

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

AUGUST, 2020

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

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Q.1) Where is the **Jezero Crater** located?

- a) China
- b) Brazil
- c) Chile
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Jezero Crater** is the landing site for the **Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover**.

NASA chose Jezero crater as the landing site for the Perseverance rover because scientists believe the area was **once flooded with water** and was home to an ancient river delta.

More than 3.5 billion years ago, river channels spilled over the crater wall and created a lake. Scientists see evidence that water carried **clay minerals** from the surrounding area into the Crater Lake. Conceivably, microbial life could have lived in Jezero during one or more of these wet times. If so, signs of their remains might be found in lakebed or shoreline sediments.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the **Blue Heart Campaign**:

- 1. It is a global awareness raising initiative to fight human trafficking and its impact on society.
- 2. India is a founding member of the Blue Heart Campaign.

Which of the 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 **Blue Heart Campaign** is a global awareness raising initiative to fight **human trafficking and its impact** on society.

It seeks to encourage involvement from governments, civil society, the corporate sector and individuals alike, to inspire action and help prevent this heinous crime.

It was launched by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** in 2019. All proceeds to the Blue Heart Campaign go to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Blue Heart Campaign is currently supported by governments, private sector, NGOs, goodwill ambassadors and concerned individuals around the world.

India currently is not a member to the campaign.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the **global food loss and waste norms** under the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**:

- 1. The Food Loss Index (FLI) focuses on food losses that occur from production up to (and not including) the retail level.
- 2. The Food Waste Index (FWI) measures the wasted food in the retail and consumption levels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

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Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 of Agenda 2030 seeks to “ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”. **Target 12.3** of that goal aims to “by 2030, halve the per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses”.

SDG target 12.3 has two components, Losses and Waste that should be measured by two separate indicators.

Sub-Indicator 12.3.1.a: The Food Loss Index (FLI) focuses on food losses that occur from production up to (and not including) the retail level. It measures the changes in percentage losses for a basket of 10 main commodities by country in comparison with a base period. The Food Loss Index has been developed by FAO.

Sub-Indicator 12.3.1.b: The Food Waste Index (FWI), a proposal for measuring Food Waste, which comprises the retail and consumption levels, is under development. UN Environment is taking the lead on this sub-indicator.

Q.4) Which of the following is depicted by the ‘Natesa’ form of Shiva?

- a) Lord of dance
- b) Lord of yoga
- c) A masculine and feminine form
- d) Lord of time

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Natesa or Natesha is Lord of Dance form of Shiva. Nataraja is another dancing form of Shiva. It is found in various sculptures and archeological sites across the Indian subcontinent.

Recently a 9th-10th century rare **Pratihara style idol** of Lord Shiva - Natesa', stolen in 1998 from **Ghateshwar Temple, Baroli, Rajasthan** has been repatriated to the Archeological Survey of India by the Indian High Commission in London.



Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the **Waste Wise Cities** initiative:

- 1. It is an initiative of the UN-Habitat.
- 2. It aims to address the challenge of solid waste management in cities.

Which 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.

UN-Habitat launched **Waste Wise Cities Campaign** in 2018 with a call for action in **sustainable solid waste management** in cities.

Under the initiative, UN-Habitat invites cities to join the Waste Wise Cities. To join, cities are requested to confirm their commitment to follow the **Key Principles**, which assist them on their way to becoming a Waste Wise City.

UN-Habitat partners with local governments to implement the **Waste Wise Cities Tool**, which is based on the monitoring methodology for waste **SDG indicator 11.6.1** (Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities), and provides an image of waste flows and amounts in the city.

Alliance to End Plastic Waste, a Singapore-based-NGO aims to invest up to USD 100m on environmental projects in India. It will use UN-Habitat Waste Wise Cities (WWC) Tool to map waste flows and assess potential plastic leakage from waste management system.

Q.6) Which of the following correctly defines the term '**Lyfe**' in the Universe in news recently?

- a) Life based on biology analogous to that found on Earth
- b) Life forms completely different from that found on Earth
- c) Life on Earth and the possible unknown forms of life in Universe
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: A new research supported by **NASA's astrobiology programme** has developed a novel and broader definition of life – called **Lyfe**- a definition that encapsulates life on Earth but also the possibility of "life not as we know it" elsewhere on the board.

The researchers developed the term lyfe and outlined 'four pillars' of the term's definition. These four pillars (**dissipation, autocatalysis, homeostasis, and learning**) can be used to identify any system that could be defined as living. Based on these criteria, the authors discuss Life (e.g. life as we know it on Earth) as a single instance of the broader phenomenon dubbed Lyfe.

Perseverance rover of NASA has the primary goal of finding signs of past life on Mars.

*Finding '**life as we know it**' would be a rarest of rare case and would mean a life based on biology analogous to that found on Earth. Other possibility would be to find '**life not as we know it**'!*

*Lyfe offers a novel perspective on what we consider to be a '**living state**' and could aid our understanding of what to look for in the search for life beyond Earth.*

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**:

- 1. He served twice as the president of Indian National Congress.
- 2. He was one of the leading participants in the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- 3. Muhammad Ali Jinnah defended Tilak in a sedition case.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** never became president of Indian National Congress.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. **Tilak breathed his last**, after a brief illness, in Bombay on August 1, 1920. Non-cooperation-Khilafat was launched by Khilafat committee on 31st August 1920. The programme was approved by Congress at a **special session in Calcutta** in September 1920.

Statement 3 is correct. In **1897**, Tilak was arrested and tried for sedition before the Bombay High Court. Dinshaw Davar, the lawyer who secured him bail, later became the judge and passed a sentence on him in 1908.

Tilak was arrested in **1908** and charged with sedition for second time. Initially, Jinnah appeared for Tilak and applied for bail, but this was rejected by Justice Davar.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah successfully defended Tilak in the latter's third sedition trial in **1916**.

Q.8) The report **Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead** pollution has been released by which of the following institution?

- a) World Health Organisation
- b) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- c) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- d) Save the Children Fund

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The report, '**The Toxic Truth: Children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of potential**' has been launched by **UNICEF** in collaboration with Pure Earth, an international non-profit organization.

Around **1 in 3 children** – up to 800 million globally – has blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per decilitre (µg/dL), a level that the **World Health Organization** have stated it requires global and regional interventions.

Nearly half of these children live in South Asia.

It notes that **lead is a potent neurotoxin** which causes irreparable harm to children's brains. It is particularly destructive to babies and children under the age of five as it damages their brains before they have had the opportunity to fully develop, causing them lifelong neurological, cognitive and physical impairment.

The report notes that informal and substandard recycling of **lead-acid batteries** is a leading contributor to lead poisoning in children living in low and middle-income countries

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Core sector** of the economy:

- 1. Eight Core Industries comprise more than half of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- 2. Refinery Products has the highest weightage in the Index of Eight Core Industries.

Which of the 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 monthly **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** is a production volume index. ICI measures collective and individual performance of production 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.

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Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Eight Core Industries** comprise **40.27 per cent** of the weight of items included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

Statement 2 is correct. Refinery Products has highest weightage in Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI).

Table :The Total weight for the Core Industries in IIP (2011-12) and Normalized weight

S.No.	Industries	Weights (% as in IIP 2011-12)	Weights(% in ICI)
1	Coal	4.1609	10.3335
2	Natural Gas (UT)	2.7690	6.8768
3	Crude Oil	3.6172	8.9833
4	Refinery Products	11.2896	28.0376
5	Fertilizers	1.0580	2.6276
6	Steel	7.2143	17.9166
7	Cement	2.1631	5.3720
8	Electricity	7.9940	19.8530
	Total	40.2660	100.0000

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the **Snow Leopard**:

1. It is endemic to Indian Himalayas.
2. It is listed as a vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Snow Leopard** occupies the high mountains of twelve countries extending from the **Hindu Kush** in eastern Afghanistan and the Syr Darya through the mountains of Pamir, Karakorum, Kunlun, and the **Himalaya** to southern **Siberia**, as well as the Russian Altai, Sayan and Tannu Ola Mountains.

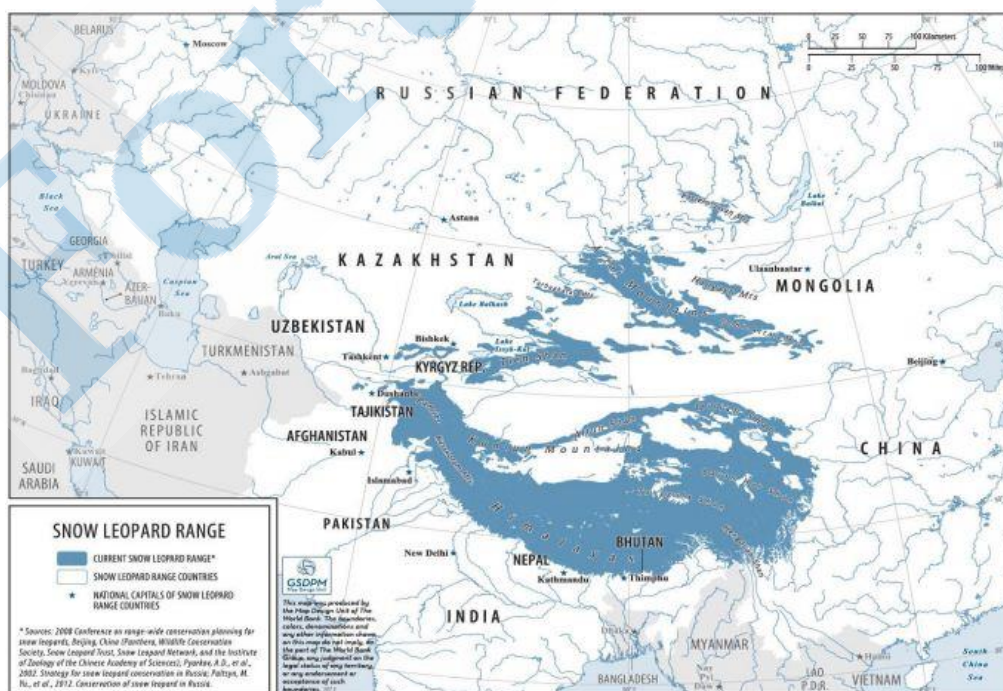


Figure 1: Snow Leopard Global Range

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Statement 2 is correct. **Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*)** is listed as Vulnerable on the **IUCN Red List** with decreasing population trend and **Appendix I** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**).

It has been reported that Uttarakhand is set to open the country's first snow leopard conservation center at the entry point of Gangotri National Park.

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor**:

1. It is a large-scale scientific experiment intended to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source.
 2. India is one of the participating countries in the project.
- Which of the 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.

ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) is a large-scale scientific experiment that intends to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source.

ITER is currently under construction in the south of France. Seven partners—**China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States**—have pooled their financial and scientific resources to build this fusion reactor.

ITER will not produce electricity, but it will resolve critical scientific and technical issues in order to take fusion to the point where industrial applications can be designed. By producing 500 MW of fusion power from 50 MW of power injected in the systems that heat the plasma—a "gain factor" of 10—ITER will open the way to the next step: a demonstration fusion power plant.

A fusion reactor would produce virtually no CO₂ or atmospheric pollutants, and its radioactive waste products would mostly be very short-lived compared to those produced by conventional nuclear fission reactors.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding **Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging)**:

1. It uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure distances.
 2. Lidar systems can measure natural as well as manmade environments with accuracy.
- Which of the 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.

Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure **ranges** to the Earth. These **light pulses**, combined with other data recorded by the airborne system, generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.

A lidar instrument principally consists of a **laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver**.

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From an airplane or helicopter, LiDAR systems send light to the ground. This pulse hits the ground and returns to the sensor. Then, it measures how long it takes for the light to return back to the sensor. By recording the return time, this is how LiDAR measures distance.

Digiantra Research and Technology (DRT), a space tech startup has developed India's first In-orbit Space Debris Monitoring and tracking system based on the LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology.

Q.13) What is the mandate of the **Kris Gopalakrishnan committee**?

- a) Non-Personal Data Governance Framework
- b) Evolution of the New Education Policy (NEP)
- c) Western Ghats Eco-sensitive zone
- d) Reforms in criminal laws of India

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Shri. **Kris Gopalakrishnan** has been constituted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) in to deliberate on **Non-Personal Data Governance Framework**. The following are the terms of reference of the said committee:

-To study various issues relating to Non-Personal Data.

-To make specific suggestions for consideration of the Central Government on the regulation of Non-Personal Data.

The committee has recently drafted its report and sought public comments.

-The report attempts to give definition of Non-personal Data and the concept of community data and the appropriate rights and privileges over this data.

-The report recommends the establishment of a Non-Personal Data Regulatory Authority with an enabling role as well as enforcing role.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**:

- 1. It is the statutory national standards body of India.
- 2. Prime Minister is the chairperson of the bureau.

Which of the 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. **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the National Standard Body of India established under the **BIS Act 2016** for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, is the ex-officio president of the BIS.

Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) Mobile App named **"BIS-Care"** has been launched recently to allow consumers to check the authenticity of the ISI-marked and hallmarked products and also lodge complaints using the application.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVAX Facility**:

- 1. It is a mechanism designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide.

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2. It is an initiative of the European Union and 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **COVAX Facility** is a mechanism designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide. Seventy-five countries have submitted expressions of interest to protect their populations and those of other nations through joining the COVAX.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The COVAX is co-led by **Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and World Health Organisation (WHO).**

*COVAX is the vaccines pillar of the **Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.***

The ACT-Accelerator brings together leaders of governments, global health organizations, businesses and philanthropies in a united response against COVID-19. The ACT-Accelerator is organized into four pillars of work: diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health system strengthening.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Transit Pass System:**

- 1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- 2. It aims to facilitate seamless movement of forest produce across India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **National Transit Pass System (NTPS)** has been launched recently by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

Statement 2 is correct. It is an online system for issuing **transit permits for timber, bamboo and other forest produce.** It aims to make the process of getting permits faster and without physically going to forest department offices and the passes will be issued through mobile applications.

The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana for now and is to be rolled out nationally in few months.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT):**

- 1. It is an exam for granting scholarships and admissions to foreign students for studying in India.
- 2. Ind-SAT 2020 is the first ever exam under the initiative.

Which of the 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 **Ministry of Human Resource & Development** recently conducted the first ever **Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT) Test 2020** under its 'Study in India' programme. **Ind-SAT** is an exam for grant of scholarships and admissions to foreign students for studying in select Indian universities under the Study in India programme.

The Ind-SAT scores will serve as a criterion to shortlist the meritorious students for the allocation of scholarships for under graduate as well as post graduate programmes under 'Study in India' programme.

The Study in India is a programme of MHRD under which foreign students come to study in 116 select higher education institutions in India for under graduate and post graduate programmes.

Q.18) The '**Financial Management Index for Rural Development Programmes**' is to rank States on which of the following parameter(s)?

1. Social Audit
2. Internal Audit
3. Direct Benefit Transfer

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: Recently **Ministry of Rural Development** released a "**Financial Management Index for Rural Development Programmes**" to rank the performance of the States on the basis of following parameters:

- Preparation of annual plan, projecting the requirement of funds for the financial year, expeditious release of State's share, timely utilization of the funds and submission of the Utilization Certificates etc.;
- Optimum implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) & Direct Benefit Transfer;
- Internal Audit; and
- Social Audit.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding **Operation Breathing Space**:

1. It aims to develop, test and deploy rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19.
2. It is a collaborative initiative between India and Israel.

Which of the 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.

'**Operation Breathing Space**' is collaboration between **Israeli** scientists, health experts and their **Indian** counterparts to develop, test and deploy rapid diagnostic tests for Covid-19.

The joint effort also plans to develop high-tech equipment to minimize exposure of medical staff to the virus, advanced respirators and special sanitizers developed in Israel.

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Q.20) The **Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF)** is a joint initiative of India with which of the following country?

- a) United Kingdom
- b) Russian Federation
- c) United States of America
- d) Japan

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF)** is a joint initiative of the **United Kingdom and India** to invest in renewable energy, clean transportation, water and waste management in India.

The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund of India** partnered with the **Department for International Development (DFID)**, an arm of the UK government to launch the Green Growth Equity Fund ("GGEF"). Both have committed GBP 120 million each into the Fund. EverSource Capital, an equal joint venture between Everstone Group and Lightsource BP was selected as the fund manager for GGEF.

Q.21) Which of the following foreign language(s) is/are to be offered at the secondary level under the **National Education Policy 2020**?

- 1. Japanese
- 2. Mandarin
- 3. Portuguese

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: As per the **National Education Policy 2020**, in addition to high quality offerings in Indian languages and English, foreign languages, such as **Korean, Japanese, Thai, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian**, will also be offered at the secondary level, for students to learn about the cultures of the world and to enrich their global knowledge and mobility according to their own interests and aspirations.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the **Dhole** wild dog:

- 1. It is endemic to Asian continent.
- 2. It is listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Dhole is the wild dog of Asia that was once found throughout much of the continent, but this species is now endangered and has a much restricted range.

It is an extant species in Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Myanmar; Nepal and Thailand.

Dhole is listed as **Endangered species in IUCN Red List** of Threatened Species with decreasing population trend. It is also listed in **CITES Appendix II**.

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Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the **BeiDou**:

1. It is the satellite navigation system of China.
 2. The area of coverage of the Beidou system is limited to the China's territory only.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **BeiDou is the Navigation Satellite System** constellation developed and deployed by China. BeiDou offers its users all kinds of services. This includes accurate positioning upto 10m, navigation and timing, as well as short messaging communication.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Beidou system provides **global coverage** to its users. China in 2015 launched the third generation BeiDou system (BeiDou-3) for global coverage. It has recently declared completion and commissioning of BeiDou-3 Navigation Satellite System. *Other global navigation systems are GPS by USA, GLONASS by Russia and Galileo by European Union.*

Q.24) Where is **Barakah Nuclear Power Plant** located?

- a) Iran
- b) North Korea
- c) Russia
- d) United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has recently announced that it has started operations in the first of four reactors at the **Barakah nuclear power station** - the first nuclear power plant in the Arab world.

Nuclear fission has begun in one of four reactors at the Barakah plant, which uses South Korean technology. The plant was due to open in 2017 but start-up was delayed for safety requirements.



Q.25) Which of the following is correct regarding the **Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM)**?

- a) It aims to popularize science among school students of standard VI to XI
- b) It links Higher Education Institutions with different villages in the country
- c) It is an IIT-IISc initiative to address the major science and engineering challenges facing India
- d) None of the above

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan' 2020-21 has been launched recently. VVM is a national program for popularizing science among school students of **standard VI to XI**, conceptualized to identify the bright minds with a scientific aptitude among the student community.

Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) is an initiative of **Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)**, in collaboration with **Vigyan Prasara**, an autonomous organization under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**, an institution under the Ministry of Education

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the **ACE2 receptor**:

1. It is a protein on the surface of several cell types in the body.
2. The SARS-CoV-2 virus binds to ACE2 using Spike proteins.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

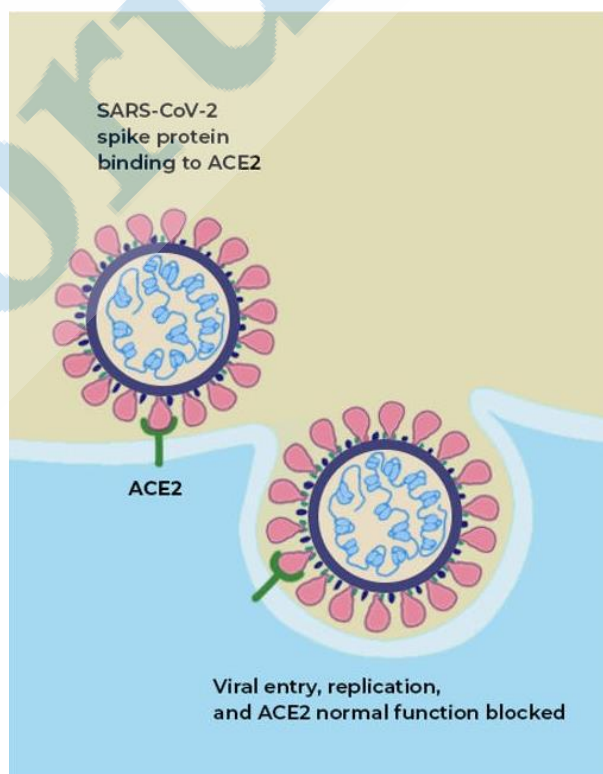
Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) ACE2 is a protein on the surface of many cell types. It is an enzyme that generates small proteins – by cutting up the larger protein angiotensinogen.

ACE2 is present in many cell types and tissues including the lungs, heart, blood vessels, kidneys, liver and gastrointestinal tract. It is present in epithelial cells, which line certain tissues and create protective barriers.

The **SARS-CoV-2** virus binds to ACE2, using the **spike-like protein** on its surface, prior to entry and infection of cells. Hence, ACE2 acts as a cellular receptor for the virus that causes COVID-19.



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Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding the **Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020**:

1. SIH 2020 is the first edition of the nationwide initiative to provide students a platform of product innovation.
2. SIH is being conducted in two formats; the SIH Software and SIH Hardware Editions.

Which of the 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. **Smart India Hackathon (SIH)** is a nationwide initiative that is being conducted every year **since 2017**, to provide students a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving.

Statement 2 is correct. There are two formats for the Hackathon - **SIH Software and SIH Hardware** Editions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SIH Software Edition is being conducted in fully ONLINE mode.

Themes for SIH 2020 include Healthcare & Biomedical Devices, Agriculture & Rural Development, Renewable Energy, Food Processing, and Smart Vehicles among etc.

Q.28) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Galápagos Islands - Ecuador
2. Minsk - Belarus
3. Da Nang - Vietnam

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 correctly matched.

The **Galápagos Islands** is a volcanic archipelago in the Pacific Ocean, a province of Ecuador and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Minsk is the capital and largest city of Belarus, located on the Svislac and the Nyamiha Rivers.

Da Nang is a coastal city in central Vietnam, a former French colonial port.

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the **Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Education.
2. The Union Minister of Education is the chairperson of the 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

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Central Advisory Board of Education**, one of the oldest and the most important advisory body of the Government of India in education was first established in 1920 and dissolved in 1923 as a measure of economy. It was revived in 1935 and has been in existence ever since.

Statement 1 is incorrect. It is not a statutory body; the current Board has been reconstituted by a Government of India **Resolution** of October, 1990.

Statement 2 is correct. The Chairperson of the board is **Union Minister of Education**.

National Education Policy 2020 recommends strengthening and empowering the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE). The remodeled and rejuvenated CABE shall also be responsible for developing, articulating, evaluating, and revising the vision of education in the country on a continuous basis, in close collaboration with MHRD and the corresponding apex bodies of States.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding the **Crew Dragon Endeavour**:

1. It is a spacecraft developed by the Roscosmos.
2. It took its first crewed space flight in 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Crew Dragon Endeavour** is a spacecraft, manufactured and operated by SpaceX and used by **NASA's Commercial Crew Program**.

Statement 2 is correct. It was launched successfully for the first time with crew on board in May 2020 by **Falcon 9 rocket** and has returned back to Earth with crew onboard on August 2nd 2020.

It is the spacecraft used in the **first crewed orbital spaceflight from the United States since 2011** and the first crewed orbital spaceflight by a private company.

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the **COVISHIELD**:

1. It is an antiviral textile technology that is added to the fabric during the final stage of the manufacturing process.
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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **COVISHIELD** is a potential vaccine against SARS-COV-2 virus that has been granted approval for **Phase II+III clinical trials** in India by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

Statement 2 is correct. It is the **ChAdOx1 nCoV-19** vaccine developed by the Oxford University. The Serum Institute of India, partner in production of the vaccine, has named the product as COVISHIELD.

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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.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework**:

1. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog-Atal Innovation Mission.
2. It aims at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** framework is an initiative of the Ministry of Defence.

Statement 2 is correct. It was launched with the aim to achieve **self-reliance and to foster innovation** and technology development in Defence and Aerospace Sector by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.

This initiative provides them grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs. iDEX is being funded and managed by a '**Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)**'.

The share of domestic procurement in overall Defence procurement is about 60 per cent.

Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding the **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)**:

1. It is a survey based economic indicator that evaluates the perception of purchasing managers at different businesses.
2. A figure above 50 denotes expansion in business activity.

Which of the 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 **purchasing managers' index (PMI)** is an economic indicator that **surveys purchasing managers** at businesses that make up a given sector. The most common PMI surveys are the manufacturing PMI and the services PMI.

The PMI consists of several different surveys that are compiled into a **single numerical result** depending on one of several possible answers to each question.

The most **common elements** include: New orders, Factory output, Employment, Suppliers' delivery times and Stocks of purchases; while the most **common answers** include: Improvement, No change and Deterioration.

A reading **above 50 suggests an improvement/expansion**, while a reading below 50 suggests deterioration/contraction.

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Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding the **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)**:

1. It aims to provide an overview of the vaccine cold chain logistics system across the country.
2. It is being implemented under National Health Mission (NHM) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the 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 **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)** is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country. This is being implemented under **National Health Mission (NHM)** by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

-It digitizes the entire **vaccine stock management**, their logistics and temperature tracking at all levels of vaccine storage – from national to the sub-district.

-This enables program managers to have real time view of the vaccine stock position and their storage temperature across all the cold chain points providing a detailed overview of the vaccine cold chain logistics system across the entire country.

-eVIN has reached 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) and will soon be rolled-out in the remaining States and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Ladakh and Sikkim.

Q.35) Which of the following island(s) is/are in the Union Territory of **Lakshadweep**?

1. Agatti Island
2. Bangaram Island
3. Kadmat Island

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

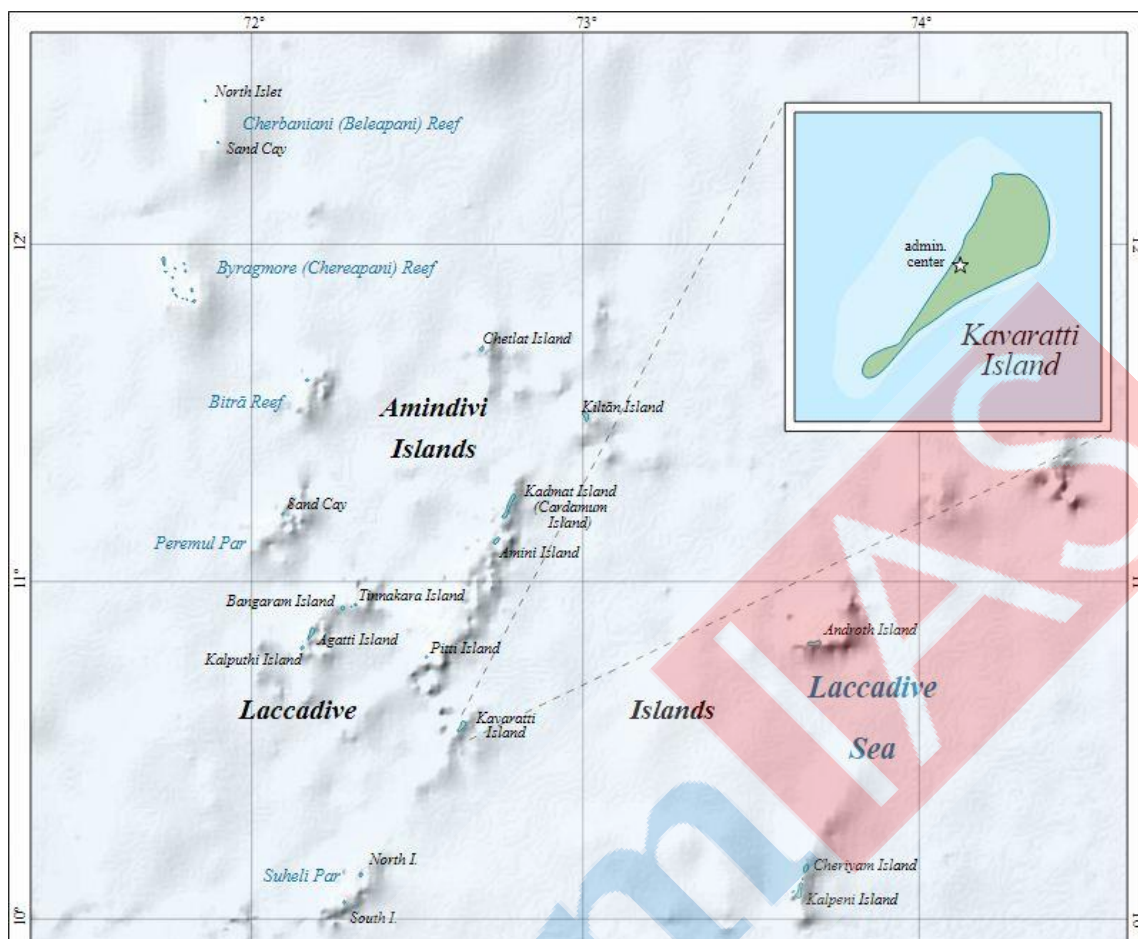
Explanation: All of the above are in the **Union Territory of Lakshadweep**.

Agatti Island is a 7.6 km long island, situated on a coral Agatti atoll in Lakshadweep.

Bangaram is a teardrop shaped island close to Agatti and Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.

Kadmat Island, also known as Cardamom Island, is a coral island belonging to the Amindivi subgroup of islands of the Lakshadweep.

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Minicoy Island lying south of nine-degree channel, not shown in the image, is part of the UT of Lakshadweep.

Q.36) Which of the following is/are the result of the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**?

1. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is administered by the President, through a Lieutenant Governor appointed by him.
 2. Jammu and Kashmir no more shares its border with the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

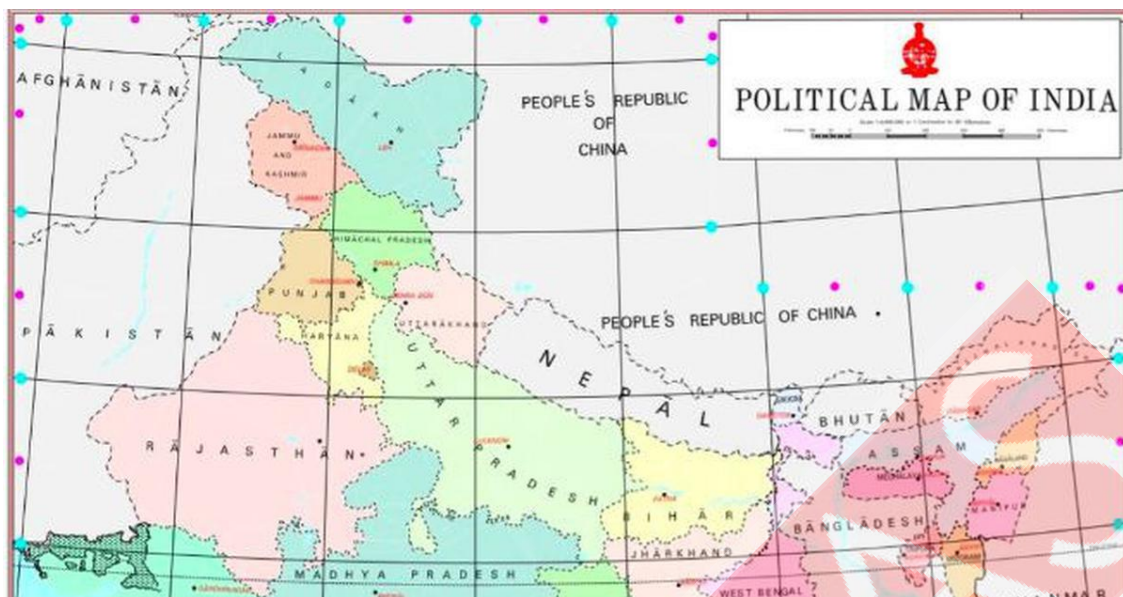
Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019** reorganised the state of Jammu and Kashmir into: (i) the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature, and (ii) the Union Territory of Ladakh without a legislature.

The Union Territory of Ladakh comprises Kargil and Leh districts, and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir comprises the remaining territories of the existing state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is administered by the President, through an administrator appointed by him known as the **Lieutenant Governor**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Both new UTs share their border with the state of **Himachal Pradesh**.



Q.37) What does the **Good Friday Agreement** relate to?

- a) Israel-Palestine Peace treaty
- b) Saudi Arabia-Houthi ceasefire agreement
- c) Peace deal to end the Northern Ireland Troubles
- d) Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Agreement between African Union Members

Correct answer: C

Explanation: From the late 1960s, **Northern Ireland** was plunged into a violent conflict between **republicans** who wanted the province to become part of a united Ireland and **unionists** who wanted to remain within the United Kingdom. The Troubles was a period when there was a lot of violence between two groups.

In 1998 - after nearly two years of talks and 30 years of conflict - the **Good Friday agreement (or Belfast Agreement)** was signed. This resulted in a new government being formed that would see power being shared between Unionists and Nationalists.

The agreement was formally made between the **British and Irish governments, and eight political parties of Northern Ireland**.

The agreement acknowledged the constitutional status of Northern Ireland as a part of the United Kingdom, reflecting the wish of the majority of citizens. It also established a **principle of consent** - that a united Ireland could come about if and when a majority of people in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland wanted it. In this instance, the British government would be bound to hold a referendum, and honour the result.



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Q.38) Which of the following is a punishable offence under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**?

1. Making false claim for obtaining any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits.
2. Misappropriation of money or materials meant for providing relief.
3. Making or circulating false warning regarding disaster or its severity and magnitude.

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 punishable offences under the Disaster Management Act 2005.

Chapter X of the Act provides for offence and penalties. Some of which are:

- if one **obstructs any government employee** of the in the discharge of his functions under this Act or for refusing to comply with any direction given under the act.
- if one knowingly makes a **claim** which he knows or has reason to believe to be false for obtaining any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits.
- misappropriation** of money or materials, etc. meant for providing relief in any threatening disaster situation or disaster.
- making or circulating a false alarm** or warning as to disaster or its severity or magnitude, leading to panic.

Q.39) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. The real interest rate refers to the interest rate before taking inflation into account.
2. A nominal interest rate adjusts the observed market interest rate for the effects of inflation.

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: D

Explanation: Both statements are **incorrect** with **definitions interchanged**.

The real interest rate adjusts the observed market interest rate for the effects of inflation. It is an interest rate that has been adjusted to remove the effects of inflation to reflect the real cost of funds to the borrower and the real yield to the lender or to an investor.

