

ForumIAS

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**Prelims Marathon**  
August, 2020

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*HISTORY*  
*ECONOMICS*  
*POLITY*  
*SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY*  
*GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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## History

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Permanent Settlement System**:

1. Under Permanent Settlement System land revenue was fixed and reviewed for every 10 years.
2. It works under the provisions of sunset law.
3. Benami purchases were prevalent in Bengal to avoid land revenue payments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Permanent Settlement, also known as the Permanent Settlement of Bengal, was an agreement between the East India Company and Bengali landlords to fix revenues to be raised from land.

- After a prolonged debate amongst Company officials, the Permanent Settlement was made with the rajas and taluqdars of Bengal.
- **They were now classified as zamindars, and they had to pay the revenue demand that was fixed in perpetuity.**
- In terms of this definition, the zamindar was not a landowner in the village, but a revenue Collector of the state.
- The Permanent Settlement had the features that state demand was fixed at 89% of the rent and 11% was to be retained by the zamindar.
- **The state demand could not be increased but payment should be made on the due date, before sunset, so it was also known as the 'Sunset Law'. Failure to pay led to the sale of land to the highest bidder.**
- Faced with an exorbitantly high revenue demand and possible auction of their estates, they devised ways of surviving the pressures. New contexts produced new strategies. Fictitious sale was one such strategy.
- **Between 1793 and 1801 four big zamindaris of Bengal, including Burdwan, made benami purchases that collectively yielded as much as Rs 30 lakh.** Of the total sales at the auctions, over 15 per cent were fictitious.

**Q.2)** The terms “**haoladars, gantidars and mandals**” in 18<sup>th</sup> century is related to which of the following?

- a) Zamindars
- b) landless labours
- c) Tax collectors
- d) Village headmen

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The jotedars were most powerful in North Bengal, although rich peasants and **village headmen** were emerging as commanding figures in the countryside in other parts of Bengal as well.

- **In some places they were called haoladars, elsewhere they were known as gantidars or mandals.**
- Their rise inevitably weakened zamindari authority.

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**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Fifth Report**” of British India:

1. The report was majorly focuses on the conquests of East India Company.
2. It was submitted to the British Parliament in 1833.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: The Fifth Report was submitted to the British Parliament in 1813.**

- It was the fifth of a series of reports on the administration and activities of the East India Company in India.
- **Often referred to as the Fifth Report, it ran into 1002 pages, of which over 800 pages were appendices that reproduced petitions of zamindars and ryots, reports of collectors from different districts, statistical tables on revenue returns, and notes on the revenue and judicial administration of Bengal and Madras (present-day Tamil Nadu) written by officials.**

**Q.4)** The Europeans “**John Zoffany, Tilly Kettle, William and Thomas Daniells**” visited India in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century is related to which of the following?

- a) Artists (painters)
- b) Tax experts
- c) British Parliament committee members
- d) Specialized army commanders

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** About 30 British portrait painters trained in oil paintings and 28 miniaturists travelled to India between 1770 and 1825 in search of commissions.

- **Amongst the earliest European artists who visited India were John Zoffany, William Hodges, Tilly Kettle, William and Thomas Daniells, Emily Eden and others.**
- From around 1760 till the mid-19th century, these itinerant artist-travelers toured India working for local patrons making paintings and prints of monuments, landscapes as well as portraits.
- The artists worked in oils on canvas utilizing the western technique of academic realism with its emphasis on linear perspective.
- These European artists recorded the new colony in prints and paintings that explored the vast landscapes, the numerous historical edifices and monuments and the many communities that inhabited the land.
- Filtered through the ‘orientalist’ lens, these works imaged India as an exotic and mysterious land in paintings depicting the ghats of Benaras, dancing girls in princely courts, colourful caste costumes, portraits of local rulers and their courtiers, different native occupations and the local flora and fauna.

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Paharias in British India**:

1. They are hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers, silkworm rearers.
2. They regularly raided the plains for their survival.

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: The life of the Paharias – as hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers, silkworm rearers – was thus intimately connected to the forest.**

- They lived in hutments within tamarind groves, and rested in the shade of mango trees. They considered the entire region as their land, the basis of their identity as well as survival; and they resisted the intrusion of outsiders.
- Their chiefs maintained the unity of the group, settled disputes, and led the tribe in battles with other tribes and plainspeople.
- With their base in the hills, **the Paharias regularly raided the plains where settled agriculturists lived.** These raids were necessary for survival, particularly in years of scarcity; they were a way of asserting power over settled communities; and they were a means of negotiating political relations with outsiders.
- The zamindars on the plains had to often purchase peace by paying a regular tribute to the hill chiefs.
- **Traders similarly gave a small amount to the hill folk for permission to use the passes controlled by them.**
- Once the toll was paid, the Paharia chiefs protected the traders, ensuring that their goods were not plundered by anyone.

**Q.6)** The term “**Damin – i – Koh**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Settlements of Paharias
- b) Settlements of Santhals
- c) Settlements of Mughal lineage
- d) Settlements of Afghan-Bengalis

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Santhals had begun to come into Bengal around the 1780s. Zamindars hired them to reclaim land and expand cultivation, and British officials invited them to settle in the Jangal Mahals.

- Having failed to subdue the Paharias and transform them into settled agriculturists, the British turned to the Santhals. The Paharias refused to cut forests, resisted touching the plough, and continued to be turbulent.
- **The Santhals, by contrast, appeared to be ideal settlers, clearing forests and ploughing the land with vigour. The Santhals were given land and persuaded to settle in the foothills of Rajmahal.**
- **By 1832 a large area of land was demarcated as Damin-i-Koh. This was declared to be the land of the Santhals. They were to live within it, practise plough agriculture, and become settled peasants.**
- The land grant to the Santhals stipulated that at least one-tenth of the area was to be cleared and cultivated within the first ten years. The territory was surveyed and mapped.
- Enclosed with boundary pillars, it was separated from both the world of the settled agriculturists of the plains and the Paharias of the hills.

**Q.7)** Who among the following founded the bi-weekly English newspaper “**Native Opinion**”?

- a) Vishvanath Narayan Mandlik
- b) M K Gandhi

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- c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- d) Aurbindo Gosh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Vishvanath Narayan Mandlik (8 March 1833 – 9 May 1899) was an eminent Bombay citizen, lawyer, author and a legal expert on Hindu law.

- Although a conservative when dealing in several cases involving Hindu traditions (where he opposed state intervention), he supported some reforms such as education for women.
- He also translated several English classics and law books into Marathi.
- He also wrote several works on Hindu Law in English, including translations of Yajnyawalkya's Smriti, the Manu Smriti and Nilakantha's Vywahara-mayukha.
- **He founded a bi-weekly in English called the Native Opinion in 1864 to which he was the sole contributor in the early years.**

**Q.8) The Permanent Settlement was rarely extended to any region beyond Bengal.**

What is/are the reasons behind non-extension?

1. Due to rise in agricultural price (harvest).
2. Due to influence of economic ideologies.
3. Rise of rentiers in permanent settlement areas.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** As British rule expanded from Bengal to other parts of India, new systems of revenue were imposed.

- The Permanent Settlement was rarely extended to any region beyond Bengal. Why was this so?
- One reason was that after 1810, **agricultural prices rose**, increasing the value of harvest produce, and enlarging the income of the Bengal zamindars.
- Since the revenue demand was fixed under the Permanent Settlement, the colonial state could not claim any share of this enhanced income. Keen on expanding its financial resources, the colonial government had to think of ways to maximise its land revenue.
- **When officials devise policies, their thinking is deeply shaped by economic theories they are familiar with.** By the 1820s, the economist **David Ricardo** was a celebrated figure in England. Colonial officials had learnt Ricardian ideas during their college years.
- According to Ricardian ideas, a landowner should have a claim only to the “average rent” that prevailed at a given time. When the land yielded more than this “average rent”, the landowner had a surplus that the state needed to tax.
- If tax was not levied, cultivators were likely to turn into rentiers, and their surplus income was unlikely to be productively invested in the improvement of the land.
- Many British officials in India thought that the history of Bengal confirmed Ricardo’s theory. **There the zamindars seemed to have turned into rentiers, leasing out land and living on the rental incomes.**
- It was therefore necessary, the British officials now felt, to have a different system.

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**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Berlin Committee for Indian Independence**”:

1. It was established by Virendranath Chattopadhyay and Lala Hardayal.
2. It was formed to incite rebellion among Indian troops and to organize an armed invasion of British India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The **Berlin Committee for Indian Independence** was established in 1915 by Virendranath Chattopadhyay, Bhupendranath Dutta, Lala Hardayal and others with the help of the German foreign office under ‘Zimmerman Plan’.

- These revolutionaries aimed to mobilize the Indian settlers abroad to send volunteers and arms to India to incite rebellion among Indian troops there and to even organize an armed invasion of British India to liberate the country.
- The Indian revolutionaries in Europe sent missions to Baghdad, Persia, Turkey and Kabul to work among Indian troops and the Indian prisoners of war (POWs) and to incite anti-British feelings among the people of these countries.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Faraizi Movement**”:

1. Movement was founded by Haji Shariatullah.
2. It was aimed at the eradication of social innovations or un-Islamic practices current among the Muslims.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Faraizi movement, also called the Fara’idi Movement because of its emphasis on the Islamic pillars of faith, was founded by Haji Shariatullah in 1818.

- Its scene of action was East Bengal, and it aimed at the eradication of social innovations or un-Islamic practices current among the Muslims of the region and draws their attention to their duties as Muslims.
- Under the leadership of Haji’s son, Dudu Mian, the movement became revolutionary from 1840 onwards.
- He gave the movement an organisational system from the village to the provincial level with a khalifa or authorised deputy at every level.
- The Fara’idis organised a paramilitary force armed with clubs to fight the zamindars who were mostly Hindu, though there were some Muslim landlords too, besides the indigo planters. Dudu Mian asked his followers not to pay rent.
- The organisation even established its own Law courts. Dudu Mian was arrested several times, and his arrest in 1847 finally weakened the movement.
- The movement survived merely as a religious movement without political overtones after the death of Dudu Mian in 1862.

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**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Vedas**”:

1. The word ‘Veda’ signifies knowledge and they are actually providing humans about knowledge to conduct their life on Earth.
2. The Vedas were initially handed down orally by generations to generations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The word ‘Veda’ signifies knowledge and the texts are actually about providing humans about knowledge to conduct their entire life on earth and beyond.

- It is written in highly stylised poetic style and the language is full of symbols and myths.
- The **Vedas were initially handed down orally by generations** of Brahmin families but it is estimated by historians that they were compiled around 1500 BC-1000 BC.

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Aranyakas**”:

1. The Aranyakas are also texts attached to the Upanishads.
2. They are said to be compilations of ritualistic information on the birth and death cycles as well as the complexity of the soul.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Aranyakas are also texts attached to the Vedas and they describe the rituals and sacrifices involved in the Vedas from various perspectives.

- They are said to be compilations of ritualistic information on the birth and death cycles as well as the complexity of the soul.
- It is argued that holy and learned men, called Munis, who preferred to dwell within the limits of the forests, taught them.

**Q.13)** The “**Tarangmel**” folk dance is related to which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Goa
- d) Karnataka

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The **Tarangmel folk dance of Goa that celebrates the youthfulness of the region**. It is performed during Dussehra and Holi. The use of rainbow-like costumes with multi coloured flags and streamers make it a visual spectacle.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Lepakshi Paintings**”:

1. Paintings are located in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.
2. Paintings were developed in the period of Vijayanagara Empire.
3. Paintings are based on religious themes of Ramayana and Maha Bharata.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Located in the Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, these mural paintings were executed on Veerabhadra temple walls at Lepakshi in 16th Century.

- Made during the Vijaynagara period, they follow a religious theme, based on Ramayana, Mahabharata and incarnations of Vishnu.
- The paintings show a complete absence of primary colours, especially blue.
- They depict a decline in painting in terms of quality.
- The forms, figures and details of their costumes are outlined with black colour.

**Q.15)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Theosophical Society Movement**”:

1. Movement led by Madame H.P. Blavatsky and Colonel M.S. Olcott.
2. The society believed that a special Relationship between a person soul and god.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** A group of westerners led by Madame H.P. Blavatsky (1831-1891) and Colonel M.S. Olcott, who were inspired by Indian thought and culture, founded the Theosophical Society in New York City, United States in 1875.

- In 1882, they shifted their headquarters to Adyar, on the outskirts of Madras (at that time) in India.
- The society believed that a special relationship could be established between a person's soul and God by contemplation, prayer, revelation, etc. It accepted the Hindu beliefs in reincarnation and karma, and drew inspiration from the philosophy of the Upanishads and samkhya, yoga and Vedanta schools of thought.
- It aimed to work for universal brotherhood of humanity without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Gupta period**”:

1. Gupta Empire is often hailed as the Golden period of Indian Architecture.
2. Only Hindu temple architecture reached climax in Gupta Age.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The emergence of the Gupta Empire in 4th century A.D. is often hailed as the “Golden period of Indian Architecture”.

- While the earlier Gupta rulers were Buddhists and continued the traditions of Buddhist architecture, temple architecture came to the fore front under the patronage of the Hindu rulers of the later Gupta phase.



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- Temple architecture reached its climax during this period. Similarly, Buddhist and Jain art also reached its peak during the Gupta Age.
- The Gupta rulers, especially in the later phase, were Brahmanical rulers. However, they showed exemplary tolerance for all other religions.
- Three principal deities were worshipped – Vishnu in the Northern and Central part of India, Shiva in the Southern part and Shakti in the Eastern part of India as well as in the Malabar coast or South-west part of India.

**Q.17)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Jainism**”:

1. It was older than Buddhism.
2. It places heavy emphasis upon ethical conduct, personal purity for the liberation of the individual Souls.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Jainism is a very ancient world religion with a history of over 3000 years, which originated in the Indian subcontinent, like Hinduism and Buddhism.

- Although it has some similarities with both traditions, Jainism is different from them with its own unique and distinguishing features.
- It is also older than Buddhism and is truly one of the most ancient and living religions of the world, besides Hinduism and Judaism.
- Jaina Dharma, as it is known popularly, is a truly ascetic religion which places heavy emphasis upon ethical conduct, personal purity for the liberation of the individual Souls. Jainism does not believe in a Creator God.
- It accepts the material universe as a self-existing system. Everything in it, including the individual Soul, is an aspect of matter.
- Each Soul is eternal but it has states, shapes and sizes. In the bound state (bandha) it is subject to karma and rebirth. It attains liberation only when it is able to completely get rid of karma.
- Jainism was founded by 24 Perfect Beings, known as Tirthankaras, who appeared upon earth in the past and laid the foundation for its doctrine.
- Mahavira was the last and the most popular of the Tirthankaras. Since it is a difficult and austere religion, from the earliest times, Jainism enjoyed popularity only among certain sections of Indian society, especially merchant communities.
- It is a predominantly Indian religion, with some following abroad. In this section we included information on the history, beliefs, practices, philosophy, and ethics of Jainism, and comparison with other faiths.

**Q.18)** The “**Industrial Revolution**” was first started in which of the following country?

- a) France
- b) Britain
- c) Germany
- d) United States of America

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Industrial Revolution started in England in the early 18th century, with the invention of new machines like the spinning Jenny, steam engine, the power loom and several others.

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- These machines greatly improved production in the fields of textile, metallurgy, steam power and agriculture.
- The industrial revolution reached other European nations late and this helped England to maintain its hegemony.

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Khilji Dyanasty**”:

1. Alauddin Khilji was the founder of Khilji Dynasty.
2. Alauddin was the first ruler to defeat the southern parts 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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Alauddin Khilji was the second ruler and probably the most powerful monarch of the Khilji Dynasty.

- After conquering the throne by killing his uncle and predecessor, Jalaluddin Firuz Khilji, he continued his legacy of invading states and territories to increase his empire over the Indian subcontinent.
- He was the first Muslim ruler to successfully defeat and conquer southern parts of India. His passion for conquest helped him achieve success at wars, thereby expanding his influence to South India as well.
- In this endeavor of expansion, he was well supported by his loyal generals, especially Malik Kafur and Khusraw Khan.
- He ensured that he completely ousted the reigning kings and administered absolute power while invading the northern states.
- In south India, he used to loot the states and also extracted payment of annual taxes from the overthrown rulers.
- Besides his expeditions of raiding and conquering, he was engaged in defending the Delhi Sultanate from continuous Mongol invasions.
- He also acquired the Koh-i-noor, one of the largest known diamonds in human history, while invading the Kakatiya rulers of Warangal.
- He also introduced some agrarian as well as market reforms which produced mixed results.

**Q.20)** Which of the following sites is/are constructed by “**Shahjahan**”?

1. Red Fort
2. Jama Masjid
3. Moti Masjid

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** One of the most significant incidents in the life of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan was the construction of Taj Mahal.

- His beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal died while giving birth to their fourteenth child and the reason behind her death was stated to be postpartum haemorrhage.

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- This left Shah Jahan devastated who then decided to build the world's most beautiful monument in the memory of his wife.
- After many years of planning, hard work and immense sacrifices, the monument, which came to be known as the Taj Mahal was built.
- Today people from different parts of the world travel to India just to see this amazing white colored edifice which is also one of the most visited tourist destinations of India.
- Taj Mahal continues to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

The following monuments were also constructed by Shah Jahan during his rule:

- Red Fort or Lal Quila (Delhi)
- Sections of the Agra Fort
- Jama Masjid (Delhi)
- Moti Masjid or Pearl Mosque (Lahore)
- Shalimar Gardens (Lahore)
- Sections of the Lahore Fort (Lahore)
- Jahangir Mausoleum
- Takht-e-Taus

**Q.21)** The term “**shroffs**” in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century is related to which of the following?

