that these three comets were the same comet returning periodically, and predicted the comet would come again in 1758. He died in 1742 and could not see the return of what later was named Halley's Comet!*

**Q.149)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**:

1. It is released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
2. Fuel and Power inflation is not included in the WPI calculation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Office of the Economic Adviser**, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry releases the monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for India.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The index basket of the WPI covers commodities falling under the three major groups namely **Primary Articles, Fuel and Power and Manufactured products**.

Primary Articles have a weightage of 22.6 per cent, Fuel and Power have a weightage of 13.2 per cent and Manufactured Products have a weightage of 64.2 percent.

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**Q.150)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Caterpillar Fungus (Keeda-Jadi)**:

1. It is a medicinal fungus species found in Himalayan region.
2. It is listed a Vulnerable species in IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Caterpillar Fungus** (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*), known as Keeda-Jadi in Uttarakhand and Yartsa Gunbu in Tibet is endemic to the Himalayan and Tibetan plateau and is found in **Tibet, India and Nepal**. It has been traditionally used to treat many diseases including those related to the kidneys and lungs. Demand for the fungus has risen sharply since the 1990s.

Statement 2 is correct. In the last two decades, the fungus has become the main source of livelihoods for thousands of people where it occurs. Its populations have declined by at least 30% over the past 15 years as a result of overharvesting.

The IUCN has recently announced that the Caterpillar Fungus has entered **the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable** with decreasing population.

**Q.151)** Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the **Chiang Mai Initiative**?

1. Malaysia
2. China
3. Japan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above are part of the **Chiang Mai initiative**.

The Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI) is the **regional currency swap** arrangement launched by the **ASEAN+3** (Japan, China + Hongkong, South Korea) countries in May 2000 at an annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank to address the short-term liquidity difficulties in the region and to supplement the existing international financial arrangements.

**CMI is composed of:** (a) the ASEAN Swap Arrangement (ASA) among ASEAN countries, and (b) a network of bilateral swap arrangements (BSAs) among the ASEAN+3 countries.

**Q.152)** Consider the following statements regarding the **European Union**:

1. The Copenhagen criteria sets out the conditions and principles to which any country wishing to become an EU member must conform.
2. Schengen Area consists of all European Union countries and Switzerland.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Certain criteria must be met for admission into European Union. These criteria (known as the **Copenhagen criteria**) were established by the **Copenhagen European Council in 1993** and strengthened by the Madrid European Council in 1995. They are:

- stability of institutions guaranteeing **democracy, the rule of law, human rights** and respect for and protection of minorities;
- a functioning **market economy** and the ability to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the EU;
- ability to take on the **obligations of membership**, including the capacity to effectively implement the rules, standards and policies that make up the body of EU law, and adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Schengen Area is an area comprising **26 European countries** that have officially abolished all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders.

Schengen Area encompasses **most EU States, except for Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania**. Of non-EU States, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein have joined the Schengen Area.

**Q.153)** The **Equalization levy** can be levied in which of the following case(s)?

1. The payments received by a foreign non-resident company for services provided to an Indian firm with respect to digital advertising.
2. The foreign e-commerce operators providing e-commerce supply or services to a person resident in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Budget 2016-17** provided for: **equalization levy** at the rate of six percent of the amount of consideration for any **specified service** received by a person, being a **non-resident** from:

- a person resident in India and carrying on business or profession; or
- a non-resident having a permanent establishment in India.

**Except** where the non-resident providing the specified service has a permanent establishment in India or aggregate amount of consideration for specified service received or receivables in previous year does not exceed one lakh rupees.

*A "specified service" here means online advertisement, any provision for digital advertising space or any other facility or service for the purpose of online advertisement.*

Statement 2 is correct. The **Budget 2020-21** provided for: the **equalization levy** at the rate of two percent of the amount of consideration received by an **e-commerce operator (a non-resident)** from e-commerce supply or services made by it:

- to a person resident in India; or
- to a non-resident in the specified circumstances or
- to a person who buys such goods or services or both using internet protocol address located in India.

**Except** where the e-commerce operator making or providing or facilitating e-commerce supply or services has a permanent establishment in India or consideration received is less than two crore rupees during the previous year.



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**Q.154)** Which of the following is/are **potential vaccine(s)** for COVID-19 being developed in India?

1. ZyCoV-D
2. COVAXIN
3. CanSino Vaccine

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. **ZyCoV-D vaccine** developed by the **Zydus (Cadila) Healthcare**, India has successfully completed preclinical development and has received permission from DCGI to initiate human clinical trials.

Option 2 is correct. **COVAXIN** is also a vaccine candidate undergoing trials in India; it has been developed by the **Bharat Biotech Ltd** in collaboration with the ICMR.

Option 3 is incorrect. **CanSino's Covid vaccine** is jointly developed by **Chinese vaccine** company CanSino Biologics and the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology in the Academy of Military Medical Sciences.

**Q.155)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Woolly Whitefly**:

1. It is an invasive species.
2. It is a polyphagous species impacting India's farms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **Woolly Whitefly (Aleurothrixus floccosus)** is a species of whitefly in the family Aleyrodidae, it is **invasive and polyphagous** (one that feeds on various kinds of food).

It is among the **exotic pests** troubling farmers in India, particularly fruit growers. The woolly whitefly was first described from Jamaica in 1896 and noticed in Florida, U.S. in 1909. It is a native of warmer climates, **Caribbean, Florida, South America**.

*It has recently been reported that two types of ladybird beetles and green lacewing fly feed on this whitefly.*

**Q.156)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Geoparks Network (GGN)**:

1. It is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the Global Geoparks.
2. There are **no** UNESCO recognized Global Geoparks in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** **UNESCO Global Geoparks** are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed for protection, education and sustainable development.

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Statement 1 is correct. The **Global Geoparks Network (GGN)** is a non-profit International Association officially established in 2014 subject to French legislation. The Global Geoparks Network is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Its membership is obligatory for UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Statement 2 is correct. Recently UNESCO designated **15 new Geoparks** in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The Global Geoparks Network contains 161 parks in 44 countries, **none of which is in India.**

**Q.157)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKKs)**:

1. National Skill Development Corporation is the implementation agency for the PMKK project.
2. The initiative includes concessional loan funding for training infrastructure under PMKKs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras** is a project of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to establish Model Training Centers in every district of the country. **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** is the implementation agency for the project.

The model training centers envisage to:

- Create benchmark institutions that demonstrate aspirational value for competency-based skill development training.
- Focus on elements of quality, sustainability and Connection with stakeholders in skills delivery process.
- Transform from a Mandate-driven footloose model to a sustainable institutional model.

Statement 2 is correct. **NSDC provides a concessional secured loan funding per center**, up to 75% of the project investment, to cover expenditure only related to:

- Training infrastructure including purchase of plant, machinery & equipment
- Training aid and other associated items
- Civil work including setting up prefabricated structures and retrofit existing structures.

Loan assistance under the PMKK project is sanctioned to any form of separate legal entity including but not limited to Company/Society/Trust.

**Q.158)** Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID-19 Demo-Days initiative**:

1. It aims to identify promising start-ups with potential COVID-19 innovations.
2. The initiative is coordinated by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)-NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)-NITI Aayog** recently coordinated and concluded a series of **virtual COVID-19 Demo Days**; an initiative to identify promising start-ups with potential

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COVID-19 innovations and to further help them deploy and scale-up their solutions nationwide.

The initiative was launched in partnership with other government bodies including Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology (DBT); Department of Science and Technology (DST), Startup India, AGNi, and other Ministries.

Over 1,000 COVID-19 related start-ups were put through two rounds of evaluation, from which more than **70 start-ups were shortlisted** for the Virtual COVID-19 Demo Days. A total of nine DemoDays for Medical Devices, PPE, Sanitization, Technology solutions etc. were held.

These start-ups will receive support in the form of funding, access to manufacturing abilities, supply chain and logistics and finding the right vendors and mentors.

**Q.159)** Which of the following **invention(s) of Indian institutes** is/are matched correctly?

1. PranaVayu - Low-cost portable ventilator
2. SHUDH - Ayurveda based Hand Sanitizer
3. Corosure - Low cost RT-PCR kit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correctly matched. **IIT-Roorkee** has developed a **low-cost portable ventilator** in association with AIIMS-Rishikesh. '**Prana-Vayu**' the closed-loop ventilator can deliver the required amount of air to the patient, with an automated process controlling the pressure and flow rates.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **IIT Kanpur** has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDH. **Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper (SHUDH)** has six UV lights of 15 Watts each that can be individually monitored from a distance.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Corosure**, a low-cost **RT-PCR based Covid-19 diagnostic kit** has been developed at the Kusuma School of Biological Sciences in the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**.

**Q.160)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India Energy Modeling Forum (IEMF)**:

1. The IEMF is to be coordinated by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
2. It aims to provide a platform to examine relevant energy and environmental issues in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** In the joint working group meeting of the **Sustainable Growth Pillar of India-US Strategic Energy Partnership** co-chaired by NITI Aayog and USAID, an **India Energy Modeling Forum** have been launched.

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Statement 1 is incorrect. **NITI Aayog** will initially coordinate the activities of the forum and finalize its governing structure. The forum would include knowledge partners, data agencies and concerned government ministries.

Statement 2 is correct. The **India Energy Modeling Forum** aims to:

- Provide a platform to examine important **energy and environmental** related issues;
- Inform decision-making process to the Indian government;
- Improve cooperation between modeling teams, government, and knowledge partners, funders.

**Q.161)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Tenth Schedule of the Constitution**:

1. The disqualification by defection provisions are not applicable to Legislative Councils members.
2. The schedule allows legislators to voluntarily give up membership of his/her political party without being disqualified.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. In the **Tenth Schedule** providing for disqualification on ground of defection, unless the context otherwise requires, a “**House**” means **either House** of Parliament or the Legislative Assembly or, as the case may be, **either House** of the Legislature of a State; i.e. Legislative Assembly or Council.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Tenth Schedule explicitly states that a member of a House belonging to any political party shall be **disqualified** for being a member of the House—if he has **voluntarily** given up his membership of such political party; or if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by the political party to which he belongs.

**Q.162)** Consider the following statements regarding the findings of **Sample Registration System**, India:

1. Overall Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate has declined in last decade in India.
2. The Maternal Mortality Rate has been stagnant at 130 since 2014-16 survey.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Sample Registration System (SRS)** is a large-scale demographic survey for providing reliable annual estimates of Infant mortality rate, birth rate, death rate and other fertility & mortality indicators at the national and subnational levels conducted by **Office of the Registrar General, India**.

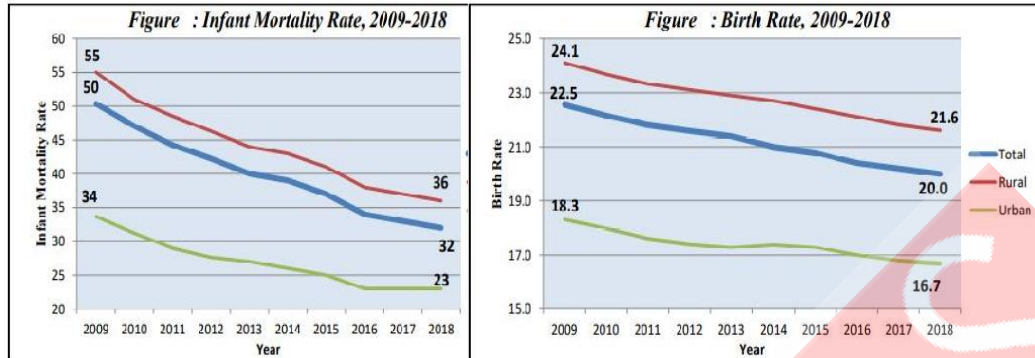
Recently **SRS Bulletins with reference year 2018** have been released.

Statement 1 is correct. **Birth Rate** is a crude measure of fertility of a population and is a crucial determinant of population growth. It gives the number of live births per thousand population in a given region and year.

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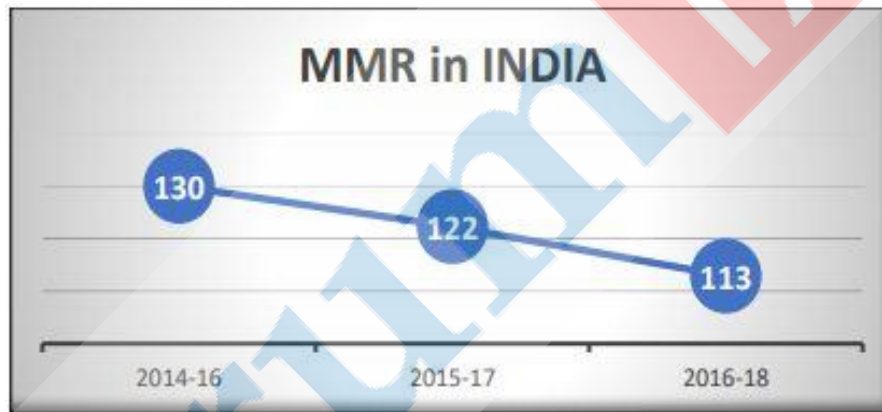
**Infant Mortality Rate** is defined as the infant deaths (less than one year) per thousand live births in a given time period and for a given region.

Both have seen continuous decline in India in last decade.



Statement 2 is incorrect. As per World Health Organization, “**Maternal death** is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes”.

**Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** is defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period. It has also declined significantly in India.



**Q.163)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**:

1. The Act gives effect to United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in India.
2. It mandates for providing disabled friendly access to all public buildings.
3. The Act makes people suffering from disability entitled to the same benefits and relaxations as to those belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** is an Act to give effect to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and for matters connected therewith. **India ratified** the said Convention in October, 2007.



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Statement 2 is correct. Some of the **provisions covered by the Bill** are: providing free education to a person with benchmark disability till 18 years of age; **barrier free access** to all parts of a hospital/health care center run or aided by government; ensuring that all existing public buildings are made **accessible**; all public documents are in accessible format, and accessibility of bus stops, railway stations and airports for disabled persons.

Statement 3 is incorrect. There is no such provision in the Act.

*The Supreme Court has recently observed that people suffering from disabilities are also socially backward and are thus entitled to the same benefits as given to those belonging to the Scheduled Castes.*

**Q.164)** Consider the following statements regarding the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**:

1. It is a statutory body under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. It is responsible for determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
3. National Assessment and Accreditation Council is an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **University Grants Commission** of India is a statutory body set up in accordance with the **UGC Act 1956**, under Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Statement 2 is correct. The **UGC's mandate includes:**

- Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
- Monitoring developments in the field of collegiate and university education; disbursing grants to the universities and colleges.
- Serving as a vital link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning.
- Advising the Central and State governments on the measures necessary for improvement of university education.

Statement 3 is correct. **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC). NAAC's mandate includes the task of performance evaluation, assessment and accreditation of universities and colleges in the country.

**Q.165)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**:

1. The manufacturing sector constitutes highest weightage in the IIP calculation.
2. The electricity generated from renewable energy sources is not included in the Electricity sector calculations for IIP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Index of industrial production (IIP) data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) is a monthly indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.

Statement 1 is correct. **Manufacturing Sector** has highest weightage in IIP calculation.

Sector	Base year 2011-12	
	Weights (%)	Item groups
Mining	14.373	1
Manufacturing	77.633	405
Electricity	7.994	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>407</b>

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under 'Electricity' sector, electricity generation from renewable energy sources has been **included** in 2011-12 base year series of IIP.

**Q.166)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Kaziranga National Park**:

1. It is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site.
2. The Brahmaputra River flows north of the park.
3. It is home to world's largest population of greater-one horned rhinos.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All statements are correct.

**Kaziranga National Park** is in the Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam, India. The sanctuary is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** (1985).

It is inhabited by the **world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses**, as well as many mammals, including tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, and thousands of birds.

The Park lies on the **south bank of the river Brahmaputra** and its southern boundary follows for the most part the river Mora Diphlu that runs parallel to National Highway NH 37 (the main arterial highway in Assam).

**Q.167)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Biopharma Mission**:

1. It is an Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India.
2. The Mission is implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **National Biopharma Mission** is an Industry-Academia collaborative mission of **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** for accelerating early development for biopharmaceuticals.

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The National Biopharma Mission was approved by the Cabinet for implementation in May 2017 with a total cost US\$ 250 million which is co-funded World Bank. **The Mission is implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology.

The mission is focusing on:

- Development of product leads that are at advanced stages of the product development lifecycle and relevant to the public health need in **vaccine, biosimilar and medical devices & diagnostics**.
- Establishing and strengthening shared **infrastructure** facilities for product development and validation.
- Developing **human capital** by providing specific trainings to address the critical skills gap across the product development value chain.
- Creating and enhancing **technology transfer and intellectual property** management capacities and capabilities.

**Q.168)** Consider the following statements regarding the **International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)**:

1. It creates binding, legal and financial obligations on member parties.
2. India is one of the members of the platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)** is not an institutionalized body, **nor does it create any binding, legal or financial obligations** on any member under domestic or international law.

The **IPSF a multilateral forum** for facilitating exchanges that aims to:

- Exchange and disseminate information to promote best practices in environmentally sustainable finance;
- Compare the different initiatives and identify barriers and opportunities to help scale up environmentally sustainable finance internationally;
- While respecting national and regional contexts, enhance international coordination where appropriate on environmentally sustainable finance issues. In addition, where appropriate, some willing members could strive to align initiatives and approaches.

Statement 2 is correct. The **International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)** was launched on 18 October 2019. Its current members are Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, **India**, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, New Zealand and the European Union, representing almost half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

**Q.169)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India**:

1. The survey was conducted by AIIMS, Delhi and sponsored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. Alcohol is the most common psychoactive substance used by Indians.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India' 2019** was conducted by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and sponsored by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the survey, **Alcohol** is the most common psychoactive substance used by Indians. Nationally, about **14.6% of the population** (between 10 and 75 year of age) uses alcohol. There are about 16 crore persons who consume alcohol in the country. Use of alcohol is considerably **higher among men** as compared to women. For every one woman who consumes alcohol, there are 17 alcohol using men.

After Alcohol, **Cannabis and Opioids** are the next commonly used substances in India.

**Q.170)** India's first indigenously developed vaccine against pneumonia (**Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate**) has been developed by which of the following institution?

- a) Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd
- b) Bharat-Biotech International Ltd
- c) Biocon Limited
- d) Cadila Healthcare

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** India's first fully indigenously developed conjugate vaccine for pneumonia by the **Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd**, Pune has got approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

This vaccine is to be used for active immunization against pneumonia caused by "Streptococcus pneumonia", a Gram-positive bacterium, in infants.

**Pneumonia** is an infection in lungs; it can be caused by **Bacteria, viruses, and fungi**. The infection causes inflammation in the air sacs (alveoli) in lungs. The alveoli fill with fluid or pus, making it difficult to breathe.