A nominal interest rate refers to the interest rate before taking inflation into account. The nominal interest rate is generally the one advertised by the institution backing the loan or investment.

Real Interest Rate = Nominal Interest Rate - Inflation (Expected or Actual)

Q.40) Which of the following correctly defines the **China Study Group (CSG)** that has been in news recently?

- a) An informal group under Government of India
- b) An economic policy group among OECD member countries
- c) A group of democracies proposed by United Kingdom
- d) None of the above

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **China Study Group (CSG)** is an informal group constituted in 1997, comprising the Cabinet Secretary, secretaries of Defence and Home ministries, the Army chief, Director of Intelligence Bureau among others.

[A report on ThePrint has different origin time for group: The CSG was set up in November 1975 on the instructions of then-PM Indira Gandhi, comprising the secretaries of external affairs, defence, and home.]

The National Security Advisor convenes its meeting from time to time. The CSG usually monitors the India-China border, assess its management, and help in preparations for negotiations with China on the border question.

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**:

1. It provided for Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with vacant seats for Gilgit-Baltistan region.
2. Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir can make laws on any matters specified in the State List of the Constitution, except 'Police' and 'Public 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. As per the reorganisation of the erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir state, the region of **Gilgit-Baltistan now falls under UT of Ladakh**.

Statement 2 is correct. The Legislative Assembly of UT of Jammu & Kashmir can make laws for any part of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir related to: (i) any matters specified in the State List of the Constitution, except **"Police" and "Public Order"**, and (ii) any matter in the Concurrent List applicable to Union Territories.

Parliament also has the power to make laws in relation to any matter for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.



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Q.42) The **Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)** is an initiative of which of the following organisation/institution?

- a) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- b) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- c) Save the Children Fund
- d) Oxford University

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)** is the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment. PISA measures **15-year-olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics and science** knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges.

The study, which began in the year 2000, conducts a test evaluating 15-year-olds in member and non-member countries to assess the quality and inclusivity of school systems in these countries. The PISA test is held **every three years**.

India has participated in the PISA test only once before, in 2009 and has decided to take part in next PISA, which was due in 2021 but has been **postponed to 2022**.

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the **Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment (WEE)** initiative:

- 1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- 2. It promotes entrepreneurship as a viable, fulfilling career option among college going female students.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment (WEE)** is a first of its kind social national initiative by **IIT Delhi** to strengthen women startup eco system. The initiative is supported by **Department of Science and Technology**, Government of India.

Statement 2 is correct. It attempts to promote entrepreneurship as a viable, fulfilling career option amongst women from a college going student to a middle-aged housewife.

Under the **WEE Mentorship Program** at IIT Delhi, a batch of 30 women is trained in entrepreneurship every six months. Step by step guidance is provided to strengthen and validate the business idea. Women entrepreneurs are connected to potential investors and buyers for their products so that they can take their business idea to a financially sustainable enterprise.

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding the **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)**:

- 1. It has a dual role of both a market developer and a service provider for tribals of the country.
- 2. It markets the handcrafted products directly procured from the tribals in India under the brand name TRIBES 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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) was established in August 1987 under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 by the Government of India as a National level Cooperative body.

TRIFED is mandated to bring about **socio-economic development of tribals** of the country by institutionalizing the trade of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) & Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) collected/ cultivated by them.

TRIFED plays the dual role of both a **market developer and a service provider**, empowering them with knowledge and tools to better their operations in a systematic, scientific manner and also assist them in developing their marketing approach.

TRIFED, under the brand name **TRIBES INDIA**, markets the handcrafted products directly procured from the tribals in India through its outlets all over India and e-commerce portals.

Q.45) Which of the following correctly defines the idea of 'Time Capsule' in news recently?

- a) a means of preserving information or artefacts for a long time into future
- b) a means of altering the space time dimension to make time travel a reality
- c) a spacecraft designed to travel at one-third of speed of light
- d) an ayurvedic medicinal composition to put a person in deep sleep

Correct answer: A

Explanation: A **Time Capsule** is a container of any size or shape, which accommodates and preserves **documents, photos and other artefacts** typical of the current era or history and is buried underground, for future generations to unearth and study.

International Time Capsule Society (ITCS) estimates the number of time capsules in the world to around 10,000-15,000 times capsules worldwide.

A time capsule was placed underground outside the **Red Fort in 1972** by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, it was dug out by the subsequent Janta Party government.

Q.46) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the provisions of **Preventive Detention** under the Constitution of India?

- 1. Every arrested person must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours after arrest.
- 2. The Advisory Board for allowing detention of a person longer than three months must be headed by a Judge of Supreme Court.

Which of the 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. Under Article 22 (2) every arrested person must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours after arrest. However, **Article 22 (3) provides exception** in case of preventive detention detainees and enemy aliens from the said clause.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per the article 22(4), no law providing for preventive detention shall authorize the detention of a person for a longer period than three months unless:

-an **Advisory Board** consisting of persons who **are**, or **have been**, or are **qualified to be** appointed as, **Judges of a High Court** has reported before the expiration of the said period of three months that there is in its opinion sufficient cause for such detention;

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-or such person is detained in accordance with the provisions of any law made by Parliament.

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding the **Antigen tests** for disease diagnosis:

1. The test is done on the blood sample of a suspected patient.
2. It detects if a person was infected by the disease in past.

Which of the 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 sample for the rapid Antigen test is taken through a **Nasal or throat swab**. The Antibody test on the other hand requires a blood sample.

Statement 2 is incorrect. An antigen test reveals if a person is **currently infected** with a pathogen such as the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Once the infection has gone, the antigen disappears. It is a diagnosis for an active infection.

Antigen tests detect proteins or glycans, such as the spike proteins found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**:

1. It was established by Group of Seven (G-7) Summit.
2. It is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.
3. India is a member jurisdiction of the FATF.

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.

The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** was established in July 1989 by a **Group of Seven (G-7)** Summit in Paris, initially to examine and develop measures to combat **money laundering**.

In 2001, the FATF expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to **combat terrorist financing**, in addition to money laundering. In 2012, it added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The FATF currently comprises **37 member jurisdictions** including India and 2 regional organisations (GCC & European Commission), representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.

Q.49) Which of the following location(s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Beirut - Lebanon
2. Tripoli - Libya
3. Khartoum - Sudan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

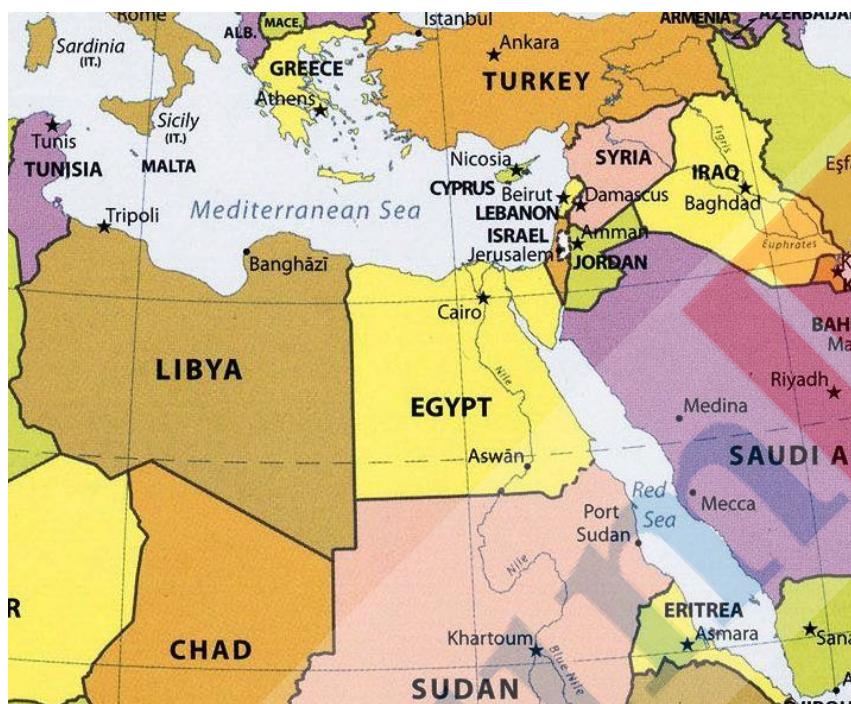
Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above capital cities are correctly matched.

Beirut is the capital and largest city of **Lebanon**.

The capital **Tripoli** is located in western **Libya**.

Khartoum or Khartum is the capital of **Sudan**.



Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding the **Yuva Sahakar Scheme**:

1. It is being implemented by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
 2. It aims to encourage cooperative societies to venture into new and innovative 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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' aims for attracting youth into cooperative business ventures.

The scheme is linked to Rs 1000 crore '**Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)**' created by the NCDC and has more incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST or PwD members.

The scheme envisages 2% less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal. All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible.

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Agriculture Ministry has recently launched the Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel, a new initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation.

Q.51) Consider the following statements regarding the **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Education.
2. It provides finance at competitive interest rates to educational institutions and supplements it with grants by channelizing CSR funds.

Which of the 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. **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)** is a joint venture of **Ministry of Education, Government of India and Canara Bank**.

HEFA is registered under **Section 8 [Not-for-profit]** under the Companies Act 2013 as a Union Govt company and as Non-deposit taking NBFC with RBI.

Statement 2 is correct. HEFA Vision: To enable India's premier educational institutions to excel and reach the top in global rankings by financing building world class infrastructure including R&D Infra.

HEFA Mission: To provide timely finance at competitive interest rates for capital assets creation in India's educational institutions and supplement it with grants by channelizing CSR funds from the corporate and donations from others.

Q.52) Consider the following statements regarding the **Parivar Pehchan Patra Yojna**:

1. It has been launched by Ministry of Home Affairs as an extension to the Aadhaar UID.
2. It is to be mandatory for families availing benefits under Union government schemes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

The **Parivar Pehchan Patra Yojna** is a unique initiative of **Government of Haryana** in which each family will be considered a single unit and allotted an 8-digit unique identification number.

It is mandatory for each family to register themselves on the Parivar Pehchan Patra portal in order to avail the **benefits of social security schemes of the state government**. The Haryana government has also made it mandatory for its employees to go for this scheme, failing which their salaries may also be withheld.

Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are also exploring the possibility of implementing a similar project.

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ammonium nitrate**:

1. It has utility in making explosives and fertilizers.
2. It does not burn on its own but acts as a source of oxygen that can accelerate the combustion of other materials.

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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.

Ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3) is a crystal-like white solid which is made in large industrial quantities. Its major use is as a source of nitrogen for fertilizer and is also used to create explosives for mining.

Ammonium nitrate does not burn on its own. Instead, it **acts as a source of oxygen** that can accelerate the combustion (burning) of other materials.

At high enough temperatures ammonium nitrate can **violently decompose** on its own. This process creates gases including nitrogen oxides and water vapour. It is this rapid release of gases that causes an explosion.

Q.54) The **Bru tribal community** is a native of which following State?

- a) Tripura
- b) Kerala
- c) Sikkim
- d) Odisha

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Brus**, also known as **Reangs**, are spread across **Tripura, Mizoram and southern Assam** states in India.

Their **clashes with the majority Mizos** in 1995 led to the demand for the removal of the Brus (perceived to be non-indigenous) from Mizoram's electoral rolls. This led to an armed movement by a Bru outfit, The retaliatory ethnic violence saw more than 40,000 Brus fleeing to adjoining Tripura where they took shelter in relief camps.

The Centre and the two State governments involved made several attempts to resettle the Brus in Mizoram and Tripura.

Q.55) Which of the following **exception(s) to the right to equality** is/are provided under the Constitution of India?

1. Special provisions for women and children.
2. Special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens.
3. Special provisions for the advancement of any economically weaker sections of citizens.

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 in the Constitution of India.

Article 15 provides for prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Further article the clause **15(3)** states that nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for **women and children**.

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Clause **15(4)** states that nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any **socially and educationally backward classes of citizens** or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Clause **15(6)(a)** states that nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any **economically weaker sections** of citizens.

Q.56) Consider the following statements regarding lending by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**:

1. IMF does not finance balance of payment needs of the industrialized and developed economies.
2. IMF does not provide concessional financial support to any 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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. IMF loans are meant to help member countries tackle balance of payments problems, stabilize their economies, and restore sustainable economic growth.

Any member country, whether rich, middle-income, or poor, can turn to the IMF for financing if it has a balance of payments need.

Statement 2 is incorrect. All IMF members are eligible to access the Fund's resources in the General Resources Account (GRA) on non-concessional terms, but the IMF also provides **concessional** financial support through the **Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT)** which is better tailored to the diversity and needs of low-income countries.

Q.57) Consider the following statements regarding the **Right to Freedom of Religion** under the Constitution of India:

1. The freedom is guaranteed to all persons subject to maintenance of public order, morality and health.
2. State is empowered to regulate any economic, financial, political or other secular activity associated with religious practice.

Which of the 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.

Article 25, providing for the freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion, under **clause 25(1)** states that 'subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion'.

Similar exception is provided under article 26 regarding freedom to manage religious affairs.

Sub-clause **25(2)(a)** provide for **power of the state** for making any law regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice.

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Q.58) Which of the following is the basic parameter for the annual **FutureBrand Index Rankings**?

- a) Market Capitalisation
- b) Credit Rating
- c) Brand Perception Strength
- d) All of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **FutureBrand Index** is a global **brand perception study** based on the **PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PwC) Global Top 100 Companies** by market capitalisation. Now in its sixth year and fifth iteration, the ranking re-orders the PwC Top100 in terms of brand perception strength, rather than just financial strength.

Reliance Industries of India has ranked second after Apple in FutureBrand Index 2020. Its PWC 2020 position was 91.

Q.59) Which of the following state(s) produce **GI-tag Basmati Rice** in India?

- 1. Punjab
- 2. Uttarakhand
- 3. Madhya Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: In 2010, APEDA, a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce, got GI tag certification for the Basmati rice grown in region located in **Indo-Gangetic Plains (IGP)** below the foothills of the Himalayas, spread across seven states — Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Western UP (26 districts) and Delhi.

Madhya Pradesh has been demanding inclusion of its 13 districts in the GI tag.

Q.60) Which of the following country(s) is/are signatory to the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**?

- 1. Afghanistan
- 2. Iran
- 3. Pakistan

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: **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** has an objective to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

To further the goal of non-proliferation and as a confidence-building measure between States parties, the Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of **the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**.

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Four UN member states have never signed the treaty: **India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Sudan. North Korea** acceded to the treaty in 1985, later declared its withdrawal from it in 2003.

Q.61) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pokkali Rice variety**:

1. It is a saline resistant rice variety.
2. It is cultivated in the winter season in coastal regions of Kerala.

Which of the 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. **Pokkali is a unique saline tolerant rice variety** that is cultivated in an organic way in the water-logged coastal regions, spread in about 5000 hectares area in Alappuzha, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts of Kerala.

Since the tidal flows make the fields highly fertile, no manure or fertilizer need to be applied; the seedlings just grow the natural way. In order to survive in the water-logged field, the rice plants grow up to two metres.

Statement 2 is incorrect. 'Pokkali' rice is cultivated in the pokkali field during **May/June to October** and the remaining period (November – April) is utilized for **prawn culture or 'Chemeenkettu'**.

Q.62) Consider the following statements regarding the **TsunamiReady program**:

1. It is a community performance-based programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
2. There is no Tsunami Ready recognized community 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. **Tsunami Ready** is a community performance-based programme initiated by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO** to promote tsunami preparedness through active collaboration of public, community leaders, and national and local emergency management agencies.

The main objective of this programme is to improve coastal community's preparedness for tsunami emergencies, to minimize the loss of life and property.

Statement 2 is incorrect. To implement and monitor the implementation of Tsunami Ready in India, Ministry of Earth Sciences established a National Board under the chairmanship of Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Centre (INCOIS) with members drawn from various institutions.

The **Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)**, Odisha has now implemented the Tsunami Ready programme in two villages, **Venkatraipur in Ganjam District, Noliasahi in Jagatsingpur District**.

Based on the National Board recommendations, UNESCO-IOC has approved the recognition of two communities as Tsunami Ready Communities. With this recognition, India is the first country to implement Tsunami Ready in the Indian Ocean Region and Odisha is the first state.

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Q.63) Consider the following statements regarding the **India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS)**:

1. The information under WRIS includes rainfall, discharge of rivers, ground water levels, reservoir storages, evapotranspiration and soil moisture.
2. The information system is maintained and updated by the 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Water Resources Information System (WRIS)** portal contains information related to Water Resources through dashboards for **rainfall, water levels & discharge of rivers, water bodies, ground water levels, reservoir storages, evapotranspiration and soil moisture**, as well as modules on water resources projects, water bodies, hydro-met data availability and tools for GIS layer editing.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS)**, under the National Hydrology Project, launched the first version of India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) in July, 2019 and has been updated recently with a new version.

India WRIS is, at present, receiving data from many central and state agencies on regular basis. The MoJS has established a dedicated organization, **National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC)** to maintain and update India WRIS.

Q.64) Which of the following category(s) is/are included in the **Priority Sector Lending** norms of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

1. Export Credit
2. Education
3. Renewable Energy

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: D

Explanation: All of the are included in the **Priority Sector Lending** norm of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Priority Sector includes the following categories: Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, **Export Credit, Education**, Housing, Social Infrastructure, **Renewable Energy** and Others.

The 40 per cent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit or Credit Equivalent Amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher is mandatory to be given to priority sector.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently declared to bring startups under the purview of priority sector lending (PSL).

Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding the **REDD+**:

1. It is a climate change mitigation solution developed by parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. It incentivizes countries to keep their forest standing by offering result-based payments for reduced carbon emissions.

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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. **Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+)** is a mechanism developed by Parties to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

Statement 2 is correct. It creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering **incentives for developing countries** to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. Developing countries would receive results-based payments for results-based actions.



Q.66) Which of the following is correct regarding the **Next Generation EU (NGEU)**?

- a) It is a fund for economic recovery of the European Union countries
- b) It is an incentive based global effort for COVID-19 vaccine development
- c) It is a 2050 target expansion plan for European Union
- d) It is a new border cooperation policy among European Union members

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **European Council** has recently adopted conclusions on the EU recovery plan and Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027.

'Next Generation EU (NGEU)' fund authorizes the European Commission to borrow in the capital markets on the EU's behalf for the sole purpose of addressing the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. The additional funds raised will be disbursed to member states as

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grants and loans. EU leaders also agreed the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF), setting a budget of EUR1.074 trillion.

Q.67) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Chang Chenmo Valley - Ladakh
2. Siachen - Jammu and Kashmir
3. Sir Creek - Gujarat

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

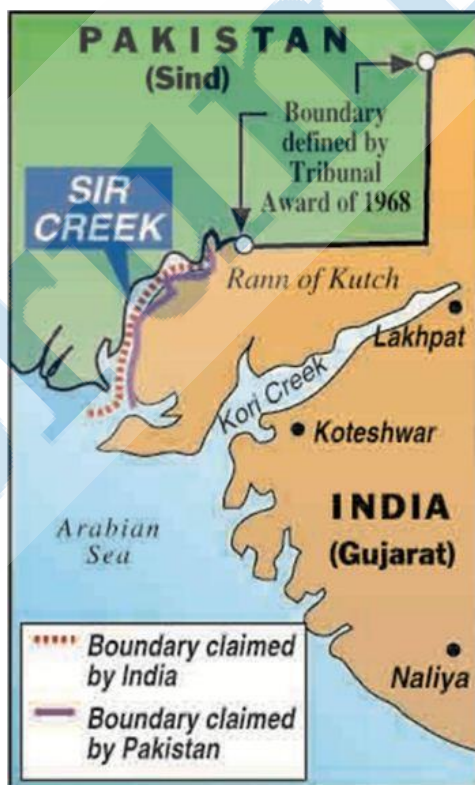
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Chang Chenmo River**, a tributary of the Shyok River, which flows into the Indus River forms the valley near the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh UT.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. The **Siachen Glacier** is located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas in Ladakh UT. India's successfully took control of the Siachen Glacier as part of Operation Meghdoot in 1984.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Sir Creek is a tidal estuary** in the uninhabited marshlands of the Indus River Delta on the border between India and Pakistan. The creek flows into the Arabian Sea near the Gujarat state in India from Sindh province in Pakistan.



Q.68) Consider the following statements regarding **Leopards**:

1. Leopards are extinct from India with last sighting about 50 years ago.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List.

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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. In India, the **leopard is found in all forest types**, from tropical rainforests to temperate deciduous and alpine coniferous forests. It is also found in dry scrubs and grasslands, the only **exception** being desert and the mangroves of Sundarbans. It shares its territory with the tiger in various states.

Statement 2 is correct. **Indian leopard or Common leopard (Panthera pardus)** is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and included in Appendix I of CITES.

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding the **Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)** norms:

1. It is a measurement system used to assess the maturity level of a particular technology.
2. It was originally developed by NASA.

Which of the 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.

Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) is a type of measurement system used to assess the **maturity level** of a particular technology. Each technology project is evaluated against the parameters for each technology level and is then assigned a TRL rating based on the projects progress.

Originally introduced by **NASA**, the TRL scale is a metric with **nine technology readiness levels** for describing the maturity of a technology from ideation stage (TRL1) to highest degree of application/commercial readiness (TRL 9).

TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL (TRL)

RESEARCH	9	ACTUAL SYSTEM PROVEN IN OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
	8	SYSTEM COMPLETE AND QUALIFIED
	7	SYSTEM PROTOTYPE DEMONSTRATION IN OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
DEVELOPMENT	6	TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATED IN RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT
	5	TECHNOLOGY VALIDATED IN RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT
	4	TECHNOLOGY VALIDATED IN LAB
	3	EXPERIMENTAL PROOF OF CONCEPT
	2	TECHNOLOGY CONCEPT FORMULATED
	1	BASIC PRINCIPLES OBSERVED

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Q.70) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome' (SFTS):

1. It is a tick-borne viral disease.
2. It is endemic to Africa with no known cases in rest 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome virus (SFTSV)** is a tickborne virus (genus Phlebovirus, family Phenuiviridae) that can cause a mild to severe febrile illness similar to hemorrhagic fever.

SFTS is characterized by acute high fever, thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, elevated serum hepatic enzymes, gastrointestinal symptoms, and multiorgan failure.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS) illness was **first confirmed in China in 2009**. It was retrospectively identified in South Korea in 2010 and the western regions of Japan in 2013.

Recently the disease has killed seven and infected at least 60 in China.

Q.71) What is the mandate of recently constituted **K.V. Kamath Committee**?

- a) Public Debt Management of Government of India
- b) Financial parameters for resolution of stressed assets
- c) Credit support for revitalization of MSMEs
- d) Management of overlapping functions of financial regulators in India

Correct answer: B

Explanation: RBI had recently announced a **loan recast window** for companies. It has further announced a committee chaired by KV Kamath, former chief of New Development Bank.

The committee will recommend on the required **financial parameters**, along with the **sector specific benchmark ranges** which need to be factored into the resolution plans. The expert committee will also undertake the process validation for the resolution plans to be implemented under this framework.

Q.72) Consider the following statements regarding the **Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India**:

1. The CAG of India can be removed on the ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity.
2. S/he is not eligible for further office under either the Government of India or any State after s/he has ceased to hold the office of CAG.

Which of the 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 the **article 148 of the Constitution**, the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India shall only be removed from office in like manner and on the **like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court**.

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A Judge of the Supreme Court cannot be removed from his/her office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the **ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity**.

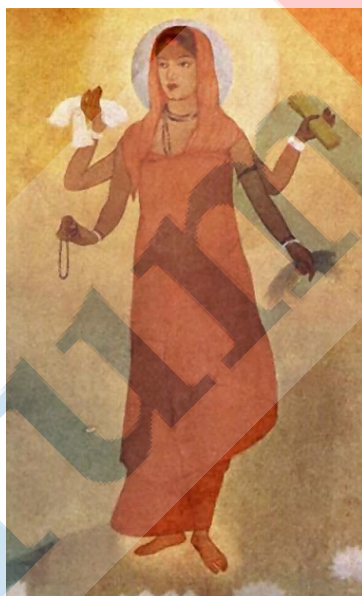
As per clause (4) of article 148, the Comptroller and Auditor-General **shall not be eligible** for further office either under the Government of India or under the Government of any State after he has ceased to hold his office.

Q.73) Which one of the following is a famous painting by **Abanindranath Tagore**?

- a) Bharat Mata
- b) Shakuntala looking for Dushyanta
- c) Darjeeling and Fog
- d) Arjuna's Penance

Correct answer: A

Explanation: '**Bharat Mata**' is Abanindranath Tagore's work (1905) depicting a saffron clad woman, dressed like a sadhvi, holding a book, sheaves of paddy, a piece of white cloth and a garland in her four hands.



'**Darjeeling and Fog**' was created in 1945 by Nandalal Bose.

The 'Descent of the Ganges' or '**Arjuna's Penance**' are portrayed in stone at the Pallava heritage site in Mahabalipuram.

'**Shakuntala looking for Dushyanta**' (1870) is an epic painting by celebrated Indian painter, Raja Ravi Verma.

Q.74) Consider the following statements regarding the **Handloom Mark**:

1. It provides a guarantee for the buyer that the product being purchased is genuinely hand woven in India.
 2. Handloom Mark Scheme is implemented by a statutorily established Textiles Committee.
- Which 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. **Handloom Mark** is the Government of India's initiative to provide a collective identity to the handloom products in India and can be used not only for popularizing the hand-woven products but can also serve as a guarantee for the buyer that the product being purchased is genuinely hand woven from India.

Statement 2 is correct. Handloom Mark Scheme is run by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handloom) and is implemented by **Textiles Committee**.

The Textiles Committee is a statutory body under the **Textiles Committee Act, 1963** with main objective to ensure the quality of textiles and textile machinery both for internal consumption and export purposes.

Q.75) Consider the following statements regarding the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**:

1. It aims to develop governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. It recognizes and incentivizes Panchayati Raj Institutions based on performance.

Which of the 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.

Objectives of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA):

- Develop governance capabilities of PRIs to deliver on the SDGs.
- Enhance capabilities of Panchayats for inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilization of available resources
- Enhance capabilities of Panchayats to raise their own sources of revenue.
- Promote devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats according to the spirit of the Constitution and **PESA Act 1996**.
- Promote e-governance and other technology driven solutions to enable good governance in Panchayats for administrative efficiency and improved service delivery.
- Recognize and **incentivize PRIs** based on performance.

Q.76) Which of the following correctly defines the **Arakunomics** model in news recently?

- a) An economic model for containing food inflation within the required limits
- b) A health support system model at village level
- c) A self-help group proposed solution for women and child development at rural level
- d) A model ensuring profits for farmers, quality for consumers through regenerative agriculture

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Recently **Rockefeller Foundation** has selected **Naandi Foundation**, Hyderabad-based non-profit, as one of the 'Top 10 Visionaries' in the world for the **Food Vision 2050 Prize**.

Naandi's vision titled "**Arakunomics**" is based on work with tribal farmers in Araku for nearly 20 years. Arakunomics is a new integrated economic model that ensures Profits for farmers, Quality for consumers through Regenerative Agriculture (PQR).

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Q.77) Consider the following statements regarding the **Code on Wages, 2019**:

1. The central government may set different floor wages for different geographical areas.
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: Both statements are correct.

The **Code on Wages, 2019** replaced the four laws: (i) the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, (ii) the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, (iii) the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and (iv) the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

As per 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**. Before fixing the floor wage, the central government may obtain the advice of the Central Advisory Board and may consult with state governments.

The Code **prohibits** employers from paying wages less than the minimum wages. Minimum wages will be notified by the central or state governments. Further, the minimum wages decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage.

Q.78) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Falkland Islands - South Atlantic Ocean
2. Jaffna - Sri Lanka
3. Ascension Island - Indian Ocean

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. **Falkland Islands** is the internally self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom in the **South Atlantic Ocean**. Its sovereignty status is part of an ongoing dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Jaffna** is the capital city of the Northern Province of **Sri Lanka**. During the civil war, the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) occupied Jaffna in 1986.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Ascension Island** is an isolated volcanic island in the **South Atlantic Ocean**. It is governed as part of the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.



Q.79) Which of the following correctly defines **Kavkaz-2020**?

- a) Alliance of Central Asian Countries to cooperate during COVID-19 pandemic
- b) Russian strategic military command-post exercise
- c) A global vaccine development alliance of pharmaceutical corporates
- d) Russian economic forum for development of the its Far East region

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Kavkaz 2020**, also referred to as **Caucasus-2020** is a Russian strategic military command-post exercise scheduled for September 2020.

The invitation for participation to Kavkaz 2020 has been extended to at least 18 countries including China, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey apart from other Central Asian Republics part of the SCO.

Indian military contingent recently marched at the Victory Day Parade at Red Square in Moscow to mark the 75th anniversary of World War II.

Q.80) Consider the following statements regarding the **monetary policy of Reserve Bank of India**:

- 1. Inflation target for monetary policy is set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.
- 2. The representation from Reserve Bank of India in Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is equal to that of the Central Government appointed members.

Which of the 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 **primary objective** of monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth. Price stability is a necessary precondition to sustainable growth.

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In May 2016, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934** was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.

The amended RBI Act also provides for the **inflation target** to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.

Central Government has notified in the Official Gazette **4 per cent Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation as the target for the period from 2016 to 2021 with the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent and the lower tolerance limit of 2 per cent.

Statement 2 is correct. Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934 provides for an empowered **six-member monetary policy committee (MPC)**.

The Monetary Policy Committee consists of the following Members:

- Governor of the Bank—Chairperson, ex officio;
- Deputy Governor of the Bank, in charge of Monetary Policy—Member, ex officio;
- One officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board—Member, ex officio; and
- Three persons to be appointed by the Central Government—Members

Q.81) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Financial Services Centres Authority**:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Its mandate is to regulate financial products & services approved by any appropriate regulator in an IFSC.

Which of the 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 IFSCA is a statutory authority established under the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019**.

The Authority will regulate financial products (such as securities, deposits or contracts of insurance), financial services, and financial institutions which have been previously **approved by any appropriate regulator** (such as RBI or SEBI), in an IFSC.

The appropriate regulators are listed in a Schedule to the Bill, and include the RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, and PFRDA.

Q.82) Consider the following statements regarding **Constitution of India**:

1. There is no mention of 'National Capital Territory' in the constitution.
2. The First Schedule provides names of the States and their capital cities.

Which of the 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 239AA** provides for special provisions with respect to Delhi which mentions that from the date of commencement of the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991, the Union territory of Delhi is called the National Capital Territory of Delhi (further referred to as the National Capital Territory).

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Statement 2 is incorrect. **First Schedule** of the Constitution provides: **Names of the States** and their territorial jurisdiction as well as names of the Union Territories and their extent. It does not mention capital cities of the states.

Q.83) Consider the following statements regarding the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It aims for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

India's rich cultural, historical, religious and natural heritage provides a huge potential for development of tourism and job creation in the country.

In due recognition to this the **Ministry of Tourism (MoT)** launched the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme (Central Sector Scheme)** – for integrated development of **theme-based tourist circuits**.

This scheme is envisioned to synergize with other Government of India schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, driving force for economic growth, building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realize its potential.

Recently "Thenzawl Golf Resort" Project implemented under the under Swadesh Darshan Scheme- North East Circuit of Ministry of Tourism has been inaugurated in Mizoram.

Q.84) The **Global Education Coalition (GEC)** is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- c) Save the Children Fund
- d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Global Education Coalition (GEC) is an initiative of **UNESCO** to facilitate inclusive learning opportunities for children and youth during this period of sudden and unprecedented educational **disruption by COVID-19 pandemic**.

It is an open partnership that includes international organizations (ILO, UNICEF, WB among others), private sector partners (Facebook, Google) and Philanthropic and non-profit organizations (Khan Academy among others).

Around 1 billion students and youth across the planet are affected by school and university closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Investment in remote learning should both mitigate the immediate disruption caused by COVID-19 and establish approaches to develop more open and flexible education systems for the future.

Q.85) Which of the following military weapon system(s) has been **indigenously** developed in India?

1. Hammer missiles
2. T-90 Tank
3. Pinaka-multi-barrel rocket launcher

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. Armement Air-Sol Modulaire (AASM) **HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range)** is a medium-range modular air-to-ground weapon designed and manufactured by Sagem (Safran group), for the French Air Force and Navy.

Option 2 is incorrect. The **T-90 is a third-generation Russian battle tank** that entered service in 1993 and are also operated by India.

Option 3 is correct. **Pinaka is a multi-barrel rocket launcher** developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army.

Other products of Indian defence industry include Agni and Prithvi series of missiles; Tejas-light combat aircraft; Pinaka-multi-barrel rocket launcher; Akash-air defence system; Dhanush-artillery gun; Arjun-main battle tank etc.

Q.86) Which of the following has launched the **Bharat Air Fibre services**?

- a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)
- b) Facebook
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Bharat Air Fibre services** are introduced by **BSNL** as part of digital India initiatives by the Government of India. It aims for providing **Wireless Connectivity** in the range of 20 KMs from the BSNL Locations and thus customers at remote places also will be benefitted as BSNL comes with cheapest services with support of Telecom Infrastructure Partners.

BSNL Bharat AirFibre enables homes in **rural areas with broadband services**, which is different from the company's Bharat Fiber FTTH (fiber to the home) service that uses wired technology and is targeted at urban homes.

Q.87) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Education Policy 2020**:

1. Anganwadi workers/teachers to be trained to prepare them as an initial cadre of high-quality Early Childhood Care and Education teachers.
2. National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy to be launched with focus on primary schools.

Which of the 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 the **National Education Policy 2020** document; presently, quality ECCE is not available to crores of young children, particularly children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

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-To prepare an initial cadre of high-quality quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) teachers in Anganwadis, current **Anganwadi workers/teachers will be trained** in accordance with the curricular/pedagogical framework developed by NCERT.

-Those with qualifications of 10+2 and above shall be given a 6-month certificate programme in ECCE; and those with lower educational qualifications shall be given a one-year diploma programme covering early literacy, numeracy, and other relevant aspects of ECCE.

As per the **National Education Policy 2020** document; we are currently in a learning crisis: a large proportion of students currently in elementary school - estimated to be over **5 crore** - **have not attained foundational literacy and numeracy**, i.e., the ability to read and comprehend basic text and the ability to carry out basic addition and subtraction with Indian numerals.

-To this end, a National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be set up on priority. Accordingly, all State/UT governments will immediately prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools.