- a) Village headmen's
- b) Money changers
- c) Village protectors
- d) Agricultural labours

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Commercial institutions were also well-developed to promote such extensive trade.

- Because a variety of coins were in circulation, there were **money-changers or shroffs** to test coins for their purity and decide their value in current terms.
- They also served as local bankers.

**Q.22)** With reference to European rulers/traders, the term “**Batavia**” is related to which of the following country?

- a) India
- b) Myanmar
- c) Japan
- d) Indonesia

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In early 18<sup>th</sup> Century the Dutch had given up Pulicat and moved their headquarters further south to Nagapattinam.

**They had decided to shift their focus to the spice-producing islands of Indonesia and established their capital at Jakarta (Batavia).**

**Q.23)** The “**Cartaz system** – protection against piracy” was introduced by which of the following colonial power in India?

- a) Portuguese
- b) Dutch
- c) French
- d) English

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**ANS: A**

**Explanation: The Portuguese threatened disruption of trade by violence unless their protection, cartaz, was bought.**

- Under the cartaz system, the Portuguese exacted money from the traders as price for protection against what they termed as piracy.
- But much of this was caused by Portuguese freebooters themselves and so the whole system was a blatant protection racket.

**Q.24)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

<b>Treaty</b>	:	<b>Governor General</b>
1. Treaty of Perpetual friendship	:	Lord Hastings
2. Treaty of Bassein	:	Lord Wellesley
3. Treaty of Salbai	:	Warren Hastings

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

**Treaty of Salbai:** It was signed on 17 May 1782, by representatives of the Maratha Empire and the British East India Company after long negotiations to settle the outcome of the First Anglo-Maratha War it was signed between Warren Hastings and Mahadaji Scindia.

**Treaty of Bassein:** It was a pact signed on December 31, 1802 between the British East India Company (Lord Wellesley) and Baji Rao II, the Maratha peshwa of Pune (Poona) in India after the Battle of Poona.

The treaty was a decisive step in the dissolution of the Maratha Confederacy, which led to the East India Company's usurpation of the peshwa's territories in western India in 1818.

**Treaty of Perpetual friendship:** Maharaja Ranjit Singh, also called Sher-i-Punjab was born November 1780 at Gujranwala. When he was 12 years old he became the chief of his own misl after the death of his father in 1792.

Ranjit Singh wanted to annex Sind but could not do so because of the English opposition. In 1831 he signed the treaty of perpetual friendship with the English (William Bentinck).

**Q.25)** The "**Zeliangrong or Haomei movement**" was related to which of the following area?

- a) Chotanagpur plateau
- b) Madras presidency
- c) North West Frontier Province
- d) Naga Hills

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The ongoing national movement influenced the tribal movements in the early decades of 20th century: The Tana Bhagat movement of Gumla in Ranchi district, and the **Zeliangrong movement in the Naga Hills** were two such instances.

- Jadonang (1905-193 I), who set up the Haraka religious cult with three basic objectives started the complex Zeliangrong or Haomei movement in 1925.
- The first aimed at reformation of the tribes, particularly the Zemi, Liangrnei and Rangmei, to enable them to face the onslaught of Christianity.
- Secondly, the overthrows of the exploitative colonial laws by attacking British rule.
- And third, establishment of the Naga Raj.

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- The movement was also aimed against the Kuki tribe, the "outsider".
- From 1927 onwards, influenced by Gandhi, Jadonang began a civil disobedience movement in the area.
- On 13 June 1931, Jgdonang was arrested and sentenced to death, and finally hanged on 29 August 1931

**Q.26)** Which of the following are the provisions of the “**Subsidiary Alliance System**”?

1. An Indian ruler entering into Subsidiary Alliance with the British had to dissolve his own armed forces and accept British forces.
2. If Indian ruler failed to pay army’s maintenance, a portion of his territory would be taken away and ceded to the Zamindars.
3. No other Indian power to interfere in its internal affairs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Wellesley broadened the scope of this arrangement by his Subsidiary Alliance System, bringing under it Hyderabad, Mysore, Lucknow, the Maratha Peshwa, the Bhonsle (Kolhapur) and Sindhia (Gwalior).

The provisions of the Subsidiary Treaty are:

- **An Indian ruler entering into Subsidiary Alliance with the British had to dissolve his own armed forces and accept British forces and a British Resident in his territory.**
- **He had to pay for the British army’s maintenance. If he failed, a portion of his territory would be taken away and ceded to the British.**
- The protected prince was to sever all connections with European powers other than the British, especially the French.
- No European should be employed without the permission of the British.
- No negotiation with any Indian power should be held without the Company’s permission and
- **No other Indian power to interfere in its internal affairs.**

**Q.27)** The 17 year old teenage girl Gaidinliu, led the civil disobedience movement in 1932 and she was sentenced to life imprisonment. Who among the following called her as “**Rani Gaidinliu**”?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Gandhiji
- c) Subhash Chandra Bose
- d) Sardar Vallabhai Patel

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Gaidinliu a teenage girl took over the leadership of the civil disobedience movement.

- In March 1932, the entire village of Bopugoanrni in the Naga Hills was burnt down by the government forces, in retaliation to the attack on the Assam Rifles outpost by Gaidinliu's followers.
- Finally the seventeen year old leader, called **Rani Gaidinliu by'Nehru**, was arrested on 17 October 1932, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**Q.28)** “Our position is not that truths are to be in all religions, but that all established religions of the World are true” – was described by which of the following personality?

- a) Swami Vivekananda
- b) Keshab Chandra Sen
- c) Ramakrishna Paramahansa
- d) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The development of the Western culture and ideology forced the traditional institutions to revitalize themselves.

- During the second half of the nineteenth century, the expression of protest and desire for change were articulated through various reform movements.
- What gave these reform movements an ideological unity were rationalism, religious universalism and humanism.
- For example, Raja Rammohun Roy repudiated the infallibility of the Vedas and during the Aligarh Movement, Syed Ahmed Khan emphasized that religious tenets were not immutable.
- **As Keshab Chandra Sen said, ‘Our position is not that truths are to be in all religions, but that all established religions of the World are true.’**

**Q.29)** The “**anandamath**”, a semi-historical novel written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, is based on which of the following civil uprising?

- a) Vizayanagaram revolt
- b) Sanyasi revolt
- c) Indigo revolt
- d) Santhal uprising

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The disastrous famine of 1770 and the harsh economic order of the British compelled a group of sanyasis in Eastern India to fight the British yoke.

- Originally peasants, even some evicted from land, these sanyasis were joined by a large number of dispossessed small zamindars, disbanded soldiers and rural poor.
- They raided Company factories and the treasuries, and fought the Company’s forces. It was only after a prolonged action that Warren Hastings could subdue the sanyasis.
- Equal participation of Hindus and Muslims characterised the uprisings, sometimes referred to as the Fakir Rebellion.
- Majnum Shah (or Majnu Shah), Chirag Ali, Musa Shah, Bhawani Pathak and Debi Chaudhurani were important leaders.
- Debi Chaudhurani’s participation recognizes the women’s role in early resistances against the British.
- **Anandamath, a semi-historical novel by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, is based on the Sanyasi Revolt.**

**Q.30)** Who among the following Governor-General started the “policy of Ring-Fence”?

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

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**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Warren Hastings took charge as the governor-general at a critical period of British rule when the British were to encounter the powerful combination of the Marathas, Mysore and Hyderabad.

- **He followed a policy of ring-fence which aimed at creating buffer zones to defend the Company's frontiers.**
- Broadly speaking, it was the policy of defence of their neighbours' frontiers for safeguarding their own territories.
- This policy of Warren Hastings was reflected in his war against the Marathas and Mysore.

**Q.31)** Which of the following monument (s) is/are facing/near to **Yamuna River**?

1. Itmad-ud-daullah or Baby Taj Mahal
2. Chini Ka Rauza
3. Mehtab Bagh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has started work on cleaning the insect faeces deposited on some sections of the iconic Taj Mahal.

- By application of clay pack on its walls, the stains were removed, but as they reappeared, the ASI undertook a study of the problem.
- **The findings showed that this problem was also present on other monuments facing the Yamuna, namely Itmad-ud-daullah, Chini Ka Rauza, Mehtab Bagh and portions of the Agra Fort.**

**Q.32)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

**Script** : **Language**

1. Vatteluttu : Telugu
2. Modi : Maratha
3. Gurumukhi : Punjabi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Vatteluttu script:** It was a script derived from the Brahmi and was used in the Southern part of India.

- It was used to write Tamil and Malayalam.
- It removed those signs from Brahmi, which were not needed for writing the Southern languages.
- Presently, both Tamil and Malayalam have moved on to their own Grantha derived scripts.

**Sarada script:** It was a Western variant of the Gupta script. It evolved into Kashmiri and Gurmukhi (now used for writing Punjabi) scripts. It was also used for writing Sanskrit. It is now rarely used.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**Modi script:** Marathi language.

**Q.33)** Which of the following temple (s) is/are located in Kerala state?

1. Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple
2. Lokanarkavu temple
3. Thyagarajaswamy temple

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Lokanarakavu temple (Kerala):** Legend goes that Lokanarkavu temple was constructed by the Lohana community of traders and merchants who migrated from Sindh in Gujarat. Some believe that the original name of the temple was Lohanarkavu and others believe that it is the short form of Lokamalayarkavu (Loka - people, mala- mountain, aru - river and kavu - sacred grove).

**Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple:** Kerala.

**Thyagarajaswamy temple:** Tamil Nadu.

**Q.34)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are **NOT** correctly matched?

<b>Museum</b>	:	<b>State</b>
1. Calico Museum	:	Kerala
2. Janapadaloka Museum	:	Karnataka
3. National Museum	:	New Delhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Chariots were primarily used in south Indian temples; in some, new chariots have been replaced old ones.

- If the chariots become very old and fragile, or caught with fire or even damaged beyond repair, they are not be drawn during Rathotsava but abandoned outside the town in an open field.
- They are acquired by the museums and private collectors, who restore and place them in museums.
- **Today, we can see a massive chariot beautifully positioned in the newly built Manjusha Museum at Dharmasthala (Karnataka), Calico Museum at Ahemadabad, Janapadaloka at Ramnagar (Karnataka), and Government Museum at Kanyakumari and at the National Museum in New Delhi.**

**Q.35)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Mundaka Upanishad**”:

1. According to Mundaka Upanishad, all knowledge comes under two kinds, the higher, Para, and the lower, Apara.
2. The four Vedas wherein everything pertaining to phonetics, grammar, rituals, etymology, astrology, metrics, etc, is thoroughly explained, under para category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: All knowledge comes under two kinds, the higher, Para, and the lower, Aparā, says the Mundaka Upanishad, quoting the words of knowers of Brahman.**

- Any meaningful discussion on an issue is possible only when the pros and cons are studied from all angles in a dispassionate manner.
- For instance, knowing about adharma and dharma and their influence on beings is necessary for it can shape one's choices in life.
- A wise person would do well to avoid adharma. Dharma, if understood properly, can become the governing principle in one's daily life.
- **Aparā Vidya or the lower knowledge is not false or wrong; in fact all the four Vedas wherein everything pertaining to phonetics, grammar, rituals, etymology, astrology, metrics, etc, is thoroughly explained, come under this category.**
- Aparā Vidya is the means by which one can aim for the four Purusharthas, including the glitter of worldly goals such as name, fame, wealth, etc as well as attainment of the heavens and other lokas.

**Q.36)** The “Domkhar Rock Art Sanctuary” is sometimes seen in news is located at?

- a) Leh
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Odisha

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: The sanctuary is located at Domkhar village in Leh, next to the banks of Indus River. It has 500-odd petroglyphs.**

- These are numerous rocks carved figures, thought to date back between 2000 and 4000 years.
- The archaic scripts on these rocks have been discovered to be similar to those found among the nomadic tribes of the steppe region of Central Asia who lived 2,000 years ago.
- Such petroglyphs are found scattered widely across Ladakh: some noteworthy places outside Domkhar are Tangtse, Khaltse, Kharu and Biama.

**Q.37)** Who among the following first translated **epic “Ramayana” into Persian language?**

- a) Abul Fazl
- b) Mulla Abdul Qadir Badayuni
- c) Tansen
- d) Abdul Rahim Khan

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** It is amazing that the Muslims of India showed as much reverence for the Prince of Ayodhya as the Hindus.

- There are no less than 23 Ramayanas in Indo-Persian literature, translated from either Valmiki or Tulsidas.
- The Persian scholar Abul Fazl records how Emperor Akbar commissioned these translations to foster amity between the communities.

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020

- **The first Ramayana in Persian was by Mulla Abdul Qadir Badayuni in 1584.**
- It was embellished by 176 beautiful illustrations and is kept in the Jaipur museum.

**Q.38)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)**:

1. It was founded in 1984 with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India.
2. It is an autonomous body under Ministry of Culture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was founded in 1984 in New Delhi with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India.**

- Today INTACH is recognized as one of the world's largest heritage organizations, with over 190 Chapters across the Country.
- In the past 31 years INTACH has pioneered the conservation and preservation of not just our natural and built heritage but intangible heritage as well.
- Headquartered in New Delhi, it operates through various divisions such as Architectural Heritage, Natural Heritage, Material Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Heritage Education and Communication Services (HECS), Crafts and Community Cell, Chapters, INTACH Heritage Academy, Heritage Tourism, Listing Cell and Library, Archives and Documentation Centre.

**Q.39)** Consider the following statements regarding the "**Script of Harappan Civilization**":

1. Most of the Script is Pictographic in nature.
2. Script was mostly written from left to right.
3. Scripts are yet to be deciphered.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Archaeologists have found numerous seals of different shapes and sizes all across the excavation sites.

- While most seals are square, it was found that triangular, rectangular and circular seals were also used.
- Steatite, a soft stone found in the river beds, was although the most common material used to make seals, yet agate, chert, copper, faience and terracotta seals have also been found.
- Some instances of copper, gold and ivory seals have also been found.
- Most seals have inscriptions in a pictographic script that is yet to be deciphered.
- The script was written mostly from right to left, but, bi-directional writing style i.e right to left on one line and left to right on another line has also been found.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**Q.40)** “Jogimara caves” of pre-historic paintings are located in which of the following state?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Odisha
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Chhattisgarh

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Some of the paintings from the later period can be seen in the Jogimara caves in the Ramgarh hills in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh. These are dated to be painted around 1000 BCE.

- Chhattisgarh is also home to the variety of caves in the district of Kanker like the shelter of Udkuda, Garagodi, Khairkheda, Gotitola, Kulgaon, etc.
- These shelters depict the human figurines, animals, palm prints, bullock carts, etc. which show a higher and sedentary type of living.

**Q.41)** “They are very clever in clearing new lands, but live meanly. Their huts have no fence, and the walls are made of small sticks placed upright, close together and plastered within with clay. They are small and slovenly, and too flat-roofed, with very little arch” – is described by Francis Buchanan is related to which of the following tribal group?

- a) Santhals
- b) Paharias
- c) Oraons
- d) Jarwas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Buchanan on Santhals wrote: They are very clever in clearing new lands, but live meanly. Their huts have no fence, and the walls are made of small sticks placed upright, close together and plastered within with clay. They are small and slovenly, and too flat-roofed, with very little arch.

**Q.42)** In 1859, the British passed a **Limitation Law** that stated that the loan bonds signed between moneylenders and ryots would have validity for how many years?

- a) Three years
- b) Five years
- c) Seven years
- d) Nine years

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The ryots came to see the moneylender as devious and deceitful.

- They complained of moneylenders manipulating laws and forging accounts.
- In 1859 the British passed a Limitation Law that stated that the loan bonds signed between moneylenders and ryots would have validity for only three years.
- This law was meant to check the accumulation of interest over time.

**Q.43)** Consider the following statements regarding the **demands of Moderates in British India:**

1. Indianisation of government service.
2. Call for separation of executive from judiciary.
3. Call for an increase in defense expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Moderates campaigned on the following grounds:

- Indianisation of government service: on the economic grounds that British civil servants got very high emoluments while inclusion of Indians would be more economical;
- Call for separation of judicial from executive functions.
- Criticism of an oppressive and tyrannical bureaucracy and an expensive and time-consuming judicial system.
- Criticism of an aggressive foreign policy which resulted in annexation of Burma, attack on Afghanistan and suppression of tribals in the North-West-all costing heavily for the Indian treasury.
- Call for increase in expenditure on welfare (i.e., health, sanitation), education- especially elementary and technical-irrigation works and improvement of agriculture, agricultural banks for cultivators, etc.
- Demand for better treatment for Indian labor abroad in other British colonies, where they faced oppression and racial discrimination.

**Q.44)** Consider the following statements regarding the Champaran Satyagraha:

1. Gandhi was requested by Dr Rajendra Prasad to look into problems of farmers.
2. European Planters are practicing the tinkathia system.
3. European Planters demanded high rents.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Gandhi was requested by Rajkumar Shukla, a local man, to look into the problems of the farmers in context of indigo planters of Champaran in Bihar.