**Q.171)** Consider the following statements regarding the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**:

- 1. It is one of the principal organs of the United Nations established by UN charter.
- 2. ECOSOC members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945** as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.

ECOSOC links a diverse family of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development, providing guidance and coordination. The entities include regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions facilitating intergovernmental discussions of global issues, specialized agencies, programs and funds at work around the world.

ECOSOC has 54 member Governments which **are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly**. India is currently a member.

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**Q.172)** The **APT29** or '**Cozy Bear**' have been in news recently, what does it relate to?

- a) A cyber espionage group targeting COVID-19 vaccine development
- b) A newly discovered Bear species in Amazon forest
- c) A COVID-19 recombinant DNA vaccine developed by Russia
- d) A meteor shower predicted at the end of year 2020

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Advanced Persistent Threat 29 (APT-29)**, also known as 'Cozy Bear' or 'The Dukes' is a **cyber-espionage** group that have been accused by the governments of the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, of stealing information about ongoing **COVID-19 vaccine research** from various laboratories.

The governments have assessed that the group belonging to Russia, uses a variety of tools and techniques to predominantly target governmental, diplomatic, think-tank, healthcare and energy targets for intelligence gain.

As per **UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)** the hacker group is part of Russian intelligence services. APT29 is using custom malware known as 'WellMess' and 'WellMail' to target a number of organizations globally.

The group has history of cyber-attacks in Germany, Uzbekistan, South Korea and the US.

**Q.173)** Consider the following statements regarding **ZyCoV-D**:

- 1. It is a vaccine under human trial phase developed by ICMR in collaboration with Serum Institute of India.
- 2. It is a live vaccine using a weakened form of the SARS-COV-2.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Zyklus Healthcare** Company recently announced that it has got approval for Adaptive Phase I/ II human clinical trials of its **plasmid DNA vaccine, ZyCoV-D** against CoVID-19.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **ZyCoV-D is a plasmid DNA vaccine** and not a live vaccine. It involves the direct introduction into appropriate tissues of a plasmid containing the DNA sequence encoding the antigen(s) against which an immune response is sought.

**Q.174)** Consider the following statements regarding recently launched **ASPIRE portal** for automotive sector:

- 1. It has been developed by the International Centre of Automotive Technology (ICAT).
- 2. It aims to streamline the automobile sector imports in India to fulfill domestic demand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Department of Heavy Industry (DHI)** is promoting innovation, R&D and product development in India for various sectors. There are **five portals** being developed for specific sectors by different organizations: BHEL for power



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sector equipment, HMT for machine tools, CMFTI for manufacturing technology, ICAT and ARAI for automotive sector.

The **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)** has developed technology platform for automotive industry called **ASPIRE** - Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Objective of this portal: **self-reliant Indian automotive industry** by assisting in innovation and adoption of global technological advancements by bringing together the stakeholders.

**Q.175)** Which of the following is/are joint initiative(s) of **India and United States of America?**

1. Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)
2. Retrofit of Air Conditioning to Improve Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE)
3. Clean Technology Fund (CTF)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)** have jointly initiated a new activity, "Retrofit of Air Conditioning to Improve Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency" (**RAISE**) for healthy and energy efficient buildings. The initiative will be scaled in public sector buildings.

Option 2 is correct. **Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)** is the flagship program on clean energy between the U.S. and India to jointly work on a range of issues related to **energy security, clean energy and climate change**.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Clean Technology Fund (CTF)** is one of two multi-donor Trust Funds within the **Climate Investment Funds (CIFs)**, other being Strategic Climate Fund (SCF). It promotes scaled-up financing for demonstration, deployment and transfer of low-carbon technologies. The World Bank is the Trustee and Administering Unit of the CTF Trust Fund.

**Q.176)** The **Southborough Committee, 1919** recommended on which of the following matters?

- a) Existing conditions of labor in industrial undertakings and plantations in India
- b) The relation of paramount power and the Princely States
- c) Eligibility for voting in elections
- d) To investigate the working of Diarchy in India

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Government had set up three committees in 1918-19; **Franchise Committee** headed by **Lord Southborough**, Committee on **Home Administration** headed by **Robert Crewe-Milnes** and the **Function Committee** headed by **Richard Feetham**.

The **Franchise Committee** recommended that qualification of voters should be based on property and residence within a constituency. Further it did not suggest granting of franchise to women.

*Indian states committee under Sir Harcourt Butler was to investigate and clarify the relationship between the paramount power and the Princes of Princely States.*

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*Whitley Commission on Labour, 1929 was to inquire into the existing conditions of labour in industrial undertakings and plantations in India.*

*Muddiman Committee or the Reforms Enquiry Committee, 1924 was to aid in investigating the diarchy issue and to meet the demand of Indian leaders in context of Purna Swaraj declaration.*

**Q.177)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**:

1. It is an action plan to limit the Uranium Enrichment by North Korea.
2. The agreement provides for compliance verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** is an agreement between **Iran** and the **P5+1** (China France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), 2015 with regards to nuclear development by Iran. The nuclear deal was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution.

Statement 2 is correct. **Iran's compliance** with the nuclear-related provisions of the JCPOA was to be verified by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** according to agreement.

**May 2018**, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the JCPOA and reinstate U.S. nuclear sanctions on the Iranian regime.

**July 2019**, Iran announced that it had breached the limit set on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium, which the IAEA confirmed.

**January 2020**, after killing of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani, Iran declared that it would no longer abide by the limitations of the deal but would continue to coordinate with the IAEA.

**Q.178)** Consider the following statements regarding **elections in India**:

1. The authority of the preparation of the electoral rolls for elections to Parliament and State Legislatures is vested in Election Commission of India.
2. Chief Election Commissioner can only be removed on grounds on which a Judge of the Supreme Court is removed from his/her office.
3. Constitution provides for adult suffrage for elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Article 324(1)** provides that the **superintendence, direction and control** of the preparation of the **electoral rolls** for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President shall be vested in Election Commission.

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Statement 2 is correct. **Article 324(5)** provides that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in **like manner and on the like grounds** as a Judge of the Supreme Court and the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

Statement 3 is correct. **Article 326** provides that the elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of **adult suffrage**.

Every person who is a citizen of India and who is **not less than eighteen years of age** and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of **non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice**, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

**Q.179)** Which of the following correctly defines the mandate of **OSCE Minsk Group**?

- a) Negotiation on Macedonia's name dispute with Greece
- b) The handover of Hong Kong sovereignty to China by Britain
- c) Committee to look into reforms in UN Security Council
- d) Resolution to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** At its meeting in Helsinki in 1992, the then- Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, now OSCE) requested the Chairman-in-Office to convene a conference on the **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict** involving **Armenia and Azerbaijan**.

**Nagorno-Karabakh** is a disputed territory between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In **1994**, the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)** Budapest Summit established the **Minsk Group**, which continues to work for the creation of conditions in which such a conference can take place.



*The Prespes agreement is an agreement reached in 2018 between Greece and the Republic of Macedonia, to change latter's name to North Macedonia.*

**Q.180)** Consider the following statements regarding the **NISHTHA** program:

- 1. It is an Integrated Teacher Training Program under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
- 2. The program is exclusive for the Central Government employed teachers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA))** is a program of the Department of School Education and Literacy (MHRD) to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Program under the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is being organized by constituting **National Resource Groups (NRGs) and State Resource Groups (SRGs)** at the National and the State level who will be training 42 lakhs teachers subsequently.

The training program will be conducted for teachers, school principals, SMCs and **state/district/block/cluster** level functionaries.

All faculty members of **DIETs, SCERTs** etc. will be covered for training on learner- centered pedagogy, learning outcomes, improving social personal qualities of children, school-based assessment, new initiatives and pedagogies of different subjects, etc.

**Q.181)** Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the '**Five Eye**' group?

1. South Korea
2. Japan
3. Australia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Five Eyes (FVEY)** is an intelligence alliance comprising **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States**.

These countries are parties to the multilateral **United Kingdom – United States of America Agreement (UKUSA)**, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence. It was officially enacted on 5 March 1946 by the United Kingdom and the United States. In the following years, it was extended to encompass Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

*It has been in news recently for looking into alternatives for Huawei 5G technologies.*

**Q.182)** Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF)**:

1. It meets annually under the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
2. Member states submit voluntary national reviews to the HLPF on Sustainable Development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The establishment of the **United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF)** on Sustainable Development was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want".

The HLPF meets annually under the auspices of the **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** of the UN.

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The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and reviews of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.

Statement 2 is correct. The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** encourages member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven.

These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF. These reviews by the HLPF are to be **voluntary, state-led**, undertaken by both developed and developing countries.

*NITI Aayog recently presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) titled 'Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local' at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020.*

**Q.183)** Consider the following statements regarding the '**Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)**' program:

1. It is a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission.
2. It is being managed by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support)** program was to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission. Database of labor migrants registered under **SWADES has been integrated** with the ASEEM portal.

The '**Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)**' portal is aimed to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

ASEEM will be used as a match-making engine to map skilled workers with the jobs available. The portal and App will have provision for registration and data upload for workers across job roles, sectors and geographies.

Statement 2 is correct. ASEEM portal is developed and managed by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** in collaboration with Bengaluru-based company Betterplace.

The skilled workforce can register their profiles on the app and can search for employment opportunities in their neighborhood. Through ASEEM, employers, agencies and job aggregators looking for skilled workforce in specific sectors will also have the required details.

**Q.184)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Somatotropin**:

1. It is secreted by the pituitary gland in humans.
2. It stimulates growth, cell reproduction, and cell regeneration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Human Growth hormone (hGH) or somatotropin**, is a peptide hormone that is synthesized and secreted by the somatotrophs of the anterior pituitary gland.

The main function of somatotropin is to stimulate linear **growth** in children; it also fosters a healthy body composition by increasing muscle and reducing fat mass, maintains normal blood glucose levels, and promotes a favorable lipid profile.

In serum, hGH exists as a complex combination of different molecular forms (isoforms). It is prohibited both in- and out-of-competition under **World Anti- Doping Agency's List of Prohibited Substances and Methods**.

It is used as **doping agent** for its effects on reduction of body fat (lipolysis), increase in muscle mass, strength (anabolic effect), as well as its tissue-repairing effects (recovery) on the Musculo-skeletal system.

**Q.185)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)**:

1. It is being implemented by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with industry.
2. The mission is to focus on technology development, infrastructure and human resource development.

Which of the statements give above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)** is to be implemented by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.

Quantum Technology is based on the principles of quantum theory, which explains the nature of energy and matter on the atomic and subatomic level.

The government in its budget 2020 announced the National Mission with a total budget outlay of Rs 8000 crore for a period of five years.

Statement 2 is correct. The **areas of focus** for the Mission will be in fundamental science, translation, technology development, human and infrastructural resource generation, innovation and start-ups to address issues concerning national priorities.

**The applications which will receive boost:** aero-space engineering, numerical weather prediction, securing the communications & financial transactions, cyber security, health, agriculture, education and other sectors with focus on creation of high skilled jobs, human resources development, start-ups & entrepreneurship leading to technology lead economic growth.

**Q.186)** Which of the following **weapon system(s)** and country(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Spike Missile - France
2. Heron UAV - Israel
3. Predator Drones - United States of America

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Spike** is an Israeli fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile and anti-personnel missile. It was developed and designed by the **Israeli company** Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

Option 2 is correctly matched. The **Heron** (Machatz-1) is a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by the UAV division of **Israel Aerospace Industries**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Predator** UAVs are long-endurance, medium-altitude aircrafts for performing surveillance and reconnaissance missions, built by General Atomics and used primarily by the **United States Air Force (USAF)**.

**Q.187)** Consider the following statements regarding the 'Going Online As Leaders (GOAL)' Project:

1. It is an initiative of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
2. It aims to empower tribal youth through mentorship and digital literacy skills.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **GOAL (Going Online As Leaders)** is the flagship program of **Facebook and Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.

Statement 2 is correct. Its purpose is to empower tribal youth through **mentorship, leadership training, and digital literacy skills**, and create role models within the tribal community, who can further serve as an inspiration and help the tribal youth explore, learn, and grow.

It will digitally skill and empower youth from tribal communities to become leaders of tomorrow by leveraging the power of digital technology. GOAL Project is aimed at identifying and mobilizing **renowned people from industry** (policy makers and influencers), teachers, artists, entrepreneurs, social workers etc. known for their achievements in their domain areas, to personally mentor tribal youths across India.

**Q.188)** Consider the following statements regarding **Tangams**:

1. It is a community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The community speaks Tangam oral language belonging to Austroasiatic language family.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Tangams** are a little-known community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh; they live in the hamlet of Kugging in Upper Siang district.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Tangam, an oral language** belongs to the Tani group, under the greater **Tibeto-Burman language family**. It has been reported that it has only 253 speakers concentrated in one small hamlet of Arunachal Pradesh.

*UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger lists Tangam as 'critically endangered' language.*

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**Q.189)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Saiga Antelope**:

1. It is a native antelope species of Western Ghats of India.
2. It is listed as Critically Endangered species in IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **saiga antelope (Saiga tatarica)**, that in past inhabited the vast steppes of **Central Asia** and Russia today is limited to one region in Russia and some parts of Kazakhstan.

It is extinct in China and southwestern Mongolia. It was **hunted extensively** in Romania and Moldova until it became extinct in those regions at the end of the 18th century. The Mongolian subspecies (S. t. mongolica) is found only in western Mongolia.

Statement 2 is correct. The IUCN Red List assesses the Saiga as **critically endangered** with decreasing population trend and CITES includes this species in its Appendix II. The species is also listed under the CMS Appendix II.

**Q.190)** Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Nagorno Karabakh - Afghanistan
2. Natanz - Iran
3. Zahedan - Pakistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

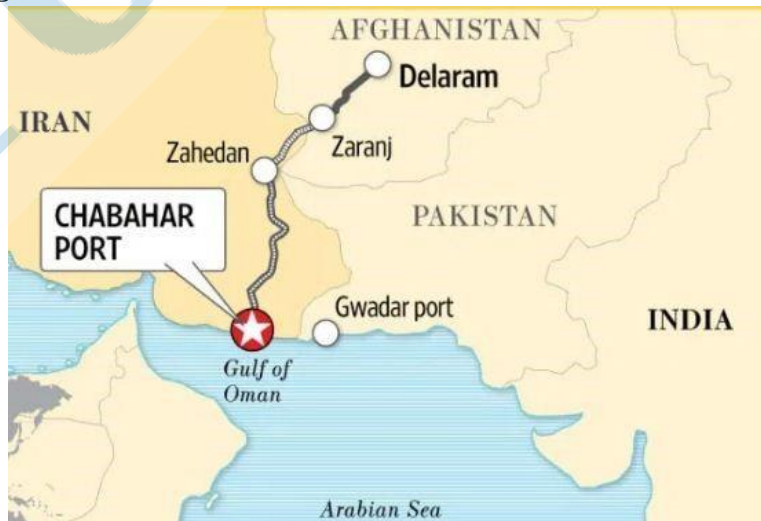
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **Natanz** is a city and capital of Natanz County, Isfahan Province, **Iran**. Natanz nuclear facility is generally recognized as Iran's central facility for uranium enrichment.

**Zahedan** is a city and capital of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, **Iran**.

It was recently reported Iranian Railways may proceed without India's assistance in construction the 628 km **Chabahar-Zahedan line**, which will be extended to Zaranj across the border in Afghanistan.



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The landlocked mountainous region of **Nagorno-Karabakh** is an unresolved dispute between **Azerbaijan**, in which it lies, and its ethnic Armenian majority, backed by neighbouring **Armenia**.

**Q.191)** Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution of India provides for fundamental right of an accused against forced self-incrimination.
2. India has incorporated the relevant provisions against torture in its criminal laws after ratifying the UN Convention against Torture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. Constitution provides fundamental right against the forced self-incrimination by the accused under **article 20(3)** which states that no person accused of any offence shall be **compelled** to be a witness against himself.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India **signed** the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1997 but has **not ratified** it so far.

*21st Law Commission under Justice B.S. Chauhan(retd.) recommended on implementation of convention by legislation. It proposed amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. In addition, the Commission submitted a draft Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017 which defines acts that should constitute torture and prescribed punishments for such acts.*

**Q.192)** Consider the following statements:

1. Malabar Exercise is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India.
2. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic forum between the United States, Japan, South Korea and India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Malabar exercise** is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners. It began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, **in 2015, Japan became a permanent partner**. Singapore and Australia have in past participated as non-permanent partners.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** is an informal strategic forum between the **United States, Japan, Australia and India**.

**Q.193)** Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the **Plea Bargaining**?

1. The accused pleads guilty to lesser or fewer crime charges in exchange for a more lenient punishment.

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2. Plea Bargaining under India's Code of Criminal Procedure is applicable on offences in which the maximum sentence is above 7 years.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Plea Bargaining** is legal mechanism whereby the accused may **bargain with the prosecution** for a lesser punishment. Typically, the accused will **plead guilty** to a lesser crime or for a fewer charges than originally charged, in exchange for a more **lenient punishment** than the he/she would get if convicted at trial. Statement 2 is incorrect. Plea bargaining was introduced in 2006 by amendments to **the CrPC under Sections 265A to 265L**. The Section 265A provides that it is **not applicable** to an offence which attracts punishment of death or of imprisonment for life or of imprisonment for a term **exceeding seven years**.

Further it does not apply where such offence affects the socio-economic condition of the country or has been committed against a woman, or a child below the age of fourteen years.

**Q.194)** Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Farzad B Gas Field - Iran
- 2. Baghjan Oil Field - India
- 3. Ghawar Oil Field - Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above gas/oil fields are correctly matched.

**Farzad B Gas Field** is located in Persian Gulf under the control of **Iran**. India has plans to invest in the exploration of this oilfield.

**Baghjan Oil field** is in Tinsukia district of **Assam**. Recently a massive fire engulfed the damaged Baghjan oil well in Assam.

**Ghawar Oil Field** is located in Eastern Province, **Saudi Arabia**, owned and operated by state-owned Saudi Aramco. It is one of the largest conventional oil field in the world, and accounts for roughly a third of the cumulative oil production of Saudi Arabia.