Q.88) Consider the following statements regarding the **Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs)**:

1. It is a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri AWAS Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U).
2. It aims to provide access to dignified affordable rental housing close to workplace to urban migrants/ poor.

Which of the 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 Housing & Urban Affairs has initiated **Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs)**, a **sub-scheme** under Pradhan Mantri AWAS Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U). This will provide ease of living to urban migrants/ poor in Industrial Sector as well as in non-formal urban economy to get access to dignified affordable rental housing close to their workplace.

The ARHC scheme will be implemented through **two models**:

-Utilizing existing Government funded vacant houses to convert into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by Public Agencies

-Construction, Operation and Maintenance of ARHCs by Public/ Private Entities on their own vacant land

Q.89) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Tanchoi weaves - Uttar Pradesh
2. Pochampally ikat - Telangana
3. Kotpad Handloom - Odisha

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 fabric/handloom styles are correctly matched.

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Tanchois are a very fine weave banarasi sarees that use an extra weft thread to create delicate patterns.

Kotpad Handloom is a vegetable-dyed fabric woven by the tribal weavers of the Mirgan community of Kotpad village in Koraput district, Odisha.

Pochampally ikat derives its name from the area in where it is woven – Pochampally in Telangana. The technique involves tying and dyeing of pattern in the yarn.



Q.90) Which of the following is/are **byproduct(s) of the sugarcane industry?**

1. Petroleum Jelly
2. Bagasse
3. Molasses

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: The four main byproducts of the sugarcane industry are **cane tops/leaves, bagasse, filter muds and molasses.**

Bagasse is the fibrous matter that remains after sugarcane or sorghum stalks are crushed to extract their juice. For each 10 tonnes of sugarcane crushed, a sugar factory produces nearly 3 tonnes of wet bagasse. Bagasse is used as bio fuel and in the manufacture of pulp and paper products.

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Molasses is sugar byproduct. It is used as a raw material to produce alcohol. The main products of molasses fermentation are rum, ethyl alcohol, acetic acid, butanol/acetone, citric acid, yeast and monosodium glutamate.

Press mud or Filter mud is a residue left over from sugarcane after extraction of juice. Sugar mills use spent wash which is an affluent with press mud to produce bio-compost as manure.

Q.91) Consider the following statements regarding the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**:

1. The fund will support short term debt financing to small and marginal farmers.
2. It aims to invest in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee.

Which of the 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. Under the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**, banks and financial institutions will provide one lakh crore in loans to cooperative societies, farmer producer companies, self-help groups, entrepreneurs, startups and infrastructure providers. The objective is to provide **medium to long-term debt financing** for setting up of **post-harvest infrastructure** and community assets for marketing of farm produce.

Statement 2 is correct. The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through **interest subvention and credit guarantee**.

The duration of the scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years). Under the scheme, **Rs. 1 Lakh Crore** will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for loans up to Rs. 2 Crore.

Q.92) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanism (SMAM)**:

1. It is being implemented in all the states to promote the usage of farm mechanization and increase the ratio of farm power to cultivable unit area.
2. The scheme promotes establishment of 'Custom Hiring Centres' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding.

Which of the 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.

India accounts for 2.4% of the world's geographical area and 4% of its water resources, but has to support 17% of the world's human population and 15% of the livestock. To increase productivity, timely and precise field work is necessary. To make it possible, agricultural machines take an important role.

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Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is being implemented in all the states, to promote the usage of farm mechanization and increase the ratio of farm power to cultivable unit area up to 2kW/ha.

The Mission objectives are as follows:

- Increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low;
- Promoting '**Custom Hiring Centres**' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership;
- Creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments;
- Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities;
- Ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the Country.

About 80% of the land holdings in India are operated by small and marginal farmers. These farmers cannot invest in costly farm machinery and depend on hiring of implements to carryout agricultural operations in their fields.

Q.93) Consider the following statements regarding the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G)**:

1. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. Open Defecation Free Plus certification for SBM-G includes ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management.

Which of the 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 rural areas Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen is being the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

The **Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)** till 2024-25 will focus on **Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus)**, which includes ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).

ODF plus as an area where along with regular availability and usage of toilets, management of solid and liquid waste, cleanliness of water resources, maintenance of public and household toilets and awareness on personal hygiene are at their highest.

Q.94) The '**Little Boy**' and '**Fat Man**' are code names for which of the following missions?

- a) The only two nuclear weapons ever used in warfare
- b) SpaceX 'Starship' spacecrafts for Moon and Mars
- c) Pakistan's plan to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir
- d) India's strategy to separate Bangladesh from erstwhile Pakistan

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Little Boy** and **Fat Man** are the only two nuclear weapons ever used in warfare.

Little Boy was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, it was the first nuclear weapon used in a war. 'Fat Man' was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

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Operation Gibraltar, 1965 was the codename given to the strategy of Pakistan to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir, and instigate the locals in starting a rebellion against India.

Q.95) Consider the following statements regarding the **Quit India Movement**:

1. C. Rajagopalachari supported and actively campaigned for spread of Quit India Movement in South India.
 2. Aruna Asaf Ali and Jayaprakash Narayan were active participants in the movement.
- Which of the 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. On 14 July 1942, the **Congress Working Committee met at Wardha** and resolved that it would authorise Gandhi to take charge of the non-violent mass movement.

The Resolution, generally referred to as the 'Quit India' resolution, was to be approved by the All India Congress Committee meeting in Bombay in August. **C. Rajgopalachari, quit the Congress** over this decision, and so did some local and regional level organizers.

Statement 2 is correct. On 7 to 8 August 1942, the **All India Congress Committee met in Bombay** and ratified the 'Quit India' resolution. Gandhi called for 'Do or Die'. The next day, on 9 August 1942, Gandhi, members of the Congress Working Committee and other Congress leaders were arrested by the British Government under the Defence of India Rules.

The leadership of the movement went into hands of net generation leaders like **Aruna Asaf Ali, Jayprakash Narayan, Usha Mehta, RamManohar Lohia, Biju Patnaik** etc.

Q.96) Who among the following has released the **EnviStats India 2020** report?

- a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **EnviStats – India 2020** has been released by the **National Statistical Office**, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

The report contains **statistical information** about the condition of the environment – climate, water and wetlands, geology and geography, soil and land, forests and biodiversity, and air and water quality. It also provides data about the availability and use of minerals, energy, land, crops, livestock and water as well as air and water pollution and solid waste management.

Q.97) Which of the following **weapon system(s)** have been barred from import in India beyond December 2020?

1. Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft
2. Light Combat Helicopters
3. Ship-borne Cruise Missiles

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: B

Explanation: **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has prepared a list of **101 items** for which there would be an embargo on the import beyond the timeline. The embargo on imports is planned to be progressively implemented between 2020 to 2024.

Option 1 is incorrect. **Fifth Gen Fighter Aircraft** has **not** been listed in the import embargo list put out by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Option 2 and 3 are correct. The list of 101 embargoed items comprises of not just simple parts but also some high technology weapon systems like artillery guns, assault rifles, corvettes, sonar systems, transport aircrafts, light combat helicopters (LCHs), Short Range Surface to Air Missiles (Land variant), Shipborne Cruise Missiles etc.

The **light combat helicopters (LCHs)**, **Shipborne Cruise Missiles** and other 67 weapon systems have indicative import embargo date of December 2020.

Q.98) Which of the following is/are correct statement(s) regarding the **Indus Water Treaty**?

1. The waters of the Eastern Rivers, Sutlej, Beas and Jhelum, are available for the unrestricted use of India.
2. It provides for the formation of Indus Water Commission with members from India and Pakistan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

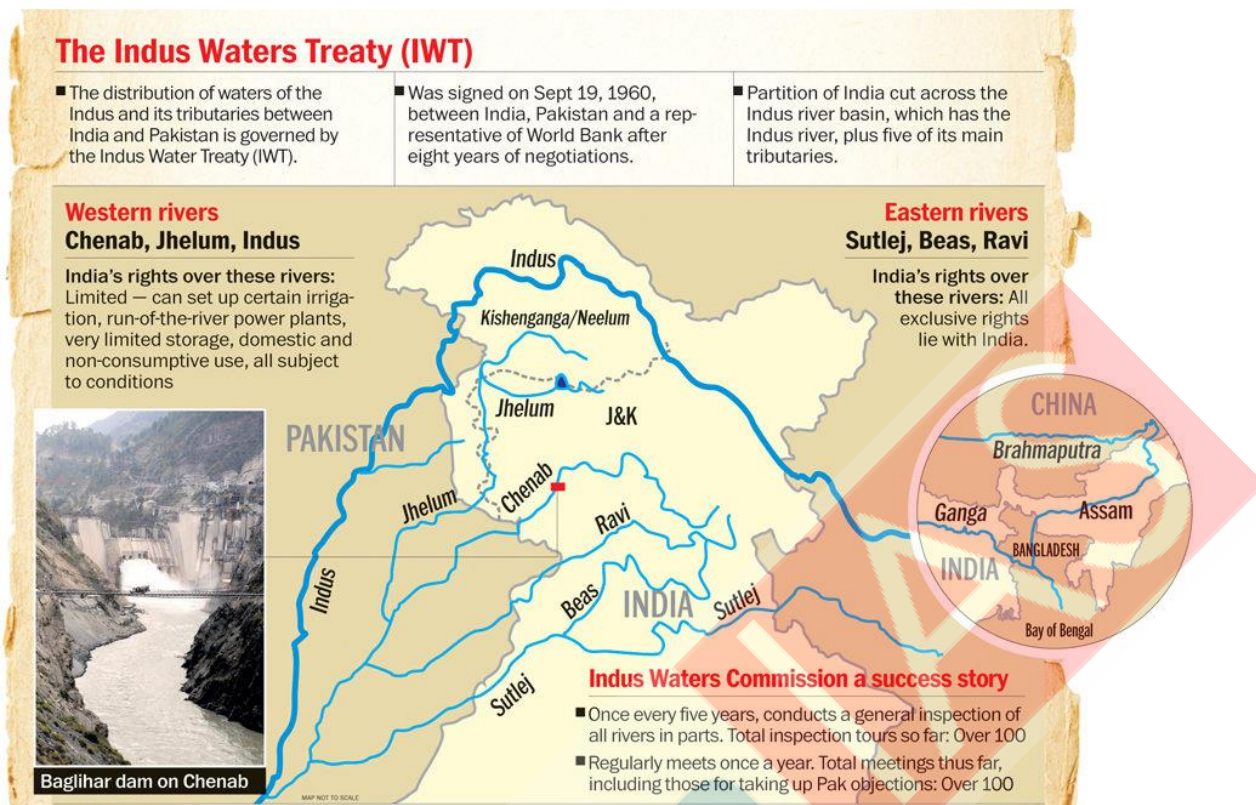
Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Under the Indus Water Treaty 1960, '**Eastern Rivers**' means The Sutlej, The Beas and The Ravi taken together and '**Western Rivers**' means The Indus, The **Jhelum** and The Chenab taken together.

All the waters of the **Eastern Rivers** shall be available for the unrestricted use of **India**, except as otherwise expressly provided in the treaty.

Pakistan shall receive for unrestricted use all those waters of the **Western Rivers** which India is under obligation to let flow except for domestic, non-consumptive uses, also for agricultural use, generation of hydro-electric power with limitations provided in annexures to the treaty.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the treaty, India and Pakistan shall each create a permanent post of Commissioner for Indus Waters and the two Commissioners shall together form **the Permanent Indus Commission**.



Q.99) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Ratle Hydroelectric Plant - Chenab River
2. Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Plant - Jhelum River
3. Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant - Ravi 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: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. The **Ratle Hydroelectric Plant** is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power station currently under construction on the **Chenab River**, in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Dul Hasti** is a 390 MW hydroelectric power plant in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir, India built by NHPC. The power plant is a run-of-the-river type on **Chandra River**, a tributary of Chenab River,

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project** is a run-of-the-river power project on the **Chenab River** in the Ramban district, Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan often accuses India of violation of Indus Water Treaty regarding construction of these power plants. India does have the right to build power plants on 'western rivers' under IWT provide it does not impede the water flow to Pakistan.

Q.100) What is '**Loya Jirga**', that was in news recently?

- a) A Tibetan ancient immunity booster herbal combination
- b) A traditional consultative body of Afghanistan
- c) A cultural exchange pact between Central Asian countries and India
- d) An ancient Buddhist canonical text in Mongolian tradition

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Correct answer: B

Explanation: A **Loya Jirga**, or "grand council" in Pashto, is a mass national gathering that brings together representatives from the various ethnic, religious, and tribal communities in **Afghanistan**.

Loya Jirga is a **centuries-old institution** that has been convened at times of national crisis or to settle national issues. Historically, it has been used to approve a new constitution, declare war, choose a new king, or to make sweeping social or political reforms.

It is considered the "highest expression" of the Afghan people, but its decisions are not legally binding and any verdict it hands out must be approved by the Afghan parliament and the President.

As Afghanistan recently convened a 'Loya Jirga' to decide on freeing about 400 Taliban fighters convicted for 'serious crimes' including murder and abductions.

Q.101) Consider the following statements regarding the **Ayushman Bharat Yojana**:

1. It aims to transform the existing Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres across the country.
2. Eligible beneficiaries can avail health cover benefits under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme for COVID-19 testing and treatment.

Which of the 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. Ayushman Bharat comprises of two inter-related components:

-Health and Wellness Centres: Government has announced the creation of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) by transforming the existing Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres.

-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY): It aims at providing a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 10.74 crores poor and vulnerable families.

Statement 2 is correct. Government has notified the **COVID- 19 testing and treatment** coverage under the Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana- PMJAY.

Q.102) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding the **Network Attached Storage (NAS)**?

1. It enables multiple user devices to access data from centralized disk capacity.
2. NAS devices do not have any keyboard or display interface and are managed from the connected computers.

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

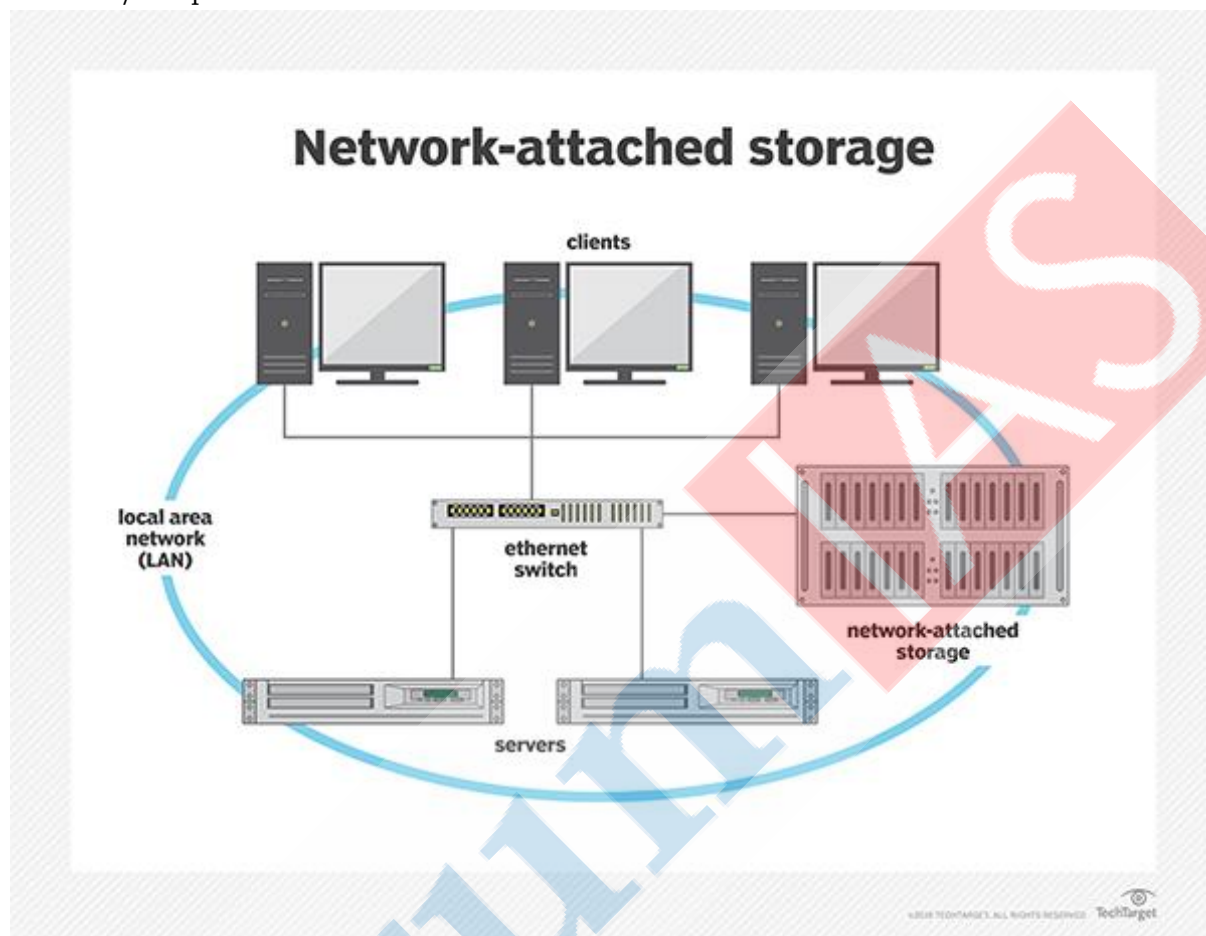
Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Network Attached Storage (NAS) is a dedicated file storage system which can be connected to many different devices at the same time and allows access to the same disk.

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Users on a **local area network (LAN)** access the shared storage via a standard Ethernet connection.

NAS device has its **own file server capabilities** to store and managed access to files but **does not have** any keyboard or display interface and are managed from the connected machine/computers.



Q.103) Which of the following **weapon system(s)** is/are correctly matched?

1. Pinaka - Multi-barrel Rocket Launcher
2. Mareech - Advanced Torpedo Defence System
3. Astra - Inter Continental Ballistic Missile

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. **Pinaka is a multiple rocket launcher** produced in India and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation for the Indian Army.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Maareech Advanced Torpedo Defence System** is a torpedo detection and countermeasure system used by the Indian Navy.

BEL has launched fully indigenized Maareech Integration facility for manufacturing, integration and testing of Anti Torpedo Defence System Maareech which has been designed by DRDO.

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Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Astra is India's first beyond-visual-range (BVR) air-to-air missile** indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation. The maximum range of Astra is 110 km in head-on chase and 20 km in tail chase.

Q.104) Where is **Mount Sinabung** volcano located?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Hawaii
- c) Japan
- d) Argentina

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Mount Sinabung** volcano is in northern **Sumatra, Indonesia**. It had been inactive for centuries until it **erupted suddenly in 2010** and twice in recent week. It is a Pleistocene-to-Holocene stratovolcano with many lava flows on its flanks.

Indonesia has around 147 volcanoes and 76 of them are active volcanoes and spread along the islands of Java, Lesser Sunda, Sumatra, and Celebes.

Most active volcanos of Indonesia are: Merapi, Kaba, Kerinci, Anak **Krakatau**, Papandayan, Slamet, Bromo, Semeru, Batur, Rinjani, Sangeang Api, Rokatenda, Egon, Soputan, Lokon, Gamalama, Dukono, Karangetang, Ibu, and Talang.

Q.105) Consider the following statements regarding the **Optical Fiber Cable**:

- 1. It allows data transmission using light pulses by application of total internal reflection.
- 2. It consists of a core surrounded by a cladding material with a higher index of refraction.

Which of the 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. An **optical fiber cable** is a type of cable that has a number of **optical fibers bundled together**. All optical fibers use a core of hair-like transparent silicon covered with less refractive indexed cladding to avoid light leakage to the surroundings.

Statement 2 is incorrect. An optical fiber typically consists of a transparent core surrounded by a transparent **cladding material with a lower index of refraction**. Light is kept in the core by total internal reflection.

There are two major categories:

-**Step index fiber optic cabling**: core surrounded by the cladding, which has a single uniform index of refraction.

-**Graded index fiber optic cabling**: refractive index of the optical fiber decreases as the radial distance from the fiber axis increases.

Total internal reflection: the complete reflection of a light ray reaching an interface with a less dense medium when the angle of incidence exceeds the critical angle.

Q.106) Consider the following statements regarding the **Asian elephant**:

- 1. Female Asian Elephants don't have tusks.
- 2. It is classified as Endangered species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

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: Statement 1 is correct. In **Asian elephants**, only males have tusks, both male and female African elephants are tusked.

The **elephant is Earth's largest land animal**, although the Asian elephant is slightly smaller than its African cousin. Asian elephants can be identified by their smaller, rounded ears.

They live in forested regions of India and throughout Southeast Asia, including Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. About a third of Asian elephants live in captivity.

Statement 2 is correct. The Asian elephant is classified as **Endangered** by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

The beta version of National Portal on human elephant conflict called "Surakhsya" for collection of real time information has been launched recently.

Q.107) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)**:

1. It is a five-year investment plan to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens.
2. The NIP will be completely funded from domestic resources.

Which of the 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 **National Infrastructure Pipeline** is an effort to augment India's infrastructure through an identified investment of **INR 111 Lakh crores between FY 2020-25**. It is a first-of-its-kind, whole-of-government exercise to provide world-class infrastructure across the country, and improve the quality of life for all citizens. Statement 2 is incorrect. It 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.

The NIP project database is hosted on India Investment Grid (IIG) and the online dashboard as a one-stop solution for all stakeholders looking for information on infrastructure projects in India has been recently unveiled by the Finance Minister.

Q.108) Consider the following statements regarding the **Goods & Services Tax (GST) in India**:

1. It is a single slab tax rate for all goods and services.
2. It is a destination-based tax.
3. Alcohol for human consumption is not under the purview of GST.

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: Statement 1 is incorrect. GST in India is not a single slab tax. It has four major tax slabs: **5%, 12%, 18% and 28%**.

Statement 2 is correct. GST is a **destination based tax**; therefore the goods and services will be taxed at the place where they are consumed and not at the origin.

Statement 3 is correct. **Alcohol for human consumption** is currently out of GST system and the power to tax it remains with the states.

Petroleum products and Electricity are also out of the purview of GST in India.

Q.109) Which of the following is/are located in the **South China Sea**?

1. Mischief Reef
2. Natuna Islands
3. Paracel Islands

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

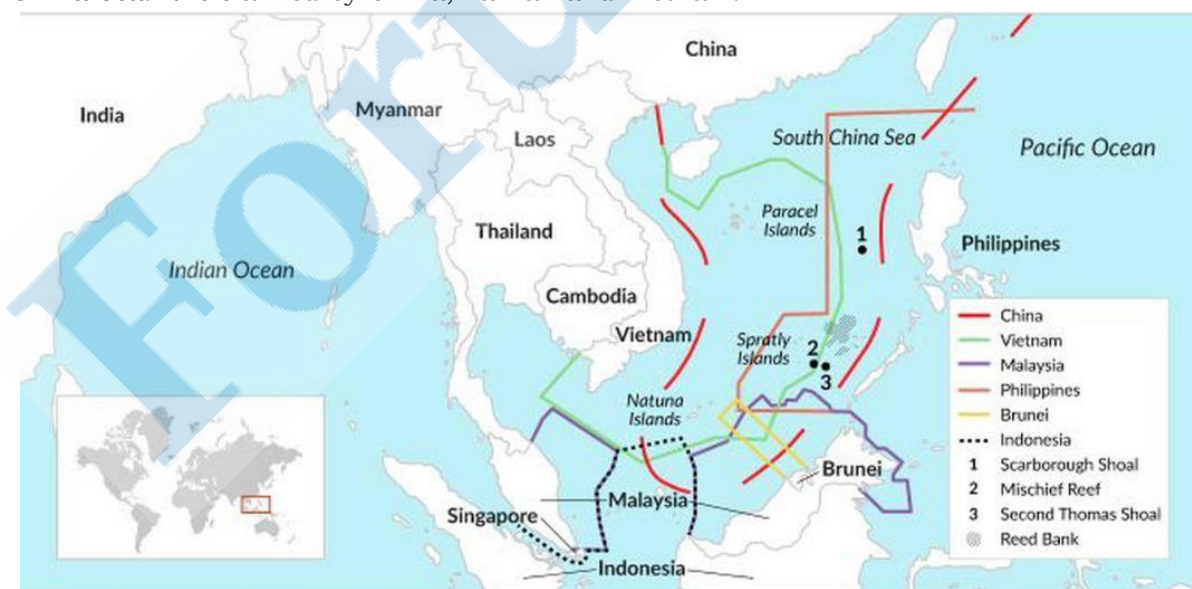
Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above islands/reef are in the South China Sea.

Mischief Reef is a reef/atoll surrounding a large lagoon in the SE of Dangerous Ground in the east of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. It has been occupied and controlled by the PRC since 1995, and is also claimed by the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines and Vietnam.

The **Natuna Islands** are a 272-island archipelago of Indonesia, located in southern part of South China Sea. Indonesia's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the coast of Natuna is slightly overlapped by China's disputed South China Sea claim.

The **Paracel Islands**, also known as Xisha Islands are a disputed archipelago in the South China Sea. It is claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.



Q.110) Consider the following statements regarding the administration of the **World Health Organization (WHO)**:

1. The World Health Assembly attended by delegations from all Member States is the decision-making body of WHO.

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2. India has been recently elected the Chair of World Health Organization's 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: Both statements are correct.

The **World Health Assembly** is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.

The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to **determine the policies of the Organization**, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.

The **Executive Board is composed of 34 technically qualified members** elected for three-year terms. India (Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare) has been elected as chair of World Health Organization's Executive Board in May 2020.

Q.111) Which of the following correctly defines the **Sputnik V**?

- a) Russia's manned mission to Moon
- b) A Fifth Generation Fighter Jet
- c) Lander and Rover mission to Mars
- d) COVID-19 vaccine developed by Russia

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Sputnik V** is potential **COVID-19 vaccine** developed by the Gamaleya Institute in Moscow, uses two strains of **adenovirus** as its base.

After tweaking the adenovirus to remove its disease causing ability, genes that code for the coronavirus's "spike" protein — a structure that plugs into cells to trigger infection — have been added to it, which the immune system should recognize and use to target the pathogen should the body ever become exposed.

The vaccines developed by CanSino Biologics in China and Oxford University and AstraZeneca in Britain also use adenoviruses as their base.

Russia named the newly approved vaccine "Sputnik V," in reference to the world's first artificial satellite launched by Russia in 1957.

Q.112) Consider the following statements regarding the **Permanent Court of Arbitration**:

- 1. It was established by the San Francisco Conference, 1945.
- 2. India is a Contracting Party and has acceded to the PCA's founding convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The PCA was established by the **Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded at The Hague in 1899** during the first Hague Peace Conference.

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The Conference had been convened at the initiative of Czar Nicolas II of Russia “with the object of seeking the most objective means of ensuring to all peoples the benefits of a real and lasting peace, and above all, of limiting the progressive development of existing armaments.”

It provides a forum for the resolution of international disputes through arbitration and other peaceful means. The cases span a range of legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.

Statement 2 is correct. **India is a contracting party** to the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, 1899.

Important cases of India in PCA:

-**Bangladesh v. India** (Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary) settled in 2014.

-**Italian Marine Case:** PCA recognized (July, 2020) the functional immunity of the two Italian marines, noting that they were engaged in a mission on behalf of the Italian Government. However, Italy was required to find an agreement with India in order to compensate for the two deaths and for the physical and moral damages suffered by the crew members and the vessel.

Q.113) Consider the following statements regarding the **Biodiesel**:

1. Biodiesel is produced from vegetable oils, fats or greases.
2. It cannot be blended with the with petroleum diesel.

Which of the 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. **Biodiesel**, also called Green Diesel is a liquid fuel produced from **renewable sources**, such as new and used vegetable oils and animal fats and is a cleaner-burning replacement for petroleum-based diesel fuel.

Biodiesel is **nontoxic and biodegradable** and is produced by combining alcohol with vegetable oil, animal fat, or recycled cooking grease.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Like petroleum-derived diesel, biodiesel is used to fuel compression-ignition (diesel) engines. Biodiesel **can be blended** with petroleum diesel.

Q.114) Consider the following statements regarding the **Assam Accord**:

1. It is a Memorandum of Settlement signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement.
2. It mandates for providing constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to protect cultural, social, linguistic identity of the Assamese people.

Which of the 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 Assam Accord was a **Memorandum of Settlement (MoS)** signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the **Assam Movement** in New Delhi on **15 August 1985**.

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A six-year agitation demanding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants was launched by the **All Assam Students' Union (AASU)** in 1979 concluded with the signing of the Assam Accord.

Among other things the **clause 6 of the accord** states “constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.”

Home Ministry in 2019 set up a committee under High Court judge Biplab Kumar Sarma to make recommendations on implementation of Clause 6.

Q.115) What does '**Krishi Megh**', that has been launched recently, relate to?

- a) Micro-Weather forecasting application by India Meteorological Department (IMD)
- b) Data Center for Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- c) Soil Moisture content data aggregator at national level
- d) Farmer Welfare programs portal by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Agriculture Minister recently launched **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**'s data recovery center called 'Krishi Megh'.

It aims to protect the data of the government's premier research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It has been set up at **National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM)** in Hyderabad. It has been built to mitigate the risk, enhance the quality, availability and accessibility of e-governance, research, extension and education in the field of agriculture in India.

NAARM, Hyderabad has been chosen as it lies in a different seismic zone with regard to the Data Centre at ICAR-IASRI in New Delhi.

Q.116) Consider the following statements regarding the **Student Entrepreneurship Programme**:

- 1. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog-Atal Innovation Mission.
- 2. Students are provided with opportunity to transform their innovative prototypes into fully functioning products.

Which of the 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, in collaboration with Dell Technologies recently launched the second edition of **Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0)** for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).

SEP 2.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with **Dell volunteers**. They will receive mentor support; prototyping and testing support; end-user feedback; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products; manufacturing support; as well as the launch support of the product in the market.

Under **SEP 1.0 (2019)**, the top 6 teams of ATL Marathon—a nationwide contest where students identify community challenges and create grassroots innovations and solutions within their ATLs—got a chance to transform their innovative prototypes into fully functioning products, which are now available in the market.

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Q.117) Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**:

1. The scheme provides coverage for post-harvest losses on individual farm basis.
2. Farmers are not required to pay any premium under this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** aims at supporting sustainable production in agriculture sector by way of -

-providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events

-stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming

-encouraging farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices

-ensuring flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

Statement 1 is correct. Risks leading to crop loss are to be covered under the scheme:

-Yield Losses (standing crops, on notified area basis)

-Prevented Sowing (on notified area basis) due to adverse weather conditions

-**Post Harvest Losses** (individual farm basis): available upto a maximum period of 14 days from harvesting for those crops which are kept in "cut & spread" condition to dry in the field after harvesting, against specific perils of cyclone / cyclonic rains, unseasonal rains throughout the country.

-Localized calamities (individual farm basis)

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Scheme provides for a uniform premium** of 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers is 5%.

Q.118) Consider the following statements regarding the **Hindu Succession Act**:

1. It is applicable to any person who is a Hindu, Buddhist, Jaina or Sikh by religion.
2. The act provides for equal rights of daughters to ancestral property as that of a son.

Which of the 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 6 of the Hindu Succession Act** confers the status of '**coparcener**' to a daughter. Coparcener is a person who has a birthright to parental property.

Statement 2 is correct. This Act applies (a) to any person, who is a Hindu by religion in any of its forms or developments, including a Virashaiva, a Lingayat or a follower of the Brahmo, Prarthana or Arya Samaj, (b) to any person who is a **Buddhist, Jaina or Sikh** by religion, and (c) to any other person who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew by religion.

The Supreme Court recently held that the Hindu Succession Act 1956 amended in 2005, which gives daughters equal rights to ancestral property, will have a retrospective effect.

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Q.119) Consider the following statements regarding **Monetary Policy** of Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

1. The Monetary Policy framework in India is based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation targeting.
2. RBI Governor does not generally have a vote and votes only in the event of an equality of votes in Monetary Policy Committee.

Which of the 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. In May 2016, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934** was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.

The amended RBI Act also provides for the **inflation target** to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in **every five years**.

Accordingly, the Central Government has notified 4 per cent **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** as the target for the period from August 5, 2016 to March 31, 2021 with the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent and the lower tolerance limit of 2 per cent.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the amended RBI Act:

The **Monetary Policy Committee** consists of the following Members:

- the Governor of the Bank—Chairperson, ex officio;
- Deputy Governor of the Bank, in charge of Monetary Policy—Member, ex officio;
- one officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board—Member, ex officio; and
- three persons to be appointed by the Central Government—Members.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is required to meet at least four times in a year.

-The quorum for the meeting of the MPC is four members.

-**Each member of the MPC has one vote**, and in the event of an equality of votes, the **Governor** has a second or casting vote.

Q.120) Consider the following statements regarding **Right to Freedom of Religion** under the Constitution of India:

1. Government is empowered to provide for opening of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.
2. Every religious denomination has the right to own and acquire movable and immovable property.

Which of the 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 25(2)** provides for State's power with regard to Right to Freedom of Religion. It empowers State to make any law—

-regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice;

- providing for **social welfare and reform** or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.

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The reference to Hindus is construed as including a reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jaina or Buddhist religion.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 26 of the Constitution** provides that 'subject to public order, morality and health, every religious denomination or any section thereof shall have the right—

- to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes;
- to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;
- to own and acquire movable and immovable property; and
- to administer such property in accordance with law

Q.121) Consider the following statements regarding **Cryogenic Engines**:

1. Cryogenic engine uses Liquid Oxygen and Liquid Hydrogen as propellants.
2. It provides more thrust for every kilogram of propellant compared to solid and liquid propellant rocket stages.

Which of the 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.

Cryogenic engines use **Liquid Oxygen and Liquid Hydrogen** as propellants which liquefy at -183 deg C and -253 deg C respectively.

A Cryogenic rocket stage is more efficient and provides **more thrust for every kilogram** of propellant it burns compared to solid and earth-storable liquid propellant rocket stages.

Specific impulse (a measure of the efficiency) achievable with cryogenic propellants (liquid Hydrogen and liquid Oxygen) is much higher compared to earth storable liquid and solid propellants, giving it a substantial payload advantage.

However, cryogenic stage is technically a very complex system compared to solid or earth-storable liquid propellant stages due to its use of propellants at extremely low temperatures and the associated thermal and structural problems.

Q.122) The **Lisboa+21 Declaration** relates to which of the following issue?