- The European planters had been forcing the peasants to grow indigo on 3/20 part of the total land (called tinkathia system).
- When towards the end of the nineteenth century German synthetic dyes replaced indigo, the European planters demanded high rents and illegal dues from the peasants in order to maximise their profits before the peasants could shift to other crops.
- Besides, the peasants were forced to sell the produce at prices fixed by the Europeans.
- When Gandhi, joined now by Rajendra Prasad, Mazharul- Haq, Mahadeo Desai, Narhari Parekh, and J.B. Kripalani, reached Champaran to probe into the matter, the authorities ordered him to leave the area at once.
- Gandhi defied the order and preferred to face the punishment.
- This passive resistance or civil disobedience of an unjust order was a novel method at that time.
- Finally, the authorities retreated and permitted Gandhi to make an enquiry.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**Q.45) “New India and Commonweal”** newspapers are started by whom among the following?

- a) Lala Lajpat Rai
- b) Annie Besant
- c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru

**ANS: B**

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

- She campaigned through her newspapers, New India and Commonweal, and through public meetings and conferences.
- At the annual session of the Congress in 1915, the efforts of Tilak and Besant met with some success. It was decided that the Extremists be admitted to the Congress.
- Although Besant failed to get the Congress to approve her scheme of Home Rule Leagues, the Congress did commit itself to a programme of educative propaganda and to a revival of local-level Congress committees.
- Not willing to wait for too long, Besant laid the condition that if the Congress did not implement its commitments, she would be free to set up her own league-which she finally had to, as there was no response from the Congress.

**Q.46) Which of the following is/are the recommendations of Nehru Report?**

1. Dominion status on the lines of self-governing dominions.
2. Acceptance of separate electorate.
3. Linguistic Provinces.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Nehru Report confined itself to British India, as it envisaged the future link-up of British India with the princely states on a federal basis. For the dominion it recommended:

- Dominion status on lines of self-governing dominions as the form of government desired by Indians (much to the chagrin of younger, militant section-Nehru being prominent among them).
- Rejection of separate electorates which had been the basis of constitutional reforms so far; instead, a demand for joint electorates with reservation of seats for Muslims at the Centre and in provinces where they were in minority (and not in those where Muslims were in majority, such as Punjab and Bengal) in proportion to the Muslim population there with right to contest additional seats.
- Linguistic provinces.
- Nineteen fundamental rights including equal rights for women, right to form unions, and universal adult suffrage.
- Responsible government at the Centre and in provinces.
- Full protection to cultural and religious interests of Muslims.
- Complete dissociation of State from religion.

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**Q.47)** Which of the following is/are the conditions of “**Delhi Manifesto**”?

1. Congress and Muslim League should have equal representation.
2. General Amnesty for political prisoners and a policy of conciliation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** On November 2, 1929, a conference of prominent national leaders issued a ‘Delhi Manifesto’ which put forward certain conditions for attending the Round Table Conference:

- that the purpose of the Round Table Conference should be not to determine whether or when dominion status was to be reached but to formulate a constitution for implementation of the dominion status (thus acting as a constituent assembly) and the basic principle of dominion status should be immediately accepted;
- That the Congress should have majority representation at the conference; and
- There should be a general amnesty for political prisoners and a policy of conciliation; Gandhi along with Motilal Nehru and other political leaders met Lord Irwin in December 1929 (after the viceroy had narrowly escaped after a bomb was detonated meaning to hit the train he was travelling in).
- They asked the viceroy for assurance that the purpose of the round table conference was to draft a constitutional scheme for dominion status.
- That was not the purpose of the conference, said Irwin.
- Viceroy Irwin rejected the demands put forward in the Delhi Manifesto.

**Q.48)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Rajagopalachari Formula**:

1. Muslim League to endorse Congress demand for independence.
2. League to cooperate with Congress in forming a provisional government at centre.
3. Entire population of Muslim majority areas in the North-West and North-East India to decide by a plebiscite.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Prepared a formula for Congress-League cooperation in 1944. It was a tacit acceptance of the League’s demand for Pakistan. Gandhi supported the formula. The main points in the CR Plan were:

- Muslim League to endorse Congress demand for independence.
- League to cooperate with Congress in forming a provisional government at centre.
- After the end of the war, the entire population of Muslim majority areas in the North-West and North-East India to decide by a plebiscite, whether or not to form a separate sovereign state.
- In case of acceptance of partition, agreement to be made jointly for safeguarding defence, commerce, communications, etc.
- The above terms to be operative only if England transferred full powers to India.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**Q.49)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)**”:

1. It was founded in 1920.
2. It was originally formed to give Indian representation at the League of Nations’ International Labor Organization (ILO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The trade union movement was led by All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) founded in 1920.

- Lala Lajpat Rai was its first president and Dewan Chaman Lal its general secretary. Tilak was also one of the moving spirits.
- The major strikes during the 1920s included those in Kharagpur Railway Workshops, Tata Iron and Steel Works (Jamshedpur), Bombay
- Textile Mills (this involved 1,50,000 workers and went on for 5 months), and Buckingham Carnatic Mills. In 1928, there were a number of strikes involving 5 lakh workers.
- In 1923, the first May Day was celebrated in India in Madras.
- Although the organization was originally formed to give Indian representation at the League of Nations’ International Labor Organization (ILO), it also met an increasing need for such a body for the rapidly expanding labor movement in India.

**Q.50)** Which of the following person is established the “Congress-Khilafat Swarajya Party”?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Motilal Nehru
- c) Subhash Chandra Bose
- d) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The differences over the question of council entry between the two schools of thought resulted in the defeat of the Swarajists’ proposal of ‘ending or mending’ the councils at the Gaya session of the Congress (December 1922).

C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru resigned from the presidentship and secretaryship respectively of the Congress and announced the formation of Congress-Khilafat Swarajya Party or simply Swarajist Party, with C.R. Das as the president and Motilal Nehru as one of the secretaries.

## *Economy*

**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **National Small Savings Fund (NSSF)**:

1. It was established in 1999 within the consolidated fund of India.
  2. The money in the account is used by the centre and states to finance their fiscal deficit.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** 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.
- Similarly, withdrawals under small savings schemes by the depositors are made out of this Fund.
- **The money in the account is used by the centre and states to finance their fiscal deficit.**
- The balance in the Fund is invested in Central and State Government Securities.
- Pattern of utilization of the fund among the centre and states is decided from time to time by the Government of India.

**Q.2)** Which of the following institution (s) is/are eligible to raise money from or park excess money with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)**?

1. Primary Dealers
2. Scheduled Commercial Banks
3. Regional Rural Banks

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** LAF is a facility extended by the Reserve Bank of India to the scheduled commercial banks (excluding RRBs) and primary dealers to avail of liquidity in case of requirement or park excess funds with the RBI in case of excess liquidity on an overnight basis against the collateral of Government securities including State Government securities. Basically LAF enables liquidity management on a day to day basis.

**Q.3)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

<b>Index</b>	:	<b>Base Year</b>
1. Wholesale price index	:	2014-15
2. Consumer price index	:	2004-05
3. Gross Domestic Product	:	2011-12

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only



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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Consumer Price Index or CPI as it is commonly called is an index measuring retail inflation in the economy by collecting the change in prices of most common goods and services used by consumers. **Base Year for CPI is 2012.**

- Wholesale Price Index, or WPI, measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
- With an aim to align the index with the base year of other important economic indicators such as GDP and IIP, **the base year was updated to 2011-12 from 2004-05 for the new series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI), effective from April 2017.**
- **The present base year for gross domestic product is 2011-12.**

**Q.4)** The government of India in June 2019 set up a **working group** to revise the current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base 2011-12 and devise a new Producer Price Index (PPI). The group is headed by which of the following?

- a) Ramesh Chand
- b) B. N. Goldar
- c) Bimal Jalan
- d) Soumya Kanti Ghosh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The government has set up a working group under Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand to revise the current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base 2011-12 and devise a new Producer Price Index (PPI).

- The group will review the commodity basket of the current series of WPI, suggest changes in commodities in the light of structural changes in the economy witnessed since 2011-12 and decide on the computational methodology to be adopted for monthly WPI/PPI.
- The government had in 2014 constituted a committee under Professor **BN Goldar** to devise a PPI after the Reserve Bank of India began considering consumer price inflation as a better gauge of inflation than WPI.

**The Review**

Govt sets up 18-member working group to review WPI, devise PPI

**THE MEMBERS**

- 4 officials from National Statistics Office
- 2 from finance ministry
- One each from agriculture dept, consumer affairs dept, petroleum & natural gas ministry and RBI

- ↳ Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand to chair panel
- ↳ Committee to draft roadmap for switch over from WPI to PPI
- ↳ Panel to revise WPI base, basket of goods, price collection method
- ↳ Structural changes call for re-examination of WPI's coverage of commodities, weighting diagram

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**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**Q.5)** According to the Economic Survey 2019-20, which of the following region has high dispersion of agriculture credit to farmers?

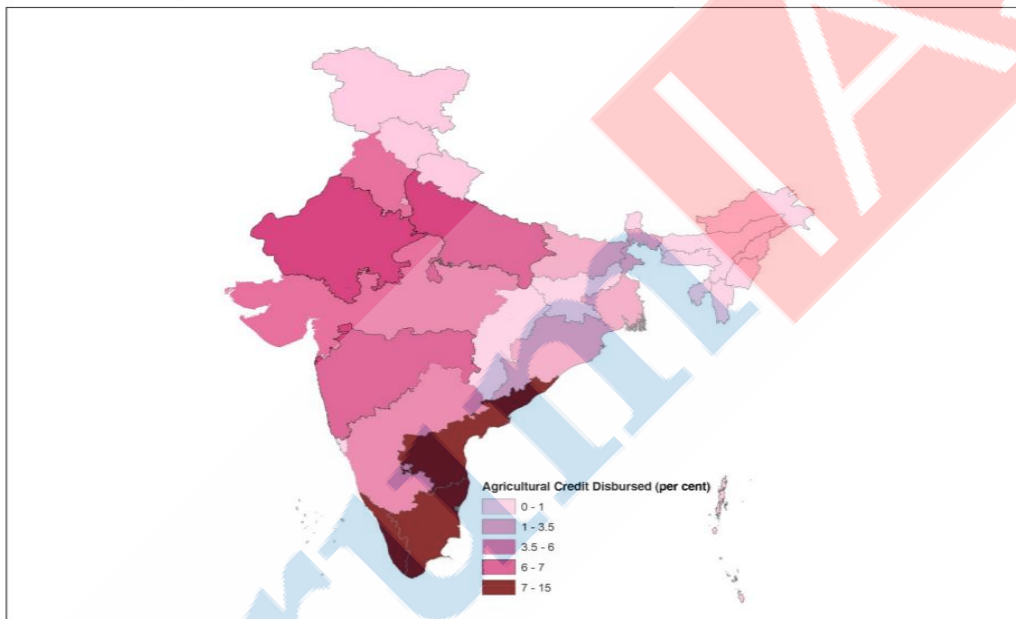
- a) Southern region
- b) Northern region
- c) Central region
- d) Eastern and North Eastern region

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The agricultural credit flow target for 2019-20 has been fixed at 13,50,000 crore and till 30th November, 2019, a sum of 9,07,843.37crore has been disbursed.

- The regional distribution of agricultural credit in India is highly skewed.
- It is observed that credit is low in North Eastern, Hilly and Eastern States.
- The share of North Eastern States has been less than one percent in total agricultural credit disbursement.

**Figure 3: Distribution of Agricultural Credit in India in 2018-19**



**Q.6)** The term “**Fully Accessible Route**” is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Investment of NRI’s in Government securities
- b) Shipping transition with single window clearance
- c) Routes for tribes in forest areas
- d) The International North–South Transport Corridor

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a separate channel, namely ‘Fully Accessible Route’ (FAR), to enable non-residents to invest in specified government bonds with effect from April 1, 2020.

- The move follows the Union Budget announcement that certain specified categories of government bonds would be opened fully for non-resident investors without any restrictions.
- Under FAR, eligible investors can invest in specified government securities without being subject to any investment ceilings.
- This scheme shall operate along with the two existing routes, viz., the Medium Term Framework (MTF) and the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR).

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## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Additional Tier-1 bonds (AT-1)**:

1. They are issued by banks to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms.
2. These bonds are perpetual and carry no maturity date.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** AT-1, short for Additional Tier-1 bonds, are a type of unsecured, perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms.

- After a string of banks turned turtle in the global financial crisis, central banks got together and decided to formulate new rules (called the Basel-III norms) that would make them maintain stronger balance sheets.
- In India, one of the key new rules brought in was that banks must maintain capital at a minimum ratio of 11.5 per cent of their risk-weighted loans. Of this, 9.5 per cent needs to be in Tier-1 capital and 2 per cent in Tier-2.
- Tier-1 capital refers to equity and other forms of permanent capital that stays with the bank, as deposits and loans flow in and out.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Credit Default Swap (CDS)**:

1. It is a risk management product which helps entities guard against possibility of defaults in repayment of corporate bonds.
2. The eligible participants to participate in CDS are commercial banks, primary dealers, NBFCs, insurance companies and mutual 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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** CDS is in operation in India since October 2011-launched in only corporate bonds.

- The eligible participants are commercial banks, primary dealers, NBFCs, insurance companies and mutual funds.
- CDS is a credit derivative transaction in which two parties enter into an agreement, whereby one party (called as the 'protection buyer') pays the other party (called as the 'protection seller') periodic payments for the specified life of the agreement.
- The protection seller makes no payment unless a credit event relating to a pre-determined reference asset occurs.
- If such an event occurs, it triggers the Protection Seller's settlement obligation, which can be either cash or physical (India follows physical settlement).
- It means, CDS is a credit derivative that can be used to transfer credit risk from the investor exposed to the risk (called protection buyer) to an investor willing to take risk (called protection seller).
- It operates like an insurance policy. In an insurance policy, the insurance firm pays the loss amount to the insured party.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**Q.9) “FERA and FEMA”** are often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Foreign funding
- b) Bilateral trade relations
- c) Financial inclusion
- d) Foreign exchange

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** FERA was mainly formulated to deal with deep crunch of **foreign exchange** post world war II and hence was a rigid piece of legislation which have left all the businesspeople and Indian citizens at the mercy of Enforcement Directorate as violence of FERA was considered a criminal act and there were major penalties associated with it.

- FEMA or Foreign Exchange Management Act was introduced in the year 1999 to replace FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulations Act). FEMA came into act on 1st of June 2000.
- The Scope and Objective of FEMA was mainly to amend the laws related to foreign exchange to facilitate external trade and payments and to develop the foreign exchange market in India.
- FEMA was a liberal from of its prior version (FERA). It extends to whole of the country. It introduced resident ship in place of citizenship.
- FEMA is more human and natural in nature and removed all kinds of restrictions on withdrawal of foreign exchange.
- FEMA also introduced RFC (Resident foreign currency account). It specifically deals with possession and retention of foreign currency and includes all kinds of foreign securities and immovable property.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Farm Subsidies**:

1. The farm subsidies of developed countries are higher than developing countries like India.
2. World Bank has put some ceilings on the amount of subsidies being provided by the various developing and developed nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Farm subsidies form an integral part of the government’s budget.

- **In the case of developed countries, the agricultural or farm subsidies compose nearly 40 per cent of the total budgetary outlay, while in India’s case it is much lower (around 7.8 per cent of GDP) and of different nature.**
- **The World Trade Organization (WTO) has put some ceilings** on the amount of direct and indirect subsidies being provided by the various developing and developed nations due to the fact that these subsidies distort the free market forces which have their own implications.

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**interim report of the 15th Finance Commission (FC)**”:

1. The commission recommended continuing the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance commission vertical divisible pool of tax revenues.
2. The demographic performance is the new parameter added to the horizontal divisible pool criteria.

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 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

**ANS: B**

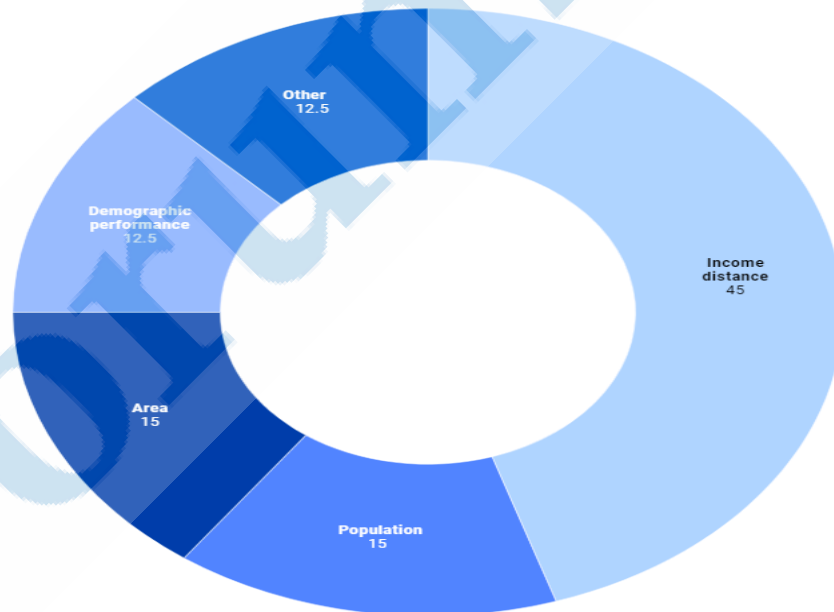
**Explanation: The interim report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, tabled together with the Union Budget for 2020-21, leaves the tax devolution formula between the centre and states largely unchanged.**

- It, however, calls for greater clarity on government finances, a new fiscal legislation and improvements in the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.
- The commission will submit its final report only in October 2020. Its interim recommendations will underpin the 2020-21 budget while final recommendations will be used for subsequent years.
- The finance commission, headed by NK Singh, recommended an aggregate share of 41 percent of the net proceeds of the union taxes to be devolved to states in FY21.
- The Fourteenth Finance Commission has increased the devolution to states to 42 percent.
- **The demographic performance is the new crucial parameter that has been added to the mix.**

### Weights For Horizontal Devolution

In %

Income distance Population Area Demographic performance Other



**Q.12)** The “**Companies Fresh Start Scheme 2020**” is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) To promote pharmaceutical products and to reduce the imports of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API).
- b) To enable companies make good of any filing-related defaults, irrespective of duration of default, and make a fresh start as a fully compliant entity.
- c) To promote solar manufacturing base to fulfill the domestic needs.
- d) Waiver of Small scale manufacturing unit loans up to 10lakhs to overcome CoVID-19 crisis.