**Q.195)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2020**:

- 1. It measures the acute deprivations in health, education, and living standards that a person faces simultaneously.
- 2. It has been released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

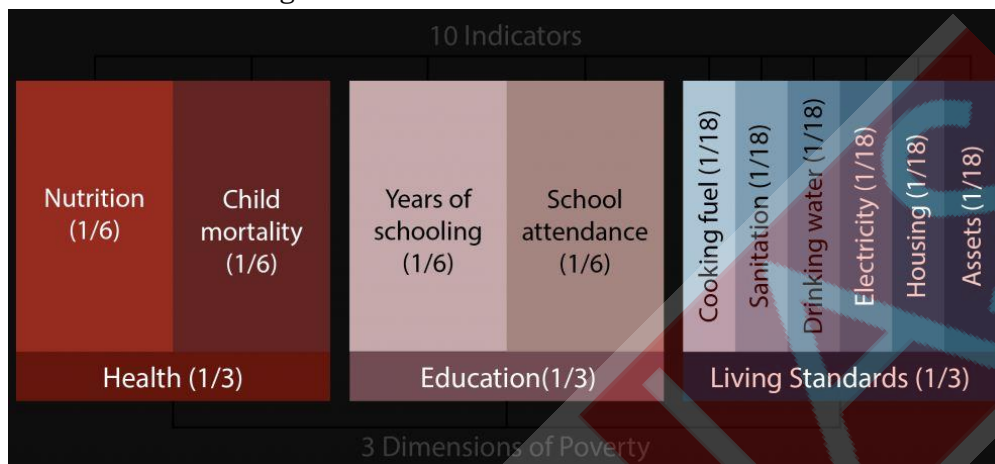


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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** is an international measure of acute multidimensional poverty. It complements traditional monetary poverty measures by capturing the acute deprivations in **health, education, and living standards** that a person faces simultaneously.

In the global MPI, a person is identified as multidimensionally poor if they are deprived in **at least one third** of the weighted MPI indicators.



Statement 2 is correct. The **Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020: Charting pathways out of multidimensional poverty: Achieving the SDGs** has been released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

As per the report **India** saw the most people moving out of multidimensional poverty – some 270 million people between 2005/6 and 2015/16.

Table . Global MPI in India

Area	MPI	H	A	Vulnerable	Severe Poverty	Population Share
National	0.123	27.9%	43.9%	19.3%	8.8%	100.0%
Urban	0.039	9.2%	42.6%	14.0%	2.4%	32.3%
Rural	0.163	36.8%	44.1%	21.8%	11.8%	67.7%

Notes: Source: DHS year 2015-2016, own calculations.

MPI is calculated by multiplying the incidence of poverty (H) and the average intensity of poverty (A).

**Q.196)** Which of the following is/are **malware(s)** reported as threats to data security?

1. BlackRock
2. WellMess
3. TraceTogether

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. **BlackRock malware** has been reported to be stealing password and credit card details from 337 apps including some of the popular ones like Gmail, Amazon, Netflix, Uber, and more in android devices.

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Option 2 is correct. The **UK's National Cyber Security Centre** has reported that malware known as **WellMess and WellMail** have been used in attempts to steal information and intellectual property from multiple organisations involved in COVID-19 vaccine development by group known as **CozyBear or APT29**.

Option 3 is incorrect. **TraceTogether** is a contact tracing app released by the **Singapore Government** in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

**Q.197)** Consider the following statements regarding the **KURMA mobile application**:

1. It has been developed by the Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN).
2. It provides database to identify turtle species and location of the nearest rescue center for turtles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**KURMA mobile application** was launched on the occasion of World Turtle Day, May 23, 2020.

It has been developed by the **Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN)** in collaboration with the **Turtle Survival Alliance-India** and **Wildlife Conservation Society-India**. It provides users a database to identify a species and also location of the nearest rescue center for turtles across the country.

*Tortoise and freshwater turtles are heavily trafficked in India. The TRAFFIC reported in 2019 that at least 200 tortoises and freshwater turtles are subjected to poaching and smuggling every week.*

**Q.198)** Which of the following is/are correct regarding the **Community transmission** of a disease?

- a) Community has achieved Herd Immunity
- b) Source of infection for a person is not traceable
- c) The infecting virus strain is not identifiable
- d) None of the above

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:** A disease is said to be in **Community transmission** stage when there is no clear source of origin of the infection in a new person/community. It can no longer be identified who became infected after being exposed to someone, who interacted with infected people.

The **source and chain of infections** can no longer be established. Therefore contact tracing becomes difficult and has limited use in arresting the spread of disease.

*Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. This can happen in two ways: Many people contract the disease and in time build up an immune response to it (natural immunity) or many people are vaccinated against the disease to achieve immunity.*

**Q.199)** Consider the following statements regarding the **fertilizers** in India:

1. Import of Urea for agriculture purposes can only be done through the authorized State Trading Enterprises (STEs).

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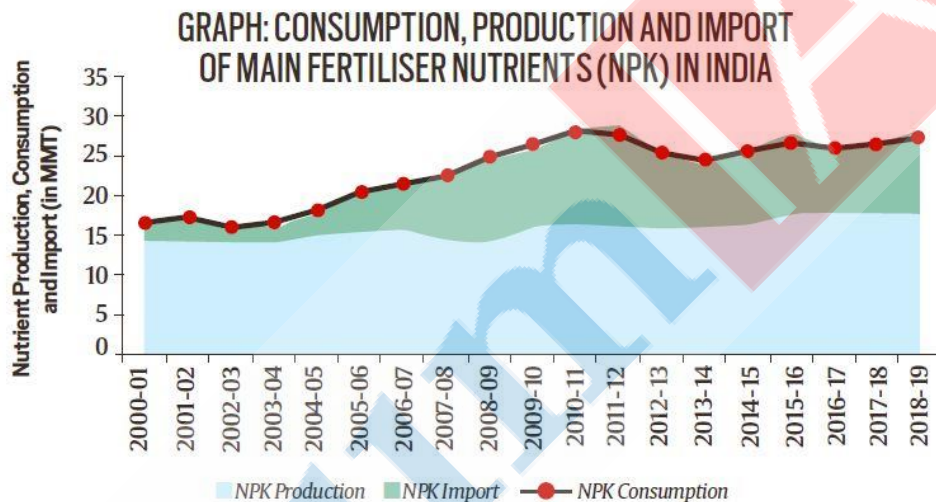
2. India does not import and is self-sufficient in NPK fertilizer needs for the domestic consumption.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. At present, as per DGFT **Foreign Trade policy**, import of urea for agriculture purposes is a canalized item and can be imported only through **the State Trading Enterprises (STEs)** as notified by DGFT from time to time. Currently MMTC Limited (**MMTC**), State Trading Corporation Limited (**STC**) and Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (**RCF**) are permitted to import Urea for agricultural purposes. Statement 2 is incorrect. India has been a net importer of NPK fertilizers for past decade.



**Q.200)** Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding **Passive Immunity**?

- 1. Antibodies transported across the placenta during pregnancy provide passive immunity to infants.
- 2. The protection by passive immunity is immediate but temporary in nature.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Passive immunity** is provided when a person is given antibodies to a disease rather than producing them through his or her own immune system. A newborn baby acquires passive immunity from its mother through the placenta.

**Antibodies are transported across the placenta** during the last 1–2 months of pregnancy. As a result, a full-term infant will have the same antibodies as its mother. These antibodies protect the infant from some diseases upto an year.

In passive immunity; **protection is immediate** but lasts only for a few weeks or months. Only active immunity is long-lasting.

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**Q.201)** Consider the following statements regarding **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)**:

1. It refers to maritime exercises consisting of basic navigation and communication drills between two or more navies.
2. Indian Navy recently conducted separate PASSEXs with navies from United States of America and Japan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **PASSEX (Passage Exercise)** is a maritime exercise conducted between two or more navies which consist of **navigation and communication drills** as ships coordinate manoeuvres alongside each other.

It increases operational readiness and interoperability among the naval forces.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of USA** recently transited through Indian Ocean Region. During the passage, Indian Navy units undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with US Navy.

Indian Navy had also conducted similar PASSEXs with **Japan and French Navy** in recent past.

**Q.202)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Manodarpan initiative**:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
2. It aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health & emotional well-being.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Manodarpan** is an initiative by **Ministry of Human Resource Development**, Government of India as part of Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Statement 2 is correct. It aims to monitor and promote the **mental health issues** and concerns of students and teachers and to facilitate providing of support to address the mental health and psychosocial aspects during conditions like COVID 19 and beyond.

**Manodarpan initiative** provides psychological counseling through website, toll free helpline, national directory of counselors and through interactive chat platform.

**Q.203)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Mars exploration**:

1. United States of America is the only country to have landed a spacecraft on Mars.
2. Only United States, Russia, European Space Agency and India have successfully sent spacecraft(s) that have entered Mars' orbit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **United States and the Soviet Union** are the only two countries to land a spacecraft on Mars.

The **Mars 3 lander of Soviet Russia** in 1973 successfully landed on Mars but lost contact after few seconds of transmission.

**NASA lander missions to Mars:** Viking 1 and Viking 2 (both 1976), Pathfinder (1997), Spirit and Opportunity (both 2004), Phoenix (2008), Curiosity (2012) and InSight (2018).

Statement 2 is correct. The United States, Russia, the European Space Agency and India have successfully sent spacecraft to enter Mars' orbit.

*Recently United Arab Emirates has sent an orbiter named Hope from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center.*

*China's Tianwen1 (Heavenly Questions) orbiter, lander, and rover Mars mission is planned to be launched in 2020 itself.*

**Q.204)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Godhan Nyay Yojana**:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
2. The government aims to produce organic fertilizers from the cow dung to be procured from livestock owners.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Godhan Nyay Yojana** is a recently launched program of the **Chhattisgarh state** government.

Statement 2 is correct. Under the scheme, the state government will **procure cow dung** from livestock owners at Rs 2 per kilogram and will use the procurement as a raw material for production of **organic fertilizers**.

The **'Gauthan Samitis'** will procure cow dung from livestock owners and women self-help groups will prepare vermin compost using the cow dung procured. The compost so produced is to be sold at the rate of Rs 8 per kg.

*Scheme was launched on the Hareli Festival, a popular festival of Chhattisgarh. It is celebrated in the month of Shravan by the farmers; they worship cows and other farming equipments on this occasion.*

**Q.205)** Consider the following statements regarding the **ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine**:

1. It consists of weakened version of adenovirus.
2. It has been developed by the Oxford University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **Oxford University vaccine ChAdOx1 nCoV-19** is made from a virus (ChAdOx1), a weakened version of a **common cold virus (adenovirus)** that causes infections in chimpanzees. It has been genetically changed so that it is impossible for it to grow in humans.



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Genetic material has been added to the ChAdOx1 construct, which is used to make proteins from the COVID-19 virus (**SARS-CoV-2**) called **Spike glycoprotein**.

Oxford University has entered into a partnership with global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca for large-scale manufacture and potential distribution of the vaccine, which has entered into collaboration with **Serum Institute of India**.

**Q.206)** Consider the following statements regarding the **ESA/NASA's Solar Orbiter**:

1. The orbiter has recorded potential solar nanoflares in closest pictures ever taken of the Sun.
2. It holds the record for closest approach to the Sun by a human-made object.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Solar Orbiter** is collaboration between the **European Space Agency** and **NASA** to study the Sun. Launched in Feb 2020, the spacecraft completed its first close pass of the Sun in mid-June.

The first images from ESA/NASA's Solar Orbiter are now available, including the **closest pictures ever taken of the Sun**. The pictures show thousands of **tiny solar flares** that scientists dubbed "**campfires**".

They could be mini-explosions known as **nanoflares**: tiny but ubiquitous sparks theorized to help heat the Sun's outer atmosphere, or corona, to its temperature 300 times hotter than the solar surface. More data from orbiter is expected to clarify on these 'campfires.'

Statement 2 is incorrect. Solar Orbiter has snapped the closest pictures of the Sun to date.

**Other spacecraft have been closer, but none have carried Sun-facing imagers.**

*NASA's Parker Solar Probe holds the record for closest approach to the Sun by a human-made object. The spacecraft passed the current record of 26.55 million miles from the Sun's surface on Oct. 29, 2018.*

**Q.207)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Ground Water Authority**:

1. It has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. Its mandate includes to regulate and control the development and management of ground water resources in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Central Ground Water Authority** has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. The authority exercises powers as per the provisions of the said act.

The authority was established to **regulate and control**, management and development of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions for the purpose.

It is engaged in various activities related to regulation of ground water development to ensure its long-term sustainability:

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- regulating withdrawal of ground water by industries/ projects in 802 Over-exploited and 169 Critical Assessment Units.
- CGWA has notified **critical and overexploited areas** in several states and UTs.
- Construction of new ground water structures is prohibited in the notified areas.
- CWGA can resort to penal provisions contained in the Act.

**Q.208)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Tejas express**:

1. All train coaches for the Tejas Express services are highly modernized and imported from Japan.
  2. Tejas Express is the first corporate passenger train in India operated by IRCTC.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Tejas Express** provides rail passengers with state of the art facilities onboard. The train coaches for the Tejas express have been built at **Integral Coach Factory, Chennai and Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.**

All passengers on IRCTC train are provided with **Rail Travel Insurance** of up to Rs. 25 Lakhs, free of cost by IRCTC. Services in the train are provided with standards similar to that of airlines.

Statement 2 is correct. **IRCTC operates India's first corporate passenger** train as Lucknow-Delhi and Ahmedabad-Mumbai Tejas Express.

*The Indian Railway Catering And Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) is a subsidiary PSU under Ministry of Railways.*

**Q.209)** Consider the following statements:

1. The case-fatality rate is the proportion of persons with a particular condition who die from that condition.
2. The mortality rate is a measure of the frequency of occurrence of death in a defined population during a specified interval.
3. Comorbidity refers to the co-occurrence of more than one disorder in the same individual.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **case-fatality rate** is the proportion of persons with a particular condition (cases) who die from that condition. It is a measure of the severity of the condition.

Statement 2 is correct. A **mortality rate** is a measure of the frequency of occurrence of death in a defined population during a specified interval. It is typically expressed in units of deaths per 1,000 individuals per year.

Statement 3 is correct. **Comorbidity** means more than one disease/condition is present in a person at the same time. It describes the effect of all other conditions an individual patient might have other than the primary condition, and it can be physiological or psychological.

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**Q.210)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It is designated as National Central Bureau of India for cooperation with Interpol.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **National Crime Records Bureau** is not a statutory organization; it was **established in 1986** as an attached office to the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

The NCRB, at present, functions through: Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), Central Finger Print Bureau, Statistical Branch, Training Branch, and Data Centre and Technical Branch.

The **objectives** for the NCRB include:

- To function as a clearing house of information on crime and criminals so as to assist all the stakeholders in understanding of criminality in the society.
- To collect and analyze statistics on crime, accidental deaths & suicides at national level.
- To provide training facilities to police personnel of States/UTs.
- To function as the national storehouse of fingerprint (FP) records of convicted persons.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Each **Interpol member country** hosts an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB). This connects their national law enforcement with other countries and with the General Secretariat.

The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** is designated as the **National Central Bureau of India**. The Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation is the ex-officio Head of the NCB-India.

**Q.211)** Consider the following statements regarding the **N-95 respirators**:

1. It reduces exposure only to non-oil aerosols.
2. It filters out at least 95% of airborne particles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

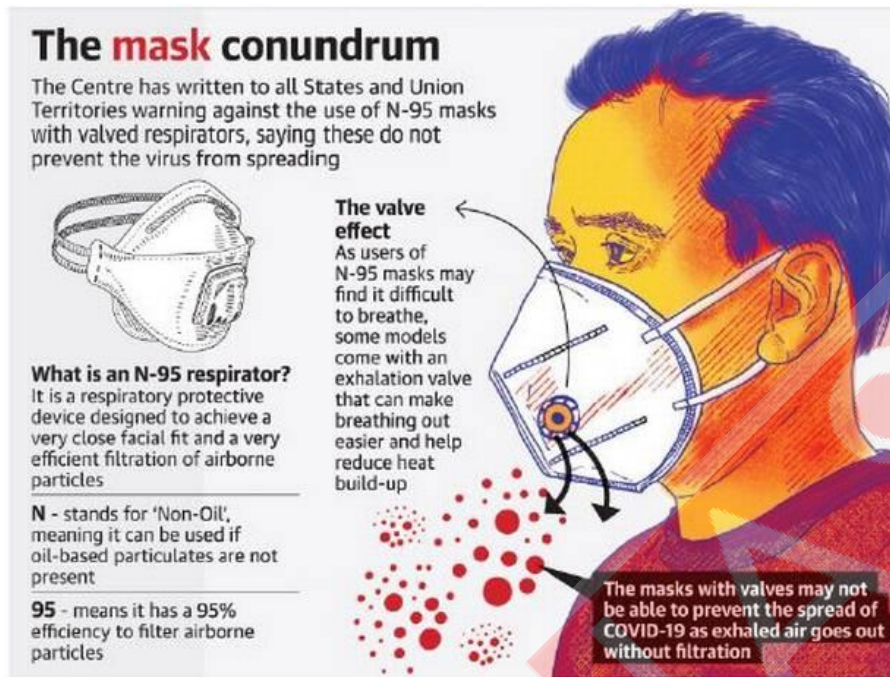
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** An **N95 respirator** is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles.

Statement 1 is correct. **N-95 respirator** reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle **aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols)**. 'N' is a Respirator Rating Letter Class, it stands for "Non-Oil" meaning that it can be used if no oil-based particulates are present. Other masks ratings are R (resistant to oil for 8 hours) and P (oil proof).

Statement 2 is correct. N-95 code means that the respirator has **95 percent efficiency** in filtering out airborne particles including large and small particles.



**Q.212)** Which of the following **location(s)** is/are correctly matched?

- |                |   |             |
|----------------|---|-------------|
| 1. Pasamlung   | - | Uttarakhand |
| 2. Kongka Pass | - | Bhutan      |
| 3. Sakteng     | - | Nepal       |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** None of the above locations are correctly matched.

The **disputed areas claimed by China in Bhutan** are: North West part constitutes the Doklam, Sinchulung, Dramana and Shakhatoe in Samste, Haa and Paro districts. Central parts constitute the **Pasamlung and the Jakarlung valley** in the Wangdue Phodrang district.

The **Kongka Pass** is a high mountain pass in Ladakh UT, of the Chang-Chemno Range on the Line of Actual Control between India and China.

**Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS)** is in eastern Bhutan's Trashigang district bordering India and China. Recently China objected to a grant by Global Environment Facility to SWS claiming that the location was disputed.

**Q.213)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Psoriasis**:

- 1. It is an autoimmune disease.
  - 2. Psoriasis is not contagious and does not spread from contact with a diseased person.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** **Psoriasis** causes patches of thick red skin and silvery scales. Patches are typically found on the elbows, knees, scalp, lower back, face, palms, and soles of feet, but can affect other places (fingernails, toenails, and mouth). The most common type of psoriasis is called **plaque psoriasis**.

Statement 1 is correct. **Psoriasis is an autoimmune disease**, meaning that part of the body's own immune system becomes overactive and attacks normal tissues in the body. It causes the skin to regenerate at faster than normal rates. In plaque psoriasis, this rapid turnover of cells results in scales and red patches.

Statement 2 is correct. **Psoriasis is not contagious**, meaning that one cannot get psoriasis from contact (e.g., touching skin patches) with someone who has it.