- a) Youth Policies and Programmes
- b) Drug and Organized Crimes
- c) Climate Change Adaption & Mitigation
- d) Conservation of Critically Endangered Bird Species

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes 2019** was adopted in World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019.

In 1998, several commitments on youth policy fields were stated in the **Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes**, as part of the outcomes of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, organized by the Portuguese Government in collaboration with UN-System partners.

Twenty-one years later, in 2019, it reaffirmed the World Programme of Action for Youth adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1995 and 2007, which provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people around the world, within fifteen youth priority areas.

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International Youth Day was designated by the United Nations (UN) in the year 1999 to be observed on 12 August. The theme for 2020 is 'Youth Engagement for Global Action'.

Q.123) Consider the following statements regarding the **Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020**:

1. It provided for a mechanism for resolution of pending tax disputes related to income tax and corporation tax.
2. The disputes involving undisclosed foreign income or assets are not covered under the said mechanism.

Which of the 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 **Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020** provides a mechanism for **resolution of pending tax disputes** related to income tax and corporation tax.

It proposed a resolution mechanism under which an appellant can file a declaration to the designated authority to initiate resolution of pending direct tax disputes. Based on the declaration, the designated authority will determine the amount payable by the appellant against the dispute and grant a certificate.

Once the designated authority issues the certificate, appeals pending before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunals and the Commissioner (Appeals) will be deemed to be withdrawn. In case of appeals or petitions pending before the Supreme Court and High Courts, the appellant is required to withdraw the appeal or petition.

Statement 2 is correct. The proposed mechanism **does not cover certain disputes**: (i) where prosecution has been initiated before the declaration is filed, (ii) which involve persons who have been convicted or are being prosecuted for offences under certain laws (such as the Indian Penal Code), or for enforcement of civil liabilities, and (iii) involving **undisclosed foreign income** or assets.

Q.124) Consider the following statements regarding the **Great Hornbill**:

1. In India, it is found only in the Eastern Himalayan region.
2. It is classified as a Vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Which of the 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 **Great Hornbill (Buceros bicornis)** also known as the great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill, is one of the larger members of the hornbill family. It is found in the **Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia**.

In India, its habitat spreads over **Eastern Himalaya and Western Ghats**.

Statement 2 is correct. Due to habitat loss and hunting in some areas, the great hornbill is classified as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (changed from near threatened in 2018) and in the Appendix I of CITES.

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Q.125) Arrange the following events of **post-independence India** in chronological order:

1. The Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation
2. Operation Gibraltar by Pakistan
3. Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) operation in Sri Lanka

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Operation Gibraltar** was the codename given to the strategy of Pakistan to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir, and instigate the locals in starting a rebellion against India.

-In **August 1965**, Pakistan Army's Azad Kashmir Regular Force troops, disguised as locals, entered Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan. The operation sparked the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.

Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation was a treaty signed between the Republic of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic on **August 09, 1971** that specified mutual strategic cooperation.

-The treaty was seen as a deviation from India's sustained position of non-alignment in the Cold War and in the prelude to the Bangladesh liberation war with Pakistan.

The **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF)** was the Indian military contingent performing a peacekeeping operation in Sri Lanka between **1987 and 1990**.

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

1. Sariska Tiger Reserve - Rajasthan
2. Pakke Tiger Reserve - Assam
3. Nameri National Park - Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Sariska Tiger Reserve** is in the Alwar district, Rajasthan. It mainly comprises scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills. This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and was declared a wildlife reserve in 1955.

In 2004, it was reported that no tigers were sighted in the reserve. In July 2008, two tigers from Ranthambhore National Park were relocated to Sariska Tiger Reserve. Another female tiger was relocated in February 2009. **By 2020, the tiger population in the reserve has risen to 20.**

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Pakke Tiger Reserve**, also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve, is in the Pakke Kessang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The habitat types are lowland semi-evergreen, evergreen forest and Eastern Himalayan broadleaf forests.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Nameri National Park** is in the eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur District of Assam, Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh.

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The vegetation type of Nameri is of semi-evergreen, moist deciduous forests with cane and bamboo brakes and narrow strips of open grassland along rivers **Jia- Bhoroli and Bor Dikorai**.

Q.127) Which of the following right(s) is/are provided for by the **Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**?

1. Right to own, use or dispose of minor forest produce.
2. Right of conversion of leases issued by any local authority or any state government on forest land to titles.
3. Rights of settlement and conversion of forest villages revenue villages.

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: The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** recognizes and vest forest rights in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs), where they are scheduled, with respect to forest land and their habitat. Some of the rights are:

- living in the forest for habitation or for **self-cultivation** for livelihood;
- right of ownership, access to collect, use, and dispose of **minor forest produce**,
- rights of **settlement and conversion** of all forest villages, old habitation, un-surveyed villages and other villages in forests, whether recorded, notified or not into **revenue villages**;
- conversion of **pattas or leases** issued by any local authority or any state government on forest land to titles, and other traditional customary rights.
- customary rights **exclude hunting, trapping or extracting** body parts of any wild animal.

Q.128) Consider the following statements regarding the '**Raman**' rocket engine:

1. It has been indigenously developed in India.
2. ISRO has used the Raman Engine to power its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

Which of the 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. Hyderabad-based startup **Skyroot Aerospace** recently declared that it has successfully tested an **upper-stage rocket engine** becoming the first Indian private company to build a homegrown rocket engine.

The engine **Raman, named after Nobel laureate CV Raman** has fewer parts and weighs lesser than a conventional rocket engine.

Statement 2 is incorrect. ISRO has not used the said engine. The Skyroot Aerospace aims to launch satellite by its vehicle Vikram-I into a lower earth orbit by end-2021.

Q.129) Who among the following has recently released the "**Elephants, Not commodities**" Report?

- a) World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)

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- b) TRAFFIC
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- d) World Animal Protection

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The third edition of the report, '**Elephants. Not commodities**', was released on **World Elephant Day (12 Aug) by World Animal Protection**, an international non-profit animal welfare organization. It compares research spanning a decade into elephant tourism, assessing venues across Thailand, India, Laos, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. According to the report, **India is home to the second highest number, after Thailand, of elephants used in tourism in Asia**, and of the 21 venues housing 509 elephants, the report found 45% (225) of the elephants were kept in severely inadequate conditions.

Q.130) Consider the following statements regarding the Constitutional provisions on **Supreme Court of India**:

1. Constitution provides for the seat of the Supreme Court in Delhi.
2. The Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction in regard to questions as to constitutional validity of Central laws.

Which of the 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. **Article 130** provides for the Seat of Supreme Court: The **Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi** or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Article 131A** was inserted by the Constitution (**Forty-second Amendment**) Act, 1976 which provided for exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in regard to questions as to constitutional validity of Central laws. This provision was later **omitted by the Constitution (Forty-third Amendment) Act, 1977**.

Q.131) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Arihant - Nuclear-powered Submarine
2. Sarthak - Offshore Patrol Vessel
3. Airavat - Amphibious Warfare Vessel

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 correctly matched.

INS Arihant is the lead ship of India's Arihant class of **nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines**. The 6,000 tonne vessel was built under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project at the Ship Building Centre in the port city of Visakhapatnam.

Recently an **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)** for the Indian Coast Guard was launched today and re-christened as Indian Coast Guard Ship '**Sarthak**'. It has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited.

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INS Airavat is a **Shardul-class amphibious warfare vessel** of the Indian Navy. It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers in Kolkata. Primarily designed for amphibious assault operations, Airavat's missions also include **humanitarian assistance & disaster relief (HADR)** during natural disasters, including tsunamis, cyclones and earthquakes.

Q.132) Consider the following statements regarding the **One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)** initiative:

1. It is an initiative of the International Energy Agency.
2. It aims to build a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources.

Which of the 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. **OSOWOG is India's initiative**. 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG) was first put out by Indian Prime Minister in October 2018 while addressing the inaugural function of the **2nd Global RE-Invest** meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

The vision behind the OSOWOG is **"The Sun Never Sets"**.

Statement 2 is correct. OSOWOG is India's initiative to build a **global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources**. The blueprint for the OSOWOG will be developed under the World Bank's technical assistance programme.

OSOWOG is planned to be completed in **three phases**. The first phase will entail interconnectivity within the Asian continent; the second phase will add Africa and the third phase will globalise the whole project.

Q.133) Consider the following statements regarding the **AMRUT Scheme**:

1. The scheme aims to ensure basic civic amenities in select urban and rural clusters.
2. Odisha has topped among all states in effective implementation of AMRUT scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** was launched with an aim of providing basic civic amenities like water supply, sewerage, urban transport, parks as to improve the quality of life for all especially the poor and the disadvantaged.

The Mission covers covering **500 cities** that include all cities and towns with a population of over one lakh with **notified Municipalities**.

Statement 2 is correct. According to the ranking of the states released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, **Odisha** has topped the list in effective implementation of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme by securing 85.67 per cent of marks. Chandigarh and Telangana have secured second and third positions with 75.08 and 74.04 per cent respectively.

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Q.134) Consider the following statements regarding **India-Maldives relations**:

1. Indian armed force's Operation Cactus averted the 1988 coup attempt in Maldives.
2. By the Maritime Boundary Treaty of 1976, Maldives recognized Minicoy Islands as an integral part of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **1988 Maldives coup attempt** was orchestrated by a group of Maldivians led by businessman Abdullah Luthufi and assisted by armed mercenaries of a Tamil secessionist organisation from Sri Lanka, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), to overthrow the government in the island republic of Maldives.

The attempt was foiled with the help of **Indian Armed Forces Operation Cactus**.

Statement 2 is correct. India's relationship with the Maldives is free of any politically contentious issues. The one-time claim of Maldives to **Minicoy Island** was resolved by the **Maritime Boundary Treaty of 1976** between the two countries, whereby Maldives has recognized Minicoy as an integral part of India.

Q.135) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Tonga - South Atlantic Ocean
2. Villingili Island - Indian Ocean
3. Palm Islands - United Arab Emirates

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. **Tonga is a Polynesian kingdom** of more than 170 **South Pacific** islands, many uninhabited, most lined in white beaches and coral reefs and covered with tropical rainforest.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Villingili** is an island of Addu Atoll in **Maldives**. India has announced a USD 500 million-package to the Maldives for the connectivity project in the island nation to connect Male with three neighbouring islands- **Villingili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi**.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Palm Islands** are three artificial islands, Palm Jumeirah, Deira Island and Palm Jebel Ali, on the coast of **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**.

Q.136) Consider the following statements regarding the international efforts to eliminate **Child Labour**:

1. All member countries of the UN International Labour Organization (ILO) have ratified the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
2. UN General Assembly has declared 2021 as the Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.

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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. **All 187 countries** that are members of the UN International Labour Organization (ILO) have **ratified ILO Convention No. 182** on the Worst Forms of Child Labour to protect children from the worst forms of child labour, including slavery, prostitution and trafficking.

The **Pacific island nation Tonga** deposited its ratification instruments with the ILO recently, becoming the final country to do so.

Ending child labour has been one of the main goals of the ILO, which was founded in 1919. The UN agency estimates that 152 million children worldwide are affected, with 73 million in hazardous work.

Statement 2 is correct. The **UN General Assembly** has urged the international community to step up efforts to eradicate forced labour and child labour, and declared **2021 as the Year for the Elimination of Child Labour**.

Q.137) Consider the following statements regarding the **Faceless Assessment & Faceless Appeal on Taxation**:

1. The Income tax assessment appeals are to be randomly allotted to officers across the country.
2. Cases relating to Serious Frauds, Benami Cases and International Taxation are not to be covered under the Faceless Assessment & Faceless Appeal.

Which of the 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

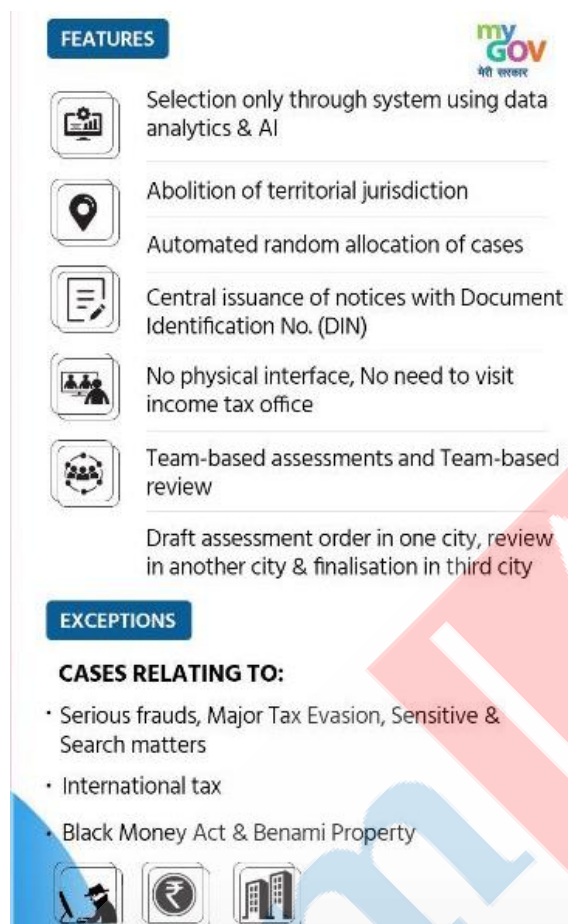
Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Along with the launch of **‘Transparent Taxation — Honoring the Honest’** platform, Government also unveiled faceless appeal and expanded the scope of faceless assessment, **eliminating physical interface** between taxpayers and tax authority.

It does away with territorial jurisdiction and substitutes individual discretion with team-based assessment, thereby bringing in transparency.

The **exceptions are:** Serious Frauds, Major Tax Evasion, International Tax, Black Money and Benami Property.

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FEATURES

- Selection only through system using data analytics & AI
- Abolition of territorial jurisdiction
- Automated random allocation of cases
- Central issuance of notices with Document Identification No. (DIN)
- No physical interface, No need to visit income tax office
- Team-based assessments and Team-based review
- Draft assessment order in one city, review in another city & finalisation in third city

EXCEPTIONS

CASES RELATING TO:

- Serious frauds, Major Tax Evasion, Sensitive & Search matters
- International tax
- Black Money Act & Benami Property

Q.138) Which of the following disease has the highest average **Case fatality Rate**?

- a) Middle East respiratory Syndrome (MERS)
- b) Ebola virus disease (EVD)
- c) Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- d) COVID-19

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **case-fatality rate** is the proportion of persons with a particular condition (cases) who die from that condition.

The overall case-fatality rate of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (**MERS-CoV**) infection is around **35%**.

Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans. The **average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%**. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.

The case-fatality ratio of **SARS** is estimated to range from 0% to more than 50% depending on the age group affected, with an overall CFR estimate of approximately 15%. A global **case-fatality ratio of 11%** was recorded at the end of the outbreak (2003).

COVID-19 fatality rate has been hovering significantly below 5% globally. **India's CFR has been reported to be around 2%.**

Q.139) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sixth Schedule**:

1. The Governor may, by public notification increase or diminish the area of any autonomous district.
2. Any amendment to the schedule requires the parliamentary majority as stated under the article 368 of the constitution.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Governor may, by public notification** create a new autonomous district, increase the area of any autonomous district, diminish the area of any autonomous district, unite two or more autonomous districts or parts thereof so as to form one autonomous district.

Provided that no order shall be made by the Governor except after consideration of the **report of a Commission** to inquire into and report on the administration of autonomous districts and autonomous regions.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Parliament may from time to time by law amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any of the provisions of the Sixth Schedule. **No such law is deemed to be an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of article 368**, therefore does not require the two-thirds majority of houses in Parliament.

Q.140) What was the mandate of the **J. Satyanarayana Committee**?

- a) National Digital Health Blueprint
- b) Western Ghats Ecology Preservation
- c) SEBI Insider Trading norms
- d) Feasibility of River Linking Projects

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **J. Satyanarayana**, Former Chairman, UIDAI later chaired the **National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB) Committee**.

The National Digital Health Blueprint was prepared by a Health Ministry panel headed by J. Satyanarayana with an objective to create a **framework for the national health stack proposed in 2018 by the NITI Aayog**. The final report was submitted in October 2019 to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

National Health Stack (NHS) by NITI Aayog has defined clear timelines, targets and the resources required for this digital convergence of healthcare programmes in India. NDHB aims to help in providing a common platform for integration of existing applications in health domain and data which has existed in silos, either in public health facilities, or, in private healthcare facilities, in India.

Q.141) Consider the following statements regarding the **Contempt of Courts** on India:

1. Supreme Court, High Courts and Sub-ordinate Courts are empowered by the Constitution to punish for their respective contempt.
2. Fair criticism of judicial act does not amount to contempt of court.

Which of the 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. **Superior courts (Supreme Court and High Courts)** derive their contempt powers from the Constitution. The **Contempt of Court Act** outlines

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the procedure in relation to investigation and punishment for contempt. The **Act additionally allows the High Court** to punish for contempt of subordinate courts.

Statement 2 is correct. **Fair criticism** of judicial act and accurate report of judicial proceeding does not amount to its contempt. 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.142) What is the utility of the recently launched **SRIJAN** portal?

- a) NITI Aayog-AIM app innovation challenge
- b) Partner the private sector in indigenization efforts of Defence sector
- c) E-commerce platform for indigenous textile sector
- d) Industry-academia collaboration for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Defence Minister recently launched a portal **SRIJAN** which is a one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items for **indigenization**.

The main objective of the portal is to **partner the private sector** in indigenization efforts of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), OFB and the Armed Forces. The portal will be a non-transactional online market place platform.

DPSUs/OFB/SHQs will **display their items** on this portal, which they have imported or going to import, each item having sizeable import value. They will also display those items which have been planned in the coming years, for indigenization.

The **Indian industry** will be able to show their interest in those items for which they can design, develop and manufacture as per their capability or through joint venture with OEMs.

Q.143) Which of the following states have the autonomous districts as defined under the **Sixth Schedule**?

- 1. Assam
- 2. Manipur
- 3. Nagaland
- 4. Tripura

Select the correct answer using the code give below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Sixth Schedule** currently includes 10 autonomous district councils in four northeastern States — **Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura**.

Sixth Schedule provides to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC). ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.

Q.144) Consider the following statements regarding the **Sickle Cell Disease**:

- 1. These are genetically inherited red blood cell disorders.
- 2. The sickle cells die early, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells.

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.

Sickle Cell Disease is a group of **inherited red blood cell disorders**.

Healthy red blood cells are round, and they move through small blood vessels to carry oxygen to all parts of the body. In someone who has SCD, the red blood cells become hard and sticky and look like a C-shaped farm tool called a “sickle”.

The **sickle cells die early**, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells. Also, when they travel through small blood vessels, they get stuck and clog the blood flow. This can cause pain and other serious problems such infection, acute chest syndrome and stroke.

Q.145) Consider the following statements regarding constitutional provisions on the **President of India**:

1. The President may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Chief Justice of India, resign from office.
2. S/he can only be removed from office as in the manner a judge of Supreme Court is removed.

Which of the 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 56** provides for the term of office of President.

The President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office:

Provided that—

-the President may, by writing under his hand **addressed to the Vice-President**, resign his office;

-the President may, for violation of the Constitution, be removed from office by impeachment in the manner provided in article 61;

-the President shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office.

Any resignation addressed to the Vice-President shall forthwith be communicated by him to the Speaker of the House of the People.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The separate provision on **impeachment of the President** is provided under **article 61 of the Constitution**. S/he can only be removed an investigation and resolution is passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the Houses.

Q.146) Which of the following is/are key components of the **National Health Stack** proposed by the NITI Aayog?

1. National Health Electronic Registries
2. A Federated Personal Health Records (PHR) Framework
3. A new Indian Medical Association

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Proposed by NITI Aayog, **National Health Stack (NHS)** is to be the digital infrastructure built with the aim of making the health insurance system more transparent and robust, while factoring in the uniqueness of India's health sector, and the political realities of federalism.

The **National Digital Health Blueprint** was prepared by a Health Ministry panel headed by **J. Satyanarayana** with an objective to create a framework for the national health stack proposed in 2018 by the NITI Aayog.

The **five key components of the National Health Stack** are—

-**National Health Electronic Registries:** to create a single source of truth for and manage master health data of the nation;

-**A Coverage and Claims platform:** building blocks to support large health protection schemes, enable horizontal and vertical expansion of Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission by states and robust fraud detection;

-**A Federated Personal Health Records (PHR) Framework:** to solve twin challenges of access to their own health data by patients and availability of health data for medical research, critical for advancing our understanding of human health;

-**A National Health Analytics Platform:** to bring a holistic view combining information on multiple health initiatives and feed into smart policy making, for instance, through improved predictive analytics;

-**Other horizontal Components:** including, and not restricted to, unique Digital Health ID, Health Data Dictionaries and Supply Chain Management for Drugs, payment gateways etc. shared across all health programs.

Q.147) Consider the following statements regarding the '**ATL AI Step up Module**':

1. It provides a comprehensive set of learn it yourself Advanced modules to involve young students across the country.
2. It has been launched by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with NASSCOM.

Which of the 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

After a successful launch of a unique initiative to take Artificial Intelligence (AI) to schools through 'ATL AI Modules', **Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog** in collaboration with **NASSCOM** launched the '**ATL AI Step Up Module**' for students in order to drive AI education and innovation to the next level in schools across the country.

The AI Step-up Module provides a comprehensive set of **learn it yourself Advanced modules** to those who wish to expand their knowledge base after becoming familiar with the basics of the AI discipline through the AI base module.

The **Base module** was specifically devised considering students as young as 12 years of age. Step up module has been exquisitely designed and presented to involve young students across the country to induce inclusive learning and to empower youngsters of our country to create AI integrated innovations.

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Q.148) Consider the following statements regarding **Ice Stupas** in news recently:

1. It is a glacier grafting technique that creates artificial glaciers.
2. These are used for preserving winter water to offset the scarcity in summer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Ice Stupa is a form of glacier grafting technique that creates artificial glaciers.

It is used for storing excess winter water in the form of **conical shaped ice heaps**. When water is scarce in the summer, the Ice Stupa melts.

These stupas store large **reserves of water** as ice through the winter and carry the potential to provide for irrigation and drinking water in summers.

Ice Stupa was invented by engineer, innovator and education reformist **Sonam Wangchuk**, who is the founder-director of the NGO Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL).

Q.149) The **Abraham Accord** relates to which of the following nations?

- a) France and Lebanon
- b) Israel and United Arab Emirates
- c) United States of America and North Korea
- d) France and United Kingdom

Correct answer: B

Explanation: On August 13, 2020, the **Israel-United Arab Emirates Peace Agreement or the Abraham Accord** was agreed and announced in a joint statement from the White House (USA).

Israel will now have diplomatic and economic relations with UAE, a country that had not recognized it. In return for recognition and relations, Israel has pledged to suspend its ambitions to annex parts of the West Bank.

The pact makes the Emirates only the third Arab country to have normal diplomatic relations with Israel along with **Egypt**, which signed a peace agreement in 1979, and **Jordan**, which signed a treaty in 1994.

Q.150) Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. Royal Assent to India Independence Act
2. The June 3rd Mountbatten Plan
3. First meeting of Constituent Assembly of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Constituent Assembly** met for the first time in New Delhi on **9 December, 1946** in the Constitution Hall which is now known as the Central Hall of Parliament House.

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Mountbatten Plan was a declaration of the government of Great Britain on **June 3, 1947**, that provided for the partition of India into two states that were granted the rights of dominions.

The **1947 Indian Independence Act** is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that partitioned British India; it received the **Royal Assent on 18 July 1947**.

Q.151) Which of the following island(s) is/are in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** Union territory?

1. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island
2. Swaraj Dweep
3. North Sentinel Island

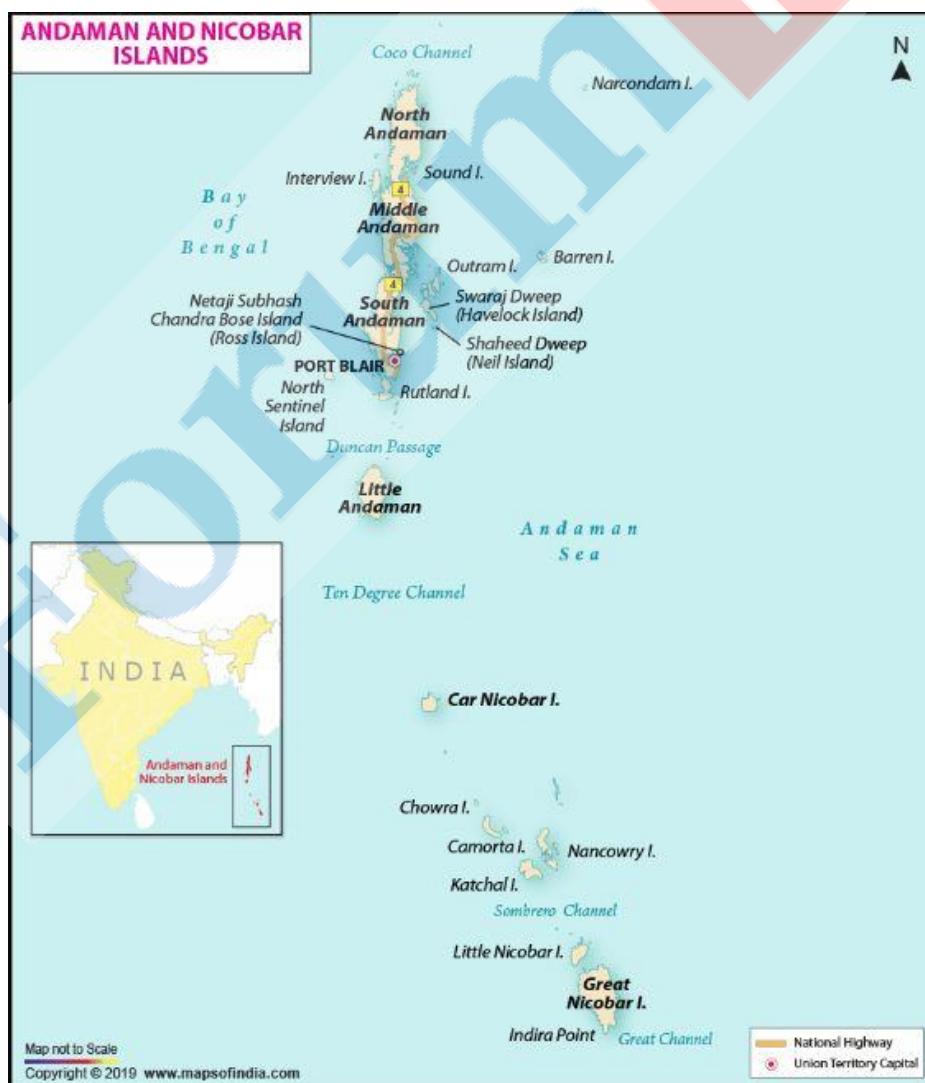
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Union Territory.

The **Ross Island** was renamed Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, the **Neil Island** as Shaheed Dweep and the **Havelock Island** as Swaraj Dweep in December 2018.



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Q.152) Consider the following statements regarding **BEEG (Bio-compost Enriched Eco-friendly Globule)** balls:

1. These are seed balls developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
2. There is no need for digging pits for planting saplings using BEEG balls.

Which of the 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. **IIT Kanpur** has developed seed balls named **BEEG (Bio -compost Enriched Eco-friendly Globule)** which will help people and farmers in plantation with safety in pandemic. It has been developed in collaboration with Agnys Waste Management Private Limited (start-up at IIT Kanpur).

Statement 2 is correct. **Seed Balls** are comprised of variety of **seeds, compost, and clay**. There is no need for digging pits for planting saplings. These seed balls germinate on coming in contact with water.

Q.153) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the **Sunspots**?

1. They appear dark on the surface of the Sun because they are cooler than other parts of the Sun's surface.
2. Solar minimum refers to time when the Sun has the least sunspots.

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.

Sunspots are areas that appear **dark** on the surface of the Sun. They appear dark because they are **cooler than other parts of the Sun's surface**. The temperature of a sunspot is still very hot though—around 3,500 degrees Celsius!

Sunspots are relatively cool because they form at areas where **magnetic fields are particularly strong**. These magnetic fields are so strong that they keep some of the heat within the Sun from reaching the surface.

The Sun's magnetic field goes through a cycle, called the **solar cycle**. Every 11 years or so, the Sun's magnetic field flips and the Sun's north and south poles switch places.

-The beginning of a solar cycle is a **solar minimum**: when the Sun has the least sunspots.

-The middle of the solar cycle is the **solar maximum**: when the Sun has the most sunspots.

-As the cycle ends, it fades back to the solar minimum and then a new cycle begins.

Q.154) Consider the following statements regarding **Ethanol**:

1. It is produced from by-product of the sugar industry.
2. The Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) mandates Oil Marketing Companies to blend upto ten percent of ethanol in Petrol.

Which 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.

Ethanol is a renewable biofuel because it is made from biomass. Fuel ethanol feedstocks include **grains and crops** with high starch and sugar content such as corn, sorghum, barley, sugar cane, and sugar beets. One of the most commonly used sources is **molasses**, a by-product of the sugar industry.

The **Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP)** seeks to achieve blending of Ethanol with motor spirit with a view to reducing pollution, conserve foreign exchange and increase value addition in the sugar industry enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers. Under EBP programme, OMCs are to blend upto **10% of ethanol in Petrol**.

To incentivize **2G Ethanol sector** and support this nascent industry, Government launched **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana** in 2019 for providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

Q.155) In which of the case(s) is/was India involved in the **Permanent Court of Arbitration**?

1. The Enrica Lexie (India v. Italy) case
2. Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary (India v. Bangladesh) case
3. Kulbhushan Jadhav (India v. Pakistan) case

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **Enrica Lexie case** is a dispute about a shooting by two **Italian marines** off the western coast of India.

In July 2020, the Permanent Court of Arbitration recognized the functional immunity of the two Italian marines, noting that they were engaged in a mission on behalf of the Italian Government. However, Italy is required to find an agreement with India in order to compensate for the two deaths.

Option 2 is correct. The **Bangladesh v. India (Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary)** case was settled by the PCA in 2014. The tribunal awarded Bangladesh 19,467 sq. km of the 25,602 sq. km sea area of the Bay of Bengal.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Kulbhushan Jadhav case** is not under PCA. India in May 2017 approached the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, asserting that Pakistani authorities were denying India its right of consular access to Jadhav in violation of the Vienna Convention.

Q.156) Which of the following correctly defines a **Drop-in Fuel**?

- a) A fuel that needs a complete overhaul of existing petroleum infrastructure
- b) A highly combustible fuel with no Sulphur content
- c) A fuel that has to be maintained at sub-zero temperature to be combustible
- d) A fuel fully compatible with existing petroleum infrastructure

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Drop-in biofuels** are liquid bio-hydrocarbons that are **functionally equivalent to petroleum** fuels and are fully compatible with existing petroleum infrastructure.

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A drop-in fuel is a synthetic and **completely interchangeable substitute** for conventional petroleum-derived hydrocarbons (gasoline, jet fuel, and diesel). Therefore, it does not require adaptation of the engine, fuel system or the fuel distribution network. It can be used “as is” in currently available engines either in pure form and/or blended in any amount with other drop-in neat, drop-in blend, or conventional fuels.

Q.157) Where is the **Milne Ice Shelf** is located?

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) North Pacific Ocean
- c) Siberia
- d) Antarctica

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Milne Ice Shelf (Canada)**, a fragment of the former **Ellesmere Ice Shelf**, is the second largest ice shelf in the **Arctic Ocean**.

It's the last fully intact ice shelf in the Canadian Arctic and has been reported to have collapsed losing more than 40% of its area.



Q.158) Which of the following **freedom fighter(s)** was/were deported to the **Cellular Jail, Andaman and Nicobar Islands**?

1. Barindra Kumar Ghose
2. Fazl-E-Haq Khairabadi
3. Batukeshwar Dutt

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: D

Explanation: The **Cellular Jail in Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands** is a prison where Indians fighting for freedom from the British were exiled and incarcerated under very inhuman conditions.

Today, a national memorial, it is called cellular because it was constructed to host only **individual cells** for the purpose of solitary confinement.

Some prominent inmates of the Cellular Jail were: Fazl-e-Haq Khairabadi, Yogendra Shukla, Batukeshwar Dutt, **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**, **Sachindra Nath Sanyal**, Bhai Parmanand, Sohan Singh, Subodh Roy and Trailokyanath Chakravarty.

-**Barindra Kumar Ghose** and Aurobindo Ghosh were arrested in 1908 following the intensified police investigation after attempted killing of Kingsford by two revolutionaries Khudiram and Prafulla on 30 April 1908.

The trial (known as the Alipore Bomb Case) initially sentenced Barin Ghosh and Ullaskar Datta to death. However, the sentence was reduced to life imprisonment, by Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and Barin was deported to the Cellular Jail in Andaman in 1909 along with other convicts.

-**Fazl-E-Haq Khairabadi** was covered by an amnesty after the Indian Rebellion of 1857 failed and was arrested by the British authorities on 30 January 1859 at Khairabad for inciting violence.

He was tried and found guilty of encouraging murder and role in the 'jihad'. He was sentenced for life to the prison at Kalapani (Cellular Jail) on Andaman Island, and his property was confiscated by the judicial commissioner of Awadh court.

-**Batukeshwar Dutt** along with Bhagat Singh was involved in the Central Legislative Assembly Bombing Case of 1929, passed away on 20th July 1965 after an illness at the age of 54. Dutt was sentenced to life imprisonment and deported to the Cellular Jail in Port Blair.

Q.159) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
 2. The NTAGI a regulatory body monitoring and licensing the vaccine production in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI)** is not a statutory body. It was established by an **order of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** (MoHFW) in 2001 and has been reconstituted twice, in 2010 and 2013.

The NTAGI includes a **Standing Technical Sub-Committee (STSC)**. The STSC is tasked with undertaking technical review of scientific evidence on matters related to immunization policy and programmes. Final recommendations are drafted by the NTAGI taking into account the scientific review by the STSC and any other relevant evidence.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The NTAGI is **not a policy making body in its own right** and has no regulatory function.

The **overall objective of the NTAGI** is to provide advice to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the strategies to control the burden and appropriately evaluate the impact of **immunization on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) in the country**.

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The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 has sought inputs from Standing Technical Sub-Committee of National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) regarding the vaccine candidates for COVID-19.

Q.160) What is the utility of the recently launched ‘Swasthya’ portal?