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**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has come up with the 'Companies Fresh Start Scheme 2020' to enable companies make good of any filing-related defaults, irrespective of duration of default, and make a fresh start as a fully compliant entity.

- To provide a similar facility to Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), the MCA has also revised the 'LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020', which is in vogue today.
- The Fresh Start scheme and modified LLP Settlement Scheme reduce compliance burden during the unprecedented public health situation caused by Covid-19.
- The USP of both the schemes is a one-time waiver of additional filing fees for delayed filings by the companies or LLPs with the Registrar of Companies during the currency of the Schemes, i.e. during the period starting from April 1 and ending on September 30.
- The Schemes, apart from giving longer timelines for corporate to comply with various filing requirements under the Companies Act 2013 and LLP Act, 2008, significantly reduce the related financial burden on them, especially for those with long standing defaults, thereby giving them an opportunity to make a "fresh start".
- Both the Schemes also contain provision for giving immunity from penal proceedings, including against imposition of penalties for late submissions and also provide additional time for filing appeals before the concerned Regional Directors against imposition of penalties, if already imposed.

**Q.13)** Which of following are the "grants of the finance commission"?

1. Grants for rural and urban local bodies.
2. Assistance to State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
3. Post devolution revenue deficit grants.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The 73rd Constitutional Amendment requires both the Centre and states to help Panchayati Raj institutions to evolve as a unit of self-governance by assigning them funds, functions and functionaries.

The Finance Commission Grants, in the Union Budget, provides funds to local bodies, state disaster relief funds and compensates any revenue loss to states after devolution of taxes.

The Finance Commission Grants are primarily divided into four sub-heads.

**1. Grants for rural local bodies:** The three-tier model of governance envisioned in the Constitution assigns clear roles and responsibilities to Gram Panchayats.

- The Finance Commission recommendations ensure that these local bodies are adequately funded.
- In fact, nearly half of the Finance Commission Grants in Union Budget goes to village local bodies.

**2. Grants for urban local bodies:** In addition to units of self-governance at the village level, the Constitution also envisages cities as units of self-governance.

- Urban local bodies like municipal councils receive the largest chunk of Finance Commission Grants after Rural Local Bodies and Post Devolution Deficit Grants to states.

**3. Assistance to SDRF:** The central government also provides funds to State Disaster Relief Funds in addition to funding the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

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- The assistance to state government's disaster relief authorities is provided as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

**4. Post devolution revenue deficit grants:** About a third of the total revenue collected by the Centre is directly transferred to states as their share in the divisible pool.

- However, the Finance Commission also provides a mechanism for compensation of any loss incurred by states, which is called post-devolution revenue deficit grants.
- This Finance Commission Grant forms the second largest chunk of Finance Commission transfers after the assistance to local rural bodies.

**Q.14)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)**:

1. CRR needs to be maintained only in cash.
2. Banks do not get any interest on the money that is with the RBI under the CRR requirements.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Reserve Bank of India or RBI mandates that banks store a proportion of their deposits in the form of cash so that the same can be given to the bank's customers if the need arises.

- The percentage of cash required to be kept in reserves, vis-a-vis a bank's total deposits, is called the Cash Reserve Ratio.
- The cash reserve is either stored in the bank's vault or is sent to the RBI.
- **Banks do not get any interest on the money that is with the RBI under the CRR requirements.**
- **Unlike Statutory Liquidity Ratio or SLR, which can be maintained in either gold or cash, CRR needs to be maintained only in cash.**

**Q.15)** Recently the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to **change its accounting year** from July-June to April- May on whom recommendations?

- a) Urjit Patel
- b) Ramesh Chand
- c) Bimal Jalan
- d) Shaktikant Das

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** After nearly eight decades, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to change its accounting year from July-June to April- May.

- Accordingly, the next accounting year will be a nine-month period, which starts from July 2020 and ends on March 31, 2021.
- Thereafter, all the financial years will start from April every year, the RBI.
- **The Bimal Jalan Committee on Economic Capital Framework (ECF) of the RBI had proposed a more transparent presentation of the RBI's annual accounts and change in its accounting year from July to June to April to March from the financial year 2020-21.**

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the **regional rural banks (RRB)**:

1. RRBs were set up on the basis of the recommendations of the Narasimham Working Group.

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2. The equity of a regional rural bank is held by the Central Government, concerned State Government and the Sponsor Bank in the proportion of 50:15:35.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are financial institutions which ensure adequate credit for agriculture and other rural sectors.

- **Regional Rural Banks were set up on the basis of the recommendations of the Narasimham Working Group (1975), and after the legislations of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.**
- **The first Regional Rural Bank “Prathama Grameen Bank” was set up on October 2, 1975. At present there are 82 RRBs in India.**
- **The equity of a regional rural bank is held by the Central Government, concerned State Government and the Sponsor Bank in the proportion of 50:15:35.**
- The RRBs combine the characteristics of a cooperative in terms of the familiarity of the rural problems and a commercial bank in terms of its professionalism and ability to mobilise financial resources.
- Each RRB operates within the local limits as notified by Government.
- The main objectives of RRB’s are to provide credit and other facilities, especially to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers artisans and small entrepreneurs in rural areas with the objective of bridging the credit gap in rural areas, checking the outflow of rural deposits to urban areas and reduce regional imbalances and increase rural employment generation.

**Q.17)** The “**Fear Index**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Stock market volatility
- b) Monsoon prediction
- c) Earthquake frequency index
- d) Money circulation index

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Created by the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE), the Volatility Index, or VIX, is a real-time market index that represents the market's expectation of 30-day forward-looking volatility.

- Derived from the price inputs of the S&P 500 index options, it provides a measure of market risk and investors' sentiments.
- **It is also known by other names like "Fear Gauge" or "Fear Index".**
- Investors, research analysts and portfolio managers look to VIX values as a way to measure market risk, fear and stress before they take investment decisions.

**Q.18)** The “**GATI portal**” is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Monsoon prediction
- b) Flight tracking
- c) National highways
- d) Water ways



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**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Terming delays in highway projects as “unacceptable”, Road Transport and Highways Minister, asked officials and developers to strictly adhere to project schedules.

- **Minister also launched online web portal ‘GATI’ on the pattern of ‘PRAGATI’, the portal used by the Prime Ministers’ Office for monitoring projects.**
- The portal ‘GATI’ can be accessed from NHAI’s website, and contractors and concessionaires can raise any project-related issues on the platform, according to a statement by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- The issues raised on ‘GATI’ will be daily monitored by a team of NHAI officers and will be constantly reviewed by the senior officers of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Extended Fund Facility (EFF)**”:

1. It is a lending facility of the World Bank.
2. It was established to help countries address medium and longer-term balance of payments problems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Extended Fund Facility is lending facility of the Fund of the IMF and it was established in 1974 to help countries address medium- and longer-term balance of payments problems.

- The EFF is prescribed for a country who is suffering from balance of payment problem caused by structural weaknesses and who need fundamental economic reforms.
- The use of the facility has increased substantially in the recent crisis period.

**Q.20)** Which one among the following items has **maximum weight** in wholesale price index (WPI)?

- a) Raw materials
- b) Fuel and electricity
- c) Food Items
- d) Manufactured products

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures the average change in the prices of commodities for bulk sale at the level of early stage of transactions.

The index basket of the WPI covers commodities falling under the three major groups namely Primary Articles, Fuel and Power and Manufactured products. (The index basket of the present 2011-12 series has a total of 697 items including 117 items for Primary Articles, 16 items for Fuel & Power and **564 items for Manufactured Products.**)

**Q.21)** The word “**monetary transmission**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) To contain growing Non-Performing Assets (NPA’s) of commercial banks.
- b) The pass-through of the RBI’s rate actions to the economy at large.
- c) Smooth transmission of tax devolution to states from centre.
- d) Providing timely credit for agriculture and other economically weaker sections.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Monetary transmission is the pass-through of the RBI's rate actions to the economy at large.**

- As you know, the RBI's most important task is to keep tabs on inflation by adjusting money supply.
- It also monitors the exchange rate. To control all this, the RBI uses many monetary tools.
- The repo rate, reverse repo rate and cash reserve requirement are being the key instruments.
- Let us take the repo rate, for instance. This is the rate at which the RBI lends short-term funds to banks to manage their day-to-day operations.
- When the RBI wants to stimulate growth, it cuts the repo rate to reduce the cost of borrowings.
- Banks get money at a cheaper rate. If this is passed on to borrowers, then monetary transmission is said to have happened smoothly.

**Q.22)** The term “**Side Pocketing**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Commercial Banks
- b) Mutual Funds
- c) Skill sector
- d) Self-help groups

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Simply put, side pocketing is a framework that allows mutual funds to segregate the bad assets in a separate portfolio within their debt schemes.

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced the framework in December — primarily triggered by the IL&FS fiasco — after it emerged that many fund houses have huge exposure to the beleaguered entity and could potentially take a huge hit on their net asset value thereby affecting investor returns.
- If a debt instrument is downgraded to default rating by credit rating agencies, then the fund house has the option to create a side pocket so that good assets can be ring-fenced.
- Side pocketing segregates the bad assets from the good ones.
- All existing investors in the scheme are allotted equal number of units in the segregated portfolio as held in the main portfolio and no redemption or subscription is allowed in the segregated portfolio.
- Thereafter, the units have to be listed on a stock exchange within 10 days to facilitate exit of the unit holders.
- Effectively, this makes the price discovery of the bad assets a transparent procedure with investors having the freedom of either selling it at prevailing price or holding it if they expect the value to recover in future.

**Q.23)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**steel sector in India**”:

1. India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of crude steel in the world from 2017 onwards.
2. The per-capita consumption of finished steel in India is less than world average.

Which 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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**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In CY 2019, the world crude steel production reached 1870 million tonnes (mt) and showed a growth of 3.4% over CY 2018.

- China remained world's largest crude steel producer in same period (996 mt) followed by India (111mt), Japan (99mt) and the USA (88mt).
- **Per capita finished steel consumption in 2018 was 224.5 kg for world and 590.1 kg for China** (Source: World Steel Association).
- **The same for India was 73.3 kg in 2018** (Source: JPC) and 75.7 kg (provisional) in 2019. The per capita consumption of India in 2018-19 was 74.1 kg and that in 2019-20 was 74.6 kg (prov.)

The Indian steel industry has entered into a new development stage, post de-regulation, riding high on the resurgent economy and rising demand for steel.

- **Rapid rise in production has resulted in India becoming the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of crude steel during 2018 and 2019 (prov), from its 3<sup>rd</sup> largest status in 2017.**
- The country was also the largest producer of Sponge Iron or DRI in the world and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest finished steel consumer in the world after China & USA in 2019 (prov.)

**Q.24)** The term “**Harmonized System (HS)**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Service sector
- b) International product nomenclature
- c) International Financial Services
- d) Global Renewable Sector

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Harmonized System, or simply ‘HS’, is a six-digit identification code developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO).

- **Called the “universal economic language” for goods, it is a multipurpose international product nomenclature.**
- Over 200 countries use the system as a basis for their customs tariffs, gathering international trade statistics, making trade policies, and for monitoring goods.
- The system helps in harmonizing of customs and trade procedures, thus reducing costs in international trade.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry allocated a separate Harmonized System (HS) code for Khadi, India's signature handspun and hand-woven cloth that was made iconic by Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom struggle.
- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in its press release said, “Khadi has once again come out of its customary veil, marking its presence in the exclusive HS code bracket, issued by the central government on November 4, 2019, to categorize its products in export.”

**Q.25)** Which of the following organization conducts the “**Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS)**”?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Central Statistical Office
- c) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)
- d) Ministry of Labour

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** PLFS is an initiative aimed at generating estimates of various labour force indicators.

- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducts the survey.
- Quarterly survey (For urban areas only) – Captures only the current weekly status (CWS) data.

**Q.26)** Consider the following statements regarding the **economic census**:

1. It is conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
2. Till now it was conducted six times.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The government will kick off a massive exercise aimed to get a complete count of all economic units in the country-the Seventh Economic Census- from July 29 (2019) from the north eastern state of Tripura.

- The census, conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), will be held this year after a gap of five years.
- The ministry partnered with CSC e-Governance services India Ltd (CSC SPV) to conduct the census.
- **The First Economic Census was conducted throughout the country, except Lakshadweep, during 1977 in collaboration with the States/ Union Territories (UTs).**
- **The subsequent Censuses were conducted in the years 1980, 1990, 1998, 2005 . The 6th and the latest census was conducted in 2013.**

**Q.27)** Which of the following is/are **eligible** for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme?

1. Small and marginal farmers holding land up to 2 hectares.
2. Institutional land holders.
3. Farmer families holding constitutional posts.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Delivering its poll promise, the Central Government on Saturday notified a decision to extend the benefit of ₹6,000 per year under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme to all 14.5 crore farmers in the country, irrespective of the size of their landholding.

- Notifying the decision, the Union Agriculture Ministry has written to all State Governments, asking them to identify beneficiaries subject to the existing exclusion factors.

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- “All the state/UT governments are, therefore, requested to expedite 100 per cent enlistment of eligible beneficiaries as per the revised scheme so that farmers are able to avail the benefit of the scheme,” the Ministry said.
- Those excluded from the PM-KISAN include institutional land holders, farmer families holding constitutional posts, serving or retired officers and employees of State or Central government as well as Public Sector Undertakings and Government Autonomous bodies.
- Professionals like doctors, engineers and lawyers as well as retired pensioners with a monthly pension of over ₹10,000 and those who paid income tax in the last assessment year are also not eligible for the benefits.

**Q.28)** Which of the following method (s) is/are used to **calculate the black money?**

1. Monetary method.
2. Global indicator method.
3. Straightforward survey.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** There is no official definition of black money in economic theory, with several different terms such as parallel economy, black money, black incomes, unaccounted economy, illegal economy and irregular economy all being used more or less synonymously.

- The simplest definition of black money could possibly be money that is hidden from tax authorities.
- That is, black money can come from two broad categories: illegal activity and legal but unreported activity.

Methods used to calculate black money:

**One of the more popular methods is the monetary method.**

- This method assumes that the existence of and changes in the share of unaccounted income is reflected in the stock or flow of money in the system.
- In other words, track the money in the economy and you'll get an idea of how much has not been accounted for.

**Another method is the global indicator or input-based method.**

- In this method, unaccounted income is modelled using a single universal variable with which it is assumed to be highly correlated, therefore these estimates are also called input-based estimates.
- Basically, the estimated level of activity in these indicators is compared to the reported level of GDP to arrive at an estimate of under-reporting.
- One common input used in this method is the quantity of land freight transport.
- The idea is that matching the actual amount of freight transported in the country to the reported amount of economic activity in the related sectors could give an estimate of how much is not being reported.

**A third method to measure black money is a straightforward survey.**

This one, however, requires voluntary information from people and businesses concealing their incomes and so is prone to inaccuracies.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**Q.29)** The “**Package programme**” was introduced by the government of India to promote which of the following sector?

- a) Industrial sector
- b) Agricultural sector
- c) Service sector
- d) Mining sector

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Popularly known as Package Programme, the Intensive Agricultural Development Programme (IADP) was taken up in 1961 and it paved the way to an Adoption Breakthrough for Green Revolution in India.

- It aimed at diffusing technical know-how, credit and agricultural technology to step up agricultural production in selected districts so that it may have demonstration effect.
- The relevance of IADP experiment (1961-64) arises from the fact that it provided a crucial and much needed ‘adoption breakthrough’-adoption of modern techniques of agricultural growth which, when coupled with the epochmaking ‘biological breakthrough, gave birth to the Green Revolution in India’.
- The pilot project was launched first in 7 districts of 7 different states. Out of these, four were rice producing, two wheat producing and one millets producing.
- The programme was a grand success and it created new dynamism in the stagnant countryside. It was extended to a total of 114 districts in 1964-65.

**Q.30)** “**Fiscal Stimulus**” is provided to different sectors of an economy to promote the growth. Which of the following measure (s) is/are constitutes fiscal stimulus?

- 1. Increasing taxes
- 2. Monetary incentives
- 3. Export subsidies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** A stimulus package is a number of incentives and tax rebates offered by a government to boost spending in a bid to pull a country out of a recession or to prevent an economic slowdown.