**Q.214)** Consider the following statements regarding the **RAISE initiative**:

1. It is a joint collaboration between India and European Union.
2. The program focuses on improving indoor air quality, thermal comfort and energy efficiency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **"Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency" (RAISE)** has been launched recently. It is a joint initiative of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (**EESL**) and United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**).

Statement 2 is correct. RAISE initiative has been envisaged for **healthy and energy efficient buildings**, in partnership with USAID's Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE) program. It focuses on improving indoor air quality (IAQ), thermal comfort, and energy efficiency (EE) in indoor systems.

**Q.215)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**:

1. NFRA has been established under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. It monitors and enforces compliance with accounting standards and auditing standards by companies.
3. The NFRA is mandated to protect the public interest and the interests of investors, creditors associated with the companies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)** was constituted in 2018 by the Government of India under Sub Section (1) of **section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013**.

Statement 2 is correct. The duties of the NFRA are to:



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-Recommend accounting and auditing policies and standards to be adopted by companies for approval by the Central Government.

-Monitor and enforce compliance with accounting standards and auditing standards;

-Oversee the quality of service of the professions associated with **ensuring compliance** with such standards and suggest measures for improvement in the quality of service;

Statement 3 is correct. The Authority is mandated by NFRA Rules, 2018 to protect the **public interest and the interests of investors, creditors** and others associated with the companies by establishing high quality standards of accounting and auditing and exercising effective oversight of accounting functions.

**Q.216)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund)**:

1. It is an international financing institution working as a non-profit foundation under the laws of Switzerland.

2. The Global Fund is administered by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the "Global Fund")** is a multi-stakeholder international financing institution duly formed as a non-profit foundation under the laws of Switzerland.

The purpose of the Global Fund is to attract, leverage and invest additional resources to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to support attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations.

The Global Fund was founded in 2002 in Geneva as a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by these diseases.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In 2009, the **Global Fund became an administratively autonomous** international financing institution, separating from the World Health Organization (WHO) which provided a range of administrative and financial services to the Global Fund since 2002.

**Q.217)** Which of the following is/are consumer right(s) granted by the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**?

1. Right to be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property.

2. Right to seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices.

3. Right to be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above consumer rights are **explicitly** provided for by the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.

The "consumer rights" under the act includes:

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- the right to be **protected** against the marketing of goods, products or services which are hazardous to life and property;
- the right to be **informed** about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods, products or services, as the case may be, so as to protect the consumer against unfair trade practices;
- the right to be **assured**, wherever possible, access to a variety of goods, products or services at competitive prices;
- the right to be **heard** and to be assured that consumer's interests will receive due consideration at appropriate fora;
- the right to seek **redressal** against unfair trade practice or restrictive trade practices or unscrupulous exploitation of consumers; and
- the right to consumer **awareness**;

**Q.218)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Mega Food Park Scheme**:

1. The scheme provides for capital grant of 50 percent of the eligible project cost in general areas and 75 percent in difficult and hilly areas.
2. Mega Food Park project is implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

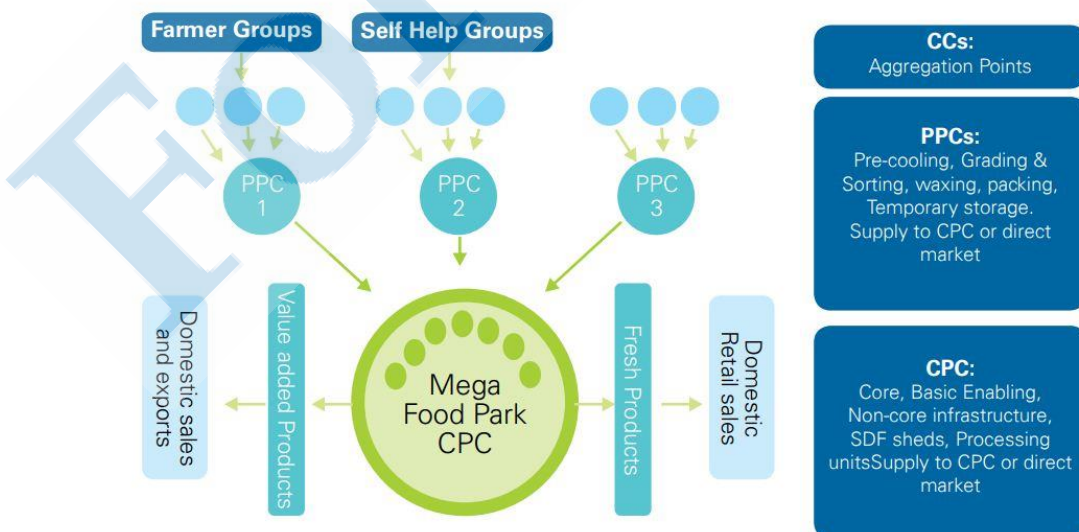
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The **Mega Food Park Scheme** aims to facilitate the establishment of a strong food processing industry backed by an efficient supply chain, which includes Collection Centres (CCs), Primary Processing Centers (PPCs), Central Processing Center (CPC) and Cold Chain infrastructure.

It is based on **cluster approach** and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined agri/horticultural zone.

### Hub and Spoke Model



Statement 1 is correct. The scheme provides for **capital grant** at the rate of 50 percent of the eligible project cost in **general areas** and at the rate of 75 percent of eligible project cost in **difficult and hilly areas** i.e. North East Region including Sikkim, J&K, Himachal

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Pradesh, Uttarakhand and ITDP notified areas of the States subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 crore per project.

Statement 2 is correct. The Mega Food Park project is implemented by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act.

*State Government, State Government entities and Cooperatives are not required to form a separate SPV for implementation of Mega Food Park project.*

**Q.219)** Consider the following statements regarding **Adenoviruses**:

1. It can cause cold-like symptoms, fever, and sore throat in humans.
2. It is highly contagious and spreads through the air by coughing.
3. The adenovirus infects only children below the age of 15.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Adenoviruses** are common viruses that cause a range of illness. They can cause **cold-like symptoms**, fever, sore throat, bronchitis, pneumonia, diarrhea, and pink eye (conjunctivitis).

Statement 2 is correct. **Adenovirus is highly contagious**; it usually spreads from an infected person to others through close personal contact, such as touching, the air by coughing and sneezing.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **One can get an adenovirus infection at any age.** People with weakened immune systems or existing respiratory or cardiac disease are more likely than others to get very sick from an adenovirus infection.

**Q.220)** Consider the following statements regarding **Governor of States in India**:

1. He/she holds office during the pleasure of the President and the Constitution does not provide a fixed term for them.
2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor and other expenditure relating to their office are charged upon Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The Constitution provides that the **Governor of a State** shall be appointed by the **President** by warrant under his hand and seal.

Under **article 156**, Constitution provides for the term of office of Governor as:

-The Governor shall hold office during the **pleasure of the President**.

-The Governor may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office.

-Subject to the foregoing provisions of this article, a **Governor shall hold office for a term of five years** from the date on which he enters upon his office:

Provided that a Governor shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office.

## **10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020**

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **constitution under article 202(3)** provides that the emoluments and allowances of the Governor and other expenditure relating to his/her office are **charged upon Consolidated Fund of respective State**.

**Q.221)** Which of the following right(s) is/are covered under the **article 21** of the Constitution of India?

1. Right to Speedy Trial
2. Right against public hanging
3. Right to doctor's assistance
4. Right against solitary confinement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above rights form part of the **article 21 of right to life and personal liberty**.

The expanded scope of Article 21 has been explained **Unni Krishnan v. State of A.P.1993**. In the case the Supreme Court provided the list of some of the rights covered under Article 21:

- The right to go abroad
- The right to privacy
- The right to education
- The right against solitary confinement
- The right against hand cuffing
- The right against delayed execution
- The right to shelter
- Right to livelihood
- Right to health and medical aid
- The right against custodial death
- The right against public hanging
- Doctors assistance

The right to **speedy trial** was given a status of fundamental right under article 21 in **Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar, 1980** case.

**Q.222)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Contempt of Court**:

1. The power of Supreme Court to punish for its contempt is a statutory power and not a constitutional one.
2. Contempt of Court in India is not a criminal offence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Supreme Court and High Courts** derive their power to punish for contempt of court from the Constitution, **article 129 and 215** respectively.

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The **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** outlines the procedure in relation to investigation and punishment for contempt.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Contempt of Courts Act divides contempt into **civil and criminal contempt**:

-Civil contempt refers to the willful disobedience of an order of any court.

-**Criminal contempt** includes any act or publication which 'scandalizes' the court, or prejudices any judicial proceeding, or interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner.

**Q.223)** Which of the following institution has recently organized the **India Ideas Summit 2020**?

- a) U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- d) World Economic Forum (WEF)

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **U.S.-India Business Council's India Ideas Summit 2020** was held virtually recently. It provides a platform for views from leaders in business, government and society from across the United States and India.

The 2020 Summit Speakers include U.S. Secretary of State; India's Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar among others. The theme for this year's Summit is '**Building a Better Future**'.

The **U.S.-India Business Council** was formed in 1975 as a business advocacy organization to promote the private sectors of both India and United States to enhance investment flows.

**Q.224)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Lonar Lake**:

- 1. It is a saline lake developed on impact of a meteorite.
  - 2. The lake has recently turned pink due to 'Haloarchaea' microbes.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **Lonar Lake**, Buldhana District in Maharashtra is suspected to have developed due to impact of a large **meteorite on Deccan Basaltic** rocks of Cretaceous age. The depression bears a saline water lake in its central portion.

The lake recently turned pink mysteriously. It has now been reported that the reason for this change was the large presence of **salt-loving 'Haloarchaea' microbes**. Haloarchaea are a class of the Euryarchaeota, found in water saturated or nearly saturated with salt and produces pink pigment.

**Q.225)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**:

- 1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
- 2. It recommends minimum support prices of various crops to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Council is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and **education in agriculture** including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

*The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends MSP for crops to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.*

**Q.226)** Which of the following correctly defines the ‘**Criticality**’ in reference to nuclear reactors?

- a) The fission event releasing sufficient number of neutrons to sustain reaction
- b) The production rate of neutrons being greater than the loss rate of neutrons
- c) A sequence of events that result in the melting of part of the fuel in the reactor core
- d) The process of increasing the percentage of Uranium-235 in natural uranium

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Criticality** refers to the normal operating condition of a reactor, in which nuclear fuel sustains a fission chain reaction. A reactor achieves criticality when **each fission event releases a sufficient number of neutrons to sustain an ongoing series of reactions**.

**In fission**, when a Uranium atom is hit by a neutron, it splits into two smaller atoms and it also emits a few neutrons. A neutron might escape the reactor, it might get absorbed by metal in the reactor machinery or it might be absorbed by another uranium atom, causing another fission.

To keep reactor power steady, one of these neutrons **must cause another fission**. If that happens, the reactor is in a configuration such that one neutron from each atom fissioned causes another fission – the reactor is said to be **critical**.

*‘Subcritical’ refers to a system where the loss rate of neutrons is greater than the production rate and ‘Supercritical’ refers to a system where the production rate of neutrons is greater than the loss rate.*

**Q.227)** Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Ream Naval Base - Cambodia
- 2. Port of Malé - Mauritius
- 3. Kuantan port - Malaysia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. **Ream Naval Base** is a facility operated by the Royal Cambodian Navy on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand in the province of **Sihanoukville, Cambodia**.

Option 2 is incorrect. **Malé** is the principal port, major city and capital of the **Maldives**, an archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean.

Option 3 is correct. **Kuantan Port**, an all-weather port, is a multi-cargo deep seaport facing the South China Sea in **Malaysia**.



**Q.228)** Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional provisions on **High Courts** in India:

1. High Courts have the power of superintendence over courts and tribunals except army tribunals throughout the territories in their jurisdiction.
2. Parliament may by law extend the jurisdiction of a High Court to a Union territory or establish a common High Court for two or more States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Article 227** of the constitution provides for power of superintendence of the High Courts over all **courts and tribunals** throughout the territories in relation to which it exercises jurisdiction.

**The High Court may:** call for returns from such courts; make and issue general rules and prescribe forms for regulating the practice and proceedings of such courts; and prescribe forms in which books, entries and accounts shall be kept by the officers of any such courts.

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**Article 227(4)** explicitly states that it does not confer High Courts with powers of superintendence over any court or tribunal constituted by or under any law relating to the **Armed Forces**.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 230** of the Constitution provides that the Parliament may by law extend the jurisdiction of a High Court to, or exclude the jurisdiction of a High Court from, any Union territory.

Further **article 231** provides that the Parliament may by law establish a common High Court for two or more States or for two or more States and a Union territory.

**Q.229)** Which of the following has developed the **Bharat drone**?

- a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- c) Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)
- d) Idea Forge Technology Pvt. Ltd.

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Bharat drone** is a light surveillance quadcopter unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for the Indian Army.

The Bharat series of drones are developed by a Chandigarh-based laboratory of the DRDO. It is said to be among the world's most agile and lightest surveillance drone indigenously developed by the DRDO

-It is equipped with artificial intelligence that helps it to detect friends and enemies.

-It can survive in extreme weather conditions.

**Q.230)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA)**:

- 1. It is a Supreme Court mandated committee for addressing the violation of the content regulation guidelines by governments.
- 2. The Committee can take suo-moto cognizance of any violation of the Supreme Court Guidelines on Content Regulation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA)** was established following the **direction by the Supreme Court** in 2016 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, to effectuate the Supreme Court Guidelines on Content Regulation of Government Advertising.

-**Government advertising** refers to the use of public funds by ruling parties to project their achievements or make announcements about upcoming initiatives.

-Under the Supreme Court guidelines: "the content of government advertisements should be relevant to the governments' constitutional and legal obligations as well as the citizens' rights and entitlements".

Statement 2 is correct. The committee addresses complaints from the general public on violation of the guidelines prescribed by the Court.

The committee can also take **suo-moto cognizance** of any violation/ deviation of the Supreme Court guidelines and recommend corrective actions.

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**Q.231)** Consider the following statements regarding the recent amendments to **General Financial Rules 2017**:

1. Global tender enquiries in procurement of Goods and Services by government of value of less than Rs 200 crores have been disallowed.
2. No bidder from countries sharing a land border with India is henceforth eligible to bid in government procurement of goods and services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. As declared under **Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan**, the General Financial Rules (GFR) have been amended to **disallow** global tender enquiries in procurement of Goods and Services of value of less than **Rs 200 crores**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the amended the General Financial Rules 2017; **any bidder** from such countries sharing a **land border** with India will be **eligible** to bid in any procurement whether of goods, services or works only *if* the bidder is **registered** with the Competent Authority.

The **Competent Authority** for registration will be the Registration Committee constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**). Further, political and security clearance from the Ministries of External and Home Affairs respectively will be mandatory.

**Exemptions:** Medical supplies for containment of COVID-19 global pandemic till 31st December 2020.

Countries to which Government of India extends lines of credit or provides development assistance are also exempted.

*State governments have been asked to do the same, for which the Union government has invoked article 275(1) of the Constitution that says "the executive power of every State shall be so exercised as not to impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive power of the Union, and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of such directions to a State as may appear to the Government of India to be necessary for that purpose".*

**Q.232)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Tianwen-1** space mission:

1. It is China's lunar mission to explore dark side of the moon.
2. The mission probe consists of an orbiter, lander and a rover.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. In January, 2019, **China's robotic spacecraft Chang'e 4** made a soft landing in the South Pole-Aitken Basin area of the moon, otherwise known as the "far side" or "dark side".

**Tianwen-1 is a mars probe** launched by China recently by the Long March-5 rocket, China's largest and most powerful launch vehicle.

Statement 2 is correct. The Tianwen-1 probe consists of **three parts, an orbiter, lander and a rover**. The orbiter will remain in the Martian orbit for experiments and to relay

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signals to earth while the lander and rover are to make an autonomous descent and landing on the Martian surface.

*NASA sent multiple orbiters to Mars before attempting a landing. China's previous attempt of journey to Mars called Yinghuo-1, in a Russian spacecraft in 2011 failed shortly after launch.*

**Q.233)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Madhubani** paintings:

1. It is practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal.
2. The colors for Madhubani are derived from plants and other natural sources.

Which of the statements given above is are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The art of **Madhubani paintings** is a traditional fashion of paintings developed in the **Mithila region in Bihar, India (and also stretching into Nepal)**. Madhubani paintings also known as Mithila paintings have been practiced traditionally by the **women** of the region through the centuries.

The traditional Madhubani art is achieved by the use of fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, using **natural dyes and pigments**.

The colors are prepared manually by the artists. The black color by mixing blight with cow dung; yellow by turmeric and Banyan leaf milk; blue is extracted from indigo; the red of the Kusum flower; the green leaf of the applewood tree; the white from rice powder; and orange of the Palash flower.

The **themes and designs** of the art mainly consists of worshipping of deities, such as the episode of Radha and Krishna, Rama, Shiva, Ganesha, Laxmi, Saraswati, the monkey, the sun, the moon, the plant of Tulasi, the Deep, wedding scenes and other social events.

**Q.234)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Army Act, 1950**:

1. It provides for non-eligibility of the female for recruitment in regular Army.
2. It provides for restriction on fundamental rights of armed personnel to be associated with any labor union.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Article 12 of the Army Act** states that "**no female** shall be eligible for enrolment or employment in the regular Army, except in such corps, department, branch or other body forming part of, or attached to any portion of, the regular Army as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf."

*Similar provisions exist in Air Force Act, 1950 and Indian Navy Act, 1957.*

Government of India from time to time has allowed the entry of women in certain cadres initially for 5 years and later enhanced it to 14 years and **now permanent commission** has been allowed in certain streams.



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Statement 2 is correct. **Article 21 of the Army Act** provides the Central Government may make rules restricting the right of any person subject to this Act-

-to be a member of, or to be associated in any way with, any trade union or labour union, or any class of trade or **labour unions** or any society, institution or association, or any class of societies, institutions or associations.

-to attend or address any meeting or to take part in any demonstration organised by anyone for any **political** or other purposes.

-to communicate with the **press** or to publish or cause to be published any book, letter or other document.

**Q.235)** Consider the following statements regarding historical relations between **India and Korea**:

1. Suriratna, a Princess from Ayodhya went to Korea and married King Kim-Suro.
2. Korean Buddhist Monk Hyecho visited India in eighth century.
3. Rabindranath Tagore composed a poem 'Lamp of the East' about Korea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above are correct regarding India-Korea historical linkages.

According to 'SamgukYusa' or '**The Heritage History of the Three Kingdoms**' written in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, a **Princess from Ayodhya (Suriratna)** came to Korea, married **King Kim-Suro**, and became Queen Hur Hwang-ok in the year 48 AD.

**Korean Buddhist Monk Hyecho (or Hong Jiao)** visited India from 723 to 729 AD and wrote travelogue 'Pilgrimage to the five kingdoms of India' which gives a vivid account of Indian culture, politics & society.

**Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore** composed a short poem '**Lamp of the East**' in 1929 about Korea's glorious past and its promising bright future. He wrote:

**"In the golden age of Asia**

**Korea was one of its lamp bearers,**

**And that lamp is waiting to be lit once again**

**For the illumination of the East."**

*Source of the question and data: Ministry of External Affairs brief on India – Republic of Korea Bilateral Relations.*

**Q.236)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**:

1. India is one of the founding members of the NAM.
2. India recently hosted the virtual Summit of NAM Contact Group, 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **The Bandung Conference, 1955** has been considered as the most immediate antecedent of the founding of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which finally came into being six years later.

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This **First Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries** was convened by the leaders of India, Indonesia, Egypt, Syria and Yugoslavia in **Belgrade, 1961**. This gathering was attended by the Heads of State and Government of 25 countries and observers from another three nations.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **online NAM Contact Group Summit 2020** on the theme of "United against COVID-19" was hosted by the current Chairman of NAM, President of **Republic of Azerbaijan**.

The objective of the Summit was to promote international solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and to mobilize efforts of States and international organizations to address the pandemic.

**Q.237)** Which of the following statement is correct regarding the **Siddi tribe**?

- a) It is an African origin tribe in Karnataka
- b) It is a tribe in Nagaland demanding autonomy and Greater Nagalim
- c) It is a refugee tribe in Tripura that fled from Mizoram due to ethnic violence
- d) It is an ethno-linguistic group in the Assam

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Siddis are an ethnic group** inhabiting some states in India, including Karnataka. Its members are believed to be descendants of Bantu peoples from **Southeast Africa** that were brought to the Indian subcontinent as slaves by Portuguese merchants.

**Census 2011** recorded majority of the Siddis in Karnataka following Hinduism. There are a significant number of Siddis following Islam and Christianity.

The **African descendants** brought in India are mainly divided into three distinct groups namely the Sheedi in Pakistan's Sindh province, the Siddis in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Hyderabad and the Ceylon Kaffirs in Sri Lanka.

*The Bru are tribal groups in north eastern states of Tripura, Assam and Mizoram. Many of them fled from Mizoram to Tripura in 1997 in the wake of inter-community violence.*

**Q.238)** Consider the following statements regarding the **World Food Programme (WFP)**:

- 1. It is a United Nations program aiming to eradicate global hunger and malnutrition.
- 2. India is currently a member of the WFP Executive Board.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **World Food Programme (HQ: Rome, Italy)** is a fully-fledged **UN programme since 1965** that aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. It is the world's largest humanitarian agency. The programme assists almost 100 million people in around 83 countries each year.

Statement 2 is correct. The World Food Programme (WFP) is governed by the **WFP Executive Board**, which consists of **36 Member States** and provides intergovernmental support, direction and supervision of WFP's activities.

The 18 members are elected by the **Economic and Social Council** and 18 by the **FAO Council**. Each State Member serves a three-year term and is eligible for re-election. **India is currently a member** with term expiring in 2021.

WFP works closely with its two Rome-based sister organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

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**Q.239)** Consider the following statements regarding the role of **Speaker** in Parliament:

1. The Speaker does not exercise vote on any matter being voted upon even if there's a tie during the voting.
2. S/he can be removed from the office on a resolution of the House passed by a majority of members present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Article 100** of the constitution provides that the Chairman or Speaker, or person acting as such, **shall not vote in the first instance**, but shall have and exercise a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the **article 94** of the Constitution a member holding office as Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House of the People may be removed from his office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a **majority of all the then members of the House**:

Provided that no resolution for the removal shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.

*Similar provisions exist for state legislatures.*

**Q.240)** Which of the following has launched the **COVID-19 Law Lab** initiative?

- a) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- b) Oxford University
- c) Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)
- d) India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC)

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has recently launched a new **COVID-19 Law Lab** initiative.

The COVID-19 Law Lab is a **database of laws** that countries have implemented in **response to the pandemic**. It includes state of emergency declarations, quarantine measures, disease surveillance, legal measures relating to mask-wearing, social distancing, and access to medication and vaccines.

The initiative gathers and shares **legal documents from over 190** countries across the world to help states establish and implement strong legal frameworks to manage the pandemic.

It aims to ensure that laws protect the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities and that they adhere to international human rights standards.

The new Lab is a joint project of United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), the World Health Organization (**WHO**), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (**UNAIDS**) and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

**Q.241)** Which of the following is/are correct regarding the **Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020**?

1. It covers both marketplace and inventory models of e-commerce.
2. It provides for a mandatory display of the country of origin of goods and services on e-commerce platform.
3. No inventory e-commerce entity shall falsely represent itself as a consumer and post reviews about goods and service offered.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Central government has recently notified the **Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020** under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.

Salient features of the rules:

- it covers all models of e-commerce, including **marketplace and inventory** models of e-commerce.
- no e-commerce entity shall manipulate the price of the goods or services offered on its platform in such a manner as to gain unreasonable profit.
- any seller offering goods or services through a marketplace e-commerce entity shall provide all relevant details about the goods and services offered for sale by the seller including **country of origin** to the e-commerce entity to be displayed on its platform or website.
- no inventory e-commerce entity shall falsely represent itself as a consumer and **post reviews** about goods and services or **misrepresent the quality** or the features of any goods or services.
- every marketplace e-commerce entity shall provide information relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, and grievance redressal mechanism on its platform.

**Q.242)** Which of the following is/are **Parliamentary privilege(s)** provided under the Constitution?

- 1. Prohibition on the courts to inquire into proceedings of Parliament
- 2. Immunity to a member from proceedings in court in respect of anything said by him/her in Parliamentary Committees
- 3. Freedom of speech in Parliament

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above are provided for by the Constitution.

Some of the important privileges of each House of Parliament and of its members and Committee are:

- Freedom of speech** in Parliament [Article 105(1)];
- Immunity** to a member from any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any Committees thereof [Article 105(2)];
- Prohibition** on the courts to inquire into proceedings of Parliament (Article 122);

**Q.243)** Which of the following institution publishes the **Financial Stability Reports**?

- a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- d) Public Debt Management Agency (PDMA)

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**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Financial Stability Reports** are published by **Reserve Bank of India**, after approved by FSDC SubCommittee by taking inputs from financial sector regulators i.e. RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDAI including Ministry of Finance.

These are **periodic exercise** for reviewing the nature, magnitude and implications of risks that may have a bearing on the macroeconomic environment, financial institutions, markets and infrastructure.

**The FSR July 2020 highlights:**

*The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) edged down to 14.8 per cent in March 2020 from 15.0 per cent in September 2019.*

*Their gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio declined to 8.5 per cent from 9.3 per cent.*

*Macro stress tests for credit risk indicate that the GNPA ratio of all SCBs may increase from 8.5 per cent in March 2020 to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 under the baseline scenario; the ratio may escalate to 14.7 per cent under a very severely stressed scenario.*

**Q.244)** Consider the following statements regarding the **India-Russia** Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme:

1. It aims for an accelerated development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine.
2. It has been launched by the Department of Science and Technology in partnership with Indian and Russian industry associations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The vaccine development is **not** the principle objective of the program. The programme will connect Indian, and Russian Science & Technology (S&T) led **SMEs and Start-ups for joint R&D for technology development** and for cross-country technology adaptation.

The programme will run through two annual cycles with up to five projects to be funded under each cycle. **Projects are being sought** on leading S&T focus areas, including but not limited to, IT & ICT, Medicine, Renewable Energy, Aerospace, Environment, Biotechnologies, Robotics and Drones.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Department of Science and Technology** has launched the India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) and Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (**FASIE**) of the Russian Federation.

Over a period of two years, the **Department of Science and Technology** will fund up to INR 15 Crores to ten Indian SMEs/Start-ups and **FASIE** will provide similar funding to the Russian projects.

**Q.245)** Consider the following statements regarding **T cells**:

1. These are a type of white blood cells that mature in the thymus gland.
2. T cells are programmed to be specific for a particular foreign particle/antigen.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**T cells** are a type of white blood cell and are of key importance to the immune system. These cells are made in the bone marrow and develop/mature in the **Thymus** and are programmed to be specific for **one particular** foreign particle (antigen).

Once they leave the thymus, they circulate throughout the body until they recognize their antigen on the surface of antigen presenting cells (APCs).

There are two types of T-cells in your body: **Helper T-cells and Killer T-cells**. Killer T-cells do the work of destroying the infected cells. The Helper T-cells coordinate the attack.

*T cells are also known as T lymphocytes. The 'T' stands for 'thymus', the organ in which these cells mature. As opposed to B cells which mature in the bone marrow.*

**Q.246)** Which of the following country(s) is/are part of the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**?

1. Iran
2. Kazakhstan
3. China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Russia, Iran and India** are the founding members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Other important member states include Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. **China is not a member.**

**International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** is a multi-modal transportation that connects **India Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea** via IRAN, then is connected to St. Petersburg and North European via Russian Federation.



**Q.247)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Presidential system of government**:

1. The chief executive is popularly elected.

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2. The terms of the chief executive and of the legislature are not subject to mutual confidence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

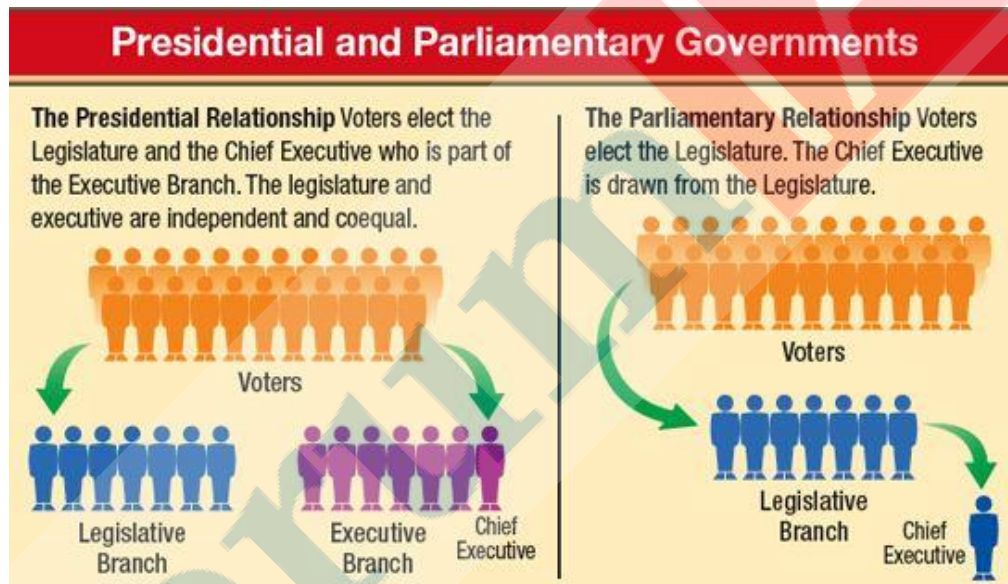
**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

In a **Presidential system of government**, the President, who is the chief executive as well as the symbolic head of government, is chosen by a separate **popular election** from that of the legislature. The President then appoints his or her cabinet of ministers/secretaries.

**Ministers/Secretaries** usually are not simultaneously members of the legislature, although their appointment may require the advice and consent of the legislative branch.

In parliamentary systems, the executive's term of office is directly linked with that of the legislature, while in presidential systems the terms are not linked neither are they subject to **mutual confidence**.



**Q.248)** Consider the following statements regarding the Viral **Spike protein**:

- 1. It plays a crucial role in penetrating host cells and initiating infection by binding to receptors on the host cell.
- 2. Spike proteins on a virus can induce antibody immune response in the body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

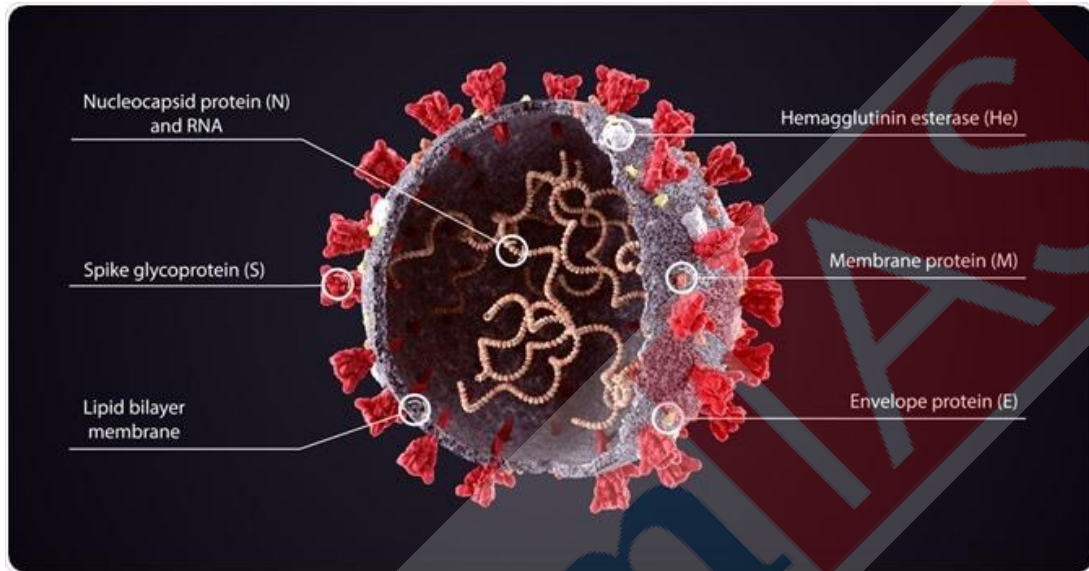
**The Spike(S) protein** is a highly glycosylated transmembrane fusion protein that is made up of amino acids. The presence of S proteins on the coronaviruses is what gives rise to the **spike-shaped protrusions** found on their surface.

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S protein plays a crucial role in **penetrating host cells** and initiating infection. The cell entry programs for these viruses are orchestrated by the viral spike (S) proteins that **bind cellular receptors** and also mediate virus-cell membrane fusions.

In addition to its role in penetrating cells, the S protein is the main antigenic component that is responsible for inducing host immune responses, **neutralizing antibodies** and/or protective immunity against virus infection.

Spike protein has therefore been selected as an important target for many coronavirus vaccine and anti-viral developments.



**Q.249)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Tenth Schedule of the Constitution**:

1. The proceedings under the schedule are deemed to be proceedings in Parliament/State assembly.
2. The Chairman or Speaker is the authority to make rules on the procedure for any inquiry to be made for the purpose of deciding on disqualification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. As per section 6(2) under the Tenth schedule all proceedings under in relation to any question as to disqualification of a member of a House under this Schedule shall be deemed to be proceedings in Parliament **within the meaning of article 122** or, as the case may be, proceedings in the Legislature of a State within the **meaning of article 212**.

**Article 122 and 212** prohibits the courts to inquire into proceedings of Parliament/State Assembly.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Chairman or the Speaker** of a House may make rules for giving effect to the provisions of the Schedule which may **provide for the procedure** for any inquiry which may be made for the purpose of deciding as to whether a member of a House has become subject to disqualification under this Schedule.

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**Q.250)** Which of the following has recently launched the 'Operation Legend'?

- a) United States of America
- b) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Operation Legend** is a federal law enforcement operation in the United States of America initiated by its Federal Government. The operation is named after four-year-old LeGend Taliferro, who was shot and killed in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 29, 2020.

The program involves **deploying federal law enforcement** agents to assist local police in combating a surge of violent crimes.

The Operation Legend program involves federal agents from the FBI, U.S. Marshals Service and other agencies, partnering with local law enforcement.

**Q.251)** Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID KAVACH ELISA**:

- 1. It is an antibody based diagnostic kit for COVID-19.
- 2. It has been indigenously developed in India by the National Institute of Virology, Pune.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**National Institute of Virology**, Pune successfully developed an indigenous **IgG ELISA** test **COVID KAVACH ELISA** for antibody detection for COVID-19. The kit was approved by ICMR and technology has been commercialized by Zydus Cadila for mass scale production. Since the antibody-based testing is capable of detecting past infections, the COVID KAVACH ELISA is being used in the **seroprevalence surveys** being conducted by ICMR to observe the spread of pandemic in India.

**Q.252)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Natural Gas production in India**:

- 1. Offshore production of Natural Gas is more than that of Onshore production.
- 2. Private sector leads Public Sector Enterprises in Natural Gas production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The **offshore production of Natural gas** is considerably higher than onshore production in India. Presence of Private and JVs has increased in onshore natural gas production over time while offshore natural gas production has been rising with the share of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) rising steadily.

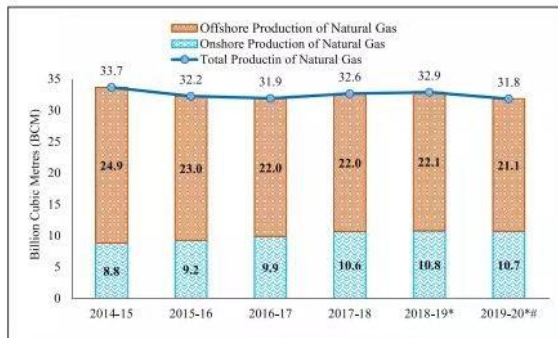
Statement 2 is incorrect. The Natural Gas production in India is **dominated by PSUs**.



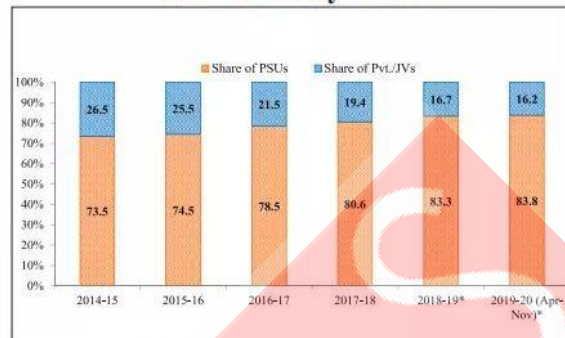
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**Figure : Total domestic Production of Natural Gas- Onshore and Offshore wise and PSUs and Private/ Joint Ventures-wise**

**(a): Production of Natural Gas**



**(b): Production of Natural Gas dominated by PSUs**



Source: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Economic Survey calculations.

Note: \*- Provisional.

#- The natural gas production for 2019-20 is estimated on the basis of figures available for 2019-20 (April-November).