- a) Track the progress of the COVID-19 vaccine development
- b) Provide life-saving medicines at subsidized prices
- c) A database of health profile of all Indians
- d) Health and nutrition information of the tribal population of India

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** in collaboration with Piramal Swasthya, the Centre of Excellence has developed this **Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal ‘Swasthya’**, a one-stop solution presenting all information pertaining to tribal health and nutrition related to Scheduled Tribe people.

It has a **dashboard, knowledge repository, partner segment, Sickle Cell Diseases (SCD) support corner**. The dashboard presents data curated from multiple sources for the 177 identified high priority tribal districts.

The Portal also has **research studies, innovations and best practices** on tribal community curated from multiple sources related to tribal health and nutrition.

Q.161) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Solar Alliance**:

- 1. Only countries falling between Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn are eligible for the membership of the alliance.
- 2. The alliance was launched at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference 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: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Membership to the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** was earlier limited to 121 countries, which were partially or entirely located within the tropics. It is now open to all **UN member countries**.

Till now, 87 countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA and of these 67 have deposited their instruments of ratification.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The launch of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was announced by Prime Minister of India and President of France on 30th November 2015, at the 21st session of **United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France**.

Q.162) Consider the following statements regarding the **SalivaDirect Diagnostic test** for COVID-19:

- 1. It is an antibody-based test for SARS-COV-2 virus.
- 2. It has been developed by researchers at the Yale School of Public Health.

Which 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: U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have granted an Emergency Use Authorization for **SalivaDirect**, a saliva-based test for COVID-19.

Statement 1 is incorrect. It has been developed by researchers at the **Yale School of Public Health** in collaboration with the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Statement 2 is correct. It is an **RT-PCR based** test. Collecting and testing saliva samples involves three steps: collecting saliva without preservative buffers, proteinase K treatment and heat inactivation, and duplex RT-qPCR virus detection.

New test on the block

SalivaDirect, a new rapid detection test for COVID-19 is touted to be simple, cheap and accurate

WHY IS IT DIFFERENT?	WHO DEVELOPED IT?
SalivaDirect uses saliva samples, as opposed to the more invasive nasopharyngeal swabs	It was developed by researchers from Yale School of Public Health in partnership with the National Basketball Association (NBA)
IS IT AFFORDABLE?	HOW ARE SAMPLES COLLECTED?
Compared to other tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration, SalivaDirect is affordable — each test could cost as little as \$10, or less — and has the highest sensitivity (88-94%)	The test could allow for 'at-home, self-administered sample collection', according to a researcher involved in developing the test

Q.163) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Biopharma Mission (NBM)**:

1. It is an Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.
2. It is being implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
3. Innovate in India (i3) program has been launched under the mission to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector.

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 statements.

The **National Biopharma Mission (NBM)** is an industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.

The mission will be implemented by **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**. It was approved in 2017 at a total cost of Rs 1500 crore and is 50% co-funded by World Bank loan.

The Government has launched **Innovate in India (i3) programme** under the mission to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector.

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The program is promoting entrepreneurship by supporting small and medium enterprises for indigenous product development (Novel Cell lines, indigenously developed Biologics, devices and Raw materials for Biologics manufacturing) and through establishment of shared facilities and Technology Transfer Offices.

Q.164) Which of the following comes under the mandate of **Central Water Commission**?

1. To study and provide the hydrological and hydro-meteorological data relating to major rivers in the country.
2. To provide flood forecasting services to all major flood prone inter-state river basins of India.
3. To conduct studies on dam safety aspects for the existing dams.

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 the functions of the **Central Water Commission**.

Central Water Commission is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources and is presently functioning as an attached office of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**. Its functions include:

- To carry out techno-economic appraisal of irrigation, flood control and multipurpose projects
- To collect, compile, analyse and publish the **hydrological and hydro-meteorological data** relating to major rivers
- To provide **flood forecasting services** to all major flood prone inter-state river basins of India
- Monitoring of selected major and medium irrigation projects
- To initiate studies on **socio-agroeconomic and ecological aspects** of irrigation projects
- To conduct studies on **dam safety** aspects for the existing dams and standardize related instrumentation for dam safety measures.

Google in association with the Central Water Commission (CWC) have started a flood forecasting initiative. Any user in the affected region having an Android smartphone with location services enabled will receive these alerts.

Q.165) Consider the following statements:

1. Water has more specific heat capacity than Air.
2. Water expands as it gets warmer at all temperatures.

Which of the 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. Water has a much **higher heat capacity than air**, meaning the oceans can absorb larger amounts of heat energy with only a slight increase in temperature.

Water's **specific heat capacity** is 4200 Jkg⁻¹K⁻¹ and Air's is 993 Jkg⁻¹K⁻¹ therefore water has 4.23 times more specific heat capacity.

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The specific heat capacity is the amount of energy that must be added, in the form of heat, to one unit of mass of the substance in order to cause an increase of one unit in its temperature.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Water is an unusual liquid and has unique properties. Water does indeed **expand when warms**, and it contracts when it cools, but not at all temperatures. An **oddity occurs between 4 and 0 degrees Celsius** (about 40- and 32-degrees Fahrenheit).

Between the temperatures of 32 F (0 C) to 40 F (4 C), liquid water actually contracts with increasing temperature.

Q.166) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**:

1. Every person is to be provided with a digital health ID having all his/her health records.
2. The UIDAI will design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM.

Which of the 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: **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)** aims to liberate citizens from the challenges of finding the right doctors, seeking appointment with them, payment of consultation fee, making several rounds of hospitals for prescription sheets

Statement 1 is correct. Every person in the country will get a **digital health ID** which is basically a digital format of all his/her health records which will be linked to the registry of doctors and health facilities across the country.

The platform has been planned to improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of health service delivery. The health ID will be in the form of a mobile application of website.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **National Health Authority (NHA)** will design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM. The scheme would first be tested in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

Q.167) Consider the following statements regarding the **Fit India Youth Clubs**:

1. The volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme are to register as Fit India Youth Clubs.
2. The clubs will be registered in every block in the country, under the aegis of a district unit.

Which of the 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.

Union Minister of Youth and Sports recently launched the nation-wide initiative of **Fit India Youth Clubs** to promote fitness as part of the Fit India Movement.

Under this initiative, 75 lakh volunteers of **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme**, along with **Scouts and Guides, National Cadet Corps** and other youth organizations will come together to register as Fit India Youth Clubs in every block in the country, under the aegis of a district unit.

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Members of the club will motivate people from the community to take up fitness activities their daily routine. Additionally, the clubs will organize and encourage schools and local bodies to organize one community fitness programme every quarter.

One of the first initiatives that will be taken up by the Fit India Youth Clubs is to popularise the Fit India Freedom Run, which begins from August 15 to October 2.

Q.168) Which of the following correctly defines ‘**inverted duty structure**’?

- a) Rate of taxation on exports being higher than on imports
- b) Rate of tax on inputs used being higher than on the finished good
- c) Rate of taxation on consumers higher than on producers
- d) Rate of taxation increasing with the lowering of income

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Inverted duty structure (IDS) is a situation where the rate of tax on inputs used is higher than the rate of tax on the finished good.

It also refers to a situation where import duty on finished goods is low compared to the import duty on raw materials that are used in the production of such finished goods. When the import duty on raw materials is high, it will be more difficult to produce the concerned good domestically at a competitive price.

The term ‘Inverted Tax Structure’ under GST refers to a situation where the GST rate on inputs purchased (or inward supplies) is more than the GST rate on finished goods (or outward supplies).

Q.169) Tulsidas wrote **Ramacharitmanas** during the reign of which of the following Mughal Ruler?

- a) Jahangir
- b) Babar
- c) Humayun
- d) Akbar

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Ramcharitmanas is an epic poem in the Awadhi language, composed by the 16th-century Indian bhakti poet Goswami Tulsidas.

Little is known about Tulsidas’s life. He lived most of his adult life at Varanasi. The Ramcharitmanas was written between 1574 and 1576/77 during the reign of Mughal emperor **Akbar** (1556-1605 CE).

At the age of five years, Rambola (Tulsidas) was adopted by Narharidas, a Vaishnava ascetic of Ramananda's monastic order who is believed to be the fourth disciple of Ramananda.

Q.170) Which of the following is/are **exempt from disclosure** of information under the **Right to Information Act, 2005**?

- 1. The disclosure of which may constitute contempt of court
- 2. Information received in confidence from foreign Government
- 3. The disclosure of which would endanger the life or physical safety of any person

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: D

Explanation: Section 8 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 provides for exemption from disclosure of information:

- (a) information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence;
- (b) Information which has been expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law or tribunal or the disclosure of which may constitute **contempt of court**;
- (c) Information, the disclosure of which would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or the State Legislature;
- (d) information including commercial confidence, **trade secrets or intellectual property**, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party, unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;
- (e) Information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship, unless the competent authority is satisfied that the larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;
- (f) Information received in **confidence from foreign Government**;
- (g) Information, the disclosure of which would **endanger the life** or physical safety of any person or identify the source of information or assistance given in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes;
- (h) Information which would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders;
- (i) Cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, Secretaries and other officers; (shall be made public after the decision has been taken)
- (j) Information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest

Q.171) Which of the following is/are part of the **Doctrine of Proportionality** for judicial review?

- 1. The action must be sanctioned by law
 - 2. The proposed action must be necessary in a democratic society for a legitimate aim;
 - 3. The extent of such interference must be proportionate to the need for such interference;
- 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 **Doctrine of Proportionality**.

In the nine-judge Bench judgement of the Supreme Court in Justice **KS Puttaswamy v. Union of India**, in which the Court upheld privacy as a fundamental right, proportionality can be ascertained on the basis of the following:

- the action must be sanctioned by law;
- the proposed action must be necessary in a democratic society for a legitimate aim;
- the extent of such interference must be proportionate to the need for such interference;
- there must be procedural guarantees against abuse of such interference.

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Q.172) Consider the following statements regarding the **United Kingdom's Innovation Challenge Fund** in India:

1. It is to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and the threat to environment.
2. The grants are part of 'Tech Clusters' initiative of the UK 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: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The UK government has launched a £3 million **Innovation Challenge Fund in India** to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the **COVID-19 pandemic and the threat to our environment**.

The Fund invites tech innovators with connections to the **AI-Data cluster in Karnataka and the Future Mobility cluster in Maharashtra** to submit research and development proposals for tackling COVID-19 or which promote a greener planet. At least 12 grants up to £250,000 are expected to be awarded.

In April 2018, the Indian and British Prime Ministers announced the formal creation of the UK-India Tech Partnership.

These grants are part of a wider initiative under the **Tech Partnership known as 'Tech Clusters'**. Tech Clusters will support the development of Indian Tech Clusters by breaking down barriers to growth, including building international links.

Q.173) Consider the following statements regarding the **SARS-COV-2**:

1. It is a DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) virus.
2. It enters human cells by its Spike proteins binding to the ACE2 receptors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

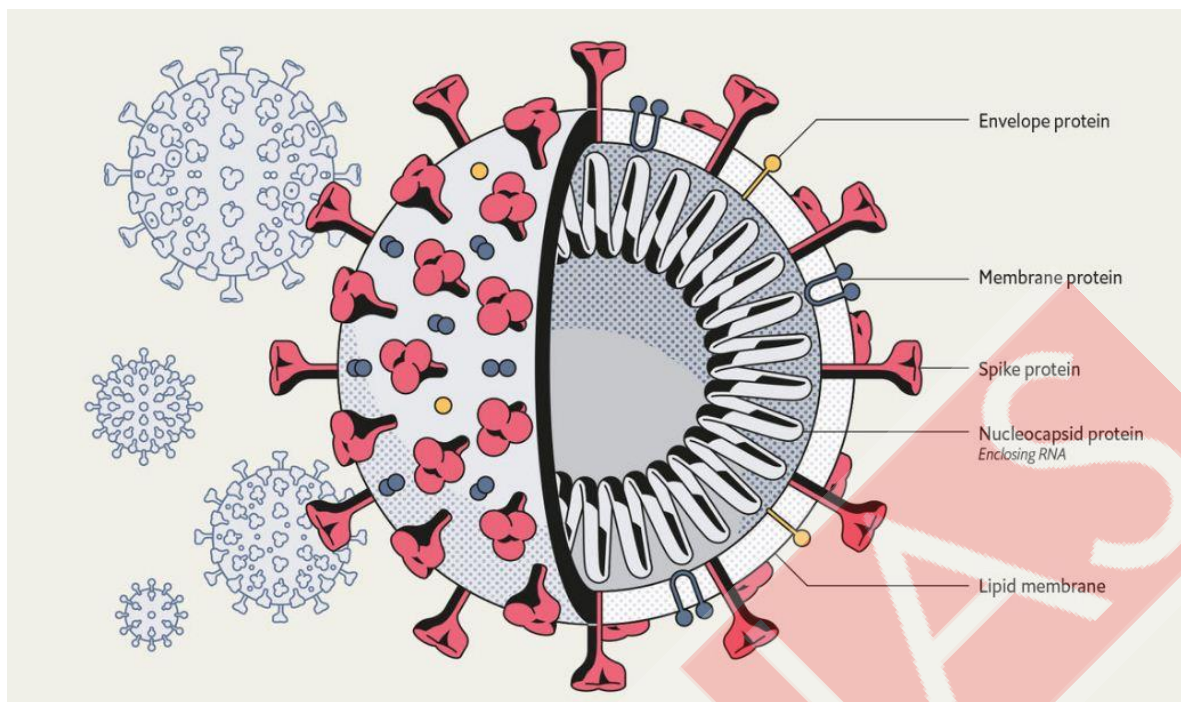
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **SARS-CoV-2** is a positive-sense single-stranded **RNA virus**.

An RNA virus is a virus that has RNA (ribonucleic acid) as its genetic material. RNA viruses replicate their genomes using virally encoded RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp). The RNA may be either double- or single-stranded.

Statement 2 is correct. The SARS-COV-2 has spike proteins which binds with the **Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2)** on cell membranes in human body.



Q.174) Which of the following is/are initiative(s) for the tribal population of India by **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**?

1. Going Online as Leaders (GOAL)
2. Swasthya: Health and Nutrition Portal
3. SVAMITVA scheme

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with PiramalSwasthya, the Centre of Excellence has developed this **Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal 'Swasthya'**, a one-stop solution presenting all information pertaining to tribal health and nutrition related to Scheduled Tribe people.

Option 2 is correct. **'Going Online as Leaders (GOAL)' Programme** is an initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Facebook. Through the GOAL Programme, the Ministry aims to mentor 5000 Tribal Youth across India and enable them to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.

Option 3 is incorrect. **SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas)** scheme is a new initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**. It aims to provide rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.

Q.175) Consider the following statements regarding the **Positive Pay mechanism**:

1. The mechanism involves cross checking the financial instrument with the details provided by the issuing party or individual.
2. It has potential to make cheque payments more secure from altering, counterfeiting and forging.

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: To enhance the safety of cheque payments, **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to introduce a mechanism of Positive Pay for all cheques of value Rs 50,000 and above.

Statement 1 is correct. It is aimed to end **cheque frauds** including altering, counterfeiting and forging of the financial instruments by confirming details with details electronically uploaded information by issuer.

Statement 2 is correct. The Positive Pay system demands that an account holder **electronically uploads** the details of the high value cheque through the bank's net banking system.

The details are cross checked with details provided by the issuing party or the individual. Only a match will lead to the drawee's bank clearing the cheque and in the event of a 'no match' scenario, the issuing authority/individual will be contacted for verification, cancellation or withdrawal of the cheque.

Q.176) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Death Valley - Jordan
- 2. Taklamakan Desert - China
- 3. Dasht-e Lut - Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

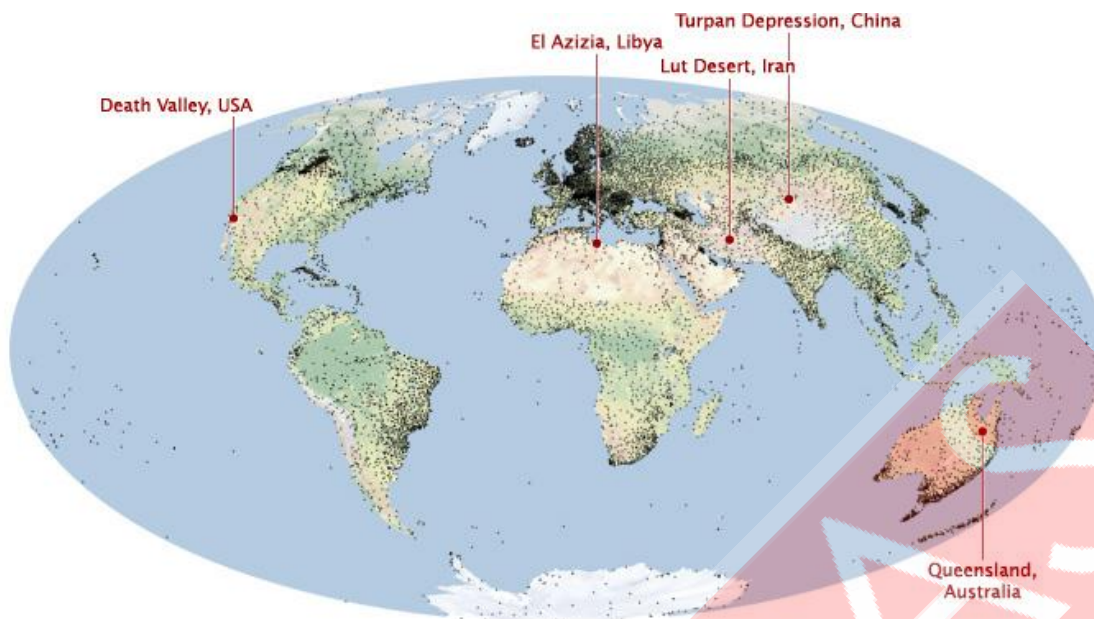
Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Death Valley** is a desert valley in Eastern California, USA.

In July 1913, observers in Furnace Creek, California—Death Valley—watched the thermometer reach 56.7°C (134°F) and declared it to be the highest temperature ever recorded on Earth. It recently hit a high of 54.4°C.

Option 2 is correctly matched. The **Taklamakan Desert** is a desert in Southwest Xinjiang in Northwest China. The surface of the mountain is said to reach temperatures of 50 to 80°C (122 to 175°F) in the summer

Option 3 is correctly matched. The Lut Desert, widely referred to as **Dasht-e Lut**, is a large salt desert located in the provinces of Kerman and Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran.

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Q.177) Consider the following statements regarding the National Capital Territory of Delhi:

1. The Council of Ministers of NCT of Delhi cannot have more than ten per cent. of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly.
2. The Ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister and hold office during the pleasure of the President.

Which of the 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 special provisions for NCT of Delhi under article **239AA** of the Constitution, there shall be a **Council of Ministers** consisting of **not more than ten per cent.** of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly.

Statement 2 is correct. The Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi is appointed by the **President** and other Ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.

The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly

Q.178) What is a **Sunrise Industry**?

- a) Industry with potential for substantial and rapid growth
- b) Industry having major big capital investment on solar power
- c) Industry heavily reliant on foreign capital
- d) Industry completely reliant on domestic capital

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Emerging industry that is gaining favor with investors and is expected to be an engine of future economic growth through steadily rising generation of employment and profits is referred colloquially as **Sunrise Industry**.

A sunrise industry is a new business or business sector showing potential for substantial and rapid growth.

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Notable characteristics of sunrise industries include high-growth rates and a lot of start-ups and venture capital funding.

Q.179) Which of the following law(s) prescribe **minimum age for marriage** in India?

1. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
2. Special Marriage Act, 1954
3. Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

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 legal provisions mandating minimum age standards for marriages in India.

-In 2019, the **Delhi high court** had also sought the government's response to a plea that proposed a uniform age for marriage for both men and women.

-The **Union Ministry for Women and Child Development** recently set up a task force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and the improvement of nutritional levels among women.

The **Section 5(iii) of The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**, sets 18 years as the minimum age for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom.

The **Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** prescribe 18 and 21 years as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and men respectively.

Q.180) The **Global Gender Gap Report** is released by which of the following institution?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) United Nations Development Program
- c) World Bank
- d) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Global Gender Gap Report** published by the **World Economic Forum** since 2006 is designed to "measure gender-based gaps in access to resources and opportunities in countries rather than the actual levels of the available resources and opportunities in those countries."

As per the World Economic Forum's **Global Gender Gap Index 2020** rankings, **India ranks 112** among 153 countries. China was ranked 106 while Iceland topped the table.

Q.181) Consider the following statements regarding the **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020**:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education.
2. It ranks higher educational institutions and universities based on "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties.
3. IIT Madras ranked first in ARIIA 2020 under the category of Institutes of National Importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the statements are correct.

Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) is an initiative of **Ministry of Education** (erstwhile Human Resource Development MHRD), Govt. of India.

It systematically ranks all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to **“Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development”** amongst students and faculties.

Major Indicators for consideration: Budget & Funding Support, Infrastructure & Facilities, Awareness, Promotions & support for Idea Generation & Innovation, Promotion & Support for Entrepreneurship Development, Innovative Learning Methods & Courses, Intellectual Property Generation, Technology Transfer & Commercialization and Innovation in Governance of the Institution.

ARIIA 2020 toppers:

- IIT Madras under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes;
- Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai under Government and Government Aided Universities;
- College of Engineering, Pune under Government and Government Aided Colleges;
- Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar under Private or Self-Financed Universities
- S R Engineering College, Warangal under Private or Self-Financed Colleges.

Q.182) Consider the following statements:

1. Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge has been launched in India by Intel Corporation.
2. SHAKTI and VEGA are microprocessors indigenously developed in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Ministry of Electronics & IT** has launched the **Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions** for Aatmanirbhar Bharat seeks to invite innovators, startups and students to use these microprocessors to develop various technology products.

The participants will get monetary support/ seed fund and an opportunity to translate their innovations around Swadeshi Processors, showcase them at a higher viewership platform and facilitate them to scale from ideation to marketplace.

Statement 2 is correct. **IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC)** have developed two microprocessors named **SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit)** respectively using Open Source Architecture under the aegis of Microprocessor Development Programme of Ministry of Electronics and IT.

Q.183) Consider the following statements regarding the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**:

1. No person can operate a payment system except under and in accordance with an authorization issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

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2. The Act prohibits foreign entities from operating a payment system 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. The **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** empowers Reserve Bank of India to regulate and oversee the various payments and settlement systems in India.

Every person operating a payment and settlement system (system provider) needs to be **authorized by the RBI**. The form and manner of application for authorization is prescribed by RBI.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released a framework for setting up of a pan-India umbrella entity for retail payments systems. It will manage and operate new payments systems in the retail space comprising ATMs, white label PoS, Aadhaar-based payments and remittance services.

The formation of the umbrella entity has been authorised under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** does not prohibit foreign entities from operating a payment system in India and the Act **does not discriminate** or differentiate between foreign entities and domestic entities.

All entities, whether domestic or foreign, need to obtain a licence, approval or authorization from the RBI before commencing payment system operations in the country.

Q.184) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020**:

- 1. It has been released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the World Health Organization.
- 2. It estimates that Tobacco Related Cancers contribute more than one-fourth of the total cancer burden of India in 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020** has been released by the **National Centre for Disease Informatics & Research (NCDIR)-Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

Statement 2 is correct. As per the report, the highest incidence of cancer in India was observed in the **north eastern region**.

-Cancer of lung, mouth, stomach and oesophagus were the most common cancers in men.

-Cancer of breast and cervix uteri were the most common cancers in women.

-The report estimates that in 2020, **tobacco-related cancers** are estimated to contribute to **27.1% of the total cancer burden**.

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Report of National Cancer Registry Programme 2012-2016

Projection of Cancer Cases in India

Table 14.2 Cancer Burden by Broad Anatomical Sites of Cancer - 2020 and 2025

Broad Anatomical Sites of Cancer	2020		2025	
	No. of Cases	(%)	No. of Cases	(%)
All Sites	1392179	100.0	1569793	100.0
Tobacco Related Cancers	377830	27.1	427273	27.2
Gastro Intestinal Tract	273982	19.7	310142	19.8
Cervix Uteri	75209	5.4	85241	5.4
Breast	205424	14.8	232832	14.8
Corpus Uteri and Ovary	70400	5.1	79765	5.1
Lymphoid & Haematopoietic Malignancies	124931	9.0	138592	8.8
Prostate	41532	3.0	47068	3.0
Central Nervous System	32729	2.4	36258	2.3

Q.185) Consider the following statements regarding the **PM CARES Fund**:

1. Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman and Union Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs and Finance are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
2. The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions and does not get any budgetary support.
3. The donations to the fund qualify to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013.

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. **Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman** of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (Prime Minister) has the power to nominate three trustees to the Board of Trustees who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration and philanthropy.

Statement 2 is correct. The fund consists entirely of **voluntary contributions** from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support.

Statement 3 is correct. Donations to PM CARES Fund qualify to be counted as **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013

PM CARES Fund has also got exemption under the FCRA and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened. This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.

Q.186) India is part of which of the following group(s) or alliance(s)?

1. Quad
2. MIKTA
3. Five Eyes

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. The **Quad or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** is an informal strategic forum between the United States, Japan, Australia and India.

Option 2 is incorrect. **MIKTA** is an informal partnership between Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and Australia.

Option 3 is incorrect. The **Five Eyes (FVEY)** is an intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Q.187) Consider the following statements regarding **Cheetah**:

1. It is the world's fastest land mammal.
2. It has become extinct in wild in Indian subcontinent.

Which of the 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 **cheetah is the world's fastest land mammal**. A cheetah can go from 0 to 60 miles an hour in only three seconds. These big cats are quite nimble at high speed and can make quick and sudden turns in pursuit of prey.

Statement 2 is correct. The Asiatic cheetah, which once roamed parts of India, is now only found in Iran, where there are thought to be about 50 left.

Studies show that at least 200 cheetahs were killed in India, largely by sheep and goat herders, during the colonial period. It is the **only large mammal to become extinct** after the country gained independence in 1947.

Recently Cheetahs from South Africa arrived at Mysuru zoo (not in wild).

The Supreme Court in January, 2020 said African cheetahs could be introduced to the wild in a "carefully chosen location" India.

Cheetahs are the only big cats that can't roar.

Q.188) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Durand Line - Afghanistan and British India
2. McMahon Line - Tibet and India
3. RadCliff Line - Bangladesh and India

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 correctly matched. **Durand Line** is boundary established in the Hindu Kush in 1893 running through the tribal lands between **Afghanistan and British India** (Today Pakistan).

It was the result of an agreement between Sir Mortimer Durand, a secretary of the British Indian government, and Abdur Rahman Khan, the emir, or ruler, of Afghanistan.

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Option 2 is correctly matched. **McMahon Line** is frontier between **Tibet and North-east region of India**, negotiated between Tibet and Great Britain at the end of the Shimla Conference (October 1913–July 1914) and named for the chief British negotiator, Sir Henry McMahon.

In 1962, the Chinese forces occupied south of the McMahon Line but subsequently withdrew after a cease-fire had been achieved.

Option 3 is correctly matched. The **Radcliffe Line** was the boundary demarcation line between the **Indian and Pakistani portions of the Punjab and Bengal provinces (now Bangladesh)** of British India.

Q.189) Consider the following statements regarding the **EastMed Gas Forum**:

1. It is a regional cooperation platform for developing the natural gas fields in the Mediterranean area.
 2. Both Israel and Palestinian Authority are members of the forum.
- Which of the 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 **East Mediterranean Gas Forum** is a regional cooperation platform for developing the natural gas fields in the Mediterranean area.

It was established as an international body in January 2020 and is headquartered in Cairo, Egypt. The Energy Ministers of **Israel, Egypt, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Jordan, and the PA (Palestinian Authority)** approved the transformation of the Forum into a regional organization.

It aims to create a regional gas market that serves the interests of its members by ensuring supply and demand, optimising resources development, rationalising the cost of infrastructure, offering competitive prices and improving trade relations.

Q.190) Consider the following statements regarding the **inflation indices** in India:

1. The Consumer Price Index tracks changes in retail prices of goods and services.
 2. The Wholesale Price Index does not include 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Consumer Price Index** measures the average change in prices (retail) over time that consumers pay for a basket of **goods and services**. The **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation releases monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Rural, Urban and Combined.

The most important category in the consumer price index is Food and beverages (45.86 percent of total weight). It also includes services like Transport and communication (8.59 percent), health (5.89 percent), and education (4.46 percent).

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Statement 2 is correct. The **Office of Economic Adviser**, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade releases monthly Wholesale price Index (WPI). It tracks the changes in the price of goods in the stages before the retail level.

The wholesale market is only for goods, so **WPI does not include services**.

Q.191) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Recruitment Agency (NRA)**:

1. It will conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to non-gazetted posts in government and public sector banks.
2. The CET will be conducted in all eighth schedule languages.

Which of the 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 Union Cabinet recently approved the proposal to set up the **National Recruitment Agency (NRA)**.

The NRA will conduct the **Common Eligibility Test (CET)** for recruitment to **non-gazetted posts** in government and public sector banks and replace multiple examinations conducted by different recruiting agencies.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The CET will be conducted in **12 major Indian languages**.

Other salient features:

- The Common Eligibility Test will be held twice a year.
- There will be different CETs for graduate level, 12th Pass level and 10th pass level to facilitate recruitment to vacancies at various levels.
- To begin with CET will cover recruitments made by three agencies: viz. Staff Selection Commission, Railway Recruitment Board and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection. This will be expanded in a phased manner.
- CET will be a first level test to shortlist candidates and the score will be **valid for three years**.
- There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts to be taken by a candidate to appear in the CET subject to the upper age limit. Age relaxation for SC/ST and OBC candidates as per existing rules will apply.

Q.192) Consider the following statements regarding the **Teesta River**:

1. It is a left bank tributary of the Ganga River.
2. It originates in Nepal and flows to Bangladesh through 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: Both statements are incorrect.

The **Teesta River** originates from the **Pahunri (or Teesta Kangse)** glacier above 7,068 m, and flows southward through gorges and rapids in the **Sikkim Himalaya**.

The river then flows past the town of Rangpo where the **Rangpo River** joins, and where it forms the border between Sikkim and West Bengal up to Teesta Bazaar. Just before the

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Teesta Bridge, where the roads from Kalimpong and Darjeeling join, the river is met by its main tributary, the **Rangt River**.

Teesta River ultimately drains into **Brahmaputra (Jamuna)** at Teestamukh Ghat in Kamarjani- Bahadurabad in Rangpur district of Bangladesh.

Q.193) The '**Algiers Process**' relates to which of the following issue?

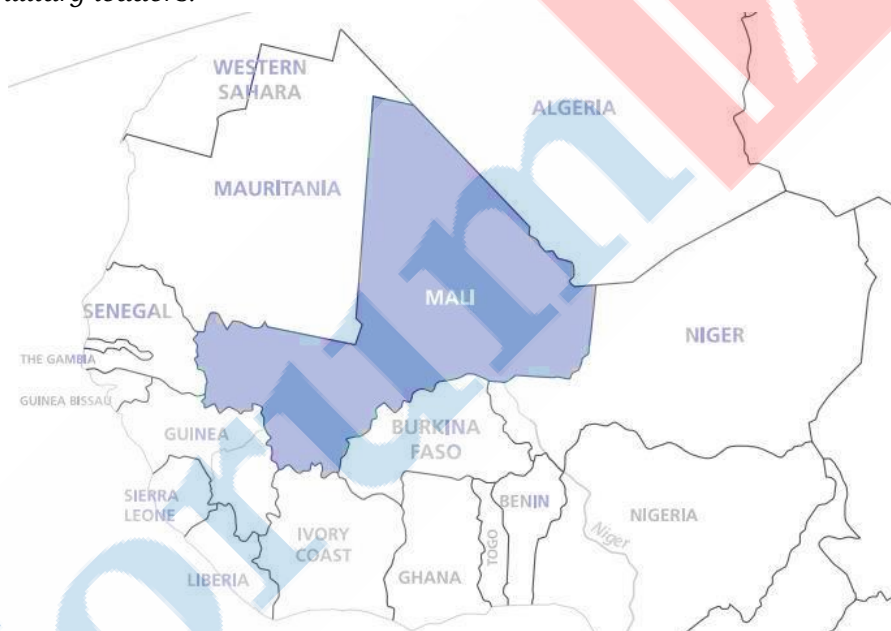
- a) UAE – Israel Agreement for Bilateral Relations
- b) Peace and Development Agreement in Lebanon
- c) Israel - Palestine Peace Agreement
- d) Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Mali Civil War** is a series of armed conflicts that started from January 2012 between the northern and southern parts of Mali in Africa.

In **2015**, **peace accord** was signed, called '**Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali Resulting from the Algiers Process**'. It is a compromise between the government in Bamako and the Tuareg and Arab rebel groups.

Recently there was a coup in Mali and the sitting President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been ousted by military leaders.



Q.194) Which of the following is/are potential benefit(s) of the **Universal Basic Income (UBI)**?

- 1. A motivation for the labor force to work more
- 2. Support for unpaid care workers
- 3. Eliminating the need for social security schemes and subsidies

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. A concern with UBI is that it would **encourage workers to stop working**. If people aren't working, there is less taxable income. However,

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people may choose to stop working for reasons that benefit society as a whole, such as getting a better education or caring for a relative in need.

Statement 2 is correct. Those with ill or differently abled relatives are often forced to quit their jobs to care for them full-time. UBI would allow **care-workers to support themselves**, encouraging care work within the home and relieving pressure on public services that provide care to the sick and elderly.

Statement 3 is correct. There exist countless **governmental organisations/schemes** responsible for helping those in poverty, unemployment benefits, food stamps, subsidised housing, etc. UBI would cut a country's spending by eliminating these schemes.

Q.195) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**:

1. It is an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
 2. It conducts assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions 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. **National Policy on Education (NPE, 1986)** and the Programme of Action (PoA, 1992) spelt out strategic plans for the policies, advocated the establishment of an independent National accreditation agency for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

Consequently, the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

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

NAAC evaluates the institutions for its conformance to the standards of quality in terms of its performance related to the educational processes and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching-learning processes, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organisation, governance, financial wellbeing and student services.

Q.196) Which of the following correctly defines the **Nord Stream**?