- A stimulus package can either be in the form of a monetary stimulus or a fiscal stimulus.
- A monetary stimulus involves cutting interest rates to stimulate the economy.
- When interest rates are cut, there is more incentive for people to borrow as the cost of borrowing is reduced.
- An increase in borrowing means there’ll be more money in circulation, less incentive to save, and more incentive to spend.
- Lowering interest rates could also weaken the exchange rate of a country, thereby leading to a boost in exports.
- When exports are increased, more money enters the economy, encouraging spending and stirring up the economy.

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**Q.31)** The word “**Special 301 Report**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) United States of America trade law of Intellectual Property Rights.
- b) United Nations Security Council Resolution on terrorist attacks.
- c) European Union trade law of Intellectual Property Rights and Investment.
- d) OECD trade law of Intellectual Property Rights and Investment.

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The United States Trade Representative has, in its “2019 Special 301 Report”, placed India on the “priority watch list”, again.

- A move that has been labelled ‘anti public health’ by international humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières or the Doctors Without Borders.
- The “Special 301 report” assesses US trading partners on their track record when it comes to protecting and enforcing intellectual property.
- And, India has always received a critical review for reasons, including its balancing act between granting pharmaceutical patents and taking policy decisions to keep medicines affordable.

**Q.32)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC)**”:

1. It was established in the 2<sup>nd</sup> five year plan to promote exports.
2. It is managed by a Board of Directors comprising representatives of the Government, Reserve Bank of India, banking, and insurance and exporting 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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** ECGC Ltd. (Formerly Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.), wholly owned by Government of India, was set up in 1957 with the objective of promoting exports from the country by providing Credit Risk Insurance and related services for exports.

- It functions under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and is managed by a Board of Directors comprising representatives of the Government, Reserve Bank of India, banking, and insurance and exporting community.
- Over the years it has designed different export credit risk insurance products to suit the requirements of Indian exporters and commercial banks extending export credit.
- ECGC is essentially an export promotion organization, seeking to improve the competitiveness of the Indian exporters by providing them with credit insurance covers. ECGC keeps its premium rates at the optimal level.

**Q.33)** “National Calamity Contingent duty (NCCD)” levied by government of India on which of the following product?

- a) Tobacco and its products
- b) Alcohol and its related beverages
- c) Electricity generation from coal
- d) All of the above

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**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) is levied as a duty of excise on certain manufactured goods specified under the Seventh Schedule of Finance Act, 2001. The Union Budget proposed an increase in the NCCD on tobacco products (except bidi).

**Q.34)** Which of the following duties/charges are included in the retail price of petrol/diesel?

1. Base price
2. Freight cost
3. Dealer charges
4. GST
5. Excise duty

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Currently, the price build-up of petrol comprises the base price of ₹32.81 and freight cost of ₹0.35 per litre. The price charged to dealers (excluding excise duty and VAT) is ₹33.16.

- With excise duty at ₹19.98 per litre, average dealer commission of ₹3.55 per litre and VAT (including VAT on dealer commission) of ₹15.30 per litre, the retail selling price at Delhi is rounded off to ₹71.99 per litre.
- Similarly, price build-up of diesel includes the base price of ₹37.15 per litre. With freight cost of ₹0.32 per litre, the price charged to dealers (excluding excise duty and VAT) is ₹37.47 per litre.
- With an excise duty of ₹15.83 per litre, average dealer commission of ₹2.49 per litre and VAT (including VAT on dealer commission) of ₹9.64 per litre, the retail selling price at Delhi is rounded off to ₹65.43 per litre.

**Q.35)** Which of the following sector (s) is/are permitted **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**?

1. Coal sector
2. Contract Manufacturing sector
3. Digital Media sector

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The government on August 28, 2019 relaxed FDI rule for foreign single brand retailers and also permitted foreign investment in contract manufacturing and coal mining.

List of the important decisions on FDI by the Cabinet:

- Allows 100% FDI under automatic route in coal mining and associated infrastructure
- Allows 100% FDI in contract manufacturing under automatic route
- Relaxes FDI rules for single brand retail; expands definition of 30% domestic sourcing



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- Allows online retailing under single-brand retail; relaxes rule of mandatory brick-and-mortar store
- Approves 26% FDI in digital media

**Q.36)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Securities Transaction Tax (STT)**”:

1. It is levied on transactions done on the domestic stock exchanges.
2. It is levied by State Government with the recommendations of Central government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Securities Transaction Tax (STT) is a type of ‘financial transaction tax’ levied in India on transactions done on the domestic stock exchanges.

- The rates of STT are prescribed by the central government through its budget from time to time. In tax parlance, this is categorised as a direct tax. The tax came into effect from 1 October, 2004.
- In India, STT is collected for the Government of India by the stock exchanges.
- With charging of STT, long-term capital gains tax was made zero and short-term capital gains tax was reduced to 10 per cent (subsequently, changed to 15 per cent since 2008).

**Q.37)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Priority Sector Lending (PSL)**”:

1. All Indian banks have to follow the compulsory target of priority sector lending (PSL).
2. Indian and Foreign Banks need to lend 40 per cent to the priority sector every year of their total lending.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** All Indian banks have to follow the compulsory target of priority sector lending (PSL).

The priority sector in India are at present the sectors-agriculture, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), road and water transport, retail trade, small business, small housing loans (not more than Rs. 10lakhs), software industries, self-help groups (SHGs), agro-processing, small and marginal farmers, artisans, distressed urban poor and indebted non-institutional debtors besides the SCs, STs and other weaker sections of society.

The PSL target must be met by the banks operating in India in the following way:

- Indian Banks need to lend 40 per cent to the priority sector every year (public sector as well as private sector banks, both) of their total lending.
- Foreign Banks (having less than 20 branches) have to fulfill only 32 per cent PSL target which has sub-targets for the exports (12 per cent) and small and medium enterprises (10 per cent).

**Q.38)** Consider the following statements “**Service Area Approach (SAA)**”:

1. It is introduced in April 1989 for planned and orderly development of rural and semi-urban areas.

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2. It is applicable to Scheduled Commercial Banks 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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Service Area Approach (SAA) introduced in April 1989 for planned and orderly development of rural and semi-urban areas was applicable to all scheduled commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks.

- Under SAA, each bank branch in rural and semi-urban area was designated to serve an area of 15 to 25 villages and the branch was responsible for meeting the needs of bank credit of its service area.
- The primary objective of SAA was to increase productive lending and forge effective linkages between bank credit, production, productivity and increase in income levels.
- The SAA scheme was reviewed from time to time and appropriate changes were made in the scheme to make it more effective.

**Q.39)** Which of the following is/are **NOT** “mixed economy” characteristics?

- 1. Co-existence of private and public sector
- 2. Private property is not allowed
- 3. Economic planning

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Mixed economy is a golden mixture of capitalism and socialism.

- Under this system there is freedom of economic activities and government interferences for the social welfare. Hence it is a blend of both the economies.
- The concept of mixed economy is of recent origin. The developing countries like India have adopted mixed economy to accelerate the pace of economic development.
- Even the developed countries like UK, USA, etc. have also adopted ‘Mixed Capitalist System’.

Mixed economy has following main features:

- Co-existence of Private and Public Sector
- Personal Freedom
- Private Property is allowed
- Economic Planning
- Price Mechanism and Controlled Price
- Profit Motive and Social Welfare

**Q.40)** Which of the following is/are “inflation measuring indices” in India?

- 1. Consumer price index
- 2. Wholesale price index
- 3. GDP deflator

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** There are two main set of inflation indices for measuring price level changes in India – the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

- The WPI, where prices are quoted from wholesalers, is constructed by Office of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
- In the case of CPI (prices quoted from retailers), there are several indices to measure it: CPI for industrial labourers (CPI-IL), agricultural labourers (CPI-AL) and rural labourers (CPI-RL) besides an all India CPI.
- In addition, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflator and Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) deflator from the National Accounts Statistics (NAS) provide an implicit economy-wide inflation estimate.

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## *Polity*

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**Q.1)** The **Eleventh Schedule** was introduced in the Constitution of India during the prime ministership of?

- a) Rajiv Gandhi
- b) Charan Singh
- c) P V Narasimha Rao
- d) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Mahatma Gandhi had first championed the idea of little village republics but it was under P.V. Narasimha Rao that the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, better known as the Panchayati Raj Act, became effective.

**Q.2)** The “**Article 256**” of Indian constitution is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Jurisdiction of Union in relation to territories outside India.
- b) The state government to ensure implementation of the laws made by Parliament.
- c) Legislation for giving effect to international agreements.
- d) Power of Parliament to legislate for two or more states by consent.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Article 256 of the Constitution obligates the State government to ensure implementation of the laws made by Parliament.

- If the State government fails to do so, the Government of India is empowered to give “such directions to a State as may appear... to be necessary”.
- The refusal to enforce the law even after the Centre issues directions would empower the President to impose President’s Rule in those States under Articles 356 and 365.
- The Supreme Court of India has also confirmed this reading of the law in S.R. Bommai v. Union of India.

**Q.3)** Who among the following declared Indian Constitution was “**far too large and therefore far too rigid, too caged by its history, and too unwieldy to be moulded into something useful through judicious interpretations**”?

- a) K C Wheare
- b) Morris Johnson
- c) Granville Austin
- d) Ivor Jennings

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In 1951 the University of Madras invited Jennings to deliver a series of lectures on the just born Indian Constitution.

- Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, one of the chief architects of the Constitution, attended them and stayed through all his lectures which Jennings delivered in parts on three successive days.
- Jennings began his address by summing up India’s Constitution in one cynical sentence: “Too long, too rigid, too prolix.” Over the course of three lectures, Jennings elaborated on his views.

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- He focused on some primary aspects: The Constitution's rigidity and its superfluous provisions; fundamental rights and directive principles of state policy; and, finally, key aspects of India's federalism.
- Jennings finally handed down a largely unfavourable verdict. **India's Constitution, he declared, was "far too large and therefore far too rigid", too caged by its history, and too unwieldy to be moulded into something useful through judicious interpretations.**

**Q.4)** Which of the following language is **NOT** in the list of scheduled languages of eighth schedule of Indian Constitution?

- a) Tulu
- b) Sindhi
- c) Nepali
- d) Maithili

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Eighth Schedule to the Indian Constitution contains a list of 22 scheduled languages viz. **Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Sindhi (added by 21st Amendment Act, 1967) Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali (added by 71st Amendment Act, 1992), Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santal (added by 92nd Amendment 2003)**. The list had originally 14 languages only but subsequently through amendments 8 new languages were added.

**Q.5)** The "**TMA Pai foundation case**" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Private property
- b) Minority rights
- c) Uniform Civil Code
- d) National Register of Citizens

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Supreme Court recently held that the state is well within its rights to introduce a regulatory regime in the "national interest" to provide minority educational institutions with well-qualified teachers in order for them to "achieve excellence in education."

- The **managements of minority institutions** cannot ignore such a legal regime by saying that it is their fundamental right under **Article 30 of the Constitution** to establish and administer their educational institutions according to their choice.
- "When it comes to the right to appoint teachers, in terms of law laid down in the **TMA Pai Foundation case**, a regulation framed in the national interest must necessarily apply to all institutions regardless whether they are run by majority or minority as the essence of Article 30(1) is to ensure equal treatment between the majority and minority institutions.
- An objection can certainly be raised if an unfavourable treatment is meted out to an educational institution established and administered by minority.
- But if ensuring of excellence in educational institutions is the underlying principle behind a regulatory regime and the mechanism of selection of teachers is so designed to achieve excellence in institutions, the matter may stand on a completely different footing".

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**Q.6)** The “**Operation Peace Spring**” is recently in news is launched by which of the following country?

- a) Syria
- b) Turkey
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Yemen

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Turkey** has been active in the eight-year-old civil war in Syria, its recent military incursion significantly ups the ante on the conflict.

- Its egregiously named ‘**Operation Peace Spring**’ aims to create a “safe zone” that is 480 km wide and up to 35 km deep inside Syria.
- Ankara says it intends to relocate some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees living in Turkey in this “safe zone”.

**Q.7)** Recently which country is going to launch “Zero Chance Campaign” to raise awareness among people trying to enter the country illegally?

- a) Italy
- b) Greece
- c) United States of America
- d) Australia

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: The Australian government is launching a campaign ‘Zero Chance’ to raise awareness among people trying to enter the country illegally by boats.**

“The message of Zero Chance is simple. Anyone who tries to come illegally to Australia by boat has zero chance of success”.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **United Nations Peacekeeping**:

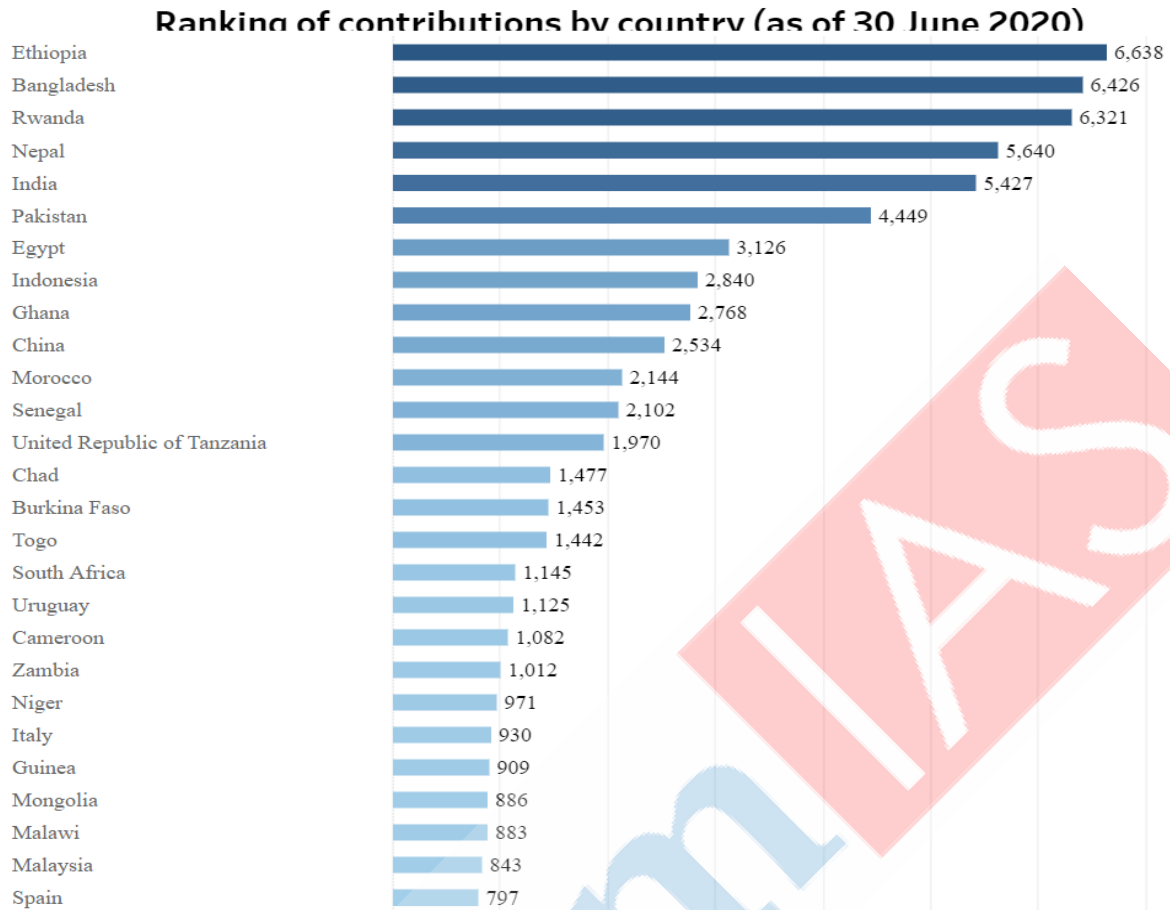
1. It is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
  2. India is the largest troop contributing country to UN peacekeeping operations.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.

- We operate in some of the toughest and most dangerous places in the world, going where others cannot or will not.
- We tailor each deployment to suit the specific needs on the ground and we adapt to new threats and challenges protecting more people than ever before.
- Our peacekeepers are actively engaged in protecting civilian populations, helping prevent conflict, reducing violence and strengthening security in the field where it matters most.
- **Ethiopia is the largest contributor of UN peacekeeping.**



**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS)**:

1. It was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
2. It was first used in general election 2019.
3. It enables a service voter to cast his/her vote using an electronically received postal ballot from anywhere outside the constituency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The ETBPS, developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), in collaboration with the EC is being used for the first time for a general election.

- **The system enables a service voter to cast his/her vote using an electronically received postal ballot from anywhere outside the constituency.**
- The record officer who receives a batch of postal ballots electronically will download it and operate using a one-time password.
- The voter will exercise his/ her franchise on the postal ballot, sign it and get it signed by his higher-up and despatch it to the Returning Officer.
- The e-postal ballot system can avoid delay in postal ballots reaching recording offices. In the previous system, the ballot papers were sent by the electoral authorities via registered post.

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- **The ETPBS was first used in a by-election in the Nellithope Assembly constituency in Puducherry in 2016 and on pilot basis in the State during the Chengannur bypoll.**
- **The pilot and trials were carried out in U.P., Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur Assembly elections.**

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the **World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**:

1. It promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability.
2. All countries of United Nations are members of UNWTO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** As the leading international organization in the field of tourism, UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.