**Q.253)** Which of the following river(s) flows through **Assam**?

1. Barak River
2. Teesta River
3. Manas River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

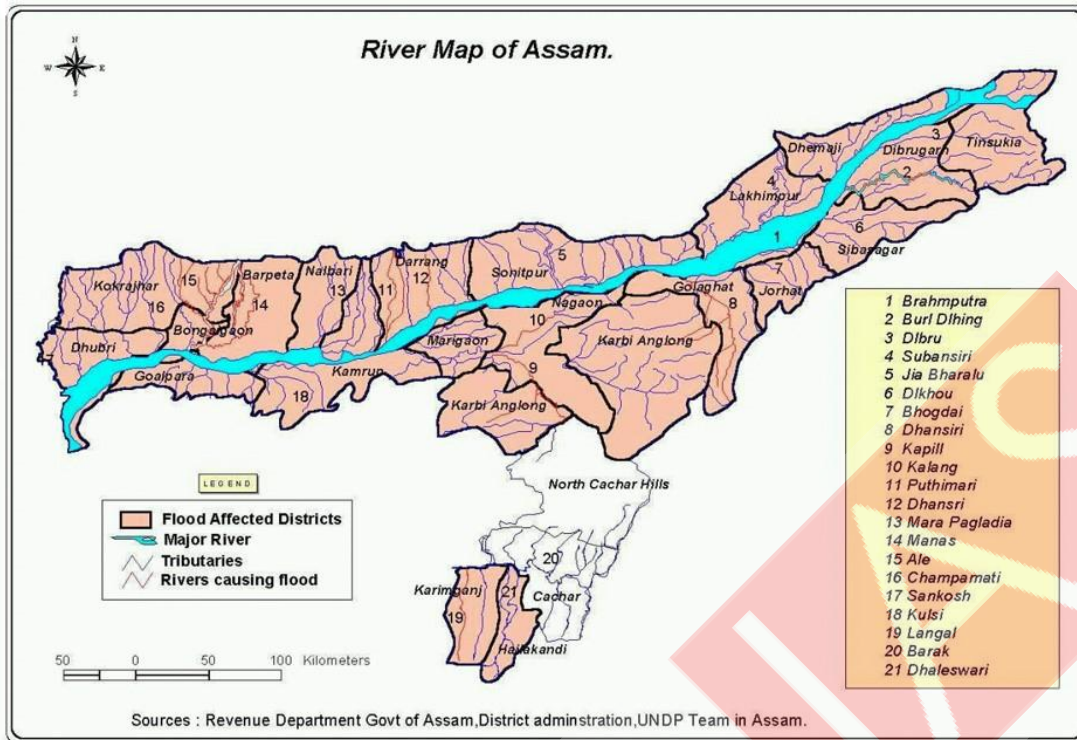
**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** The State of Assam comprised of two valleys namely the **Brahmaputra and Barak Valley**. The flood prone area of the state as assessed by the Rastriya Barh Ayog is about 39.58 % of the total land area of Assam. This is about 9.40% of total flood prone area of the whole country.

The **Barak sub-basin** drains areas in India, Bangladesh and Burma. The sub-basin lies in the States of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Tripura and Nagaland. The Katakhal, Jiri, Chiri, Modhura, Longai, Sonai, Rukni and Singla are the main tributaries of the valley.

The **Brahmaputra Valley** has an average width of about 80 Km. The river slope is very steep till it enters India. Due to this sudden flattening of river slope, the river becomes braided in nature in the Assam valley. During its course in Assam valley from Kobo to Dhubri the river is joined by about 20 (twenty) important tributaries on its North bank and 13 (thirteen) on its South bank. The Manas River is a transboundary river between southern Bhutan and India, a tributary that meets Brahmaputra in Assam.





**Teesta River** rises in the eastern Himalayas and flows through the Sikkim and West Bengal state before entering Bangladesh.

**Q.254)** Consider the following statements regarding **Inflammaging**:

1. It refers to a chronic, sterile, low-grade inflammation.
  2. It is a long-term result of the continuous stimulation of the innate immune system.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

During ageing a chronic, sterile, low-grade inflammation called **Inflammaging** develops and contributes to the pathogenesis of age-related diseases.

A possible cause of inflammaging is the long-term result of the chronic physiological **stimulation of the innate immune system**, which can become damaging during **ageing**, a period of life largely unpredicted by evolution.

It is the by-product of the degeneracy of a few receptors that can sense a variety of non-self, self and quasi-self-damage signals and activate the innate immune system.

**Q.255)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**:

1. It provides for creation of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers.
2. Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism of Mediation has been provided in the Act.
3. It provides for product liability of the manufacturer or seller of the product to compensate for any harm caused.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above are correct regarding the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** that came into force recently.

Act includes establishment of the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. It will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements.

**Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism of Mediation** has been provided in the new Act. There will be no appeal against settlement through mediation.

Act also introduces the concept of **product liability** and brings within its scope, the product manufacturer, product service provider and product seller, for any claim for compensation.

**Q.256)** Which of the following is/are correct regarding the **DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane)**?

1. India is the only country still manufacturing the DDT.
2. It accumulates in fatty tissues and can travel long distances in the upper atmosphere.
3. World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends DDT for indoor residual spray to curb malaria.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. India is the **only country** still manufacturing the pesticide **dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT)**. China ceased production of the chemical in 2007. Public sector firm Hindustan Insecticide Limited (HIL) is the only producer of DDT in India.

Statement 2 is correct. **DDT is:**

- known to be very persistent in the environment,
- will accumulate in fatty tissues, and
- can travel long distances in the upper atmosphere.

Statement 3 is correct. In 2006, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared its support for the indoor use of DDT where **malaria** remains a major health problem as indoor residual spray, citing that benefits of the pesticide outweigh the health and environmental risks.

*The Stockholm Convention on POPs bans DDT for all uses except for malaria control.*

**Q.257)** Consider the following statements regarding the '**Alliance for Poverty Eradication**':

1. It has been launched by the World Economic Forum.
2. India is a founding member of the alliance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. 'Alliance for Poverty Eradication' was launched recently at the 74th Session of the **United Nations General Assembly** by UNGA President. UNGA President stated that the Alliance can pull together all the factors and interests in poverty eradication and serve as a one-stop networking, information sharing and bridge-building centre. It should provide a mechanism for interrogating the poverty challenge from all possible angles.

Statement 2 is correct. **India** has become a **founding member** of an Alliance for Poverty Eradication at the United Nations.

**Q.258)** What is '**Bathynomus Raksasa**' that has been in news recently?

- a) A newly discovered Isopod species
- b) Climate-tolerant coral reefs
- c) Largest birdwing butterfly in India
- d) A meteor in Earth's vicinity

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Bathynomus raksasa** is a giant **isopod** in the genus *Bathynomus*. It was recently discovered by a team of researchers from Singapore in Bantan, off the southern coast of **West Java in Indonesia**.

It is being described as '**cockroach of the sea**' for its appearance and 14-legged body. *Bathynomus raksasa* is the sixth 'supergiant' species from the Indo-West Pacific. The only member of the isopod species larger than *B. raksasa* is the *B. giganteus*, which is commonly found in the western Atlantic Ocean.

**Q.259)** Consider the following statements regarding **Antibodies**:

- 1. Antibodies identify and neutralize foreign substances such as bacteria and viruses.
- 2. Monoclonal antibodies are immune system proteins that are created in the lab.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Antibody** is a part of the host cell's defense. It is a Y shaped protein, a component of the immune system that circulates in the blood, recognizes foreign substances like bacteria and viruses, and neutralizes them.

These are Y-shaped proteins latch onto antigens of viruses/bacteria that may to cause harm or infection to the body.

Along with water, salt, and enzymes, plasma also contains antibodies.

**Monoclonal antibodies** are immune system proteins that are created in the lab. They are antibodies that are made by identical immune cells that are all clones of a unique parent cell. These antibodies recognize unique epitopes or binding sites, on a single antigen.

**Q.260)** Consider the following statements regarding the **COVID Protection System (COPS) for Workplace**:

- 1. It consist a solar based intelligent mask dispensing unit with thermal scanning ability.
- 2. It has been developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**)-**CMERI**, Durgapur recently unveiled the **COVID Protection System (COPS) for Workplace**. It includes contactless Solar Based Intelligent Mask Automated Dispensing Unit cum Thermal Scanner (IntelliMAST), Touchless Faucet (TouF) and 360° Car Flusher.

The **Solar Based IntelliMAST** is an Intelligent surveillance kiosk which identifies the body temperature and whether an individual is wearing Face Mask or not through customized Software solutions.

The **Touchless Faucet (TouF)** dispenses Liquid Soap and Water from the same Faucet with a time-gap of 30 seconds.

The **360° Car Flusher** is a Sodium Hypochlorite Water Screen which uses specialized Nozzle Design to ensure that the Sanitizer Diffused Water is evenly spread over and under the Car

**Q.261)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Contempt of Court**:

1. The Supreme Court and High Court can take suo-moto cognizance of the criminal contempt of court.
2. High courts are empowered to punish for the contempt of subordinate courts.
3. Publishing any fair comment on the merits of any case which has been heard and finally decided, does not amount to contempt of court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above statements are correct and are provided for by the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**.

The **superior courts** can take action **on its own motion** or on a motion made by the Attorney/Advocate-General or any other person, with their consent in writing.

While the Constitution allows superior courts to punish for their contempt, the Contempt of Courts Act additionally allows the **High Court to punish for contempt of subordinate courts**.

**Section 5 of the act** provides that fair criticism of judicial act not contempt. Therefore, a person shall not be guilty of contempt of court for publishing any fair comment on the merits of any case which has been heard and finally decided.

**Q.262)** Consider the following statements regarding the **ASTHROS Mission**:

1. It is China's Mars mission with a lander and rover onboard.
2. It will search for signs of habitable conditions on Mars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

**NASA** has begun to work on a new mission that will carry a cutting-edge 8.4-foot (2.5-meter) telescope high into the stratosphere on a balloon. It is tentatively planned to launch in **December 2023 from Antarctica**.

**ASTHROS (short for Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter-wavelengths)** will spend about three weeks drifting on air currents above the icy southern continent.

It will be managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The ASTHROS observes far-infrared light, or light with wavelengths much longer than what is visible to the human eye. ASTHROS will carry an instrument to measure the motion and speed of gas around newly-formed stars.

During flight, the mission will study **four main targets**: two star-forming regions in the Milky Way galaxy, the **Messier 83** galaxy and **TW Hydrae**, a young star surrounded by a wide disk of dust and gas where planets may be forming.

**Q.263)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Special Window for Affordable and Mid Income Housing (SWAMIH)**:

1. The initiative provides collateral free debt funding to affordable house buyers.
2. The Central Government is the sponsor to the SWAMIH fund.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. **Special Window for Affordable and Mid Income Housing (SWAMIH)** fund provides priority debt financing for the completion of stalled housing projects that are in the Affordable and Middle-Income Housing sector.

This fund would provide **relief to developers** that require funding to complete a set of unfinished projects and consequently ensure delivery of homes to the home-buyers.

Statement 2 is correct. For the purposes of the fund, the government acts as the Sponsor.

The fund is set up as an Alternate Investment Fund debt fund registered with SEBI. The SBICAP Ventures Limited is the Investment Manager for first AIF under the Special Window.

*During the recent review by Ministry of finance, it was reported that the fund has so far approved 81 projects with an investment of Rs 8767 crore.*

**Q.264)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** policy of India:

1. An entity of a country, which shares land border with India, can invest only under the Government route.
2. Hundred percent FDI is permitted in Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airlines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Government of India reviewed **the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** policy for curbing **opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions** of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020. Therefore,

-a non-resident entity can invest in India, subject to the FDI Policy except in those sectors/activities which are prohibited. However, an entity of a country, which shares **land border** with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest **only** under the Government route.

Further, a **citizen of Pakistan** or an entity incorporated in Pakistan can invest, **only** under the Government route, in sectors/activities other than defence, space, atomic energy and sectors/activities prohibited for foreign investment.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the present FDI Policy, **100% FDI** is permitted in **scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline** (Automatic upto 49% and Government route beyond 49%). However, for NRIs 100% FDI is permitted under automatic route in Scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline.

Further, FDI is subject to the condition that Substantial Ownership & Effective Control (SOEC) shall be vested in Indian Nationals as per aircraft rules, 1937.

**Q.265)** What is the mandate of the recently formed **DP Singh Committee**?

- a) Measures for Students to stay and study in India
- b) Reforms in criminal laws of India
- c) Western Ghats Eco-sensitive zone
- d) Evolution of the New Education Policy

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has stated that the Chairman, UGC, Mr. DP Singh will head a committee to prepare guidelines and measures to ensure that more and more **students stay here for study in India** and come out with mechanism for increasing intake in well performing universities.

Mechanisms will be explored for starting Multi-disciplinary and innovative programs, twinning and joint degree programs, Cross Country designing of centers, facilitating online lectures by eminent faculty abroad, linkage between academia and industry, facilitate Joint degree ventures and lateral entry to Indian Higher Education Institutions.

*During the year 2019 around 7 lakh 50 thousand students travelled abroad to pursue their studies.*

**Q.266)** Consider the following statements regarding **Dadabhai Naoroji**:

- 1. He was the first Indian to be elected to Parliament in Britain.
- 2. He was founding member of the London Indian Society and East India Association.
- 3. He was proponent of the 'drain theory', an economic critique of British imperialism in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Dadabhai Naoroji** was the first Indian to become a Member of Parliament of the British, as a member of the **Liberal Party in 1892**.

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Statement 2 is correct. Dadabhai Naoroji founded the **London Indian Society** in the year 1865 and the **East India Association** in 1866, in collaboration with Indians and retired British officials in London. It superseded the London Indian Society and was a platform for discussing matters and ideas about India, and to provide representation for Indians to the Government.

Statement 3 is correct. Dadabhai Naoroji was an economist and proponent of the '**drain theory**', building up a detailed economic critique of British imperialism in India. In the year 1901, he published '**Poverty and un-British Rule in India**'. The book spoke of how the British plundered the resources of India that consistently led to the rise of destitution and misery in India.

**Q.267)** Consider the following statements regarding the **corporate income-tax (CIT)** in India:

1. The foreign companies working in India are not liable to pay CIT.
2. As a percentage of GDP the CIT revenue has been consistently higher than that of Goods & Services Tax revenue for last five years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

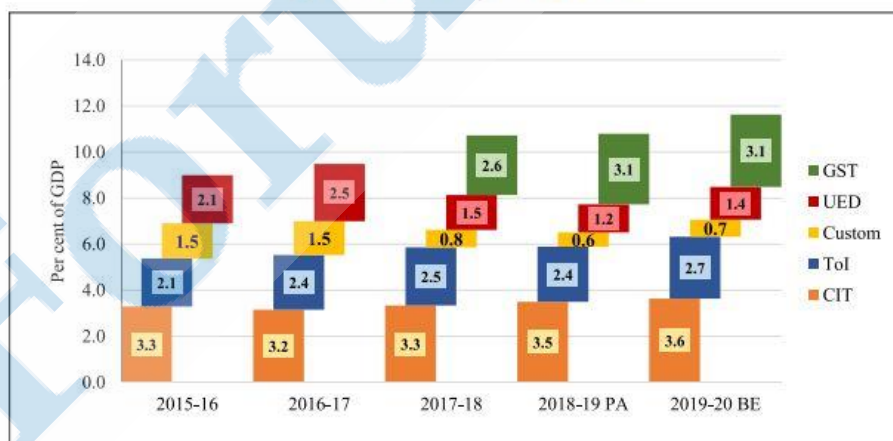
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **corporate income-tax (CIT)** is applicable to an Indian company and as well as foreign company working in India. A resident company is taxed on its worldwide income while a **non-resident company** is taxed on income that it received in India, or is deemed to accrue or arise, in India.

Statement 2 is correct. Data from Economic Survey 2019-20 shows that, CIT revenue as percent of GDP has been consistently higher than that of GST revenue.

Figure : Taxes as a percent of GDP



Source: Union Budget Documents & CGA

Note: 1. CIT: Corporation Tax, ToI: Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax (includes STT), UED: Union Excise Duties, GST: Goods and Services Tax, 2. GST includes CGST, IGST and Compensation Cess

**Q.268)** Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)**?

- a) A platform listing public sector enterprises exclusively
- b) Exchange for raising funds for public initiatives of the government
- c) A government owned securities exchange to limit speculative trading
- d) Exchange for listing social enterprises and voluntary organizations

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**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** The Finance Minister as part of the **Budget Speech for FY 2019-20** had announced steps towards creating an electronic fund raising platform- a **social stock exchange**-under the regulatory ambit of Securities and Exchange Board of India for listing **social enterprises and voluntary organizations** working for the realization of a social welfare objective so that they can raise capital as equity, debt or as units like a mutual fund.

Accordingly, SEBI constituted a working group on 'Social Stock Exchanges' (SSE) under the Chairmanship of **Ishaat Hussain** in September, 2019. The committee has recently submitted its report.

The SSE will have two primary roles: to effectively deploy the fundraising instruments and structures available under the regulatory guidelines towards social enterprises and to foster overall sector development by creating a capacity building unit.

**Q.269)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations**:

1. The premises of the mission is inviolable and the agents of the receiving State may not enter them, except with the consent of the head of the mission.
2. The receiving State may require that the size of a mission be kept within limits considered by it to be reasonable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Article 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961** states that:

-The premises of the mission shall be **inviolable**. The agents of the receiving State may not enter them, except with the consent of the head of the mission.

-The receiving State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to **protect the premises** of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity.

-The premises of the mission, their furnishings and other property thereon and the means of transport of the mission shall be immune from search, requisition, attachment or execution.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 11** of the convention states that:

-In the absence of specific agreement as to the size of the mission, the receiving State may require that the size of a mission be kept within limits considered by it to be **reasonable and normal**.

-The receiving State may equally, within similar bounds and on a non-discriminatory basis, refuse to accept officials of a particular category.

**Q.270)** Which of the following is/are the mandate(s) of the **Governor** under the Constitution of India?

1. Summon the House(s) of the Legislature of the State before three months pass since its last sitting in the previous session.
2. Prorogue and dissolve the Legislative Council from time to time.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

As per the **article 174 of the Constitution:** (1) The Governor shall from time to time summon the House or each House of the Legislature of the State to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but **six months** shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

(2) The Governor may from time to time—(a) prorogue the House or either House; (b) dissolve the **Legislative Assembly**.