- a) Nearest galaxy to Milky Way
- b) A gas pipeline from Russia to Europe
- c) A petroleum corridor between Central Asia and India
- d) A Trans-Atlantic optical fiber line

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Nord Stream** is a system of offshore natural gas pipelines from **Russia to Germany**. It includes two lines running from Vyborg to Greifswald forming original Nord Stream (Nord Stream 1), and two lines running from Ust-Luga to Greifswald termed Nord Stream 2.

Russia currently supplies about 40% of the EU's gas supplies - just ahead of Norway, which is not in the EU but takes part in its single market. The new pipeline will increase the amount of gas going under the Baltic to 55 billion cubic meters per year.

Nord Stream pipelines from Russia



Q.197) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**:

1. An Export Promotion Council for Technical Textiles to be set up for effective coordination and promotion activities.
2. The Mission will promote technical education at higher engineering and technology levels related to technical textiles.

Which of the 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 Technical Textiles Mission** with a four-year implementation period from financial year 2020-21 to 2023-24 was launched in February this year.

The Mission will have **four components**:

-Research, Innovation and Development: Carbon Fibre, Aramid Fibre, Nylon Fibre, and Composites and application-based research in geotextiles, agro-textiles, medical textiles, mobile textiles and sports textiles and development of biodegradable technical textiles.

-Promotion and Market Development: The Mission will aim at average growth rate of 15-20% per annum taking the level of domestic market size to 40-50 Billion USD by the year 2024; through market development, market promotion, international technical collaborations, investment promotions and 'Make in India' initiatives.

-Export Promotion: The component aims at export promotion of technical textiles and ensuring 10% average growth in exports per year upto 2023-24. An Export Promotion Council for Technical Textiles will be set up for effective coordination and promotion activities in the segment.

-Education, Training, and Skill Development: The Mission will promote technical education at higher engineering and technology levels related to technical textiles and its

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application areas covering engineering, medical, agriculture, aquaculture and dairy segments.

Q.198) Consider the following statements regarding India's **Jute Industry**:

1. Minimum Support Price for raw jute is fixed every year to protect the interest of farmers.
2. The jute stick is used as fuel and building material by the farming 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Minimum Support Price for raw jute** is fixed every year to protect the interest of farmers. **Jute Corporation of India (JCI)** is the Price Support Agency of the Govt. of India for jute.

While fixing prices of different grades, the issue of discouraging production of lower grade jute and encouraging production of higher grades jute are taken into consideration so as to motivate farmers to produce higher grade jute.

Statement 2 is correct. **Raw jute crop** is an important cash crop to the farmers. Cultivation of raw jute crop provides not only fibre which has industrial use, but **jute stick** which is used as **fuel and building material by the farming community**.

Raw jute is produced mainly in the state of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya.

Recently a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU to provide certified good quality seeds to jute farmers in the year 2021-22 was signed between Jute Corporation of India and National Seeds Corporation.

Q.199) Consider the following statements regarding the **World Conference of Speakers of Parliament 2020**:

1. It is being organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliament of Austria.
2. The Lok Sabha Speaker from India is a participant in this first ever world conference.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **World Conference of Speakers of Parliament 2020** is being organized jointly by the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva and the Parliament of Austria** with the support of the United Nations (UN).

Statement 2 is incorrect. Lok Sabha Speaker from India is a participant along with few MPs from India. This is not the first but **fifth edition** of the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

The theme of the Conference is Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet.

The first Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments took place in August 2000.

The commitment of Member States for greater cooperation with the world of parliaments was embedded in the final declaration of the 2000 Summit, known as the Millennium Declaration.

Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was held in September 2015.

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Q.200) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the **Thalassemia disease**?

1. It is an inherited blood disorder.
2. The human body doesn't make enough hemoglobin protein.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder caused when the body doesn't make enough of a protein called **hemoglobin**, an important part of red blood cells.

When there isn't enough hemoglobin, the body's red blood cells don't function properly and they last shorter periods of time, so there are fewer healthy red blood cells traveling in the bloodstream.

People with thalassemia may have mild or severe **anemia** because Red blood cells carry oxygen to all the cells of the body and when there are not enough healthy red blood cells, there is also not enough oxygen delivered to all the other cells of the body..

Q.201) **Namath Basai** is an initiative to promote teaching in mother tongue in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Assam
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Chhattisgarh

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Namath Basai** is a **Kerala** state government's unique programme of teaching tribal children in their mother tongue.

It is implemented by the **Samagra Siksha Kerala (SSK)** and has succeeded in retaining tribal children in their online classes.

The SSK has distributed some 50 laptops exclusively for Namath Basai. Pre-recorded classes are offered through a YouTube channel.

Q.202) Consider the following statements regarding the **Swachh Survekshan Survey 2020**:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
2. Chhattisgarh ranked first in as 'India's cleanest state with more than 100 urban local bodies'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

In order to encourage the cities to improve the status of urban sanitation, the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** started an annual ranking of the cities in the year

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2016. The first Swachh Survekshan conducted in 2016 covered 73 cities and subsequently numbers of cities were added to expand the coverage. This year in 2020 the coverage of the survey includes 4242 cities (including 62 cantonment boards).

Chhattisgarh won the prestigious title of the Cleanest State of India in the > 100 ULB category while Jharkhand was adjudged the Cleanest State of India in the <100 ULB category.

Indore won the coveted title of the Cleanest City of India, Surat and Navi Mumbai won the second and third position respectively (in the > 1 lakh population category).

Q.203) Consider the following statements regarding the **Lingaraj Temple**:

1. It is located near Bindusagar Lake in Bhubaneswar.
2. It was built during the reign of Kalinga King Kharavela.

Which of the 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 **Lingaraja Temple** marks the culmination of the temple architecture in Bhubaneswar which was the cradle of the Kalinga School of Temple Architecture.

The temple can broadly be divided into four main halls. The Garba Griha (Sanctum Sanctorum), the Yajana Mandapa (the hall for prayers), the Natya Mandapa (dance and music hall) and the Bhoga Mandapa (where devotees can have the offering of the Lord).

Statement 1 is correct. **Bindusagar Lake** is located in the north side of the temple. The lake is centre of activities for the people of Old Town and is the hub of temple festivities.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Lingaraja Temple was built during the 11th century AD**. The temple has been described as "One of the finest examples of purely Hindu Temple in India" by noted critic and historian James Fergusson (1808-1886).

The temple is believed to be built by the kings from the **Somavamsi dynasty**, with later additions from the Ganga rulers.

Kharavela was a king of Kalinga, who ruled during the first or second century BCE. He was the best-known king of the Mahameghavahana dynasty also known as the Chedi dynasty.

Q.204) Consider the following statements regarding the **Trifood Project**:

1. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
2. The project promotes value addition to Minor Forest Produce (MFP) to enhance the income of tribals.

Which of the 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. **TRIFOOD Scheme** is a joint initiative of Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).

Statement 2 is correct. TRIFOOD aims to enhance the income of tribals through better utilization of and **value addition to the Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** collected by the

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tribal forest gatherers. TRIFOOD Scheme, implemented in the backdrop of VanDhan Yojana will promote value addition to Minor Forest Produce (MFP).

As a start, two Minor Forest Produce (MFP) processing units are being set up in **Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh and Raigad in Maharashtra.**

The units are envisaged to be professionally operated by reputed food processors who will operate the facilities for a designated period of time under the overall administrative control of TRIFED so that the assets created are efficiently commercially utilised as per its installed capacities and designed objectives.

Q.205) Who among the following organizes the International Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Conference (STI Conference)?

- a) Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- b) Elsevier Publishing Company
- c) European Network of Indicator Designers (ENID)
- d) American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Since 2010 the **International Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Conference (STI Conference)** has been organized under the auspice of **European Network of Indicator Designers (ENID).**

It provides a European and worldwide forum for presenting and discussing advances in constructing, using, and interpreting science and technology indicators. The STI Indicators conference series is devoted to bring together researchers, STI producers and users, as well as other stakeholders.

The next **STI Indicators conference** was to be held in **September 2020** in Aarhus but has been postponed until September 2021 due to **COVID-19 pandemic.**

Q.206) Consider the following statements regarding the Adenovirus:

- 1. It can spread from an infected person to others through the air by coughing and sneezing.
 - 2. The Sputnik V vaccine for COVID-19 is based on adenovirus vectors.
- Which of the 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. **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).

Adenoviruses usually spread from infected people to others through: close personal contact such as touching or shaking hands, **the air by coughing and sneezing**, touching objects or surfaces with adenoviruses on them then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

Statement 2 is correct. **Vectors** are viruses that have had the gene responsible for replication removed. Therefore, they no longer pose any threat of infection. Adenoviral vectors are considered safe, and are some of the easiest to engineer.

Scientists use vectors to transport genetic material from a different virus -the one that is being vaccinated against -into a human cell.

Sputnik V uses two types of adenoviral vectors — Ad5 and Ad26 — in the COVID-19 vaccine. In this way, they trick the body, which has developed immunity against the first

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type of vector and boost the effectiveness of the vaccine with the second shot using a different vector.

Oxford University and China's Cansino Biologics are also using Adenovirus vector for developing COVID-19 vaccine.

Q.207) Who among the following has recently released the **National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) 2020-25**?

- a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- b) Ministry of Education
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: 'National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025' (NSFE) has been released by RBI recently. It has suggested a multi-stakeholder-led approach for creating a financially aware and empowered India.

The **five Cs**, outlined by the strategy paper, are: Content, Capacity, Community, Communication and Collaboration.

The document stresses on development of financial literacy content for school children (including curriculum and co-scholastic), teachers, young adults, women, new entrants at workplace/entrepreneurs (MSMEs), senior citizens, persons with disabilities, illiterate people.

NSFE states that the **Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy (TGFIFL)** would be responsible for periodic monitoring and implementation of National Strategy for Financial Education.

This NSFE for the period 2020-2025, the second one after the 2013-18 NSFE, has been prepared by the **National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE)** in consultation with all the Financial Sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA), DFS and other stakeholders.

Q.208) Which of the following is/are bilateral cooperation measure(s) between **India and Bangladesh**?

- 1. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Plant
- 2. Rampal Maitree Power Plant
- 3. Bandhan Express Train

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. The **Mangdechhu hydroelectric project** is a 720MW run-of-river power plant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag District of central **Bhutan** in collaboration with India.

Option 2 is correct. The **Rampal Maitree Power Plant** is ongoing project of coal-fired power station at Bagerhat District in Khulna, Bangladesh. It is being setup by BIFPCL (**Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company Limited**) which is 50:50 joint venture between India's state owned National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bangladesh's Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

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Option 3 is correct. **Maitree Express and Bandhan Express** are India-Bangladesh train. Maitree Express connects Dhaka in Bangladesh to Kolkata, while Bandhan Express runs between the Indian city of Kolkata and the Bangladeshi city of Khulna.

India and Bangladesh will set up a mechanism to monitor bilateral projects: Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Q.209) The **Taif Agreement** in news recently relates to which of the following?

- a) Israel-Palestine peace process
- b) Lebanese political system
- c) Gulf Cooperation Council economic union
- d) Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in Arab countries

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Lebanese political system** is based on a sectarian division of constitutional powers and administrative positions, guaranteeing the representation of certain groups. It was negotiated in Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, by the surviving members of Lebanon's 1972 parliament.

The flaws of the sect-based governance system in part led Lebanon into civil war. The **1989 Taif Agreement, which put an end to the war**, reshuffled the system.

The **Taif accords** sought to end the Lebanese civil war. It extends Lebanese sovereignty and authority in South Lebanon, occupied by Israel. The accords transferred the power away from the Presidency and vested it in a cabinet equally divided between the Muslims and Christians.

Q.210) Consider the following statements regarding the **Millennium Alliance**:

- 1. It is a consortium of partners including the Department of Science and Technology, India and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- 2. The alliance provides a platform to leverage Indian creativity, expertise and resources to help scale it to a broader level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Millennium Alliance** is an innovation-driven consortium of partners (Public-Private Partnership) including the **Department of Science and Technology**, Govt. of India, **United States Agency for International Development** (USAID), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID), Facebook and Marico Innovation Foundation.

The program is currently running in its sixth year and has played a catalytic role in providing funding, capacity building, and business development support to Indian social enterprises.

Statement 2 is correct. The Millenium Alliance provides a platform to **leverage Indian creativity**, expertise and resources to:

- Identify game changing innovations
- Rigorously test promising solutions
- Scale innovations that work to a level that it reaches and affects the needy population.

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Millennium Alliance offers **three types of grants**: Stage 1, Stage 2, and South-South. Funding amount for Stages 1 is fixed at Rs. 30 lakhs and, for Stage 2, it is upto Rs. 1 Crore. South-South grant size is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Recently 49 innovations in 5 focus areas received Millennium Alliance Round 6 & COVID19 Innovation Challenge-Awards.

Q.211) Consider the following statements regarding the **Thumbimahotsavam 2020**:

1. It is a Dragonfly Festival being held in Kerala.
2. It is being organized by the National Board for Wildlife.

Which of the 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. **Thumbimahotsavam 2020** is a Dragonfly Festival being held in Kerala.

A **dragonfly** is an insect belonging to the order Odonata, infraorder Anisoptera. Dragonflies are a group of roughly 3,000 species of aerial predatory insects most commonly found near **freshwater habitats** throughout most of the world. Large bodies, massive eyes and four long wings are the common characteristics of Dragonflies.

Statement 2 is incorrect. This festival is part of a national dragonfly festival being organised by the **WWF India**, Bombay Natural History Society & Indian Dragonfly Society in association with the National Biodiversity Board, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme and IUCN - Centre for Environment Conservation. 'Pantalu' is the official mascot of the festival.

Q.212) Which of the following **museum (s)** is/are correctly matched to their location?

1. Kariye (Chora) Museum - Istanbul
2. Albert Hall Museum - Jaipur
3. Iga-ryu Ninja Museum - Shanghai

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. The Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora is a medieval Byzantine Greek Orthodox church preserved as the **Kariye/Chora Museum in Istanbul**.

After **Hagia Sophia Museum**, the Kariye Museum has been opened as Mosque by Turkish Government.

Option 2 is correctly matched. The **Albert Hall Museum in Jaipur** is the oldest museum of the state and functions as the state museum of Rajasthan, India. An Egyptian mummy is the main attraction of this museum.

It is named after **King Edward VII (Albert Edward)**, during whose visit to the city as the Prince of Wales, its foundation stone was laid in February 1876.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. The **Iga-ryu Ninja Museum**, located in Iga city, **Japan**, is dedicated to the history and practices of ninja.

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Q.213) Consider the following statements:

1. The Green Highways Policy 2015 promotes greening of Highway corridors with participation of the community, private sector, NGOs, and government.
2. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed a mobile App 'Harit Path' to track plantation along national highways.

Which of the 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. **Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy, 2015** of the Ministry Road Transport & Highways and Shipping promotes greening and development eco-friendly National Highway corridors across the country with participation of farmers, private sector and government institutions including Forest Department.

Statement 2 is correct. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, has developed a **mobile App called 'Harit Path'** to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of its field units for each and every plant under all plantation projects.

In order to track the growth and health of the plants, photographs along with data of the plants captured using Harit Path shall be uploaded every 3 months on NHAI's AI powered **Big Data Analytics platform – Data Lake.**

Q.214) Consider the following statements regarding the **ASEAN**:

1. All ASEAN countries are participant to the East Asia Summit.
2. India is a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

Which of the 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 **East Asia Summit (EAS)** is the Indo-Pacific's premier forum for strategic dialogue.

The EAS has 18 members - the **ten ASEAN countries** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Russia.

Statement 2 is correct. The **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)** was set up in 1993 as a regional security cooperation and dialogue platform based on deliberations in the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference between the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and its full dialogue partners.

India became a member of ARF in 1996. ARF comprises 27 members: the 10 ASEAN member states, the 10 ASEAN dialogue partners (Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States); Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste; and one ASEAN observer (Papua New Guinea).

The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Thailand recently organized the 6th Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT).

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Q.215) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2019-2024**:

1. The strategy was prepared and released by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. It aims at strengthening of digital financial services to create infrastructure to move towards a cash-less society by 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the **National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2019-2024** in January, 2020. It sets forth the vision and objectives of financial inclusion policies in India.

The strategy was **prepared by the RBI with inputs** from the central government and financial sector regulators (Securities and Exchange Board of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India).

Statement 2 is correct. RBI identified **six strategic objectives** of a national strategy for financial inclusion:

- (i) universal access to financial services, (ii) providing basic bouquet of financial services, (iii) access to livelihood and skill development, (iv) financial literacy and education, (v) customer protection and grievance redressal, and (vi) effective coordination.

To achieve this vision, it identified certain **milestones** such as:

- providing banking access to every village (or hamlet of 500 households in hilly areas) within a five km radius by 2020,
- strengthening **digital financial services** to create infrastructure to move towards a cash less society by 2022;
- ensuring that every adult has access to a financial service provider through a mobile device by 2024.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released the National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-25.

Q.216) Consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker and Chairman in respective houses of Parliament may permit any member to address the House in his/her mother-tongue.
2. Constitution motivates the states to provide for instruction in the mother-tongue in the primary education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.

Which of the 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. Constitution under **article 120** provides that the **Chairman of the Council of States or Speaker of the House of the People**, or person acting as such, as the case may be, may **permit any member** who cannot adequately express himself in Hindi or in English to address the House in his **mother-tongue**.

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Statement 2 is correct. **Article 350A** states that it shall be the **endeavour of every State** and of every local authority within the State to provide **adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue** at the primary stage of education to children belonging to **linguistic minority** groups; and the President may issue such directions to any State as he considers necessary or proper for securing the provision of such facilities.

Q.217) Consider the following statements regarding the **State of Nagaland**:

1. It does not share border with Myanmar.
2. Mount Saramati of Purvanchal Range is located in Nagaland.

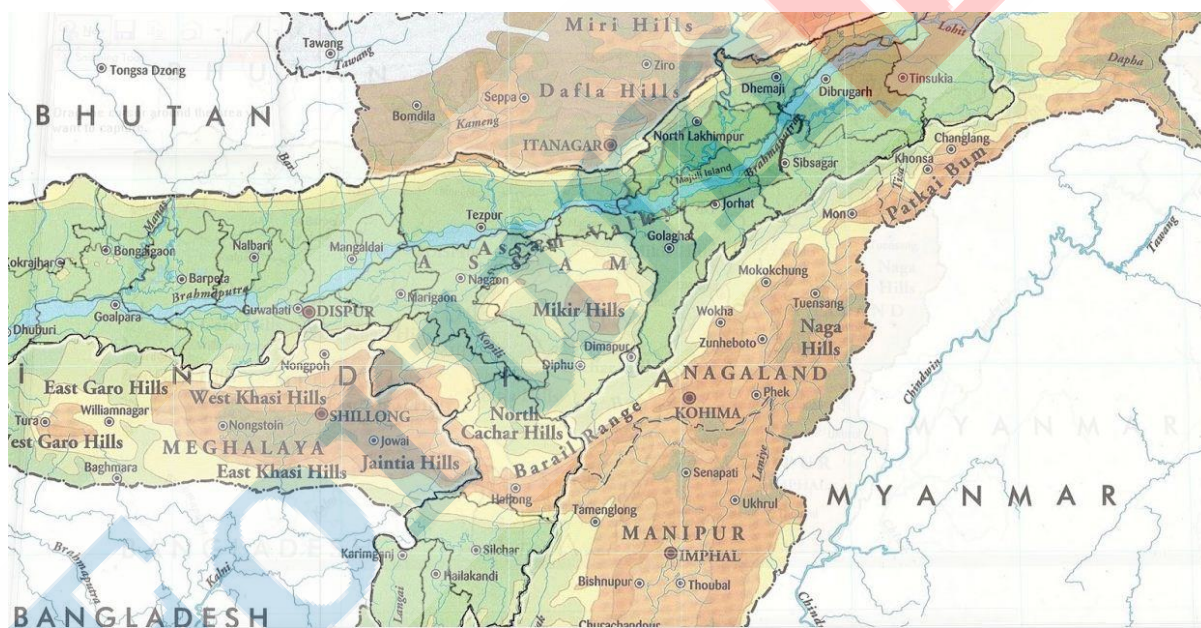
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Nagaland** became the full-fledged 16th state of India on 1 Dec 1963.

This state borders with Assam in the northwest, Arunachal Pradesh in north and Manipur in the south. It also **shares an international boundary with Myanmar**.



Statement 2 is correct. The **Purvanchal Range**, or Eastern Mountains, is a sub-mountain range of the Himalayas in northeast India.

Saramati is a peak rising above the surrounding peaks at the mountainous border of Nagaland state and the Sagaing Region, Burma. It is located near Thanamir Village in the Kiphire District of Nagaland. It is the highest peak in the state of Nagaland.

Q.218) Which of the following correctly defines the **Wet-Bulb Temperature**?

- a) Ambient air temperature measured in shade
- b) Temperature at which water vapor starts to condense out of the air
- c) Temperature of a moistened thermometer exposed to the air flow
- d) The ambient temperature measured in the direct sunlight

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Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Wet Bulb temperature** is the temperature of adiabatic saturation. This is the temperature indicated by a **moistened thermometer bulb** exposed to the air flow.

Wet Bulb temperature can be measured by using a thermometer with the bulb wrapped in wet muslin. The wet bulb temperature is always lower than the dry bulb temperature but will be identical with 100% relative humidity (the air is at the saturation line).

-The **Dry Bulb Temperature** refers basically to the ambient air temperature. It is called "Dry Bulb" because the air temperature is indicated by a thermometer not affected by the moisture of the air. Dry-bulb temperature can be measured using a normal thermometer freely exposed to the air but shielded from radiation and moisture.

-The **Dew Point** is the temperature at which water vapor starts to condense out of the air, the temperature at which air becomes completely saturated.

Q.219) The **Plastic microbeads** can be found in which of the following cosmetic product(s)?

1. Toothpaste
2. Sunscreen
3. Facial scrubs

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: **Microbeads** are small, solid, manufactured plastic particles that are less than 5mm and don't degrade or dissolve in water. They may be added to a range of products, including rinse-off cosmetics, **personal care and cleaning products**.

Microbeads are used as ingredients in these products for a variety of purposes. This includes as an abrasive or exfoliant, a bulking agent, for controlled timed release of active ingredients, and to prolong shelf life. They are also a relatively cheap ingredient.

Microbeads may be found in some products. These include **toothpaste, sunscreen, facial scrubs, body wash, cosmetics** such as foundation and blush, and other care products.

Q.220) What are the **Aptameters**?

- a) Antibody based diagnostic test kits for COVID-19
- b) DNA or RNA sequences that bind to a specific target molecule
- c) Enzymes released by body due to lack of adequate healthy red blood cells
- d) Biosensors measuring oxygen requirement of the body

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Aptameters are oligonucleotide or peptide molecules** that bind to a specific target molecule. Aptamers can be classified as: DNA or RNA aptamers consisting of (usually short) strands of oligonucleotides and Peptide aptamers consisting of one (or more) short variable peptide domains, attached at both ends to a protein scaffold.

These the artificial single-stranded DNA or RNA sequences (or peptides) fold into secondary and tertiary structures making them **bind to certain targets** with extremely **high specificity**.

Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi, has initiated the research with support from the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) under DST on the covid-19 detection kit, which can be stored under less stringent conditions.

Scientists are working on detecting a target spike protein using bioinformatics tools. The kit will use aptamer (a biosensor) to detect SARS-Co-V2.

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Q.221) Consider the following statements regarding the **Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**:

1. Mexico and USA are members of the CARICOM.
2. The community promotes cooperation for economic integration, foreign policy coordination and security among its members.

Which of the 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 **Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**, established in 1973, is a grouping of twenty countries: fifteen Member States and five Associate Members. It has ethnic groups of Indigenous Peoples, Africans, Indians, Europeans, Chinese, Portuguese and Javanese.

Members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.

All members subscribe to the Community's principles outlined in the **Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (2002)**.



Statement 2 is correct. CARICOM rests on four main pillars: economic integration; foreign policy coordination; human and social development; and security.

India has recently extended USD 1 million assistance to Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Countries.

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Q.222) Consider the following statements regarding **Organic Farming in India**:

1. India ranks first globally in area under organic farming and number of organic farmers.
2. Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is a process of certifying organic products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **India ranks first** in number of **organic farmers** and **ninth** in terms of **area under organic farming**. Sikkim became the first State in the world to become fully organic and other States including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.

Organic Agriculture: Key Indicators and Top Countries

Indicator	World	Top countries
Countries with organic activities ¹	2018: 186 countries	
Organic agricultural land	2018: 71.5 million hectares (1999: 11 million hectares)	Australia (35.7 million hectares) Argentina (3.6 million hectares) China (3.1 million hectares)
Organic share of total agricultural land	2018: 1.5 %	Liechtenstein (38.5 %) Samoa (34.5 %) Austria (24.7 %)
Wild collection and further non-agricultural areas	2018: 35.7 million hectares (1999: 4.1 million hectares)	Finland (11.3 million hectares) Zambia (3.2 million hectares) Tanzania (2.4 million hectares)
Producers	2018: 2.8 million producers (1999: 200'000 producers)	India (1'149'371) Uganda (210'352) Ethiopia (203'602)
Organic market ²	2018: 96.7 billion euros (2000: 15.1 billion euros)	US (40.6 billion euros) Germany (10.9 billion euros) France (9.1 billion euros)
Per capita consumption	2018: 12.8 euros	Switzerland (312 euros) Denmark (312 euros) Sweden (231 euros)
Number of countries with organic regulations	2018: 103 countries	
Number of affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International	2018: 779 affiliates from 110 countries	Germany - 79 affiliates India - 55 affiliates China - 45 affiliates United States - 48 affiliates

Source: FiBL survey 2020, based on national data sources and data from certifiers

Statement 2 is correct. **PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System of India)** is a process of certifying organic products, a quality assurance initiative that is locally relevant, emphasize the participation of stakeholders, including producers and consumers and operate outside the frame of third-party certification.

Q.223) Consider the following statements regarding the **Gangetic Dolphins**:

1. It can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind.
2. It is classified as Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

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.

The **Ganges river dolphins** once lived in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh. But the species is extinct from most of its early distribution ranges.

The Ganges river dolphin can only live in **freshwater** and is essentially **blind**. They hunt by emitting **ultrasonic sounds**, which bounces off of fish and other prey, enabling them to “see” an image in their mind.

It is listed as **Endangered species** in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Q.224) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. J Satyanarayana Committee - National Digital Health Blueprint
- 2. Ranbir Singh Committee - Criminal Law Reform
- 3. Ishaat Hussain Committee - Social stock exchanges

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: Option 1 is correctly matched. The **National Digital Health Blueprint** was prepared by a Health Ministry panel headed by **J. Satyanarayana** with an objective to create a framework for the national health stack proposed in 2018 by the NITI Aayog.

Option 2 is correctly matched. Union Home Ministry constituted a high-level committee to introduce **reforms in criminal laws** under the chairmanship of **Ranbir Singh**, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University (NLU).

Option 3 is correctly matched. A panel was set up by SEBI in September 2019 under the Chairmanship of **Ishaat Hussain** to recommend on the norms for setting up **Social Stock Exchange** in India as declared by Finance Minister in 2019-20 Budget Speech.

Q.225) Consider the following statements regarding the **Seagrasses**:

- 1. Seagrasses have leaves, roots and veins, and produce flowers and seeds.
- 2. Seaweeds are most common type of seagrasses.

Which of the 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. **Seagrasses** belong to a group of plants called monocotyledons that include grasses, lilies and palms. Seagrasses have **leaves, roots and veins**, and produce **flowers and seeds**.

Chloroplasts in their tissues use the sun's energy to convert carbon dioxide and water into sugar and oxygen for growth through the process of photosynthesis.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. Even though **seagrasses and seaweeds** look superficially similar, they are very **different organisms**.

Algae (Seaweed) on the seafloor have a holdfast and transport nutrients through the body by diffusion, while seagrasses are flowering vascular plants with roots and an internal transport system.

Seagrasses grow in **salty and brackish (semi-salty)** waters around the world, typically along gently sloping, protected coastlines. Because they depend on light for photosynthesis, they are most commonly found in shallow depths where light levels are high.

Seagrasses are one of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Seagrasses provide shelter and food to an incredibly diverse community of animals, from tiny invertebrates to large fish, crabs, turtles, marine mammals and birds.

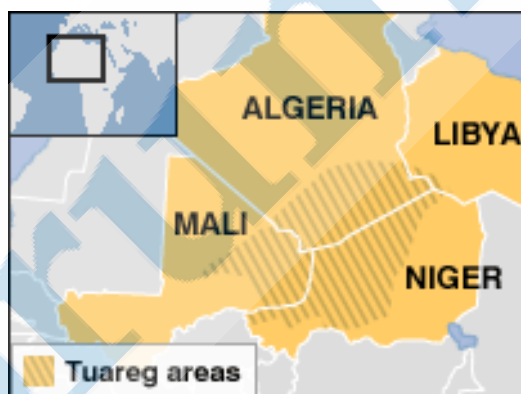
Q.226) Who are the **Tuareg people**?

- a) Nomadic people living across the Sahara Desert
- b) Tribals of Bastar division in the Chhattisgarh
- c) Original inhabitants of Amazon rainforest
- d) Tribal inhabitants of Eastern Iran and West Pakistan

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Tuareg people** are about 2 million nomadic people who live across the **Sahara Desert**, including in the **North African countries** of Mali, Niger, Libya, Algeria and Chad.

The Tuaregs are part of the **Berber group** of people, and they are largely Muslim. Their political organizations extend across national boundaries.



Q.227) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Naifaru - Maldives
- 2. Great Blasket Island - Ireland
- 3. El Azizia - Libya

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 correctly matched. **Naifaru** is an island in the **Maldives** 141 km north of the capital, Malé. It is the capital and most populous island of Lhaviyani Atoll.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Great Blasket** is the principal island of the Blaskets, County Kerry, **Ireland**.

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Option 3 is correctly matched. **El Azizia** is a small town known for its record high temperatures is located southwest of the **Libya** capital Tripoli. In 1918-22, it was the capital of the Tripolitanian Republic, the first formal republic in the Arab world.

Q.228) The **Financial Inclusion Support Framework (FISF)** is an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) World Bank Group
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- d) World Trade Organisation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Financial Inclusion Support Framework (FISF)** is a **World Bank Group (WBG)** initiative that aims to accelerate and increase the effectiveness of reforms and other country-led actions to achieve national financial inclusion goals.

FISF-supported activities aim to help catalyze private sector financing, knowledge and innovation, to spur the usage of a broad range of financial services – payments, savings, insurance, credit – by low-income individuals and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), who are currently un- or under-banked.

FISF has two main components:



Q.229) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Recruitment Agency (NRA)**:

- 1. The NRA will conduct Common Eligibility Test twice a year and the score will be valid for three years.
- 2. NRA is to be headed by the Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

Which of the 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 NRA will conduct the **Common Eligibility Test (CET)** for recruitment to **non-gazetted posts** in government and public sector banks. This test aims to replace multiple examinations conducted by different recruiting agencies for selection to government jobs advertised each year, with single online test.

Salient features:

- The Common Eligibility Test will be held **twice a year**.
- The CET will be conducted in **12 major Indian languages**.

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-The CET will cover recruitments made by three agencies in beginning: **Staff Selection Commission, Railway Recruitment Board and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection**. This will be expanded in a phased manner.

-CET will be held in 1,000 centres across India in a bid to remove the currently prevalent urban bias. There will be an examination centre in every district of the country. There will be a special thrust on creating examination infrastructure in the **117 aspirational districts**.

-CET will be a first level test to shortlist candidates and the score will be **valid for three years**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **National Recruitment Agency** will be a **Society** registered under the Societies Registration Act. It will be **headed by a Chairman of the rank of the Secretary** to the Government of India. It will have representatives of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, SSC, RRB & IBPS.

Q.230) Who among the following has released the **Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2020**?

- a) Kaspersky Lab
- b) Microsoft Corporation
- c) SurfShark
- d) World Economic Forum

Correct answer: C

Explanation: **Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index, 2020** has been released by **SurfShark**, an online privacy solutions provider.

The index ranks countries by looking at **five fundamental pillars**: Internet affordability, Internet quality, Electronic government availability and advancement, Electronic infrastructure development and State of electronic security.

Information points used to index the digital quality of life around the world were gathered from open data sources provided by the United Nations, World Bank, International Telecommunications Union etc.

Scandinavian countries Denmark and Sweden topped the index with Canada rounding up the top three.

India: Overall ranks of 57 out of the 85 countries but stands out in relatively affordable internet and in the field of e-government advancement despite lower than average digital quality of life level.

Q.231) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Council for Transgender Persons**:

1. Union Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the ex-officio chairperson of the council.
2. The Council has the mandate of advising the Central Government on the formulation of transgender policies and redressing the grievances of transgender persons.

Which of the 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 **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019** mandates for creation of the National Council for Transgender Persons.

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The NCT consists of **Union Minister for Social Justice (Chairperson)**, representative from ministries including Health, Home Affairs, and Human Resources Development, NITI Aayog, and the National Human Rights Commission among others. State governments are also represented.

Further the Council also consists of five members from the transgender community and five experts from non-governmental organisations.

Statement 2 is correct. The council has following **functions**:

- advising the central government** on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons;
- monitoring and evaluating** the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons;
- reviewing and coordinating** the activities of all the departments;
- redressing grievances** of transgender persons.

Q.232) The **contaminated water and poor sanitation** are linked to transmission of which of the following disease(s)?

1. Cholera
2. Hepatitis A
3. Typhoid

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: D

Explanation: **Contaminated water and poor sanitation** are linked to transmission of diseases such as **cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid, and polio**.

Diarrhoea is the most widely known disease linked to contaminated food and water but there are other hazards. In 2017, over 220 million people required preventative treatment for **schistosomiasis** – an acute and chronic disease caused by parasitic worms contracted through exposure to infested water.

In 2017, 71% of the global population (5.3 billion people) used a safely managed drinking-water service – that is, one located on premises, available when needed, and free from contamination.

In 2010, the UN General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation.

Data Source: World Health Organisation Website.

Q.233) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**:

1. It is the National Standards Body of India under the Ministry of Commerce.
2. It is member to the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO).

Which of the 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. **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the National Standard Body of India under the **Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public**

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Distribution. BIS is responsible for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Statement 2 is correct. ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 165 national standards bodies.

BIS is a member of **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** and through the Indian National Committee (INC) is a member of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). BIS is also a member of regional standards bodies like Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) and South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO).

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recently prepared a draft standard for the drinking water supply system, which aims to act as a benchmark for maintaining water quality and developing a uniform process for states opting to implement it.