- UNWTO encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, to maximize tourism's socio-economic contribution while minimizing its possible negative impacts.
- And is committed to promoting tourism as an instrument in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), geared towards reducing poverty and fostering sustainable development worldwide.
- **UNWTO's membership includes 159 countries, 6 Associate Members and over 500 Affiliate Members representing the private sector, educational institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities.**

**Q.11)** The term "**tribe**" was first included in which of the following Act?

- a) The Indian Councils Act 1909
- b) The Government of India Act, 1919
- c) The Government of India Act 1935
- d) The Indian Independence Act, 1947

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In India, around eight percent of the population belongs to the category of Scheduled Tribes.

- The tribes inhabit areas spread over the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, West Bengal and the Northeastern States of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **The term "tribes" were first included in the Government of India Act 1935.**
- The term "Scheduled Castes" was used in this Act to define, "such castes, races or tribes or parts of groups within castes, races or tribes, which appear to His Majesty in Council to correspond to the classes of persons formerly known as the 'Depressed Classes', as His Majesty in Council may prefer."



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- After Independence, the Constituent Assembly of India reserved the prevailing definition of Scheduled Castes and Tribes and conferred the responsibility of compiling a full listing of castes and tribes and also the power to edit this later, on the President of India and the Governors of states.
- Hence, 'tribes' were placed in a separate schedule in the schedules to the Presidential Order of 1950 and are today known as 'Scheduled Tribes'.
- Article 342 of the Constitution of India defines a 'tribe' as "an endogamous group with an ethnic identity; who have retained their traditional cultural identity; they have a distinct language or dialect of their own; they are economically backward and live in seclusion, governed by their own social norms and largely having a self-contained economy."

**Q.12)** Consider the following statements regarding **female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in India report by World Bank**:

1. There was a gradual increase in female labour force participation in India.
2. Bihar has the lowest rates of female workforce participation in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

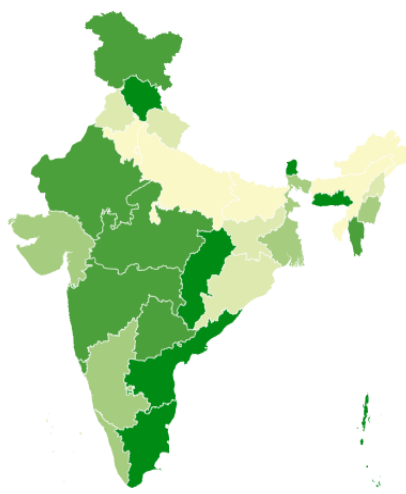
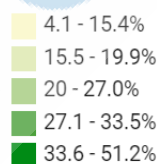
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** India's female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)—the share of working-age women who report either being employed, or being available for work—has fallen to a historic low of 23.3% in 2017-18, meaning that over three out of four women over the age of 15 in India are neither working nor seeking work. (The age of 15 is the cut-off used for global comparisons by the International Labour Organization.)

- This would imply that they are most likely running the house and taking care of children.
- Among men, caste and religion make no real difference to workforce participation rates. But among women, Muslim women have the lowest LFPR while among Hindu women, forward caste women have the lowest LFPR, implying that social norms and religious conservatism might play a role in women being "allowed" to work.
- Among Indian states, **Bihar has by far the lowest rates of female workforce participation, while the southern and eastern states do better.**

Female labour force participation rate (%)



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**Q.13)** The “Global Migration Report 2020” is published by which of the following Institute?

- a) WEF
- b) UN
- c) UNESCO
- d) International Organization for Migration

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Recently ‘Global Migration Report 2020’ was published by the International Organisation for Migration.

- In 2019 international migrants are estimated at 270 million where more than half of all international migrants (141 million) live in Europe and North America.
- Top destination remains the United States at nearly 51 million.

**Q.14)** The “Part X” of the Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Anti-Defection
- b) Scheduled and Tribal Areas
- c) Election Commission
- d) Foreign Affairs

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as ‘scheduled areas’ and ‘tribal areas’.

- The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, on the other hand, deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

**Q.15)** The “Economic Outlook for South East Asia, China and India” report is recently in news is released by which of the following Institution?

- a) IMF
- b) World Bank
- c) OECD
- d) WEF

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has released its report titled Economic Outlook for South East Asia;

- The report said that India’s reliance on consumption will continue due to large informal labor share which indicates that there is room to strengthen the consumption base.
- India’s gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow at 6.6% in 2020-24 lower than its 2013-17 average of 7.4%.

**Q.16)** The “Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020” is recently in news is launched by?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Human Resource and Development
- c) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- d) None of the above

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**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Union Human Resource Development (now ministry of education ) Minister has launched the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020. It aims to systematically rank all major educational institutions and universities on indicators related to promotion of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development amongst their students and faculties.

**Q.17)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Khelo-India Programme**:

1. It was introduced by the Ministry of Sports and Youth affairs.
2. The objective of the programme is to build a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Khelo India Programme was introduced by the Ministry of Sports and Youth affairs to revive sports culture in India at grass-root level.**

- The objective of the programme is to **build a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.**
- The programme is the merger of following schemes (a) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) (b) Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and (c) National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS).

**Q.18)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana**:

1. It is implemented by Employees State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.
2. It offers a relief payable in cash directly to the Bank Account in case an insured person is rendered unemployed and is in search for new engagement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana is a welfare measure being implemented by the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Corporation. The scheme was launched in 2018.

- It is implemented on pilot basis for a period of two years initially.
- **It offers a relief payable in cash directly to the Bank Account in case an insured person is rendered unemployed and is in search for new engagement.**
- The scheme is for Insured Persons covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the programme "**Vigyan Jyoti**":

1. It was launched by NITI Aayog.
2. It is to inculcate interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Vigyan Jyoti Scheme is launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).

- It is an initiative that will create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in their higher education.
- The programme 'Vigyan Jyoti' aims to tap 100 girl students in 550 districts from 2020-2025, the officials said.

**Q.20)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti (DBDS)**:

1. It is an E-portal of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT).
2. It will provide a platform for specifically dropout children so that they can join the mainstream and pursue their dreams.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Union Ministry of State for Culture & Tourism has launched the E-Portal of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) 'Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti'.

- The 'Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti' is an E-portal that will enable dissemination of cultural education through digital interactive medium into classrooms all over the country.
- The portal will provide a platform for specifically dropout children so that they can join the mainstream and pursue their dreams by making a career out of be it music, painting, or any other art forms.
- For this initiative, CCRT has tied up with Routes 2 Roots, an NGO for connecting seamlessly all the CCRT Regional Centres.

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements regarding the **parliamentary legislation in the state field**:

1. Rajya Sabha can pass a resolution to make laws on the state list.
2. Resolution should pass with a simple majority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** If the Rajya Sabha declares that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should make laws on a matter in the State List, then the Parliament becomes competent to make laws on that matter.

- Such a resolution must be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.

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- The resolution remains in force for one year; it can be renewed any number of times but not exceeding one year at a time.
- The laws cease to have effect on the expiration of six months after the resolution has ceased to be in force.

**Q.22)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**”:

1. It was set up through an act of Parliament.
2. It was under 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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was constituted vide Government of India Resolution dated 29th August, 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.

Functions of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:

- To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.
- To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps;
- To collect/maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc. for bulk drugs and formulations;
- To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/pharmaceuticals;
- To recruit/appoint the officers and other staff members of the Authority, as per rules and procedures laid down by the Government;
- To render advice to the Central Government on changes/revisions in the drug policy;
- To render assistance to the Central Government in the parliamentary matters relating to the drug pricing.

**Q.23)** Consider the following statements about “**National Register of Citizens (NRC)**”:

1. NRC is a register containing names of all genuine Indian citizens.
2. At present, only Assam has such a register.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register containing names of all genuine Indian citizens. At present, only Assam has such a register.

- The exercise may be extended to other states as well.

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- Nagaland is already creating a similar database known as the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants.
- The Centre is planning to create a National Population Register (NPR), which will contain demographic and biometric details of citizens.
- The NRC will be updated as per the provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955 and The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

**Q.24)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Panchayati Raj system in India**”:

1. Rajasthan was the first state to establish Panchayati Raj.
2. West Bengal adopted the four-tier system of Panchayati Raj.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Rajasthan was the first state to establish Panchayati Raj. The scheme was inaugurated by the prime minister on October 2, 1959, in Nagaur district.

- Rajasthan was followed by Andhra Pradesh, which also adopted the system in 1959. Thereafter, most of the states adopted the system.
- Though most of the states created panchayati raj institutions by mid 1960s, there were differences from one state to another with regard to the number of tiers, relative position of samiti and parishad, their tenure, composition, functions, finances and so on.
- For example, Rajasthan adopted the three-tier system while Tamil Nadu adopted the two-tier system. West Bengal, on the other hand, adopted the four-tier system.
- Further, in the Rajasthan–Andhra Pradesh pattern, panchayat samiti was powerful as the block was the unit of planning and development, while in Maharashtra–Gujarat pattern, zila parishad was powerful as the district was the unit of planning and development.
- Some states also established nyaya panchayats, that is, judicial panchayats to try petty civil and criminal cases.

**Q.25)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**National Health Authority (NHA)**”:

1. It was earlier called as National Health Agency.
2. It oversees government health insurance scheme (PMJAY).
3. The Ministry of Health is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day affairs of the NHA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** the Union Cabinet finalized the make-up of the new National Health Authority (NHA).

- It will now directly oversee the government-funded flagship health insurance scheme—the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)—which is a part of the Centre’s Ayushman Bharat umbrella policy for healthcare.

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- It replaces the earlier National Health Agency. This new body will now oversee the PM-JAY instead of the Ministry of Health.
- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare will chair the NHA's governing board, while other members include the NITI Aayog's CEO and the NHA CEO.
- The Ministry of Health will no longer be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day affairs of the NHA.
- Instead, the NHA will now decide on setting the bar for premium amounts, and purchasing healthcare from the private sector without favouring any one entity or depleting the public exchequer, among others
- The NHA will also oversee the process of developing a robust information technology platform for the public sector, and working alongside the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.
- The NHA board will meet once in three months. Although the health body hasn't received any statutory backing yet, it will continue to enjoy autonomy in how it runs day-to-day operation working out of the department of health research's office in the ministry.
- "No new funds have been approved. The existing budget that was approved earlier by the Cabinet for The National Health Agency, including costs related to IT, human resources, infrastructure and operational costs would be utilised by the proposed National Health Authority".

**Q.26)** The concept of "**Public Interest Litigation**" was first time introduced in which of the following country?

- a) France
- b) Britain
- c) USA
- d) Japan

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The concept of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) originated and developed in the USA in the 1960s.

- In the USA, it was designed to provide legal representation to previously unrepresented groups and interests.
- It was undertaken in recognition of the fact that the ordinary marketplace for legal services fails to provide such services to significant segments of the population and to significant interests.
- Such groups and interests include the poor, environmentalists, consumers, racial and ethnic minorities, and others.

**Q.27)** Consider the following statements regarding the "**Fundamental Duties**":

1. Fundamental Duties were added to constitution by 42nd constitutional amendment.
2. Under 42nd constitutional amendment total eleven duties were added to constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The rights and duties of the citizens are correlative and inseparable; the original constitution contained only the fundamental rights and not the fundamental duties.

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- In other words, the framers of the Constitution did not feel it necessary to incorporate the fundamental duties of the citizens in the Constitution.
- However, they incorporated the duties of the State in the Constitution in the form of Directive Principles of State Polity.
- 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added 10 Fundamental Duties to the Indian Constitution.
- Swaran Singh Committee in 1976 recommended Fundamental Duties, the necessity of which was felt during the internal emergency of 1975-77.
- 86th Amendment Act 2002 later added 11th Fundamental Duty to the list.

**Q.28)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**”:

1. The Companies Act, 2013 is a landmark legislation that made India the first country to mandate and quantify CSR expenditure
2. The details of corporate social responsibility are mentioned in the Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** As per as Corporate Social Responsibility is concerned, the Companies Act, 2013 is a landmark legislation that made India the first country to mandate and quantify CSR expenditure.

- The inclusion of CSR is an attempt by the government to engage the businesses with the national development agenda.
- The details of on corporate social responsibility are mentioned in the Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The Act came into force from April 1, 2014, every company, private limited or public limited, which either has a net worth of Rs 500 crore or a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or net profit of Rs 5 crore, needs to spend at least 2% of its average net profit for the immediately preceding three financial years on Corporate social responsibility activities.
- The CSR activities in India should not be undertaken in the normal course of business and must be with respect to any of the activities mentioned in Schedule VII of the act.

**Q.29)** Which of the following institution releases the “**Prime Global Cities Index**”?

- a) Moody’s
- b) Knight Frank’s
- c) World economic forum
- d) Asian Development Bank

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index tracks the performance of luxury residential prices across key global cities on a quarterly basis using data compiled by our global research network.

- National capital New Delhi has emerged as the 10th fastest growing city globally for luxury residential real estate with a rise of 4.4 per cent in capital value over the past one year, says the latest report by Knight Frank.



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- Bengaluru with a rise of 2.8 per cent in capital value year-on-year and Mumbai (up 0.8 per cent) are ranked 15th and 30th, respectively in the 46 cities tracked by Knight Frank globally.

**Q.30)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**”:

1. It is a constitutional body under Article 39A of the constitution.
2. It was constituted to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programmes.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society and ensures justice for all.

- Articles 14 and 22(1) of the Constitution also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before law and a legal system which promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity to all.
- In the year 1987, the Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted by the Parliament which came into force on 9th November, 1995 to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity.
- **The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body that has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programmes and to lay down policies and principles for making legal services available under the Act.**

**Q.31)** With reference to the **modern democracies**, which of the following is/are the types of **power sharing arrangements**?

1. Power sharing between different organs of the government.
2. Power sharing among governments at different levels.
3. Power sharing among different social groups.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In modern democracies, power sharing arrangements can take many forms.

**Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.**

- Let us call this horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.
- Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power.
- Each organ checks the others. This results in a balance of power among various institutions.

**Power can be shared among governments at different levels – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level.**

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- Such a general government for the entire country is usually called federal government.
- In India, we refer to it as the Central or Union Government.

**Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups.**

In some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration.

**Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.**

- In a democracy, the citizens must have freedom to choose among various contenders for power.
- In contemporary democracies this takes the form of competition among different parties.
- Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand.
- In the long run power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.

**Q.32)** With reference to the federalism, which of the following are the features of federalism?

1. There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
2. Different tiers of government have its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
3. The existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
4. The fundamental provisions of the constitution can be unilaterally changed by one level of government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country.

**Some of the key features of federalism:**

- There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
- Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own JURISDICTION in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
- The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.
- Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- The federal system thus has dual objectives: to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity.

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**Q.33)** Which of the following is/are the example (s) of “coming together federations”?

1. United States of America
2. Australia
3. Belgium

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** There are **two kinds of routes** through which federations have been formed.

**The first route** involves independent States coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security.

- This type of ‘coming together’ federations includes the **USA, Switzerland and Australia.**
- In this first category of federations, all the constituent States usually have equal power and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government.

**The second route** is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government.

- **India, Spain and Belgium are examples of this kind of ‘holding together’ federations.**
- In this second category, the central government tends to be more powerful vis-à-vis the States

**Q.34)** Which of the following provision (s) is/are comes under **union list**?

1. Sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition.
2. Money lending.
3. Preventive detention for maintenance of public order.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition – comes under union list.

- Money lending and money lenders, relief of agriculture indebtedness comes under state list.
- **Preventive detention for the reasons connected with the security of a state, the maintenance of public order, or the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community comes under concurrent list.**

**Q.35)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Charter Act of 1833**”:

1. It made the Governor of Bengal as the Governor-General of Bengal.
2. The laws made under previous acts were called as Regulations while laws made under this act were called as Acts.
3. It ended the monopoly of East India Company however company’s monopoly in trade with china kept intact.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Features of the Act:

- **It made the Governor-General of Bengal as the Governor-General of India** and vested in him all civil and military powers.
- Thus, the act created, for the first time, a Government of India having authority over the entire territorial area possessed by the British in India.
- Lord William Bentick was the first governor-general of India.
- It deprived the governor of Bombay and Madras of their legislative powers. The Governor-General of India was given exclusive legislative powers for the entire British India.
- The laws made under the previous acts were called as Regulations while laws made under this act were called as Acts.
- It ended the activities of the East India Company as a commercial body, which became a purely administrative body.
- It provided that the company's territories in India were held by it 'in trust for His Majesty, His heirs and successors'.
- The Charter Act of 1833 attempted to introduce a system of open competition for selection of civil servants, and stated that the Indians should not be debarred from holding any place, office and employment under the Company.
- However, this provision was negated after opposition from the Court of Directors.

**Q.36)** Which of the following are the features of the “**parliamentary government**”?

1. Presence of Nominal and Real executives
2. Majority party rule
3. Membership of ministers in the legislature
4. Dissolution of upper house

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The parliamentary system is also known as the 'Westminster' model of government, responsible government and cabinet government.

The Constitution establishes the parliamentary system not only at the Centre but also in the states.

The features of parliamentary government in India are:

- Presence of nominal and real executives
- Majority party rule
- Collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature
- Membership of the ministers in the legislature
- Leadership of the prime minister or the chief minister,
- Dissolution of the lower House (Lok Sabha or Assembly).

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**Q.37)** Which of the following provisions of the constitution is/are related to “**secular state of India**”?

1. The term secular was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1978.
2. The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship
3. The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Constitution of India stands for a secular state. Hence, it does not uphold any particular religion as the official religion of the Indian State. The following provisions of the Constitution reveal the secular character of the Indian State:

- The term ‘secular’ was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.
- The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship.
- The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws (Article 14).
- The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the ground of religion (Article 15).
- Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of public employment (Article 16).
- All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate any religion (Article 25).
- Every religious denomination or any of its section shall have the right to manage its religious affairs (Article 26).
- No person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the promotion of a particular religion (Article 27).