*As is the case for Rajyasabha, Legislative councils are not subject to dissolution but one-third of their members retire every second year.*

**Q.271)** Consider the following statements regarding the **FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020:**

1. Russia accounts for one-fifth of the total forest area of the world.
2. Sub-tropical domain has the largest proportion of the world's forests followed by the tropical and temperate domains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

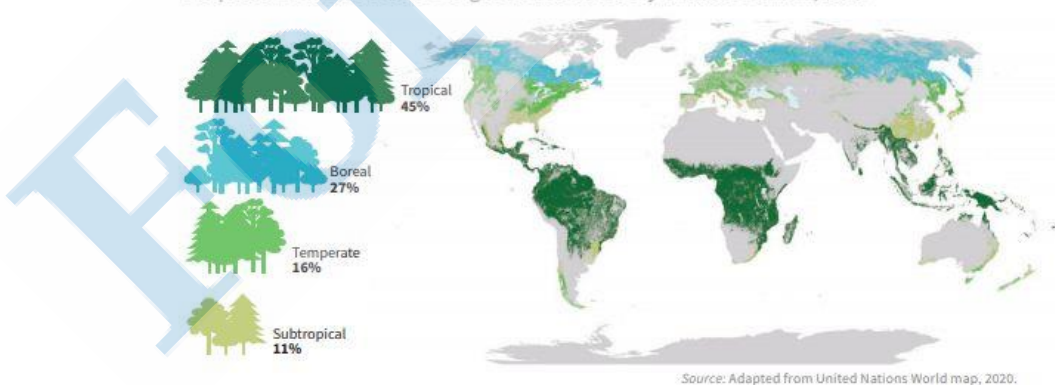
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. More than half (54 percent) of the world's forests is in only five countries –the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America and China, with **Russia itself having 20% of the world's forest area**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **tropical domain** has the largest proportion of the **world's forests (45 percent)**, followed by the boreal, temperate and subtropical domains.

Proportion and distribution of global forest area by climatic domain, 2020



Top five countries for forest area, 2020 (million ha)





## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

*India has two percent of the world's forests and has ranked third among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade.*

**Q.272)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Istanbul Convention**:

1. It is a human rights treaty on preventing and combating violence against women.
2. India is a signatory to the convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Istanbul Convention** is the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating **violence against women and domestic violence**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India is not a signatory to the convention. It is a treaty under the **Council of Europe**, an international organization with 47 members with aim to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.

The Convention came into force on 1 August 2014 and has been signed by 45 countries and the European Union.

It is the obligation of the state to fully address it in all its forms and to take measures to prevent violence against women, protect its victims and prosecute the perpetrators.

*Poland has recently decided to withdraw from the convention.*

**Q.273)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Mausam Mobile App**:

1. It has been launched by the Department of Science and Technology.
2. The application has utility of providing weather forecasts and radar images to the user.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **MAUSAM mobile application** has been launched recently by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.

The mobile app has been designed and developed jointly by ICRISAT's Digital Agriculture & Youth (DAY) team, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and India Meteorological Department.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the PIB release, users can access observed weather, forecasts, radar images and be proactively warned of impending weather events.

The MAUSAM mobile App has the following 5 services: **Current Weather, Nowcast** (three hourly warnings of localized weather phenomena), **City Forecast, Warnings** and **Radar products**.

**Q.274)** Consider the following statements regarding the **UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report 2020**:

1. Elephant and Rosewood is among the highest seized wildlife.
2. The illicit trade of pangolin scales has declined considerably in last decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



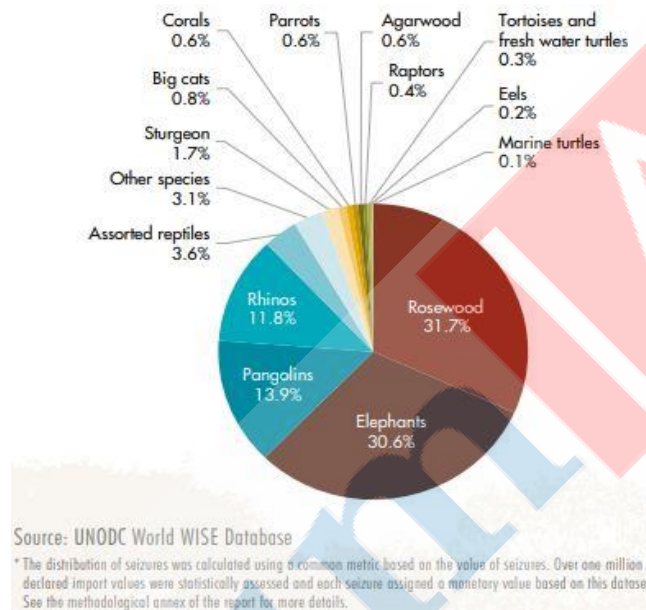
## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Rosewood, Elephants, pangolins** are among the highest seized wildlife between 2014-18.

**Fig.** Share of type of wildlife among total seizures (aggregated on the basis of standard value\*), 2014-2018



Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the report while the poaching of both elephants and rhinoceroses has consistently declined since 2011, the amount of **pangolin scales seized has increased** 10-fold in just five years, and new markets, such as the trafficking of European glass eels, have emerged in the wake of strengthened controls.

**Q.275)** Which of the following institution has recently launched the **Dare to Dream contest** for innovators and startups?

- a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- b) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- c) Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)
- d) Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** have recently launched its innovation contest '**Dare to Dream 2.0**' on the 5th death anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

-The scheme is for promoting **individuals & startups** for innovation in defence and aerospace emerging technologies.

-The winners will be decided after due evaluation by an expert committee. Award money, up to Rs 10 lakh for startup and Rs five lakh to individual category, will be given to the winners.

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

**Q.276)** Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Darfur - Syria
2. Chengdu - China
3. Okavango Delta - Botswana

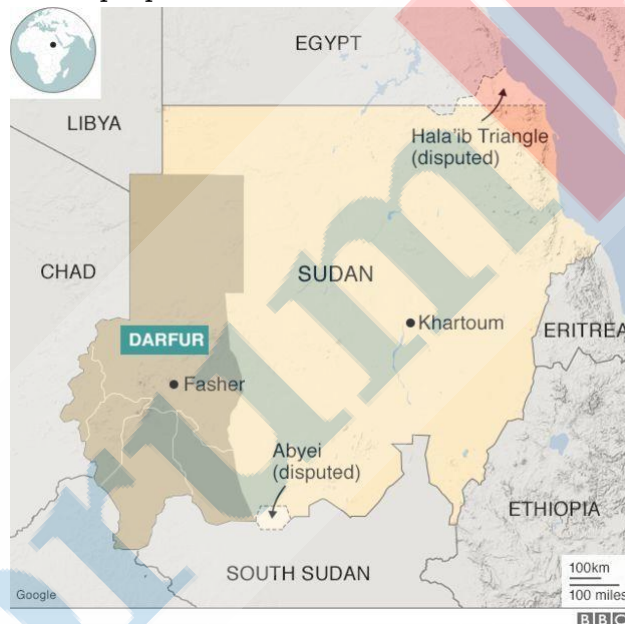
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Darfur** is a region in western **Sudan**. The conflict in Darfur has been in news recently, it began in 2003 when rebels launched an insurrection to protest what they contended was the Sudanese government's disregard for the western region and its **non-Arab population**.

Recently people started returning home in time for this year's planting season after a **government-sponsored deal** was reached two months ago. But this has led a new conflict over land rights between the people who took over the land with those who have returned.



Option 2 is correctly matched. **Chengdu** is the capital of southwestern **China's Sichuan province**. China recently asked USA to shut its **consulate** in Chengdu in response to similar action by USA in Houston.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Okavango Delta in Botswana** is an inland delta formed where the Okavango River reaches the central part of the endorheic basin of the Kalahari. Hundreds of **elephants have died** mysteriously in Botswana's famed Okavango Delta recently.

**Q.277)** Which of the following project(s) do not require prior environmental clearance under the *draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2020*?

1. Solar Photo Voltaic Power projects
2. Coal and non-coal mineral prospecting
3. Digging of well for irrigation or drinking water purpose

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above do not require **prior-Environmental Clearance or Permission** under the *draft* Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2020.

**Section 26** provides a list of projects that would not attract environmental clearance or permission, it includes among others:

- Removal of **sand deposits** on agricultural field after flood by farmers;
- Extraction or sourcing or borrowing of ordinary earth for the linear projects like roads, pipelines, etc.
- Dredging and **de-silting** of dams, reservoirs, weirs, barrages etc.
- Digging of well for **irrigation** or drinking water purpose;
- Solar Photo Voltaic** (PV) Power projects, Solar Thermal Power Plants and development of Solar Parks, etc.;
- Coal and non-coal** mineral prospecting.

**Q.278)** Consider the following statements regarding the **GST Compensation to States/UTs**:

1. It is provided for by a statutory cess levied on certain notified goods and services.
2. The compensation is to be provided till 2022 or for such period as may be prescribed by the GST Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017** was enacted to levy Compensation cess on certain notified goods and services for providing compensation to the States for the **loss of revenue** arising on account of implementation of the goods and services tax.

The act came into effect from the date from which the provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act is brought into force (01/07/2017), for a period of **five years** or for such period as may be prescribed on the recommendations of the GST Council.

**Q.279)** Who among the following has released the **Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2020**?

- a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** **Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2020** has been released by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.

The Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update provides a climate outlook for the next five years, updated annually.

**Highlights:**

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

Annual global temperature is likely to be **at least 1°C warmer** than preindustrial levels in each of the coming 5 years and is very likely to be within the range 0.91 – 1.59°C.

Over 2020-2024, almost all regions, except parts of the **southern oceans**, are likely to be warmer than the recent past.

Over 2020-2024, high latitude regions and the **Sahel** are likely to be wetter than the recent past whereas northern and eastern parts of South America are likely to be dryer.

Over 2020-2024, sea-level pressure anomalies suggest that the **northern North Atlantic region** could have stronger westerly winds leading to more storms in western Europe.

In 2020, large land areas in the **Northern Hemisphere** are likely to be over 0.8°C warmer than the recent past.

In 2020, the **Arctic** is likely to have warmed by more than twice as much as the global mean.

**Q.280)** Consider the following statements regarding the Maurya dynasty King **Ashoka**:

1. Ashoka sent his own children as missionaries to Sri Lanka.
2. The rock edicts of Ashoka proclaim the Dhammaghosha over Bherighosha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. As per the Sri Lankan tradition, **Ashoka dispatched** of several missionaries to distant regions, including his son **Mahinda** to Sri Lanka. Further, his daughter **Sanghamitra** also established "Bikhhuni Sasana" in Sri Lanka.

Statement 2 is correct. Eight years after seizing power around 270 B.C., Ashoka led a military campaign to conquer Kalinga after which he adopted **Dhammaghosha (Sound of Dhamma) over Bherighosha (War siren)**. **Major Rock Edict IV** states that Dhammaghosa is ideal to the mankind and not the Bherighosa.

**Q.281)** The **St. Petersburg Declaration, 2010** relates to which of the following issue?

- a) Declaration Renouncing the Use, in Time of War, of Explosive Projectiles
- b) Double the number of wild tigers across the global range
- c) To strengthen the primary health care systems globally
- d) Ethical principles regarding human experimentation for the medical community

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Heads of the Governments of **Tiger Range countries at St. Petersburg, Russia in 2010** had agreed to a Global Tiger Recovery Program and resolved to **double tiger numbers** across their global range by 2022 by signing the St. Petersburg declaration on tiger conservation.

During the said meeting it was also decided to celebrate **July 29 as Global Tiger Day** across the world, which is since, being celebrated to spread and generate awareness on tiger conservation.

**Declaration of Astana** relates to strengthening primary health care systems as an essential step toward achieving universal health coverage.

**Declaration of Helsinki** is a set of ethical principles regarding human experimentation developed for the medical community by the World Medical Association (WMA).

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

**Q.282)** Which of the following correctly defines the **Kafala System**?

- a) a sponsorship system of work permit in West Asia
- b) a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Jordan
- c) a regional currency swap agreement among gulf countries
- d) a market union of Gulf Cooperation Council

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Kafala (Sponsorship) System** emerged in the 1950's to regulate the relationship between employers and migrant workers in many countries in **West Asia**. It remains the routine practice in the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and also in the Arab states of Jordan and Lebanon.

Under the Kafala system a migrant worker's immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer **or sponsor (kafeel)** for their contract period.

The migrant worker cannot enter the country, transfer employment nor leave the country for any reason without first obtaining explicit written permission from the kafeel.

The worker must be sponsored by a kafeel in order to enter the destination country and remains tied to this kafeel throughout their stay.

*Some countries claimed to abolish or reform the Kafala, but the system's most critical vulnerabilities still remain.*

**Q.283)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS)**:

- 1. It is an accreditation system for the management of tiger conservation areas.
- 2. There is no conservation assured tiger standards site in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)** is an accreditation system designed to measure and improve the management of tiger conservation areas.

It was developed through a partnership between governments and conservation organisations to assess levels of effective management, encourage best standards of management, and to support the **TX2 goal** to double the number of tigers in the wild.

It is driven by the CA|TS Partnership hosted by **World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)**, which comprises of tiger range governments, intergovernmental agencies, conservation organisations and other institutions, including Global Tiger Forum, IUCN, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and WWF among others.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Lansdowne Forest Division in Uttarakhand**, India, Chitwan National Park in Nepal and Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve in Russia have been awarded CA|TS Approved status.

*Minister of MoEFCC recently declared that Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) framework will now be extended to all fifty tiger reserves across the country.*

**Q.284)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Project Green-Ag**:

- 1. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- 2. It is an India specific project to mainstream biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Green-Ag is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project** to catalyze transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conservation of **critical biodiversity and forest landscapes**.

It seeks to mainstream biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture.

The Green-Ag project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through its sixth funding cycle.

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW)** is the national executing agency and FAO is the designated GEF Implementing Agency.

The Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the GEF Operational Focal Point and coordinates all GEF projects in the country.

*Recently it was launched in Mizoram; other states covered under the project are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.*

**Q.285) Consider the following statements regarding the Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH):**

1. It is an initiative of the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB).
2. It was launched to scout, evaluate and support the innovations and start-ups that address COVID-19 challenges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

Department of Science & Technology in response to combat COVID-19 global pandemic in April, 2020 approved setting up of a Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) to scout, evaluate and support the innovations and **start-ups that address COVID-19 challenges**.

It is an initiative **by National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

The Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), a technology business incubator at IIT Bombay supported by DST has been identified as the Implementing Agency of the CAWACH.

*The Bangalore-based Acculi Labs selected to develop a COVID risk assessment profile, has developed a mobile app Lyfas COVID score.*

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

**Q.286)** Which of the following country(s) share border with the **Caspian Sea**?

1. China
2. Iran
3. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **Caspian Sea** is the world's largest (surface area) inland water body. It covers roughly 143,200 square miles (371,000 square kilometers) and borders five countries: **Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.**



**Q.287)** Consider the following statements regarding the **draft Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**:

1. Ministry of Defence is to notify a list of weapons/platforms banned for import.
2. Leasing has been introduced as a category for acquisition in addition to the existing 'Buy' and 'Make' acquisition categories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

The **draft Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** has been released by the government.

It states that with a view to promote domestic and indigenous industry and align the DAP with the reforms enunciated in the 'Atmanirbhar Abhiyan', the **MoD will notify a list of weapons/platforms** banned for import, updated from time to time.

<b>INDIGENISATION TARGETS FOR VARIOUS ACQUISITION CATEGORIES</b> 	<b>Acquisition category</b>	<b>Indigenous content (IC)</b>
	Buy (Indian – Indian-Designed, Developed and Manufactured)	» Indigenous design essential; ≥ 50% IC
	Buy (Indian)	» If indigenously designed, ≥ 50% IC; if foreign designed ≥ 60% IC
	Buy and Make (Indian)	» ≥ 50% IC, calculated on the 'Make' portion
	Buy and Make	» ≥ 50% IC
	Buy (Global – Manufacture in India)	» ≥ 50% IC
	Buy (Global)	» Foreign vendor – Nil IC requirement Indian vendor ≥ 30% IC

**Leasing** has been introduced as another category for acquisition in addition to the existing 'Buy' and 'Make' acquisition categories as it provides for an innovative technique for financing of equipment/platforms. Leasing provides means to possess and operate the asset without owning the asset and is useful to substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments.

*The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) has now been titled as Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.*

**Q.288)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Kalbelia dance**:

1. It is a traditional folk snake charmer dance performed by Kalbelia tribe of Rajasthan.
2. It is listed in the UNESCO's representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

**Kalbelia dance** is a folk dance of **Rajasthan** state also known as '**Sapera Dance**' or '**Snake Charmer Dance**'. Kalbelia dance is particularly performed by a Rajasthani tribe called 'Kalbelia'.

Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan are listed in the **UNESCO's representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** since the year 2010. In Kalbelia dance, males play various traditional instruments and females perform the dance.

**Q.289)** Where is the **Tuting-Tidding Suture Zone (TTSZ)** located?

- a) Eastern Himalaya
- b) Deccan Plateau
- c) Tarim Basin
- d) Hindu Kush Himalayan Region

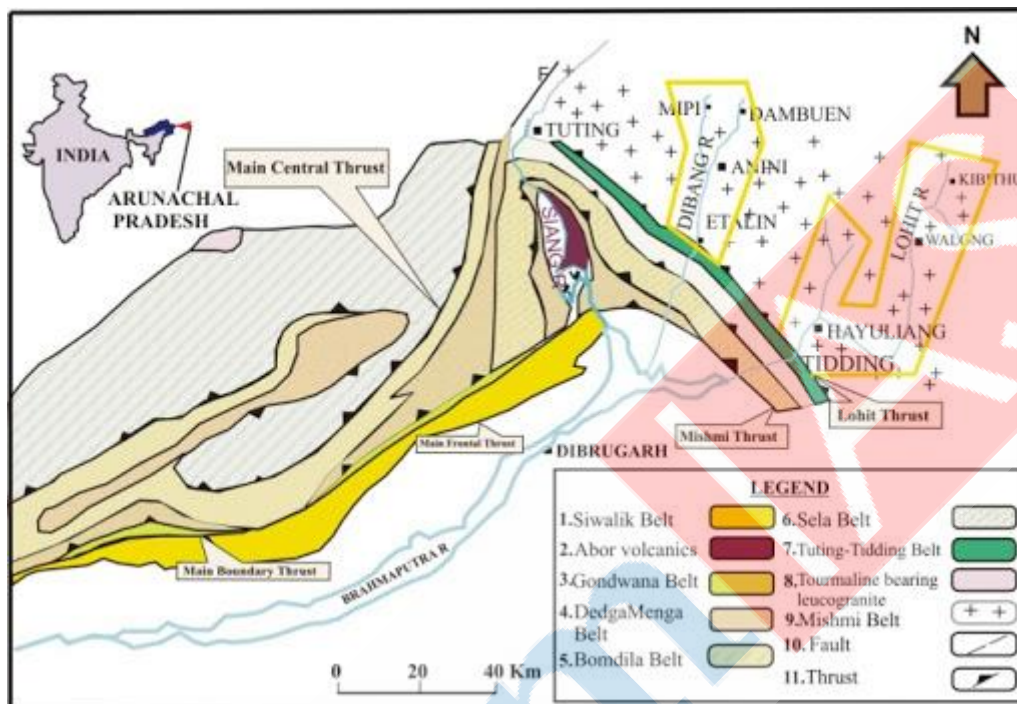
**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **Tuting-Tidding Suture Zone (TTSZ)** is a major part of the **Eastern Himalaya**, where the Himalaya takes a sharp southward bend and connects with the Indo-Burma Range.