Q.234) Consider the following statements regarding the **Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana**:

1. The scheme provides monetary relief in case an Insured Person (IP) is rendered unemployed.

2. It is being implemented by the Labour Bureau.

Which of the 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 **Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana** provides relief to the extent of 25% of the average per day earning during the previous four contribution periods to be paid up to maximum 90 days of unemployment once in lifetime, in case **the Insured Person (IP) is rendered unemployed**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana is a welfare measure being implemented by the **Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation**.

The Scheme was made effective from 01-07-2018 on pilot basis for a period of two years initially.

The ESI Corporation has recently decided to extend the scheme for one more year upto 30th June 2021. It has been decided to relax the existing conditions and the amount of relief for workers who have lost employment during the Covid-19 pandemic period.

Q.235) Which of the following right(s) is/are provided for by the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**?

- 1. The right of Residence with parents and immediate family members of transgender person.
- 2. Prohibition on discrimination against a Transgender Person in educational institutions, employment, healthcare services.

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. The **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** provides for:

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- Non-discrimination** against a Transgender Person in educational institutions, employment, healthcare services etc.
- Recognition of identity** of Transgender Persons and to confer upon them right to self-perceived gender identity.
- Provision of **right of Residence** with parents and immediate family members.
- Provision for formulation of **welfare schemes and programmes** for education, social security and health of Transgender Persons.
- A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a **certificate of identity**, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.
- The Act recognizes the **offences against transgender persons** such as forced or bonded labour, denial of use of public places, removal from household, and village; physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic abuse. Penalties for these offences vary between six months and two years, and a fine.
- Provision for **National Council for Transgender Persons** to advice, monitor and evaluate measures for the protection of their rights.

Q.236) Consider the following statements regarding the **Treaty of Sugauli**:

1. The treaty was signed between representatives of the Maratha Empire and East India Company post First Anglo-Maratha War.
 2. Lord Minto was the Governor General of India when the treaty was signed.
- Which of the 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 **Treaty of Sugauli**, the treaty that established the boundary line of Nepal with India, was signed on 2 December 1815 and ratified by 4 March 1816 between the **East India Company** and Kingdom of **Nepal** following the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16.

Treaty of Salbai was signed in 1782, by representatives of the Maratha Empire and the British East India Company to settle the outcome of the First Anglo-Maratha War.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Lord Hastings (Francis Edward Rawdon-Hastings)** served as Governor-General of Bengal from 1813 to 1823.

By the Charter Act of 1833, the post of Governor-General of Bengal converted into "Governor-General of India".

NOT Warren Hastings (1772-1785).

Q.237) Which of the following **Dam(s)** is/are correctly matched to the respective **River(s)**?

1. Srisailem Dam - Krishna River
2. Jawahar Sagar Dam - Chambal River
3. Salal Dam - Jhelum River

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: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. The **Srisailem Dam** is constructed across the **Krishna River** in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh

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Option 2 is correctly matched. The **Jawahar Sagar Dam** is the third dam (after Gandhi Sagar Dam and Rana Pratap Sagar Dam) in the series of Chambal Valley Projects on the **Chambal River**,

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. The **Salal Dam** is a run-of-the-river hydropower project on the **Chenab River** in the Reasi district of the Jammu and Kashmir. It was the first hydropower project built by India in Jammu and Kashmir under the Indus Water Treaty regime.

Q.238) Consider the following statements:

1. 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' is an annual flagship report of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
2. The Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) tool measures the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals to end hunger and food insecurity.

Which of the 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 **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World** is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by **FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO** to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide in depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

Statement 2 is correct. Since 2017, SOFI presents two key measures of food insecurity: the conventional measure called the **Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU)** and a new measure called the Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Food Insecurity (PMSFI).

The prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) is an estimate of the proportion of the population whose habitual food consumption is insufficient to provide the dietary energy levels that are required to maintain a normal active and healthy life. It is expressed as a percentage. This indicator measures **progress towards SDG Target 2.1**.

SDG Target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Q.239) The **Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)** is an initiative of which of the following organisation?

- a) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- b) World Food Programme (WFP)
- c) World Health Organization (WHO)
- d) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)** was developed by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** through the Voices of the Hungry (VoH) project.

FAO launched the Voices of the Hungry (VOH) project in 2013 to provide up-to-date information about food insecurity that is policy-relevant and actionable.

Drawing on similar tools in the USA and Latin America, the project developed the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and innovative analytic methods aiming to provide a new global standard for measuring food insecurity (access) that is valid, endorsed at the international level, and used for global and country monitoring.

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The **FIES is a measure** of access to food at the level of individuals or households. It measures severity of food insecurity based on people's responses to questions about constraints on their ability to obtain adequate food.

The FAO commissions Gallup to include FIES questions in the **Gallup World Poll (FAO-GWP)** survey conducted in more than 140 countries across the world.

Q.240) 'Nuakhai Juhar' is a harvesting festival in which of the following state of India?

- a) Odisha
- b) Karnataka
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Assam

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Nuakhai Juhar is an ancient festival celebrated in **Odisha** to welcome the new crop of the season. The festival is particularly important in the life and culture of Western Odisha.

Nuakhai Juhar is also called **Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat** and is a greeting exchanged on the special day. Nuakhai is a combination of two words, 'nua' meaning new and 'khai' means eat, and it thus signifies "eating of new rice". People worship food grain on this auspicious day.

Q.241) Consider the following statements regarding the National Food Security Act, 2013:

1. State governments are responsible for identifying and specifying criteria for priority households.
2. In case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of food grains, beneficiaries are entitled to receive food security allowance.

Which of the 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 **National Food Security Act, 2013**, the **central government** is responsible for determining the total number of persons to receive food security in each state.

Each **state government** is responsible for specifying criteria for identifying priority households. States are also responsible for identifying exact households according to these criteria. Antyodaya Anna Yojana households are identified according to the scheme guidelines.

Statement 2 is correct. Section 8 of the act states that in case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of food grains or meals to entitled persons, such persons are entitled to receive **food security allowance** from the concerned State Government, within such time and manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

Entitlements under NFSA:

- Highly subsidized food grains under PDS (5 kg per person for PHH category and 35 kg per household for AAY households.).
- Nutritious meal, free of charge to pregnant women & lactating mothers and children up to 6 years of age.
- Nutritious meal, free of charge to children in the 6-14 years of age group under MDM.
- Maternity benefits of Rs. 6000 to Pregnant Women & Lactating Mother.

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Q.242) The report '**Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India**' has been released recently by which of the following institution?

- a) Indian Association for Women's Studies
- b) Indian Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Ministry of Child & Women Development

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **Indian Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (IAPPD)** recently released the report titled- '**Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India**'.

It mentions that there has not been any change in the sex ratio at birth in India from 2001-2017--the number of girl children born is much less than what is the general or natural norm.

The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) is a national level Non-Governmental organization.

Vice-President of India recently Released Two Research Reports of IAPPD, 'Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India' and 'Elderly Population in India: Status and Support Systems'.

Q.243) Consider the following statements regarding the **AstroSat**:

- 1. It is first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
- 2. AstroSat is orbiting Earth in a Geo-Synchronous 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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **AstroSat** is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in **X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands** simultaneously.

The payloads cover the energy bands of Ultraviolet (Near and Far), limited optical and X-ray regime.

One of the unique features of AstroSat mission is that it enables the **simultaneous multi-wavelength observations** of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.

AstroSat has detected extreme UV light from a galaxy called AUDFs01, 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth in a discovery by a global team led by scientists of the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA).

Statement 2 is incorrect. AstroSat is a multi-wavelength astronomy mission on an IRS-class satellite in a **650-km, near-earth equatorial orbit**. It was launched by the Indian launch vehicle PSLV from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in 2015.

Geosynchronous orbit is a high Earth orbit that allows satellites to match Earth's rotation. Located at 22,236 miles (35,786 kilometers) above Earth's equator, this position is a valuable spot for monitoring weather, communications and surveillance.

Q.244) Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Hubble Ultra Deep Field (HUDF)**?

- a) Image of a small area of space in the constellation Fornax
- b) Area devoid of any cosmic bodies within the Milky Way

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- c) Range of orbits around a star within which a planetary surface can support liquid water
- d) Area in space where gravity pulls so much that even light cannot get out

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Hubble Ultra Deep Field** is an image of a small area of space in the constellation Fornax, created using Hubble Space Telescope data from 2003 and 2004.

By collecting faint light over many hours of observation, it revealed thousands of galaxies, both nearby and very distant, making it the deepest image of the universe ever taken at that time.

The **eXtreme Deep Field**, or XDF, was assembled by combining 10 years of NASA Hubble Space Telescope photographs taken of a patch of sky at the center of the original Hubble Ultra Deep Field. The XDF is a small fraction of the angular diameter of the full Moon.

Q.245) Consider the following statements regarding the **DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019**:

1. It provides for the establishment of a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks.
2. The authorities are not required to obtain consent for collection of bodily substances of any arrested person.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019** was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister for Science and Technology in July, 2019.

The Bill provides for the regulation of use of DNA technology for establishing the identity of certain persons. It was referred to standing committee for further scrutiny and the final report is awaited.

Statement 1 is correct. The Bill provides for the establishment of a **National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks**, for every state, or two or more states. DNA laboratories are required to share DNA data prepared by them with the National and Regional DNA Data Banks.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Authorities are required to **obtain consent for collection in certain situations**. For arrested persons, authorities are required to obtain written consent if the offence carries a punishment of up to seven years. If the offence carries more than seven years of imprisonment or death, consent is not required.

The authorities can also approach a Magistrate who may order the taking of bodily substances.

-The Bill provides for the establishment of a **DNA Regulatory Board**, which will supervise the DNA Data Banks and DNA laboratories.

-The Bill specifies penalties for various offences, including: (i) for disclosure of DNA information, or (ii) using DNA sample without authorization.

Q.246) Which of the following agreement(s) directly relate to **Israel-Palestine** peace process?

1. Taif Agreement
2. Abraham Accord
3. Oslo Accords

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrect. The **Taif Agreement, 1989** was an agreement reached to provide "the basis for the ending of the civil war and the return to political normalcy in Lebanon".

Option 2 is incorrect. The **Israel-United Arab Emirates peace agreement, or the Abraham Accord**, was agreed to by Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on August 13, 2020. The UAE will be the third Arab country, after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, to formally normalize its relationship with Israel.

Option 3 is correct. The **Oslo Accords** are a pair of agreements between the **Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization**: the Oslo I Accord, signed in Washington, D.C., in 1993; and the Oslo II Accord, signed in Taba, Egypt, in 1995.



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Q.247) As per the **fiscal management principles** under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, the Central Government shall-

1. Endeavour to ensure that the general Government debt does not exceed sixty percent and the Central Government debt does not exceed forty percent.
2. Not give additional guarantees with respect to any loan on security of Consolidated Fund of India in excess of one-half percent of GDP, in a financial year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **Fiscal management principles** under Section 4 of **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act** state that the Central Government shall:

-take appropriate measures to limit the fiscal deficit upto three per cent. of gross domestic product by the 31st March, 2021;

-endeavour 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;

-not give additional guarantees with respect to any loan on security of the Consolidated Fund of India in excess of one-half percent of gross domestic product, in any financial year.

“General Government debt” means the sum total of the debt of the Central Government and the State Governments, excluding inter-Governmental liabilities.

Q.248) Which of the following **fund(s)** is/are established by the **Constitution of India**?

1. Consolidated Fund of India
2. Contingency Fund of India
3. National Small Savings Fund

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correct. **Consolidated Fund of India** and for every state is established by virtue of **article 266(1)** of the Constitution for all revenues received by the Government, all loans raised by that Government by the issue of treasury bills, loans or ways and means advances and all moneys received by that Government in repayment of loans.

Option 2 is incorrect. The **Contingency Fund is not established by the Constitution** rather **article 267** empowers the **Parliament** to establish such fund. Accordingly, Parliament enacted the Contingency fund of India Act 1950. The fund is held by the Finance Secretary (Department of Economic Affairs) on behalf of the President of India and it can be operated by executive action.

Option 3 is incorrect. **National Small Savings Fund (NSSF)** was established in 1999 within the Public Account of India for pooling the money from different small saving schemes (SSSs). Collections from all small savings schemes are credited to the NSSF.

Public Account of India is established by the Constitution under article 266(2).

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Q.249) The **Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF)** is under which of the following institution?

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- c) Central Water Commission
- d) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund

Correct answer: B

Explanation: **Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF)** was operationalized in the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** during 2016-17 for fast tracking the completion of the identified Medium and Major Irrigation projects, spread across different states.

Under LTIF, **NABARD provides loan** towards Central Share as well as State Share with a tenor of 15 years. The Central Share is provided to National Water Development Agency (NWDA), an agency working under the aegis of Ministry of Jal Shakti, whereas the loan towards State Share is availed by the State Governments.

Q.250) Consider the following statements regarding recent trends in tax collection in India:

- 1. The direct tax revenue is more than the indirect tax revenue.
- 2. Corporate Income tax revenue is more than Goods & Services tax revenue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

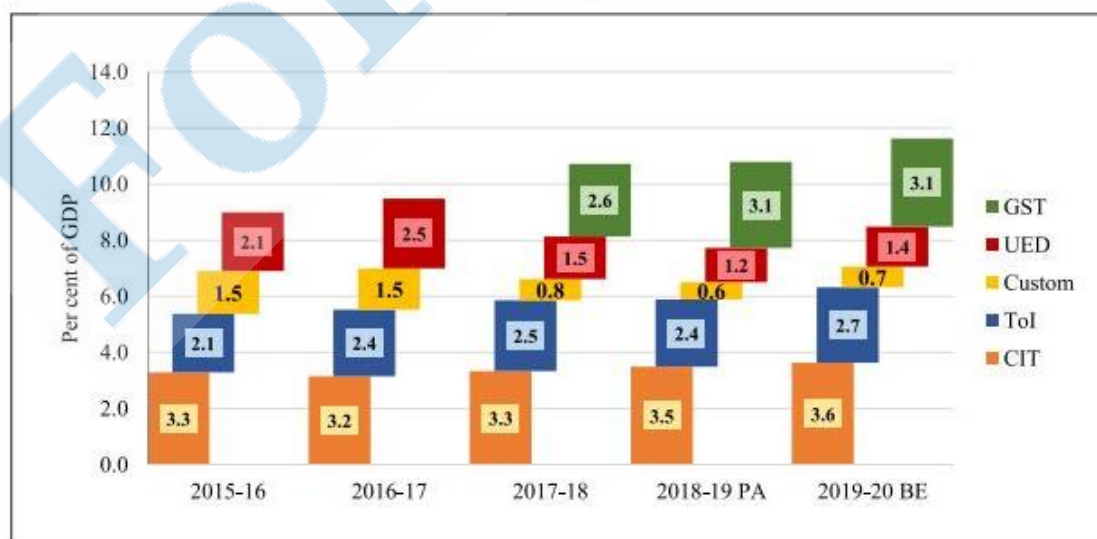
Correct answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct.

The **direct tax** collection of India, comprising mainly of corporate and personal income tax has been higher than indirect tax collection. It **constitutes around 54 per cent of Gross Tax Revenue (GTR)** of India (2019-20 BE).

Of the total Gross Tax Revenue (GTR) of India, **Corporate Tax revenue** accounts for 31%, while the **GST** accounts for 27% of GTR (2019-20 BE).

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

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Q.251) Consider the following statements regarding the **Glanders Disease**:

1. It is a bacterial disease.
2. It only affects animals and not humans.

Which of the 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. **Glanders** is an infectious disease that is caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia mallei*.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Though not common, **people have gotten glanders** from sick animals. People who are in close contact with animals that have glanders are more likely to get the disease than those who are not.

*In the past, the germs that cause glanders, the bacteria called *Burkholderia mallei*, have been used as a biological weapon during wars.*

Q.252) Which of the following attribute(s) is/are correctly matched to respective **city(s)**?

1. City of Pearls - Hyderabad
2. Pink City - Jodhpur
3. City of Lakes - Udaipur

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. **Hyderabad** is considered the main pearl trading center in India, because of which the city is also known as the "**City of Pearls**".

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Jaipur** is called the Pink City. In 2019, UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed Jaipur the '**Pink City of India**' among its World Heritage Sites.

Every building within the walled historic centre is painted a terracotta "**pink**" colour and there are few exceptions to this uniformly colour scheme. The historical reason for the uniform colour of central Jaipur lies with the absolute power of the **Maharaja (Sawai Ram Singh)** over his capital and his extreme strategy to impress **Prince Albert** during his 1876 tour of India.

Option 3 is correctly matched. Udaipur is known as the "**City of Lakes**". The Lake Pichola, Udai Sagar Lake, Fateh Sagar Lake, Rajsamand Lake, and Jaisamand Lake are the five prominent lakes of Udaipur. One of the most famous lakes is Pushkar Lake, which is one of the major tourist attractions in Rajasthan.

Q.253) **Bonda** is a tribal community in which of the following state?

- a) Odisha
- b) Manipur
- c) Telangana
- d) Uttarakhand

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Bonda tribe, classified as one of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) is one of the most primitive tribal community of **Odisha**. The 'Bonda' are known among themselves as 'Remo' (men).

The **Bonda Hills** area has been designated according to the name of the indigenous tribe the 'Bonda'. Geographically the Bonda hills are bounded in the northwest by the Malkangiri plains and in the south-east by the Machhkund valley.

With slash and burn cultivation they also practice paddy cultivation on terraced-fields in the valleys during rainy season. Their language belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family.

Q.254) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**:

1. It aims to reduce the concentration of PM10 and PM2.5 by at least 20 percent by 2024, with 2017 as the base year.
2. City specific action plans have been formulated for 102 Aspirational Districts identified for implementing mitigation actions under NCAP.

Which of the 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: Overall objective of the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** is comprehensive mitigation actions for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution besides augmenting the air quality monitoring network across the country and strengthening the awareness and capacity building activities.

Statement 1 is correct. The Central Government had launched **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 under the Central Sector "Control of Pollution" Scheme** as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve **20 % to 30 % reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024** keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The NCAP will be a mid-term, five-year action plan with 2019 as the first year.

102 non-attainment cities (*not Aspirational Districts*) mostly in Indo-Gangetic Plains have been identified based on **ambient air quality data for the period 2011 – 2015 and WHO report 2014/2018**. The city specific Action Plans have been approved for all 102 non-attainment cities for implementation on ground.

Other features of NCAP include, increasing number of monitoring stations in the country including rural monitoring stations, technology support, emphasis on awareness and capacity building initiatives, setting up of certification agencies for monitoring equipment, source apportionment studies, emphasis on enforcement, specific sectoral interventions etc.

Q.255) Consider the following statements regarding the history of **Indian National Congress (INC)**:

1. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Lokmanya Tilak never presided over an INC session.
2. INC participated in the second and third Round Table Conferences.

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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. **Tilak never became the INC president** while in **March 1931, Sardar Patel** presided over the 46th session of the Indian National Congress at **Karachi** which was called upon to ratify the Gandhi - Irwin Pact, which had just then been concluded.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In response to the inadequacy of the **Simon Report**, the Labour Government, which had come to power under **Ramsay MacDonald** in 1929, decided to hold a series of Round Table Conferences in London.

The **first Round Table Conference convened from 12 November 1930 to 19 January 1931**. Prior to the Conference, M. K. Gandhi had initiated the Civil Disobedience Movement on behalf of the Indian National Congress. Consequently, since many of the Congress' leaders were in jail, Congress did not participate in the first conference.

Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, met with Gandhi to reach a compromise. The **second Round Table Conference was held in London from 7 September 1931 to 1 December 1931** with the participation of Gandhi and the Indian National Congress.

The **third Round Table Conference (17 November 1932 - 24 December 1932)** was not attended by the Indian National Congress and Gandhi.

Q.256) Consider the following statements regarding the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flows to India** in last five years:

1. Manufacturing Sector received lower FDI than the Financial Services sector.
2. United States of America is among the top five sources of FDI inflows to India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Manufacturing sector** has consistently received more FDI inflows than the Financial Services.

Statement 2 is correct. **Singapore, Mauritius, Netherlands, Cayman Islands and USA** are the top sources of FDI inflows to India.

The data source is recently released Annual Report of the Reserve Bank of India for the Year 2019-20 (Snapshot below).

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**APPENDIX TABLE 9: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FLOWS TO INDIA:
COUNTRY-WISE AND INDUSTRY-WISE**

(US\$ million)

Source/Industry	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 P
1	2	3	4	5	6
Total FDI	36,068	36,317	37,366	38,744	42,629
Country-wise Inflows					
Singapore	12,479	6,529	9,273	14,632	12,612
Mauritius	7,452	13,383	13,415	6,570	7,498
Netherlands	2,330	3,234	2,677	2,519	5,295
Cayman Islands	440	49	1,140	863	3,496
U.S.A.	4,124	2,138	1,973	2,823	3,401
Japan	1,818	4,237	1,313	2,745	2,308
France	392	487	403	375	1,167
United Kingdom	842	1,301	716	1,211	1,125
South Korea	241	466	293	982	777
Hongkong	344	134	1,044	598	678
Cyprus	488	282	290	161	657
Germany	927	845	1,095	817	443
Belgium	57	172	213	56	388
U.A.E.	961	645	408	853	323
Luxembourg	784	99	243	251	252
UK Virgin Islands	203	212	21	290	250
China	461	198	350	229	162
Others	1,725	1,905	2,498	2,768	1,796
Sector-wise Inflows					
Manufacturing	8,439	11,972	7,066	7,919	8,153
Communication Services	2,638	5,876	8,809	5,365	6,838
Retail & Wholesale Trade	3,998	2,771	4,478	4,311	4,914
Financial Services	3,547	3,732	4,070	6,372	4,326
Computer Services	4,319	1,937	3,173	3,453	4,104
Business services	3,031	2,684	3,005	2,597	3,684
Restaurants and Hotels	889	430	452	749	2,546
Transport	1,363	891	1,267	1,019	2,333
Construction	4,141	1,564	1,281	2,009	1,937
Electricity and other energy Generation, Distribution & Transmission	1,364	1,722	1,870	2,427	1,906
Real Estate Activities	112	105	405	213	564
Education, Research & Development	394	205	347	736	528
Miscellaneous Services	1,022	1,816	835	1,226	443
Mining	596	141	82	247	217
Trading	0	0	0	0	0
Others	215	470	226	102	137

P: Provisional.

Note: Includes FDI through SIA/FIPB and RBI routes only.

Source: RBI.

Q.257) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Ouagadougou - Burkina Faso
2. Aleppo - Syria
3. Bamako - Mali

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Ouagadougou is the capital of Burkina Faso** and the administrative, communications, cultural, and economic center of the nation.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Aleppo is a city in Syria**, which serves as the capital of the Aleppo Governorate, the most populous Syrian governorate. The Battle of Aleppo (2012–2016) occurred in the city during the Syrian Civil War, and many parts of the city suffered massive destruction.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Bamako**, located on the Niger River, is the capital and largest city of **Mali**.

Q.258) Which of the following most correctly defines the **Distributive Justice**?

- a) System of consequences that naturally derives from any action or choice
- b) Fair distribution of benefits and burdens among individuals in a society
- c) Distributions being proportional to the merit or contributions that people make
- d) Justice being entitlement to be treated in the same way they treat others

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The **economic, political, and social frameworks** that each society has, its laws, institutions, policies, etc., **result in different distributions of benefits and burdens** across members of the society.

The structure of these frameworks is important because the distributions of benefits and burdens resulting from them fundamentally affect people's lives. **Principles of distributive justice** are therefore best thought of as providing moral guidance for the political processes and structures that affect the distribution of benefits and burdens in societies.

Distributive principles vary in numerous dimensions. They vary in what is considered relevant to distributive justice (income, wealth, opportunities, jobs, welfare, utility, etc.); in the nature of the recipients of the distribution (individual persons, groups of persons, reference classes, etc.); and on what basis the distribution should be made (equality, maximization, according to individual characteristics, according to free transactions, etc.).

Q.259) Which of the following is/are **potential impact(s) of Monocropping**?

- 1. Depletion of soil nutrients
- 2. Increased use of pesticides and herbicides

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.

Monocropping is the technique where the farmer grows the same crop on the same land every year; this is usually practiced in wheat, rice fields, sugarcane grape vineyards and corn fields.

The **long-term effects of monocropping** are quite dangerous making Monoculture farming untenable:

-growing only one crop on the field throughout the farm repetitively leads to **depletion of soil nutrients** as soil has is not replenished with nutrients. Further the intensive farming methods pf monocropping leaves soil scarce of nutrients.

-the depletion of those soil nutrients, especially nitrogen, leads to weakness in soil and an inability to support healthy growth of plants.

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-higher demand of nutrients is fulfilled by using **higher amount of fertilizers**. These fertilizers have their own toll on the environment.

-Monocultures are quite vulnerable to weeds and pests, which needs more pesticides to get rid of them. **Weeds and insect pests** can spread faster in monocultures because of the lack of biological and genetic diversity.

Q.260) The '**Somali Sengi**' has been in news recently, what is it?

- a) A group of pirates operating in Western Indian Ocean
- b) A plant species being claimed as treatment for COVID-19
- c) An Elephant shrew rediscovered in Africa after 50 years
- d) A transnational coastal economic zone

Correct answer: C

Explanation: The **Somali elephant shrew or Somali sengi** is a species of elephant shrew in the family Macroscelididae. These are neither elephants nor shrews, but related to aardvarks, elephants and manatees. The **last scientific record of the "lost species" of elephant shrew was in the 1970s**, despite local sightings.

A team of researchers from the United States and the Republic of Djibouti has rediscovered the elusive Somali sengi (*Elephantulus revoilii*) over 50 years after it was last recorded. While this species, also known as the Somali elephant-shrew, is historically documented as endemic to Somalia, the new records are from the neighboring Republic of Djibouti and thus expand the species' known range in the Horn of Africa.

In 2017, the **Global Wildlife Conservation** identified it as a Top 25 Most Wanted animal in their Search for Lost Species initiative. It is currently listed as Data Deficient in IUCN Red List.

Q.261) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding recently released the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020**?

- 1. It has been prepared by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Institute of Competitiveness.
 - 2. Gujarat emerged as the top-performing state in the 'Coastal States' category.
- 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.

NITI Aayog in partnership with the **Institute of Competitiveness** recently released the first **Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020**.

-Gujarat emerged as the top-performing state in the '**Coastal States**' category, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

-In the category of '**Landlocked States**', Rajasthan is the best-performing state. Among '**Himalayan States**' and '**City-States**', Uttarakhand and Delhi are the top performing states respectively.

The index ranked states on **four key parameters**: Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem and Export Performance.

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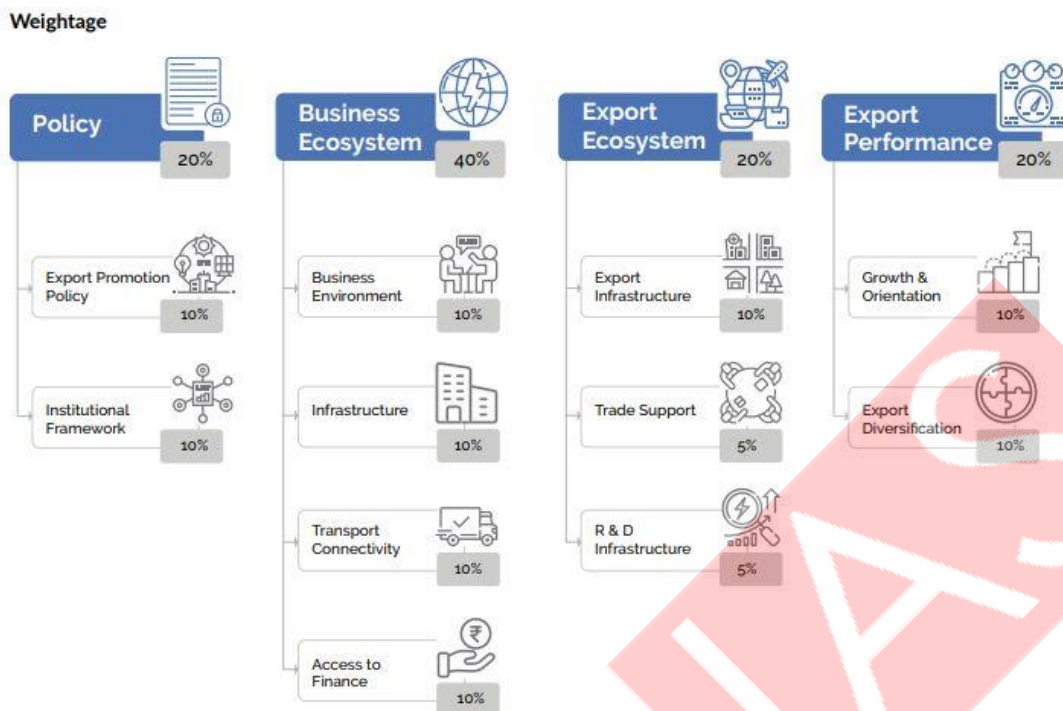


Figure H: Weightage structures of the pillars and sub-pillars

Q.262) Which of the following is/are the provision(s) of the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**?

1. A mentally-ill person has the right to make an advance directive as to how s/he wants to be treated for the illness during a mental health situation.
2. Every person has the right to access mental health care and treatment from services run or funded by the government.

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. As per the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**, a mentally-ill person shall have the right to make an advance directive that states how he wants to be treated for the illness during a mental health situation and who his nominated representative shall be.

Statement 2 is correct. The act provides that every person shall have the **right to access mental health care** and treatment from services run or funded by the government. The right to access mental health care includes affordable, good quality of and easy access to services.

"Kiran" helpline number of Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry for mental health support, 1800-599-0019, to offer support in 13 languages.

Q.263) Consider the following statements regarding the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA)**:

1. It is an initiative of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) being implemented in India by the NITI Aayog.
2. Its objective is to work on long-term, multi-stakeholder, integrated sectoral strategies to decarbonise transport in Countries in Asia.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA)** Project description:

Commissioned by: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Financier: International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Countries: Regional Programme with country components in China, India and Vietnam as well as a regional/global component.

Lead executing agency: China: Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Department of Atmospheric Environment, India: National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Vietnam: Ministry of Transport, Department for Environment

Overall term: 2019 to 2024

The programme will be jointly implemented by GIZ, the World Resources Institute (WRI), the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), the International Transport Forum (ITF), Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLOCAT), Agora Verkehrswende and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21).

The **India Component** is be implemented by six consortium organizations, all except SLoCaT, it has been launched recently by **NITI Aayog**.

Statement 2 is correct. In each of the partner countries, the consortium supports the design and information of stakeholder processes and the development of selected climate protection measures.

Its objective is to **decarbonise transport** through long-term, multi-stakeholder, integrated sectoral strategies in Countries in Asia.

Q.264) Consider the following statements regarding proposed **Health ID under the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**:

1. It will be unique to each person and will have the option to link all their health records to this ID.
2. The Aadhaar is mandatory to create a Health ID.

Which of the 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. Each **Health ID** will be linked to a health data consent manager (such as NDHM) which will be used to seek the patient's consent and allow for seamless flow of health information from the Personal Health Records module.

Health ID will be unique to every person and they have the option to link all their health records to this ID. One can also choose to create multiple IDs as modules for storing different segments although it is preferred and recommended that Health ID.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The process of generation of Health ID has **voluntary usage of AADHAAR**. This shall require a notification under Section 4 of AADHAAR Act. In addition, all Government financed health benefit schemes that require mandatory use of Aadhaar will have to notify under Section 7 of AADHAAR Act.

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One can create your health account using basic demographic details along-with digitally authenticable **Mobile Number or Email ID**.

The National Health Authority has released the Draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission to provide adequate guidance and to set out a framework for the secure processing of personal and sensitive personal data of individuals who are a part of the national digital health ecosystem.

Q.265) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Testing Agency (NTA)**:

1. It is chaired by the Union Minister of Education.
2. It is to hold a Common Eligibility Test twice a year whose score will be valid for three 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. **National Testing Agency (NTA)** has been established as a premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions. National Testing Agency (NTA) is a **registered society** under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It is chaired by an **eminent educationist** appointed by the Ministry of Education.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Union Cabinet recently approved the proposal to set up the **National Recruitment Agency (NRA)** to conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to non-gazetted posts in government and public sector banks. The CET will be held twice a year and score will be valid for three years.

Q.266) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Education Policy 2020**:

1. The 10+2 structure in school education to be replaced with a 5+3+3+4 curricular and pedagogical structure.
2. A National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) will specify norms and standards for different levels of teachers.

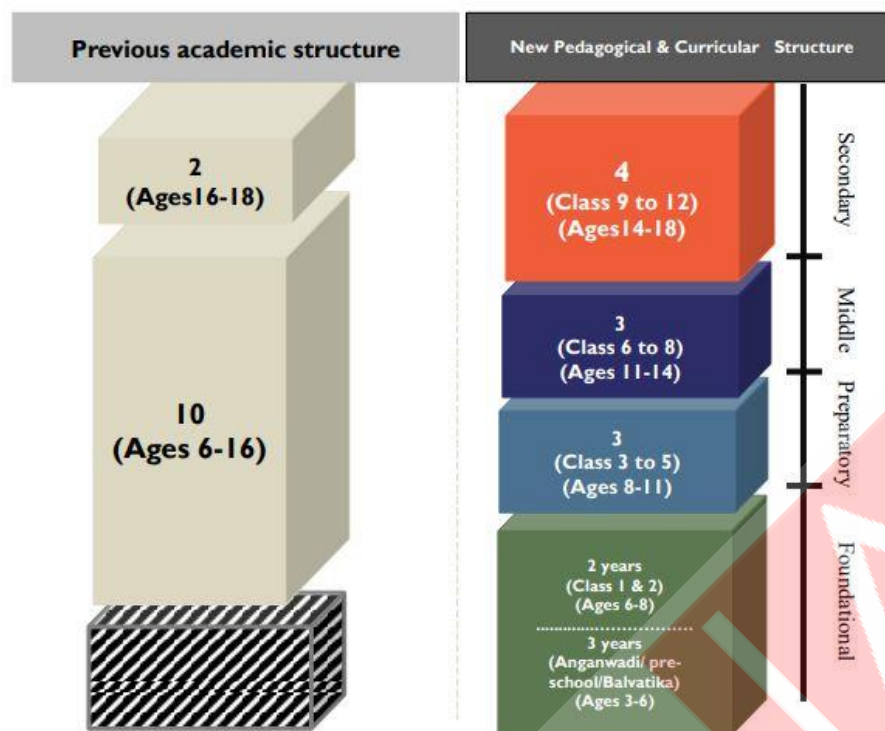
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. This policy envisages that the extant **10+2 structure** in school education will be modified with a new pedagogical and curricular restructuring of **5+3+3+4 covering ages 3-18** as shown in the representative figure:

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Statement 2 is correct. A common guiding set of **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** will be developed by 2022, by the **National Council for Teacher Education**.