**Q.38)** Which of the following feature of Indian constitution is called as “**Instrument of Instructions**”?

- a) Fundamental Rights
- b) Fundamental Duties
- c) Directive Principles of State Policy
- d) Preamble

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Directive Principles resemble the ‘Instrument of Instructions’ enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935.

- In the words of Dr B R Ambedkar, ‘the Directive Principles are like the instrument of instructions, which were issued to the Governor-General and to the Governors of the colonies of India by the British Government under the Government of India Act of 1935.
- What is called Directive Principles is merely another name for the instrument of instructions.
- The only difference is that they are instructions to the legislature and the executive’.

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**Q.39)** The 42nd Amendment Act transferred some subjects from state list to concurrent list. Which of the following **state subjects** are transferred to concurrent list?

1. Education
2. Public health
3. Forests
4. Weights and measures

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Both, the Parliament and state legislature can make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Concurrent List.

- This list has at present 52 subjects (originally 47 subjects) like criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, marriage and divorce, population control and family planning, electricity, labor welfare, economic and social planning, drugs, newspapers, books and printing press, and others.
- The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred five subjects to Concurrent List from State List, that is, (a) education, (b) forests, (c) weights and measures, (d) protection of wild animals and birds, and (e) administration of justice; constitution and organization of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts.

**Q.40)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Cantonment Board**”:

1. A cantonment board is created by Central government but administered by the state government.
2. Both the elected members and nominated members hold office for a term of five years.
3. The executive officer of the cantonment board is appointed by the president of India.

Which the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** A cantonment board is established for municipal administration for civilian population in the cantonment area.

- It is set up under the provisions of the Cantonments Act of 2006—a legislation enacted by the Central government.
- It works under the administrative control of the defense ministry of the Central government.
- Thus, unlike the above four types of urban local bodies, which are created and administered by the state government, a cantonment board is created as well as administered by the Central government.
- A cantonment board consists of partly elected and partly nominated members. The elected members hold office for a term of five years while the nominated members (i.e., ex-officio members) continue so long as they hold the office in that station.
- The military officer commanding the station is the ex-officio president of the board and presides over its meetings.

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- The vice president of the board is elected by the elected members from amongst themselves for a term of five years.
- The functions performed by a cantonment board are similar to those of a municipality. These are statutorily categorised into obligatory functions and discretionary functions.
- The sources of income include both, tax revenue and non-tax revenue. The executive officer of the cantonment board is appointed by the president of India.
- He implements all the resolutions and decisions of the board and its committees. He belongs to the central cadre established for the purpose.

**Q.41)** The “**Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN)**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) UN Security Council reforms.
- b) UN resolution on International Terrorists.
- c) World Bank Group
- d) International Solar Alliance

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The G4 nations of Brazil, Germany, Japan and India have asserted that the mandate of the United Nations’ Inter-Governmental Negotiations is to achieve the long-pending reforms of the UNSC and not endlessly debate it.

- The Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) format has long outlived its sell-by date and must be made transparent to ensure progress on the reform discussions, they said.
- India has been calling for the reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC) along with Brazil, Germany and Japan for long, emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member.
- The G4 nations support each other’s bids for permanent seats on the UNSC.

**NOTE:** In 2008 the General Assembly adopted Decision 62/557 “to commence inter-governmental negotiations (IGN) in informal plenary of the General Assembly”.

- Up until the 22008 Decision was adopted, discussions on Security Council reform were nothing more than an oral exchange of views.
- With the creation of the IGN, the aim was have a text on which discussions could be based.
- The first round of the IGN was held on 19 February 2009.
- The General Assembly has renewed its mandate annually, and it remains the principal vehicle for Council reform discussions today.
- To date, the IGN has not been able to agree on a text to be negotiated

**Q.42)** The “**UN Resolution 47**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Resolution on Imperialism and colonialism.
- b) Resolution on Jammu & Kashmir.
- c) Resolution on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).
- d) Resolution on after war (2<sup>nd</sup> World War) efforts.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** According to the UN Security Council Resolution 47 adopted on April 21, 1948, both India and Pakistan were asked to resolve the crisis (Jammu & Kashmir) through a multi-step process.

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Accordingly, Pakistan was to withdraw all its nationals from the territory under its control and India was to reduce forces in its part of Kashmir which was to be followed by a plebiscite.

**NOTE:** Under Resolution 39 on January 20, 1948, the UNSC set up a three-member UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP).

- Disagreement between India and Pakistan led to the first failure as the commission failed to materialize.
- The commission was finally reconstituted with five members on April 21, 1948 and it was mandated to plan a mechanism to ensure a plebiscite in the State. (This was part of the UNSC Resolution 47).

**Q.43)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**International Court of Justice (ICJ)**”:

1. The ICJ was established in 1945 by the same constitutive instrument as the Security Council, the UN Charter, to act as the principal judicial organ of the UN.
2. Judgments given in contentious cases between states are binding on the parties.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The UN Charter envisioned a symbiotic relationship between the Security Council and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the UN.

- However, the Council has scarcely made use of the ICJ as an instrument, or “tool”, in the exercise of its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- In its latest research report on the rule of law of 20 December 2016, Security Council Report examines the relationship between the Security Council and the ICJ, including options for enhancing that relationship to assist the Council in its work.
- The ICJ was established in 1945 by the same constitutive instrument as the Security Council, the UN Charter, to act as the principal judicial organ of the UN.
- The Statute of the Court is annexed to the Charter itself, meaning that all UN member states are automatically parties to the Statute.
- The ICJ is mandated to settle contentious legal disputes submitted by states against other states in accordance with international law.
- **Judgments given in contentious cases between states are binding on the parties.**
- The Court also gives advisory opinions to the Council, the General Assembly and other authorized bodies on legal questions referred to it by these entities.

**NOTE: Chapter VI of the UN Charter** deals with the pacific settlement of disputes and **Article 33** states that parties to any dispute, which if continues is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.

- It also states that the Security Council shall, when it deems necessary, call upon the parties to settle their dispute by such means.



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- In certain situations, the Security Council authorizes sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and in such cases; sanctions could serve as an important tool in the maintenance of peace and security.

**Q.44)** With reference to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) general quota, which of the following **roles played by quota of a member country?**





1. It determines resource contributions to IMF.
2. It determines voting power of a member country.
3. It determines maximum amount of financing a member country can obtain from IMF.
4. It determines SDR allocation to a member country.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The IMF is a quota-based institution. Quotas are the building blocks of the IMF's financial and governance structure. An individual member country's quota broadly reflects its relative position in the world economy. Quotas are denominated in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the IMF's unit of account.

Resource Contributions	Voting Power	Access to Financing	SDR Allocations
Quotas determine the maximum amount of financial resources a member is obliged to provide to the IMF.	Quotas are a key determinant of the voting power in IMF decisions. Votes comprise one vote per SDR100,000 of quota plus basic votes (same for all members).	The maximum amount of financing a member can obtain from the IMF under normal access is based on its quota.	Quotas determine a member's share in a general allocation of SDRs.
			

**Q.45)** With reference to the World Bank's **funded STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States) programme**, is implemented in which of the following states?

1. Himachal Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Bihar
4. Uttar Pradesh
5. Assam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The World Bank on Sunday said its board of executives has approved a new project worth \$500 million to improve learning outcome and governance of government schools in six Indian states.

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- **The project, named STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program), will be implemented through the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, the flagship central scheme, in partnership with Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.**
- "STARS will help improve learning assessment systems, strengthen classroom instruction and remediation, facilitate school-to-work transition, and strengthen governance and decentralized management," the World Bank said.
- STARS will support India's renewed focus on addressing the 'learning outcome' challenge and help students better prepare for the jobs of the future – through a series of reform initiatives".
- The STARS program builds on the long partnership between India and the World Bank, since 1994, for strengthening public school education and to support the country's goal of providing 'Education for All'.
- Prior to STARS, the Bank had provided a total assistance of more than \$3 billion towards this goal.

**Q.46)** According to the "IMF's geographical division of the world", which of the following countries are part of South Asia?

1. India
2. Pakistan
3. Afghanistan
4. Sri Lanka
5. Maldives

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Led by India, South Asia is moving towards becoming the center of global growth and could contribute about one-third of the world's growth by 2040, according to a latest research by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

- Notably, under the IMF's geographical division of the world, **South Asia does not include Afghanistan and Pakistan.**
- For IMF, **South Asia includes India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives.**

**Q.47)** The International Labour Organization (ILO) "Convention 190" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Harassment and Violence at work place
- b) Forced labour
- c) Minimum wage
- d) Equal remuneration

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Violence and harassment in the world of work deprives people of their dignity, is incompatible with decent work, and a threat to equal opportunities and to safe, healthy, and productive working environments.

- It remains a widespread phenomenon, present in all countries and disregarding sectors, occupations and work arrangements.

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- **The adoption of Convention No. 190 and Recommendation No. 206 recognizes the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment.**

**Q.48)** Recently, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has offered to collaborate with **which of the following state** of India for South-South Cooperation in the development of seed sector in African countries?

- a) Kerala
- b) Odisha
- c) Telangana
- d) Haryana

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has offered to collaborate with *Telangana* for South-South Cooperation in the development of seed sector in African countries.

**Q.49)** Which of the following cities of India is/are officially designated as a **UNESCO Creative City**?

1. Hyderabad
2. Mumbai
3. Lucknow

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Hyderabad has now been officially designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy and Mumbai in Film Category.

These 2 cities are among 66 cities named by the UNESCO in the list of new Creative Cities which aims at pushing the Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action.

**Q.50)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**International Maritime Organization**”:

1. It is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.
2. It is the only UN special agency to have its headquarters in the United Kingdom.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** It is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.

- Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.

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- It is the only UN special agency to have its headquarters in the United Kingdom. It is the first ever international organization devoted exclusively to maritime matters.
- The objective of IMO is the improvement of Maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution.
- IMO measures cover all aspects of international shipping including ship design, construction, equipment, manning, operation and disposal.
- It covers accidental and operational oil pollution along with different types of pollution by chemicals, goods in packaged form, sewage, garbage and air pollution.

**Q.51)** The “**Tenth Schedule**” of Indian Constitution is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Disqualification of MP’s of Parliament and MLA’s of State Legislative Assembly.
- b) Judges impeachment of High Court and Supreme Court.
- c) Impeachment procedure of Chairman/Speaker of Rajya/Lok Sabha.
- d) Impeachment procedure of President of India.

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution (which talks about the anti-defection law) is designed to prevent political defections prompted by the lure of office or material benefits or other like considerations.

- The Anti-defection law was passed by Parliament in 1985 and reinforced in 2002.
- The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution popularly referred to as the ‘Anti-Defection Law’ was inserted by the 52nd Amendment (1985) to the Constitution.
- The anti-defection law was enacted to ensure that a party member does not violate the mandate of the party and in case he does so, he will lose his membership of the House.
- The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.

**Q.52)** Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Article	:	State
1. Article 371 (a)	:	Nagaland
2. Article 371 (b)	:	Arunachal Pradesh
3. Article 371 (c)	:	Meghalaya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** As the government abrogated Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Article 371, which has special provisions for other States, mostly from the Northeast, has invited some attention.

- **Article 371(A) states that no act of Parliament shall apply to the State of Nagaland** in respect of the religious or social practices of the Nagas, its customary law and procedure, administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Naga customary law and ownership and transfer of land and its resources.
- **Article 371B deals with special provision with respect to the State of Assam.**
- The main objective of inserting Article 371B was to facilitate the creation of the sub-State ‘Meghalaya’.

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- **Article 371C deals with special provisions with respect to Manipur** which became a State in 1972.
- Articles 371F, 371H talk about special provisions with respect to States of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, respectively.
- Article 371 gives the power to the President of India to establish separate development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada regions of Maharashtra and the rest of the State and Saurashtra, Kutch and rest of Gujarat.
- Special provisions with respect to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa are dealt in Articles 371D and 371E, 371J, 371I respectively.

**Q.53)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**”:

1. It is empowered to inquire into the violations of human rights committed by state authorities.
2. It has the powers to examine witnesses, ordering for documents and receiving evidence.
3. It recommends concerned government to grant compensation to the victim.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In 1993, the Indian Parliament enacted the Protection of Human Rights Act.

- The purpose of the Act was to establish an institutional framework that could effectively protect, promote and fulfil the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.
- To this end, the Act created a National Human Rights Commission, and also, Human Rights Commissions at the levels of the various States.
- Under the Protection of Human Rights Act, the Human Rights Commissions are empowered to inquire into the violations of human rights committed by state authorities, either upon petitions presented to them, or upon their own initiative.
- While conducting these inquiries, the Commissions are granted identical powers to that of civil courts, such as the examining witnesses, ordering for documents, receiving evidence, and so on.
- These proceedings are deemed to be judicial proceedings, and they require that any person, who may be prejudicially affected by their outcome, has a right to be heard.
- The controversy before the Madras High Court stems from the issue of what is to be done after the Human Rights Commission completes its enquiry, and reaches a conclusion that human rights have been violated.
- Section 18 of the Protection of Human Rights Act empowers the Human Rights Commission to “recommend” to the concerned government to grant compensation to the victim, to initiate prosecution against the erring state authorities, to grant interim relief, and to take various other steps.

**Q.54)** Recently, the state government of Kerala and Chhattisgarh has invoked the Article 131. **Article 131 of Indian Constitution** is related to which of the following?

- a) Original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- b) Appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in appeals from High Courts in civil matters.
- c) Appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in appeals from High Courts in criminal matters.

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d) Jurisdiction and powers of the federal court under existing law to be exercisable by the Supreme Court.

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Amid nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, or CAA, 2019, and the threat of non-cooperation by some States with the Central government's plan to update the National Population Register (NPR) and possibly establish a National Register of Indian Citizens, Kerala has filed a suit in the Supreme Court of India seeking to declare the CAA as unconstitutional.

- Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh has also filed a similar suit, challenging the constitutional validity of the National Investigation Agency Act.
- Both have invoked Article 131, which confers exclusive jurisdiction on the top court to adjudicate disputes between two or more States, or between States and the Centre.
- Article 131 confers exclusive jurisdiction on the Supreme Court in disputes involving States, or the Centre on the one hand and one or more States on the other. This means no other court can entertain such a dispute.
- It is well-known that both High Courts and the Supreme Court have the power to adjudicate cases against the State and Central governments.
- In particular, the validity of any executive or legislative action is normally challenged by way of writ petitions — under Article 226 of the Constitution in respect of High Courts, and, in respect to fundamental rights violations, under Article 32 in the Supreme Court.

**Q.55)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Chief Minister**”:

1. The Constitution contains specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister.
2. Article 164 only says that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Constitution does not contain any specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister.

- Article 164 only says that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor.
- However, this does not imply that the governor is free to appoint any one as the Chief Minister.
- In accordance with the conceptions of the parliamentary system of government, the governor has to appoint the leader of the majority party in the state legislative assembly as the Chief Minister.

**Q.56)** The term “**Industrial Security Annex (ISA)**” is often seen in news is a bilateral arrangement between which of the following countries?

- a) India and Russia
- b) India and Japan
- c) India and USA
- d) India and France

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**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Industrial Security Annex (ISA), signed between India and the U.S. at the second 2+2 dialogue in Washington, will open the door for U.S. defence companies to partner with the Indian private sector for several multi-billion dollar deals in the pipeline, especially the deal for 114 fighter jets.

- The ISA is a part of the General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which India signed with the U.S. long back.
- It became critical as India opened up the defense sector to the private sector and the Strategic Partnership policy, which has few big military platforms and is reserved for the Indian private sector. U.S. companies are in the race for multi-billion dollar deal for 114 fighter jets, among other deals.

**Q.57)** The “**Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)**” is often seen in news is located in which of the country?

- India
- Thailand
- Sri Lanka
- Maldives

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), an initiative of the Indian Navy and supported by the Government of India launched in December 2018, has started functioning.

The IFC-IOR has been established at Gurugram along with the Information Management and Analysis Centre, jointly administered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.

**Q.58)** “**Bishkek Declaration**” is related to which of the following Organization?

- World Trade Organization
- UNCTAD
- Shangai Cooperation Oranization
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** India and other members of the SCO condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and called on the international community to promote cooperation in combating the menace.

According to the Bishkek Declaration of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s Heads of State Council, the member states stressed that acts of terrorism and extremism cannot be justified.

**Q.59)** Consider the following statements regarding the “G-20”:

1. The G-20's members represent two-thirds of the world's people and 85 percent of its economy
2. The G-20's primary mandate is to prevent future international financial crises.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The G-20 is the G-7 plus developing nations such as Brazil, China, India, and Russia.

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- The G-20's members represent two-thirds of the world's people and 85 percent of its economy.
- Since 2007, the media has covered each G-20 summit. That recognizes the members' role as significant drivers of the world economy.
- The G-20's primary mandate is to prevent future international financial crises. It seeks to shape the global economic agenda.
- It lends the perspective of Asian and Latin American growing economies. That "broadens the scope of international economic and financial cooperation."