A study by the **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)** an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), exploring the elastic properties of rocks and

seismicity in this easternmost part of India revealed that the area is generating **moderate earthquakes** at two different depths.

**Low magnitude earthquakes** are concentrated at 1-15 km depth and slightly higher greater than 4.0 magnitude earthquakes are mostly generated from 25-35 km depth. The **intermediate-depth** is devoid of seismicity and coincides with the zone of fluid/partial melts.



This part of the Arunachal Himalayas has gained significant **importance** in recent times due to the growing need of constructing roads and hydropower projects, making the need for understanding the pattern of seismicity in this region critical.

**Q.290)** Which of the following **conservation zone(s)** is/are correctly matched to respective state?

- 1. Valmiki Tiger Reserve - Uttar Pradesh
- 2. Van Vihar National Park - Gujarat
- 3. Satkosia Tiger Reserve - Odisha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is incorrectly matched. The **Valmiki National Park/Tiger Reserve** is located at the India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar, India on the bank of river Gandak.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The **Van Vihar National Park** is in the capital city of Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Satkosia Tiger Reserve** is located in the Angul district of Odisha, comprising the two adjoining Sanctuaries, the Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Baisipalli Sanctuary.



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**Q.291)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Dassault Rafale** fighter jets:

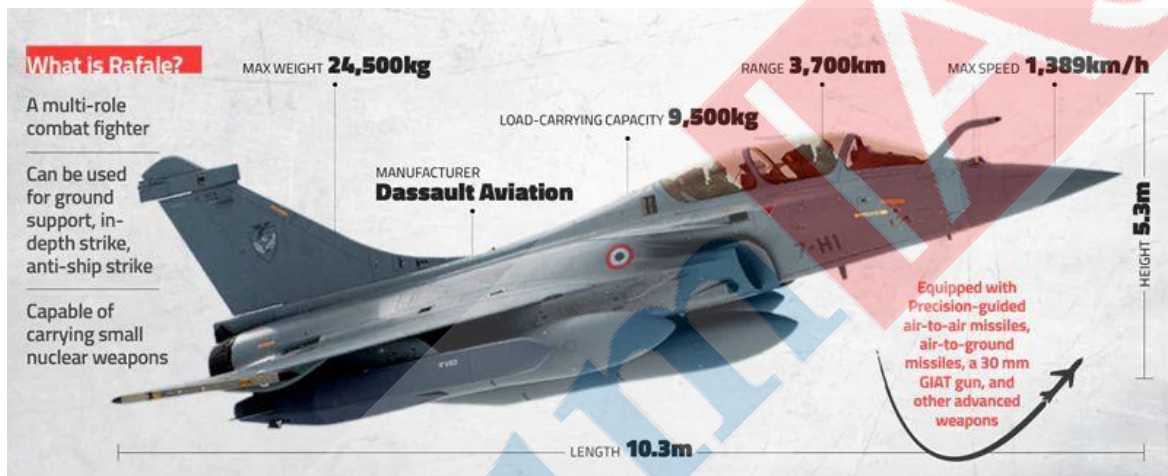
1. It is a single engine multirole fighter aircraft.
2. India is the only country other than France to operate the Rafale jets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Dassault Rafale** is a French **twin-engine**, canard delta wing, multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation. Statement 2 is incorrect. **Egypt and Qatar** are other countries operating the Dassault Rafale aircraft.



**Q.292)** Which of the following is provided for by the **New Education Policy 2020**?

1. Teaching upto at least fifth grade to be in either Hindi or English language.
2. A shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment.
3. A National Research Foundation for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The policy has emphasized **mother tongue/local language/regional language** as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond.

Sanskrit to be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an option for students, including in the three-language formula. The classical languages and literatures of India to be available as options to students. **No language will be imposed on any student.**

Statement 2 is correct. **NEP 2020** envisages a shift from **summative assessment** to **regular and formative assessment**, which is more competency-based, promotes learning and development, and tests higher-order skills, such as analysis, critical thinking, and conceptual clarity.



## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but redesigned with holistic development as the aim.

A new **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH** (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body.

A new and comprehensive National Curricular Framework for School Education, NCFSE 2020-21, will be developed by the NCERT.

Statement 3 is correct. The **National Research Foundation** will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.

**Q.293)** The **Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund** is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) World Bank Group
- b) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- d) New Development Bank (NDB)

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** The **Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund** is an initiative of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, launched in 2009 to provide incremental grant resources to developing member countries impacted by a major natural disaster.

ADB has recently approved USD 3 million grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to further support the government's emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Previously in April, ADB had approved USD 1.5 billion **COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES)** programme to support India in its immediate pandemic response efforts.

**Q.294)** Which of the following is/are **zoonotic disease(s)**?

- 1. Ebola
- 2. COVID-19
- 3. Lyme disease

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** All of the above are zoonotic diseases.

Animals can sometimes carry harmful germs that can spread to people and cause illness – these are known as **zoonotic diseases or zoonoses**. Zoonotic diseases are caused by harmful germs like viruses, bacterial, parasites, and fungi.

**Ebola virus disease** is considered to be zoonotic, with occasional spillovers to humans, apes, and possibly other animals. Fruit bats belonging to the Pteropodidae family are thought to be the natural hosts of the Ebola virus.

As per World Health Organisation, all available evidence for COVID-19 suggests that **SARS-CoV-2 has a zoonotic source** with its ecological origin in Bat populations.

**Lyme disease** is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and rarely, *Borrelia mayonii*. It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks.

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

**Q.295)** Which of the following relates to the **cyberspace and cybercrime**?

1. Christchurch Call to Action
2. Budapest Convention
3. Paris Call for Trust and Security

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. The **Christchurch Call** is an action plan that commits governments, international organizations and Internet players to take a series of measures, in particular:

Developing tools to prevent the downloading of terrorist and violent extremist content; combating the causes of violent extremism; improving transparency in the detection and removal of content; and ensuring that the algorithms designed and used by businesses do not direct users towards violent extremist content, so as to reduce their viral nature.

Option 2 is correct. The **Budapest Convention** on cybercrime is the first international treaty on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks, dealing particularly with infringements of copyright, computer-related fraud, child pornography and violations of network security. It was drawn up by the Council of Europe.

Option 3 is correct. The **Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace** proposes a vision for regulation in cyberspace and the major associated principles: the practicability of international law, responsible behavior of States, State monopoly of legitimate use of violence, recognition of the specific responsibilities of private stakeholders, particularly as regards preventing security failures and refrain from using certain practices which may damage stability in cyberspace.

**Q.296)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)**:

1. It has been established under the Information Technology Act.
2. Its mandate includes reducing the vulnerabilities of information infrastructure against cyber 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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

Section 70A of the **Information Technology Act, 2000** was amended in 2008 to provide for the Central Government to, by notification published in the Official Gazette, designate any organisation of the Government as the national nodal agency in respect of **Critical Information Infrastructure Protection**.

**National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)** was set up in 2014 and designated as the National Nodal Agency in respect of Critical Information Infrastructure Protection.

Its mandate includes to:

-Protect and deliver advice that aims to reduce the vulnerabilities of critical information infrastructure, against cyber terrorism, cyber warfare and other threats.

## 10 PM Compilation for the Month of July, 2020

-Identification of all critical information infrastructure elements for approval by the appropriate Government for notifying the same.

**“Critical Information Infrastructure”** is defined under the act as the computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which, shall have debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety.

**Q.297)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**:

1. India does not receive funding from the bank.
2. India has the second largest voting share in the bank after China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

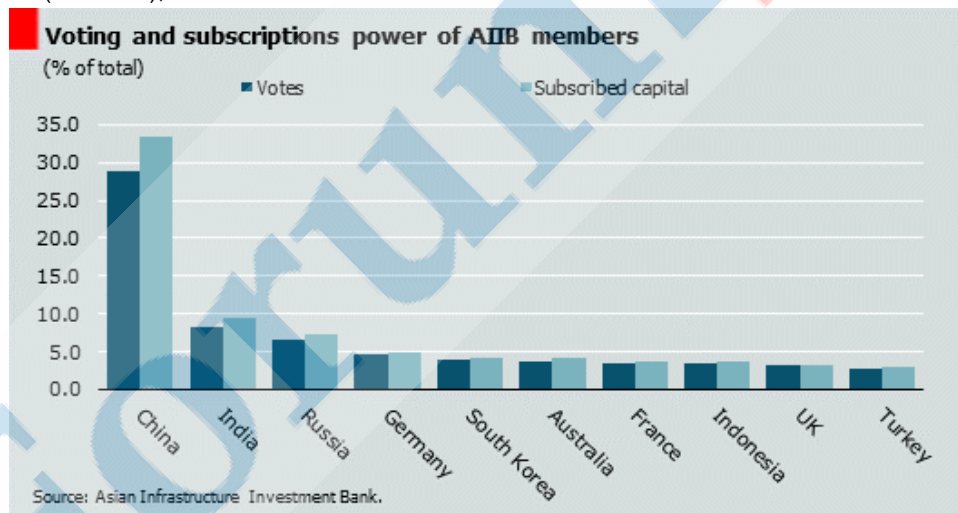
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** headquartered at Beijing, China is a multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.

**India is the largest recipient of the funds from the AIIB.** India has so far received \$4.35 billion from the bank.

Statement 2 is correct. **India (with 7.62% voting shares)** is second largest voting power after China (26.06%), in AIIB.



**Q.298)** Which of the following is/are the potential advantage(s) of the **Aerial Seeding** of crops?

1. It can be used when the soil is too wet for regular equipment.
2. It does not cause soil compaction, hence preventing soil runoff.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both are potential advantages of the Aerial Seeding.

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**Aerial seeding** is a technique of sowing seeds by spraying them through aerial mechanical means such as a drone, plane or helicopter. The seeds are covered with a mixture of clay, compost, char and other components – are sprayed on the ground.

**Advantages:** Aerial application allows seeding to be done when it is **physically impossible** to use ground equipment, such as when crops are present or the soil is **too wet** for regular equipment.

-Aerial application does not cause soil compaction, hence preventing soil runoff.

**Soil compaction** occurs when soil particles are pressed together, reducing pore space between them. Heavily compacted soils contain few large pores, less total pore volume and, consequently, a greater density.

The causes of soil compaction in agriculture are the use of heavy machineries, tillage practice, inappropriate choice of tillage systems, as well as livestock trampling.

**Q.299)** Which of the following correctly defines the term ‘One Health’?

- a) A complete health insurance for all non-communicable diseases (NCD)
- b) An approach recognizing interdependence of human and animal health
- c) A global initiative for vaccine development by public funding
- d) An Ayurvedic alternative to all allopathic medicines

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** **One Health** is an approach that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to **the health of animals and our shared environment**.

“One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach — working at the local, regional, national, and global levels — with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.”

It has recently gained more importance due to onslaught of new **zoonotic diseases**.

One Health issues include zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety and food security, vector-borne diseases, environmental contamination, and other health threats shared by people, animals, and the environment.

**Q.300)** Consider the following statements regarding **Tigers** in India:

- 1. Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand has the greatest number of tigers in the country.
- 2. India is home to more than half of the global tiger population.

Which of the statements given above is are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct.

Recently a detailed report '**Status of Tigers Co-predators and Prey in India**' on Tiger Census has been released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve** leads the Tiger population in country with 231 Tigers within the tiger reserve and 266 tigers utilizing the tiger reserve.

India's tiger population now stands at 2967 which is **70 percent** of the global tiger population.

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**Q.301) Lead** can be found in which of the following material(s)?

1. Sindoor (vermillion)
2. Paint
3. Ceramics

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Lead can be found in all of the above materials.

**Lead is a naturally occurring element** found in small amounts in the earth's crust. While it has some beneficial uses, it can be **toxic** to humans and animals, causing health effects. Lead and lead compounds have been used in a wide variety of products found in and around our homes, including **paint, ceramics**, pipes and plumbing materials, solders, gasoline, batteries, ammunition, and cosmetics.

**Sindoor (vermillion)**, a traditional cosmetic powder used by women in the Indian subcontinent, also has traces of lead.

*The report 'Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential' launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and international non-profit organization Pure Earth claims that a third of the world's children — around 800 million — are affected by lead poisoning.*

**Q.302) Which of the following is/are internet-based initiative(s) of the Ministry of Human Resources and Development?**

1. Diksha
2. Swayam Prabha
3. Shodhganga

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)** portal and application provides digital platform to teachers giving them an opportunity to learn and train themselves and connect with teacher community. This initiative has been taken forward to enhance coverage and improve the quality of e-content for teachers.

Option 2 is incorrect. The **'Shodhganga: a reservoir of Indian Theses'** provides a platform for research students to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access.

Option 3 is correct. The **SWAYAM PRABHA** is a group of **32 DTH channels** devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.

*SWAYAM is a Massive open online course (MOOC) platform.*

**Q.303) Consider the following statements regarding the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) iCREST initiative:**

1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



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2. It aims for a rapid development and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: D**

**Explanation:** Both statements are incorrect.

**NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, has launched **AIM iCREST** – an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focused on **creating high performing Startups**.

AIM has joined hands with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation** - organizations that can lend credible support and expertise in the entrepreneurship and innovation space. These partnerships will provide global expertise and showcase proven best practices to the AIM's incubator network.

**AIM iCREST** has been designed to enable the incubation ecosystem and act as a growth hack for AIM's Atal and Established incubators across the country.

Under the initiative, the AIM's incubators are set to be upscaled and provided requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy that will help them to significantly enhance their performance. This will be complemented by providing training to entrepreneurs, through technology driven processes and platforms.

**Q.304)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Mars 2020 Perseverance Mission**:

- 1. It is a Mars Rover mission launched by NASA.
- 2. It will gather rock and soil samples to be sent back to Earth in future.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance is a rover mission** launched recently from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station USA, targeted at a more-than 40km-wide, near-equatorial bowl called **Jezero Crater** on Mars.

It is equipped to directly **detect life** - either current or in fossilized form and will also be collecting important data about Mars' **geology and climate**.

NASA's Perseverance is the third mission launched to Mars inside 11 days in 2020, after launches by the **UAE (Hope) and China (Tianwen-1)**.

Statement 2 is correct. Perseverance is the first rover to bring a **sample-gathering system** to Mars that will package promising examples of rocks and sediments for **return to Earth by a future mission**. A Mars Sample Return campaign is being planned by NASA and the European Space Agency.

**Q.305)** Which of the following Committee(s) is/are related to the formulation of **Education Policy**?

- 1. T.S.R. Subramaniam Committee
- 2. Dr. K. Kasturirangan Committee
- 3. Madhav Gadgil Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Option 1 is correct. In May 2016, '**Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy**' under the Chairmanship of Late Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, Former Cabinet Secretary, submitted its report.

Option 2 is correct. In June 2017 a '**Committee for the Draft National Education Policy**' was constituted under the Chairmanship of Padma Vibhushan, **Dr. K. Kasturirangan**, which submitted the Draft in May, 2019.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Madhav Gadgil Committee** refers to the **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel**, an environmental research commission appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India.

**Q.306)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Seroprevalence Surveys**:

- 1. It identifies people in a population that have antibodies against an infectious disease.
- 2. A very low positivity percentage result of the survey indicates presence of Herd Immunity in the community.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. **Seroprevalence surveys** use serology tests to identify people in a population or community that have **antibodies** against an infectious disease. Antibodies are specific proteins made in response to infections. Antibodies are detected in the blood of people who are tested after infection; they show an **immune response** to the infection.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Herd immunity** occurs when a large portion of a community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely.

The Seroprevalence survey measures the percentage of people who have already been infected by the disease. Therefore, **a low positivity result of the survey does not indicate Herd Immunity**, it can either be achieved through large scale **vaccination or naturally** when large portion of population gets infected and generates antibodies against the disease.

**Q.307)** Which of the following correctly defines the term **LIBOR**?

- a) Benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another
- b) Global consumer products inflation rate
- c) The interest rate charged by World Bank to borrowing countries
- d) Interest earned by central banks for investing in the United States Treasury bonds

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** The **London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)** is a benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another in the international **interbank market** for short-term loans.

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It serves as a globally accepted key benchmark interest rate that indicates borrowing costs between banks. The rate is calculated and published each day by the **Intercontinental Exchange (ICE)**.

It is based on five currencies including the U.S. dollar, the euro, the British pound, the Japanese yen, and the Swiss franc.

**Q.308)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Governors of States in India**:

1. The Governor may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Chief Justice of the High Court, resign from his/her office.
2. It is a constitutional duty of Chief Minister to communicate to Governor of the decisions of Council of Ministers relating to proposals for legislation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: B**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect. Governor, before entering upon his office, makes and subscribes to an **oath or affirmation in the presence of the Chief Justice of the High Court** exercising jurisdiction in relation to the State. [Article 159]

In order to resign from office, the Governor may, by writing under his hand **addressed to the President**, resign his/her office. [Article 156(2)]

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 167** of the Constitution provides for the **duties of Chief Minister** as respects the furnishing of information to Governor, etc.

It shall be the duty of the Chief Minister of each State:

- to communicate to the Governor of the State all decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the State and **proposals for legislation**;
- to furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the State and proposals for legislation as the Governor may call for; and
- if the Governor so requires, to submit for the consideration of the Council of Ministers any matter on which a decision has been taken by a Minister but which has not been considered by the Council.

**Q.309)** Which of the following is/are part of the **National Education Policy 2020**?

1. Multiple entry and exit options with appropriate certification to be available in higher education.
2. Board exams for grades ten and twelve to be discontinued.
3. Gender Inclusion Fund and Special Education Zones to be set up for disadvantaged regions and groups.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct answer: C**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The policy envisages broad based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Under Graduate education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and **multiple entry and exit points** with appropriate certification.

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**UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options** and appropriate certification within this period. For example, Certificate after 1-year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor's Degree after 3 years and Bachelor's with Research after 4 years. Statement 2 is incorrect. NEP 2020 envisages a shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment.

**Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will continue**, but to be redesigned with holistic development as the aim.

A new **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH** (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body. Statement 3 is correct. Special emphasis will be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which include gender, socio-cultural, and geographical identities and disabilities. A **Gender Inclusion Fund and Special Education Zones** to be set up for disadvantaged regions and groups.

**Q.310)** Consider the following statements regarding the **5G technology**:

1. The use of shorter frequency millimeter waves provide higher speed in 5G networks.
2. 5G technology offers an extremely high latency rate than the 4G LTE.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct answer: A**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The shorter the frequency, the larger is the bandwidth. The use of **shorter frequencies (millimeter waves between 30GHz and 300GHz) for 5G** networks is the major reason why 5G can be faster. The high-band 5G spectrum provides the expected boost not only in speed but also in capacity, low latency, and quality.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Latency rate** refers to the delay between the sending and receiving of information. 5G technology offers an extremely low latency rate of about 1 millisecond. Latency for 4G is around 20-30 milliseconds.