The standards would cover expectations of the role of the teacher at different levels of expertise/stage, and the competencies required for that stage. It will also comprise standards for performance appraisal, for each stage, that would be carried out on a periodic basis. The NPST will also inform the design of pre-service teacher education programmes.

Q.267) Consider the following statements:

1. The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator is an ICMR initiative for accelerated development and production of COVID-19 vaccines.
2. The COVAX facility aims at ensuring global equitable access to 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator** is a global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to **COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines**.

The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, and philanthropists and **global health organizations** (the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CEPI, FIND, Gavi, The Global Fund, Unitaids, Wellcome, the WHO, the World Bank and Global Financing Facility).

The ACT-Accelerator is organized into four pillars of work: **diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health system strengthening**.

Statement 2 is correct. **COVAX Facility is the vaccines pillar** of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.

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COVAX is co-led by **Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO**. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.

A collaboration between Serum Institute of India (SII), Gavi and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced recently will ensure up to 100 million doses of AstraZeneca or Novavax's candidate vaccines, if successful, will be available to low- and middle-income economies through the COVAX Facility at just US\$ 3 per dose.

In June Gavi launched the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), a financing instrument aimed at supporting the participation of 92 lower- and middle-income economies in the COVAX Facility.

Q.268) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. SalivaDirect - COVID-19 Antibody based diagnostic test
2. Sputnik V - COVID-19 Vaccine developed by Russia
3. Covishield - COVID-19 Vaccine developed by ICMR and Bharat Biotech

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 is incorrectly matched. **SalivaDirect** is a saliva-based laboratory diagnostic test developed by researchers at the Yale School of Public Health to determine whether someone is infected with the novel coronavirus.

It is not an antibody test. **SalivaDirect** test involve three steps — collecting saliva without preservative buffers, proteinase K treatment and heat inactivation, and duplex **RT-qPCR** virus detection.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Sputnik V** is a potential COVID-19 vaccine developed by **Russian researchers** using two different types of adenovirus vectors (rAd26 and rAd5) for the first and second vaccination.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Covishield** is a potential COVID-19 vaccine under trial in India by **Serum Institute of India**. It has been developed by the Oxford University.

Q.269) The **Starlink** satellite constellation is a project of which of the following space agency/corporation?

- a) NASA
- b) European Space Agency
- c) Blue Origin
- d) SpaceX

Correct answer: D

Explanation: **Starlink** is the satellite constellation network that the private spaceflight company **SpaceX** is developing to provide low-cost internet to remote locations.

SpaceX has launched 655 Starlink satellites till now. SpaceX plans to have as many as 12,000 satellites in the low Earth orbit (LEO) Starlink project.

Current satellite internet works using large spacecraft that orbit 22,236 miles (35,786 km) above a particular spot on the Earth. But at that distance, there are generally significant time delays in sending and receiving data. By being closer to Earth (LEO) and networking together, Starlink's satellites are meant to carry large amounts of information rapidly to any point on Earth.

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Q.270) Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Kessler syndrome**?

- a) A genetic disorder of having three copies of chromosome 21
- b) A chain reaction of collisions creating more debris in space
- c) A feeling of trust in cases of kidnapping by a victim towards a captor
- d) A coping strategy where individuals use passivity and submissiveness when confronted with threat

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Spent rockets, satellites and other **space trash** have accumulated in orbit increasing the likelihood of collision with other debris. NASA space debris expert **Don Kessler** observed that, once past a certain critical mass, the total amount of space debris will keep on increasing: collisions give rise to more debris and lead to more collisions, in a chain reaction.

The **collisions create more debris** creating a runaway chain reaction of collisions and more debris known as the **Kessler Syndrome**.

This cascade of collisions first came to NASAs attention in the 1970's when derelict Delta rockets left in orbit began to explode creating shrapnel clouds.

Down's syndrome is a genetic disorder caused when abnormal cell division results in extra third genetic material from chromosome 21.

Stockholm syndrome refers to feelings of trust or affection felt in many cases of kidnapping or hostage-taking by a victim towards a captor.

Q.271) Consider the following statements regarding the **Contingency Fund (CF) of the Reserve Bank of India**:

- 1. It has been established by the Contingency Fund of India Act 1950.
- 2. It is a specific provision meant for meeting unexpected contingencies that arise from RBI's monetary policy and exchange rate operations.

Which of the 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 **Contingency Fund of India** is established by the Contingency Fund of India Act 1950, not the CF of RBI.

As per Section 47 of the RBI Act, profits or **surplus of the RBI** are to be transferred to the government, after making various contingency provisions, public policy mandate of the RBI, including financial stability considerations.

RBI's income comes mainly through interest on the securities it holds. RBI's Surplus represents the amount RBI transfers to the government. There are two unique features about RBI's financial statements. It is not required to pay income tax and has to transfer to the government the surplus left over after meeting its needs.

Statement 2 is correct. **Contingency Fund of the RBI** is a specific provision meant for meeting **unexpected and unforeseen contingencies**, including depreciation in the value of securities, risks arising out of monetary/exchange rate policy operations, systemic risks and any risk arising on account of the special responsibilities enjoined upon the Reserve Bank. This amount is retained within the RBI.

Q.272) Consider the following statements regarding the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council**:

- 1. It is a constitutional body.

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2. The Union Finance Minister is the Chairperson of the council.
3. The vote of the Central Government has a weightage of one third of the total votes in the Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Goods & Services Tax Council** is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax. As per **Article 279A of the Constitution**, the GST Council which will be a joint forum of the Centre and the States

Statement 2 is correct. The Goods and Services Tax Council consist of the following **members:**

- the Union Finance Minister as Chairperson;
- the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance;
- the Ministers in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by State Governments.

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

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

Q.273) Consider the following statements regarding the **National GIS-enabled Land Bank** system:

1. It aims to provide real-time information about the availability of industrial land and resources.
2. The system is being developed by integration of Industrial Information System (IIS) with State GIS Systems.

Which of the 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.

Commerce and Industry Minister recently launched the **National GIS-enabled land bank system** prototype for six states with more states to be added in future. The Land Bank information system will help investors to get **real-time information** about the availability of industrial land and resources.

The system is being developed by integration of **Industrial Information System (IIS)** with State GIS Systems. This is a prototype only and will be developed further with inputs from states, to make it an effective, transparent mechanism of land identification and procurement.

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IIS portal is a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters across the states. More than 3,300 industrial parks across 31 States/UTs covering about 475,000 hectares land have been mapped on the System. Information available includes forest, drainage; raw material heat maps (agricultural, horticulture, mineral layers); multiple layers of connectivity.

Q.274) The **Remote Learning Reachability report** has been released recently by which of the following institution?

- a) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- c) Save the Children Fund
- d) Pratham NGO

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Remote Learning Reachability report** has been issued by **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** recently.

- At least a third of the world's schoolchildren, 463 million children globally, were unable to access remote learning when COVID-19 shuttered their schools.
- Just 24% of Indian households have internet connections to access e-education.

Region	Minimum proportion of schoolchildren unable to access remote learning (%)	Minimum number of schoolchildren unable to access remote learning
East and Southern Africa	49%	67 million
West and Central Africa	48%	54 million
East Asia and the Pacific	20%	80 million
Middle East and North Africa	40%	37 million
South Asia	38%	147 million
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	34%	25 million
Latin America and the Caribbean	9%	13 million
Global	31%	463 million

UNICEF's Framework for Reopening Schools, issued jointly with UNESCO, UNHCR, WFP and the World Bank, offers practical advice for national and local authorities.

Q.275) Which of the following is/are **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** of Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

- 1. Koraga
- 2. Onges
- 3. Shompens

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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: B

Explanation: 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)**. PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for Conservation-cum-Development of PVTGs.

The **five PVTGS** residing in Andamans are **Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese**.

Koraga is a PVTG in Kerala.

Q.276) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**:

- 1. It is to be implemented by the National Health Authority.
- 2. Health ID cannot be created for a person below 18 years of age.

Which of the 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 **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)** aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.

National Health Authority (NHA), the autonomous body under the Government of India, has been authorized to implement the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM). The implementation of NDHM is to be done through the State governments as health is the state subject.

The NHA is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health assurance scheme 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (AB-PMJAY) at the national level.

Statement 2 is incorrect. One can create a Health ID for their **child below 18 years** through the same process as for adults, i.e. using basic details, Mobile No. or Aadhaar.

Q.277) Where are the **Surinsar-Mansar Lakes** located?

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Punjab
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Haryana

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **Surinsar and Mansar Lakes** are considered as twin lakes, located at a distance of 9 km (5.6 mi) away from each other near **Jammu**. The Surinsar Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the midst of both lakes.

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Surinsar-Mansar Lakes are listed in Wetlands of International Importance under **Ramsar Convention**.

The Surinsar Lake is rain-fed without permanent discharge and Mansar Lake is primarily fed by surface run-off and partially by mineralized water through paddy fields, with inflow increasing in rainy season.

Q.278) Consider the following statements regarding the **Reimagine campaign**:

1. It has been launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
 2. It aims to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic from aggravating a lasting crisis for children.
- Which of the 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.

UNICEF, as part of its **Reimagine campaign** aims to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic from aggravating a lasting crisis for children, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, appealed for urgent investment to bridge the digital divide, reach every child with remote learning, and, most critically, prioritize the safe reopening of schools.

UNICEF Reimagine is an urgent appeal to governments, the public, donors and the private sector to support UNICEF's efforts to respond, recover and reimagine a world currently besieged by COVID-19.

Q.279) Consider the following statements regarding the **Outer Space Treaty 1967**:

1. It binds States-parties not to place in orbit around the Earth or other celestial bodies any weapons of mass destruction.
 2. India has signed and ratified the Outer Space Treaty.
- 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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Outer Space Treaty 1967** provisions:

States-parties commit not to:

-Place in orbit around the Earth or other celestial bodies any **nuclear weapons or objects carrying WMD**.

-Establish military bases, test "any type of weapons," or conduct military exercises on the moon and other celestial bodies.

Other treaty provisions:

-Space should be accessible to all countries and can be **freely and scientifically investigated**.

-Space and celestial bodies are **exempt from national claims** of ownership.

-Countries are to avoid contaminating and harming space or celestial bodies.

-Countries exploring space are responsible and liable for any damage their activities may cause.

-Space exploration is to be guided by "principles of cooperation and mutual assistance," such as obliging astronauts to provide aid to one another if needed.

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Statement 2 is correct. India signed the Outer Space Treaty on March 3, 1967 and it was deposited on January 18, 1982.

Q.280) Which of the following is/are source(s) of **passive immunity**?

1. Antibodies transported across the placenta to infant receives from its mother
2. Blood plasma transfusion from patients who have recovered from an infection
3. Vaccination by live attenuated vaccines

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 and 2 are correct. **Passive immunity** is the **transfer of antibody** produced by one human or another animal to another. Passive immunity provides protection against some infections, but this **protection is temporary**.

-The most common form of passive immunity is that which an **infant receives from its mother**. Antibodies are transported across the placenta during pregnancy. As a result, a full-term infant will have the same antibodies as its mother. These antibodies will protect the infant from certain diseases for up to a year.

-Many types of **blood products** contain antibody. Some products (e.g., washed or reconstituted red blood cells) contain a relatively small amount of antibody and some (e.g., intravenous immune globulin and **plasma products**) contain a large amount which is used for antibody transfusion.

Option 3 is incorrect. **Active immunity** is stimulation of the **immune system to produce antigen-specific humoral (antibody)** and cellular immunity. Unlike passive immunity, which is temporary, active immunity usually lasts for many years, often for a lifetime.

-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, but they do not subject the recipient to the disease and its potential complications.

Q.281) Which of the following country(s) border the **Mediterranean Sea**?

1. Israel
2. Lebanon
2. Tunisia

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 countries mentioned border the Mediterranean Sea.



Q.282) Consider the following statements regarding the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)**:

1. It is a decentralized state-based system of disease surveillance programme in the country.
2. It monitors communicable as well as non-communicable disease trends to detect and respond to their outbreaks.

Which of the 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 Government of India through the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) initiated a decentralized, state based **Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP)** in the country with the assistance of the World Bank in the year 2004.

Specifically, the **project aims**:

-To establish a **decentralized state-based system** of surveillance for **communicable and non-communicable diseases**, so that timely and effective public health actions can be initiated in response to health challenges in the country at the state and national level.

Programme Components:

- Integration and decentralization of surveillance activities through establishment of surveillance units at Centre, State and District level.
- Human Resource Development: Training of State Surveillance Officers, District Surveillance Officers, Rapid Response Team and other Medical and Paramedical staff on principles of disease surveillance.
- Use of Information Communication Technology for collection, collation, compilation, analysis and dissemination of data.
- Strengthening of public health laboratories.
- Inter sectoral Co-ordination for zoonotic diseases.

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Q.283) Consider the following statements regarding **immune system of Human body**:

1. Macrophages are white blood cells that swallow up and digest germs, dead or dying cells.
2. Antibodies are produced by specialized white blood cells called B lymphocytes.
3. T-lymphocytes attack cells in the body that have already been infected.

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 of the above statements are correct.

The immune system uses several tools to fight infection. Blood contains red blood cells, for carrying oxygen to tissues and organs, and **white or immune cells, for fighting infection**. These white cells consist primarily of macrophages, B-lymphocytes and T-lymphocytes:

Macrophages are white blood cells that swallow up and digest germs, plus dead or dying cells. The macrophages leave behind parts of the invading germs called antigens. The body identifies antigens as dangerous and stimulates antibodies to attack them.

B-lymphocytes are defensive white blood cells. They produce antibodies that attack the antigens left behind by the macrophages. Each B cell produces a single species of antibody, each with a unique antigen-binding site.

T-lymphocytes are another type of defensive white blood cell. There are two major types of T cells: the helper T cell and the cytotoxic T cell. As the names suggest helper T cells 'help' other cells of the immune system, whilst cytotoxic T cells kill virally infected cells and tumors.

Q.284) Consider the following statements regarding provisions of **reservation in India**:

1. Social reservations in favour of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes under Article 16(4) are horizontal reservations.
2. Special reservations in favour of women under Articles 15(3) are vertical reservations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect. The definitions of **vertical and horizontal reservations** have been interchanged in the above statements.

In **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India 1992** case, the principle of reservations in India was explained.

There are two types of reservations, which are often referred to as vertical reservations and horizontal reservations. The reservations in favour of **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes [under Article 16(4)]** may be called vertical reservations whereas reservations in favour of **physically handicapped [under Article 16(1)] and women [under Article 15(3)]** can be referred to as horizontal reservations.

Horizontal reservations cut across the vertical reservations, what is called interlocking reservations.

Suppose 3% of the vacancies are reserved in favour of physically handicapped persons; the persons selected against this quota will be placed in the appropriate category; if she belongs to SC category he will be placed in that quota by making necessary adjustments; similarly, if

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she belongs to open competition (OC) category, she will be placed in that category by making necessary adjustments.

Even after providing for these horizontal reservations, the percentage of reservations in favour of Backward Class of citizens remains and should remain the same.

Q.285) Consider the following statements regarding the “Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest:

1. It has been launched by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with the PM- Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
2. The selected startups will be provided support from the Government through Software Technology Parks of India centers across India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Union **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** recently launched “Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on **Tier-II** towns of India. Statement 2 is correct. It aims to identify around 300 startups working in **identified areas** such as Edu-Tech, Agri-Tech, Logistics & Transportation Management, Infrastructure & Remote monitoring, Medical Healthcare, Jobs & Skilling, Linguistic tools & technologies etc. and provide them **seed fund of upto Rs. 25 Lakh** and other facilities.

The startups selected through *Chunauti* will be provided various kinds of support from the Government through Software Technology Parks of India centers across India. They will get incubation facilities, mentorship, security testing facilities, access to venture capitalist funding, industry connect as well as advisories in legal, Human Resource (HR), IPR and Patent matters.

The startups will also be provided **cloud credits** from leading cloud service providers.

Q.286) The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance recently launched **Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC)** with which of the following institution?

- a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- b) World Bank
- c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, in collaboration with the **United Nations Development Programme India** recently launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC).

The consultation was held on 26th, 27th and 28th August over virtual platform which brought forth thematic discussions around some key aspects of Sustainable Finance. The Collaborative saw a host of thematic discussions centered around the broad scope of **Sustainable Finance architecture in India**.

Around 220 delegates representing different ministries and departments of Government of India, Indian financial sector regulators, Multilateral Development Banks, bilateral partner agencies, UN entities, financial institutions, impact and commercial investors, corporates, industry associations, Civil Society Organizations and academia participated in the dialogue.

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Q.287) Which of the following is/are program component(s) of the **National Health Mission (NHM)**?

1. Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
2. Health System Strengthening
3. Non-Communicable Disease Control Programmes

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 form part of the National Health Mission.

The **National Health Mission (NHM)** encompasses its two Sub-Missions, The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and The National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).

It envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs. Within the broad national parameters and priorities, states would have the flexibility to plan and implement state specific action plans

The **main programmatic components of NHM** are: Health System Strengthening, Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases and Infrastructure Maintenance.

Q.288) Consider the following statements regarding the **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Its mandate is to bring about rapid application of science and technology to the methods and techniques of the Policing 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Bureau of Police Research and Development** is not a statutory body. The Government of India by a **resolution on 28th August 1970** formally established the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), under the Ministry of Home Affairs giving a new orientation to then existing Police Research and Advisory Council (1966).

Statement 2 is correct. BPRD was established with a view to taking more direct and active interest in the matter and for promoting a **speedy and systematic study** of police problems in a changed society and bringing about rapid application of **science and technology** to the methods and techniques of the Policing in the country.

Q.289) Consider the following statements regarding **Mahatma Ayyankali**:

1. He was a social reformer who worked for the advancement of deprived people in the princely state of Travancore.
2. He participated in the Quit India Movement.

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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Ayyankali was a social reformer** who worked for the advancement of deprived untouchable people in the princely state of **Travancore, British India**. He defied the social conventions that applied to lower castes and untouchables in the society.

The region in Kerala where Ayyankali lived was particularly affected by social divisions during his lifetime and was **described by Swami Vivekananda as a "mad house" of castes**. The **Pulayars** were regarded as the lowest group of people in the Travancore kingdom and they suffered badly from oppressive discrimination, in particular from members of the powerful Nair caste.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Ayyankali (28 August 1863 – 1941)** did not participate in Quit India Movement that started on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British Rule of India.

Q.290) Which of the following is/are *not* part of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**?

- 1. Clean Water and Sanitation
- 2. Reduced Inequality
- 3. Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

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: All of the above are part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015.



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2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping, with the adoption of several major agreements:

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015)
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015)
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)

Q.291) The Voices of the Hungry (VOH) project is an initiative of which of the following organization?

- a) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- b) World Food Programme (WFP)
- c) World Health Organization
- d) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched the **Voices of the Hungry (VOH) project in 2013** to provide up-to-date information about food insecurity that is policy-relevant and actionable. The project developed a methodology to measure the severity of food insecurity as experienced by individuals or households in a way that is comparable across countries.

An important goal of the VOH Project is to promote the adoption of the **Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)** methodology by national governmental institutions. The FIES developed by VOH is a measure of access to food at the level of individuals or households. It measures severity of food insecurity based on people's responses to questions about constraints on their ability to obtain adequate food.

Q.292) 'Eat Right India' movement is an initiative of which of the following institution/organisation?

- a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- b) World Health Organization (WHO)
- c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- d) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, India

Correct answer: A

Explanation: In the preamble to the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is expected to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for the people in India. Therefore, FSSAI has embarked on a large-scale effort to transform the country's food system in order to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians through the **'Eat Right India' movement**.

The movement is based on three key themes, 'if it's not safe, it's not food' (**safe food**), 'food should not only serve the palate but is also meant for body and mind' (**healthy diets**) and 'food has to be good both for people and the planet' (**sustainable diets**).

Eat Right Challenge is an annual competition for districts and cities across the country to encourage them to strengthen the food safety and regulatory environment and awareness among consumers to make better food choices.

Q.293) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Al-Aqsa - United Arab Emirates
- 2. Idlib - Syria
- 3. Minsk - Belgium

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Option 1 is incorrectly matched. **Al-Aqsa Mosque** located in the Old City of **Jerusalem**, Israel and is among the holiest site in Islam.

The mosque is located in close proximity to historical sites significant in Judaism and Christianity, most notably the site of the Second Temple, the holiest site in Judaism. As a result, the area is highly sensitive, and has been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Idlib** is a city in northwestern **Syria**, southwest of Aleppo, which is the capital of the Idlib Governorate.

The province - along with parts of Hama, Latakia and Aleppo - is the last stronghold of the rebel and jihadist groups that have been trying to overthrow President Assad since 2011.

Option 3 incorrectly matched. **Minsk** is the capital and largest city of **Belarus**, located on the Svislač and the Nyamiha Rivers.

Recently Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko won a sixth term in office in a disputed election, prompting protesters to take to the streets in cities across the country.

Q.294) Consider the following statements regarding the **National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)**:

- 1. It is a statutory body promoting and commercializing the technologies, inventions, patents emanating from various national research institutions of India.
- 2. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Science & Technology.

Which of the 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 Research Development Corporation (NRDC)** is not a statutory body, it was established in 1953 by the Government of India and is operating as a **not for profit company** under Companies Act 2013.

The primary objective of NRDC is to **promote, develop and commercialize** the technologies / know-how / inventions / patents / processes emanating from various national R&D institutions / Universities

Statement 2 is correct. It works under the administrative control of the **Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology**.

Recently an Innovation-cum-Incubation Centre has been established jointly by National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) to promote Aerospace engineering start-ups.

Q.295) Consider the following statements regarding the **Open API Service**:

- 1. It is a publicly available application programming interface that provides developers with programmatic access to the application.
- 2. The Aarogya Setu Open API Service aims to enable organizations to check the status of the Aarogya Setu app of their employees.

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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. An **open API**, also called public API, is an application programming interface made **publicly available to software developers**. An API is a software intermediary that makes it possible for application programs to interact with each other and share data.

Statement 2 is correct. The recently launched **Aarogya Setu Open API Service** will enable organizations to check the status of the Aarogya Setu app of their employees and integrate it into its various Work from Home features.

The new feature called 'Open API Service' will help people, businesses and the economy to return to normalcy, and aims to address the fear/risk of COVID-19 infection. The **Open API (application programme interface)** shall only provide the Aarogya Setu status and name of the Aarogya Setu User with their consent.

Q.296) Consider the following statement regarding the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**:

- 1. India is a founding member of SCO.
- 2. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent body of SCO.

Which of the 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 **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 **June 2001** in Shanghai (China) by the **Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**. It was preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism.

In the Heads of State Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in June 2017 (Astana), the status of a full member of the Organization was granted to **the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan**.

Statement 2 is correct. The organisation has two permanent bodies — the **SCO Secretariat** based in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** based in Tashkent.

Q.297) Consider the following statements regarding the **Health Facility Registry (HFR)** under National Digital Health Mission (NDHM):

- 1. It is a comprehensive repository of health facilities in the country across different systems of medicine.
- 2. It is to be mandatory for health facilities across the country to register in the Health Facility Registry.

Which 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 **Health Facility Registry (HFR)** is a comprehensive repository of health facilities of the country across different systems of medicine.

It includes both public and private health facilities including hospitals, clinics, diagnostic laboratories and imaging centers, pharmacies, etc. It is one of the fundamental modules of the “National Digital Health Mission” and is a key building block needed to support the unified digital health ecosystem of the country.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Registration of health facilities to the NDHM portal is not mandatory**; it is optional and completely voluntary. However, to avail various benefits arising out of registration, it is highly recommended. Registration will enable health facilities to get connected to India’s digital health ecosystem and gain access to a host of digital services through the NDHM platform.

Q.298) Which of the following forms part of the **Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA)** of RBI?

1. Contingency Fund
2. Foreign currency assets (FCA)
3. Gold reserve

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 incorrect. The **Contingency Fund (CF)** is a specific provision meant for meeting **unexpected** contingencies that arise from **RBI’s monetary policy and exchange rate** operations. It is not part of Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA) of RBI.

Option 2 and 3 are correct. **RBI reserves** are invested mainly in foreign and Indian government securities (essentially promissory notes bearing an interest rate against which these governments borrow) and gold.

The **Currency & Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA)** is a type of reserve with RBI that represents the value of the **gold and foreign currency** that the RBI holds on behalf of India. It is maintained by the Reserve Bank to take care of currency risk, interest rate risk and movement in gold prices.

Q.299) Consider the following statements regarding the **Industrial Information System (IIS)** portal:

1. It has been developed by the Department for promotion of Industry & Internal Trade.
2. It provides real time information on the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in different industries 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. **Department for promotion of Industry & Internal Trade has developed Industrial Information System (IIS)** portal, a GIS-enabled database

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of industrial areas/clusters across the country to adopt a committed approach towards resource optimization, industrial upgradation and sustainability.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Industrial Information System (IIS)** aims to provide:

-Information on available land for prospective investors looking at setting up units in the Country

-GIS Mapping of Industrial Clusters

-The system also holds the information about the existing External and Internal Infrastructure such as rail, road, air and port connectivity and other common facilities in and around the manufacturing clusters

-Links to State GIS Portals and State Land Banks

At present, the database covers more than 3,350 parks/clusters covering about 475,000 hectares land across 31 States/UTs.

Q.300) Which of the following statement correctly defines the **Fujiwhara effect**?

- a) A tropical cyclone making landfall too far from point of origin.
- b) An abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.
- c) Force winds impact on locations that do not experience a direct hit from a tropical cyclone
- d) The tendency of two nearby tropical cyclones to rotate cyclonically about each other.

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The **Fujiwhara effect** refers to tendency of two nearby tropical cyclones to rotate cyclonically about each other.

When two hurricanes spinning in the same direction pass close enough to each other, they begin an intense movement around their common center. If one hurricane is a lot stronger than the other, the smaller one will orbit it and eventually come crashing into its vortex to be absorbed.

Two storms closer in strength can **gravitate towards each other** until they reach a common point and merge, or merely spin each other around for a while before shooting off on their own paths. In rare occasions, the effect is additive when the hurricanes come together, resulting in one larger storm instead of two smaller ones.

Two tropical storms named Marco and Laura forming in the western Atlantic Ocean at nearly the same time are likely to impact the Gulf of Mexico sparking concerns of the rare Fujiwhara effect.

Q.301) Consider the following statements regarding the **Scheduled Castes in India**:

- 1. The President after consultation with the Governor may by public notification specify the castes or groups within castes deemed to be Scheduled Castes for a state.
- 2. Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes any caste or group within any caste.

Which of the 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 the provisions of the **Constitution under Article 341**:

Clause (1); **President may with respect to any State or Union territory**, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the

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castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.

Clause (2); **Parliament may by law** include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under the clause given above any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

Q.302) Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched initiative **Agriota E-Marketplace**:

1. It has been launched by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific.
2. The platform uses blockchain technology to connect Indian farmers with food processing companies, traders and wholesalers in the UAE.

Which of the 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 **Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC)** free zone has launched an **Agriota E-Marketplace** to connect millions of rural Indian farmers to the UAE's food industry, while eliminating middlemen.

The portal was jointly developed with **CropData Technology**, an Indian company that aids marginal and small farmers.

Statement 2 is correct. The platform uses **blockchain technology** to connect farmers with different entities in the UAE including food processing companies, traders and wholesalers. It will initially offer cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fruits, vegetables, spices and condiments.

Q.303) Consider the following statements regarding the **Chhavni COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana**:

1. It aims to provide rapid COVID-19 testing and treatment facilities.
2. The scheme will benefit permanent and contractual employees in all Cantonment Boards.

Which of the 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. "**Chhavni COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana**" is a group **life insurance scheme** to be implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

Statement 2 is correct. The scheme will cover more than 10,000 employees in all 62 **Cantonment Boards** in event of any unfortunate fatal calamity with an insurance cover of Rs five lakhs each. The Scheme will benefit permanent and contractual employees including doctors, paramedics and sanitation staff.

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Q.304) Consider the following statements regarding the **legislature of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**:

1. The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the President other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister.
2. Lieutenant Governor may nominate two members to the Legislative Assembly to give representation to women.
3. The Legislative Assembly may make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List except Public Order and Police.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**, there shall be a Council of Ministers consisting of not more than ten percent of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly, with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor.

The **Chief Minister** shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.

Statement 2 is correct. Lieutenant Governor of the successor Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir may **nominate two members to the Legislative Assembly** to give representation to women, if in his opinion, **women** are not adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly.

Statement 3 is correct. The **Legislative Assembly may make laws** for the whole or any part of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List except the subjects mentioned at entries 1 and 2, namely **“Public Order” and “Police”** respectively.

Q.305) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Etikoppaka toys - Andhra Pradesh
2. Kandhamal Haladi - Odisha
3. Channapatna toys - Bihar

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. **Etikoppaka toys** (Etikoppaka Bommalu) are traditional toys are made by artisans in Etikoppaka village located on banks of river Varaha in Visakhapatnam district of the **Andhra Pradesh**. This craft form is protected as a geographical indication (GI).

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Kandhamal Haladi**, a variety of turmeric indigenous to South **Odisha** and mostly cultivated in Kandhamal district. It is protected as a geographical indication (GI).

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Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Channapatna toys** are a particular form of wooden toys (and dolls) that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna in the Ramanagara district of **Karnataka**. This traditional craft is protected as a geographical indication (GI).

Q.306) Which of the following **wetland(s)** is/are correctly matched to their respective country(s)?

1. Pantanal - Brazil
2. Llanos - Venezuela
3. Sudd - Argentina

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 **Pantanal** is the world's largest tropical wetland located in southwestern **Brazil** and some part in neighboring Paraguay and Bolivia. Option 2 is correctly matched. **Los Llanos** is vast tropical grassland plain situated to the east of the Andes in **Colombia and Venezuela**, in northwestern South America. It is an eco-region of the flooded grasslands and savannas biome.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. The **Sudd wetland in South Sudan**, formed by the White Nile's Bahr al-Jabal section, represents one of the largest freshwater ecosystems in the world.

Q.307) Consider the following statements regarding the **Influenza Viruses**:

1. Influenza A viruses are found in different animals, including chickens, pigs, horses and whales.
2. Influenza D viruses primarily affect cattle and are not known to infect or cause illness in people.

Which of the 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.

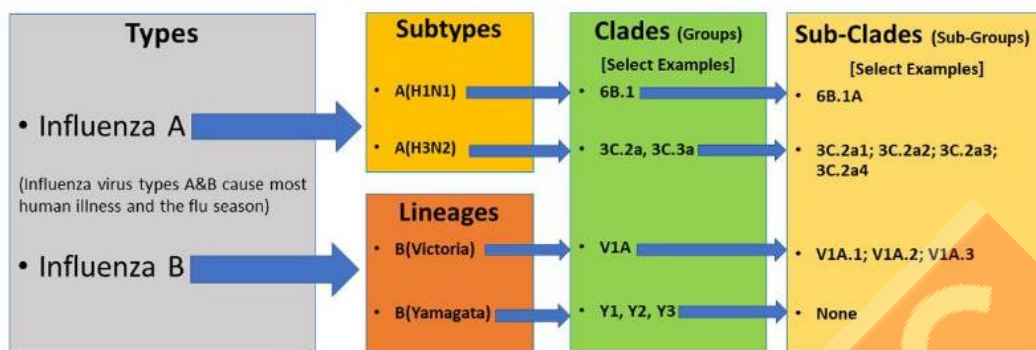
There are four types of **influenza viruses: A, B, C and D**. Human influenza A and B viruses cause seasonal epidemics of disease (known as the flu season) almost every year.

Influenza A viruses also are found in many different animals, including ducks, chickens, pigs, whales, horses and seals.

Influenza A viruses are divided into subtypes based on two proteins on the surface of the virus: **hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N)**.

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.

Human Seasonal Influenza Viruses



Influenza A(H1N1) viruses are related to the pandemic 2009 H1N1 virus that emerged in the spring of 2009 and caused a flu pandemic.

Q.308) Which of the following areas of business regulation are covered in **Doing Business Report (DB) of the World Bank**?

1. Getting Electricity
2. Protecting Minority Investors
3. Resolving Insolvency

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: **Doing Business Report**, a World Bank Group flagship publication, is a series of annual studies measuring the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. Doing Business presents quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 190 economies.

Doing Business covers **12 areas of business regulation**. Ten of these areas—starting a business, dealing with construction permits, **getting electricity**, registering property, getting credit, **protecting minority investors**, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and **resolving insolvency**—are included in the ease of doing business score and ease of doing business ranking.

Doing Business also measures regulation on employing workers and contracting with the government, which are not included in the ease of doing business score and ranking.

The World Bank Group has 'paused' the publication of the Doing Business report to assess the irregularities that have been reported regarding changes to the data used in the report.

Q.309) Which of the following **military exercise(s)** is/are correctly matched to the participant country(s)?

1. Mitra Shakti - Sri Lanka
2. Cobra Gold - Thailand
3. Kavkaz 2020 - Russia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. Exercise **MITRA SHAKTI** is a joint military training exercise between **Indian and Sri Lankan** armed forces.

Option 2 is correctly matched. **Cobra Gold** is a multinational military exercise held in the Kingdom of **Thailand** every year. It is among the largest multinational military exercises in which the United States participates with allied and partner nations. India is not a full participant in the Cobra Gold exercise.

Option 3 is correctly matched. **Kavkaz 2020**, also referred to as Caucasus-2020 is a **Russian** strategic military command-post exercise scheduled for September 2020.

India has recently pulled out of the Kavkaz 2020 citing logistics issues during COVID-19 pandemic.

Q.310) Which of the following institution publishes the **Global Food Security Index?**

- a) The Economist
- b) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- c) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The **Global Food Security Index** considers the core issues of affordability, availability, and quality across a set of 113 countries. It was first published in 2012, and is managed and updated annually by **the Economist's intelligence unit**.

The index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model, constructed from 34 unique indicators, that measures these drivers of food security across both developing and developed countries.

India's profile on the GFSI is given below (Dec. 2019).