**Q.60)** Which of the following directions are given by centre on the proclamation of financial emergency?

1. To observe the specified canons of financial propriety.
2. To reduce the salaries and allowances of all class of persons serving in the state.
3. To reserve all money bills and other financial bills for the consideration of the President.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** While the proclamation of financial emergency (under Article 360) is in operation, the Centre can give directions to the states:

- **to observe the specified canons of financial propriety;**
- **to reduce the salaries and allowances of all class of persons serving in the state (including the high court judges); and**
- **to reserve all money bills and other financial bills for the consideration of the President.**



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## Science and technology

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **van der Waals (VdW) materials**:

1. They are made of atomically thin layers are not mixed through a chemical reaction but rather attached to each other via a weak so called van der Waals interaction.
2. Graphene is a good example of van der Waal (VdW) material.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Until six years ago, such materials did not exist but today, researchers believe that they hold the key to 'post-silicon' electronics.

- **VdW materials are made of piles of ultra-thin layers that are held together by weak van der Waals bonds, which arise when atoms are in close proximity.**
- **The success of graphene — a well-known vdW material —** stimulated scientists to look for other 2D crystals, where layers can be changed, added or removed in order to introduce new physical properties such as magnetism.
- Controlling magnetism, as is typical of such materials, could replace the current hard drive assemblies in computers and even become the key to quantum computing.

**Q.2)** The term “**Quadrantids**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Meteor showers
- b) Organic farming
- c) Nuclear fuel rods
- d) Earth like planets

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: The Quadrantids, which peak during early-January each year, are considered to be one of the best annual meteor showers.**

- Most meteor showers have a two day peak, which makes catching sight of these other meteors much more possible.
- The Quadrantids peak, on the other hand, is much shorter—only a few hours. (The reason the peak is so short is due to the shower's thin stream of particles and the fact that the Earth crosses the stream at a perpendicular angle.)
- During its peak, 60 to as many as 200 Quadrantid meteors can be seen per hour under perfect conditions.
- Quadrantids are also known for their bright fireball meteors. Fireballs are larger explosions of light and color that can persist longer than an average meteor streak.
- This is due to the fact that fireballs originate from larger particles of material. Fireballs are also brighter, with magnitudes brighter than -3.

**Q.3)** The term “**SPINK1**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Cancer genes (cells)
- b) Solar satellite

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- c) long distance telescope
- d) Malarial resistant

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The SPINK1-positive prostate cancer subtype derives its name from the excess amount of SPINK1 oncogene found in the cancer cells.

- Excess production of SPINK1 gene responsible for tumour and metastasis is not restricted to prostate cancer alone but also seen in colorectal, lung, pancreatic, breast and ovarian cancers.
- The molecular mechanism and pathobiology of SPINK1-positive prostate cancer subtype, the second most recurrent and aggressive in nature that affects about 15% of patients has been finally unravelled.
- The insights gained in this study might therefore help in the treatment and disease management of several SPINK1-positive malignancies.
- In addition to excess amount of the SPINK1 oncogene, the researchers found that most cancer cells belonging to this subtype also have more than normal amount of a particular protein called EZH2.
- Also, the levels of two micro RNAs (miRNA-338-5p and miRNA-421) produced in SPINK1-positive cancer cells were much less.

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

- a) Solar powered car
- b) Solar powered flight
- c) Hydrogen powered flying car
- d) Helium powered flying drone

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Massachusetts startup Alaka'i has designed a flying car - Skai - that the company touts as the “first air mobility vehicle powered by hydrogen fuel cells”.

- The hydrogen fuel cells give the five-passenger Skai a maximum range of 400 miles (640 km) with a flight time of up to four hours.
- Like a drone, the Skai takes off and lands vertically. It's one of many similar electric flying crafts in production, including prototypes from Boeing and Airbus that made successful test flights this year, according to Vertical Flight Society, an industry group.
- Most are powered by batteries, which can add a lot of weight. The Skai instead uses very light hydrogen fuel cells to run its rotors, giving it a range of 644 km and the capacity to carry 454 kilograms in people or freight, the company says.

**Q.5)** Recently Pubpeer website, which monitors image manipulation and duplication, has disclosed 130 research papers for **plagiarism** by which of the following institute?

- a) Indian Institute of Technology – Dhanbad
- b) Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR)
- c) Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay
- d) Indian Institute of Science – Bangalore

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The credibility of the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow, has come under a cloud after at least 130 papers published by the institute over the years have been listed on a website that monitors image manipulation and duplication.

- The authors and teams of these papers – published between 2004 and 2018 – vary.

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- However, Yogeshwer Shukla, the IITR's chief scientist of food, drug and chemical toxicology, is the common name in 49 of the articles that have been flagged by **Pubpeer, the monitoring website.**

**Q.6)** The “**Ai – Da**” is sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Humanoid (robot) Artist
- b) Japanese Satellite
- c) Artificial Intelligence (AI) based calculator
- d) Artificial Intelligence (AI) based radar system

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Billed as “one of the most exciting artists of our time”, Ai-Da differs from generations of past masters in one inescapable way: she is a robot.

- Ai-Da is the brainchild of Aidan Meller, who claims she is the world's first ultra-realistic humanoid artist, able to draw creatively thanks to in-built artificial intelligence (AI) technology.
- The 46-year-old art dealer recently unveiled Ai-Da — dressed in a brown wig and period-style painter's blouse — in Oxford, ahead of an exhibition of her first works opening next week in the English University City.

**Q.7)** The “**Washi paper**” is sometimes seen in news is famous in which of the following country?

- a) China
- b) Taiwan
- c) Mongolia
- d) Japan

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Once an indispensable part of daily life in Japan, ultra-thin washi paper was used for everything from writing and painting to lampshades, umbrellas, and sliding doors, but demand has plunged as lifestyles have become more westernized.

- Despite its 1,300-year history and UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status, washi paper is struggling to attract consumers and the market value has dropped by more than 50% in the past two decades.
- The world's thinnest paper has helped save historical documents at major museums and libraries — including the Louvre in Paris, the British Museum and Washington's Library of Congress — from decay.
- The traditional hand-made paper is manufactured from plants called kozo, or mulberry, which has fibres that are much longer than materials used for paper in the west such as wood and cotton.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **electronic tattoo**:

1. It is made of a piezoelectric polymer called polyvinylidene fluoride, capable of generating its own electric charge in response to mechanical stress.
2. It is a wearable device that can be placed on the skin to measure a variety of body responses.

Which 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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**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** A novel electronic tattoo made from stretchy, lightweight material could make heart health monitoring easier and more accurate than existing electrocardiograph machines.

- This is the latest advance in the team's electronic tattoo technology, a graphene-based **wearable device that can be placed on the skin to measure a variety of body responses, from electrical to biomechanical signals.**
- The latest e-tattoo developed by researchers at the University of Texas at Austin in the U.S. is so light and stretchable that it can be placed over the heart for extended periods with little or no discomfort.
- It also measures cardiac health in two ways, taking electrocardiograph and seismocardiograph readings simultaneously.
- The electrocardiogram (ECG) method records the rates of electrical activity produced each time the heart beats.
- Seismocardiography (SCG) is a measurement technique using chest vibrations associated with heartbeats.
- Powered remotely by a smartphone, the e-tattoo is the first ultrathin and stretchable technology to measure both ECG and SCG.
- **e-tattoo is made of a piezoelectric polymer called polyvinylidene fluoride, capable of generating its own electric charge in response to mechanical stress.**
- The device also includes 3D digital image correlation technology that is used to map chest vibrations in order to identify the best location on the chest to place the e-tattoo.

**Q.9)** The **Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)** nuclear fusion reactor is recently in news was developed by which country?

- USA
- Japan
- France
- China

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Scientists around the world have been trying for decades to recreate the unfathomable power of the sun here on Earth, and a team in China has managed to best our local star. Not for very long, though.

- The team operating the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) managed to heat the reactor's internal plasma to 100 million degrees Celsius (212 million Fahrenheit).
- That's six times hotter than the sun, but it doesn't have any net power generation. In stars, hydrogen fuses into helium, and eventually into heavier elements.
- The fusion process releases large amounts of energy, and the byproducts of fusion aren't radioactive.
- The only nuclear power we've managed to utilize on Earth is fission, which requires dangerous radioactive materials and comes with the risk of a reactor meltdown.

**Q.10)** The "**Mission Shakti**" is recently launched by Government is related to which of the following?

- Promote Women welfare
- Promote girl child rights
- Promote religious rights
- To contain space debris

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**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Mission Shakti which was launched recently was done in a low orbit of less than 300 kilometres and at a particular angle to ensure that minimal debris was disbursed above into space to avoid damage to other satellites or the International Space Station (ISS).

**Q.11)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**air-breathing propulsion system**”:

1. It utilizes the atmospheric oxygen during their flight and reduces the total propellant required to place a satellite in orbit.
2. Ramjet, Scramjet and Dual Mode Ramjet (DMRJ) are the examples of air-breathing engines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Launch vehicles use combustion of propellants consisting of oxidiser and fuel for deriving the energy.

- **Air breathing propulsion systems use atmospheric oxygen, which is available up to about 50 km of earth’s surface to burn the fuel stored on-board thereby making the system much lighter, more efficient and cost effective.**
- Air breathing propulsion is a solution for a powered long return cruise flight necessary for reusable launch vehicles.
- The collection and use of air involves challenges as the launch vehicle speeds through atmosphere at supersonic speeds.
- This calls for the development of **ramjet or scramjet** (supersonic combustion ramjet) technologies.
- The **Dual Mode Ramjet (DMRJ)**, the ramjet-scramjet combination, is currently under development, which will operate during the crucial Mach 3 to Mach 9 ascend flight of the launch vehicle.

**Q.12)** The **Quasi-Zenith** is a regional terrestrial positioning network system launched by which of the following country?

- a) France
- b) ASEAN countries
- c) Britain
- d) Japan

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** QZSS is a Japanese satellite positioning system composed mainly of satellites in quasi-zenith orbits (QZO).

- QZSS (Michibiki) has been in operation since November 2018 to develop a satellite positioning service that can be used stably in all locations at all times.
- This system is compatible with GPS satellites and can be utilized with them in an integrated fashion.
- In this way, the satellite positioning service environment was advanced dramatically.
- QZSS can be used even in the Asia-Oceania regions with longitudes close to Japan, so its usage will be expanded to other countries in these regions as well.

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**Q.13)** The “**Project NETRA**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Earth observation satellite constellation system
- b) Early warning system in space to detect debris
- c) Early warning system of Disasters
- d) High Altitude Defense System

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) initiated ‘Project NETRA’ – an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.

- The space agency says our SSA (space situational awareness) will first be for low-earth orbits or LEO which have remote-sensing spacecraft.
- Under NETRA, or Network for space object Tracking and Analysis, the ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities: connected radars, telescopes; data processing units and a control centre.
- They can, among others, spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.

**Q.14)** The “**world’s first-ever thermal battery plant**” was launched in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Maharashtra

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** India became home to the world’s first-ever thermal battery plant, which was inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh.

**Conventional battery technology:** is based on the system of charging/discharging cycles that are driven by electricity.

- For example, the Lithium-ion battery, a staple of many electronic devices, consists of electric charges being transferred from electrodes.
- Energy is derived from this battery, when lithium atoms turn into lithium ions (Li+), and get stored when this reaction reverses.
- Therefore, Li-ion batteries work on the basis of electrical energy.

**Thermal batteries:** on the other hand, use thermal energy to operate, i.e., the energy created by temperature differences.

- Therefore, the energy transfer in thermal batteries helps store heat when heat travels from one part of the battery setup to the other.
- For that to happen, a thermal battery consists of two parts: a cool zone known as sink, and a hot source called source.
- Both these sides consist of compounds known as phase-changing materials (PCMs), which can change their state of matter on the basis of a physical/chemical reaction.

**Q.15)** The “**Terminator Tape**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Sea cables
- b) Space debris
- c) Solar energy
- d) Ship tracking

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**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** To tackle the problem of space debris, a company called Tethers Unlimited has demonstrated an easy solution to get rid of satellites once they are of no use.

- **The solution involves a 230-foot long strip of conductive tape, which is delightfully called the Terminator Tape.**
- The Terminator Tape is a small module about the size of a notebook.
- Weighing less than two pounds, it is designed to attach to the exterior of a satellite which deploys the 230-foot long conductive tape through an electric signal from either the satellite or an independent timer unit when the satellite completes its mission and is ready to get disposed.

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements regarding the **benefits of Gene Editing**:

1. It can be used to treat many human diseases & genetic disorders like HIV/AIDS, hemophilia.
2. It could form the basis of highly efficient & cost effective next generation antibiotics.
3. It can be used to bring to life extinct species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** It is a type of genetic engineering in which DNA is inserted, deleted or replaced in the genome of an organism using artificially engineered nucleases, or “molecular scissors”.

- **Human genome editing can be used to treat many human diseases & genetic disorders like HIV/AIDS, hemophilia etc.**
- It could substantially bolster disease resistance in humans & increase life span.
- It could form the basis of highly efficient & cost effective next generation antibiotics (based on bacteriophage viruses).
- **Gene editing can be used to protect endangered species or bring to life extinct species.**
- It can be used to grow healthier food (via fortification) and increasing harvest.
- It has the potential to slow down the spread of diseases by eliminating its means of transmission. E.g. Gene editing can be used to introduce sterile mosquitoes into the environment.

**Q.17)** Which of the following provisions is/are **NOT** covered under TRIPS-PLUS?

1. Agriculture
2. Manufacturing
3. Data Exclusivity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** TRIPs Plus are higher level of protection norms demanded by the developed countries that are not prescribed by the WTO’s TRIPs regime.

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- Although they are named as 'TRIPS-Plus,' they are not formally related to TRIPs.
- Rather, the term is used to indicate that these requirements go beyond the minimum standards imposed by TRIPs.
- Many developing countries who are members of FTAs are under pressure to enact these tougher conditions in their patent laws.
- An example for advanced norms under TRIPs Plus is the protection demanded by developed countries for **data exclusivity**.

**Q.18)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Science Research and Engineering Board (SERB)**”:

1. It was created through an act of parliament.
2. Its aim is to promoting basic research in Science and Engineering and to provide financial assistance to persons engaged in such research.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** One of the most notable developments in the S&T sector in the XI Plan has been the **setting up of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) through an Act of Parliament, viz. the Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008.**

- Promoting basic research in Science and Engineering and to provide financial assistance to persons engaged in such research, academic institutions, research and development laboratories, industrial concerns and other agencies for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto are the primary and distinctive mandate of the Board.
- SERB aims to build up best management systems which would match the best global practices in the area of promotion and funding of basic research.

**Q.19)** The “**HoloLens - is a stand-alone mixed reality holographic headset**” is often seen in news is developed by which of the following?

- a) IBM
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Apple

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Microsoft HoloLens, known under development as Project Baraboo, is a stand-alone mixed reality holographic headset specifically designed to be used on the Windows 10 platform.

- HoloLens allows users to experience 3D holographic images as though they are a part of their environment.
- It can help doctors to see through the organs and tissues in the operating theatre.

**Q.20)** The “**Shahi Litchi**” which earned the Geographical Indication tag recently is famous in which of the following state?

- a) Bihar
- b) West Bengal
- c) Assam
- d) Maharashtra



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**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Shahi Litchi, a speciality of the north Bihar district of Muzaffarpur which earned the Geographical Indication tag a couple of years ago, stands apart from other varieties by virtue of its unique fragrance, extra-juicy pulp and smaller-than-usual seed.

**Q.21)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**benzoic acid**”:

1. It is white crystalline organic compound belongs to the family of carboxylic acid.
2. It is commonly used as a pH adjustor and preservative in food.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Benzoic acid is an organic compound which is described by the chemical formula  $C_6H_5COOH$ .

- It consists of a carboxyl group attached to a benzene ring. Therefore, benzoic acid is said to be an aromatic carboxylic acid.
- **This compound exists as a crystalline, colorless solid under normal conditions.**
- **It is white and belongs to the family of carboxylic acid.**
- The term ‘benzoate’ refers to the esters and salts of  $C_6H_5COOH$ .
- The commercial production of benzoic acid is done via the partial oxidation of toluene with oxygen, catalyzed by manganese or cobalt naphthenates.

Some important uses of  $C_6H_5COOH$  are listed below.

- The **production of phenol** involves the use of benzoic acid.
- This compound is **used in ointments** that prevent or treat fungal skin diseases.
- $C_6H_5COOH$  is used as a **preservative in the food industry**.
- Benzoic acid is an ingredient in many **cosmetic products, such as lipsticks**.
- It is also a precursor to benzoyl chloride.
- One of the components of toothpaste, mouthwash, and face-wash creams is  $C_6H_5$
- This compound is also used in the manufacture of dyes and in insect repellants.

**Q.22)** The term “**Keratinocytes**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Primary skin cell
- b) Liver cells
- c) Muscle cells
- d) Sex cells

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Keratinocytes are the primary type of cell found in the epidermis, the outermost layer of the skin.

- In humans they constitute 90% of epidermal skin cells.
- Basal cells in the basal layer (stratum basale) of the skin are sometimes referred to as basal keratinocytes.
- **By using an indigenously developed hydrogel made of a polymer (polyacrylamide) in lieu of the conventional plastic tissue culture plates, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay have been able to achieve many-fold increase in the number of skin cells (keratinocytes) cultured in the lab.**

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- Unlike traditional methods, no feeder layer or drug is needed when cells are grown on the hydrogel substrate.

**Q.23)** The term “**Sagittarius \*A**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- Meteorite
- Black hole
- Goldilocks zone
- Asteroids

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: The center of our Milky Way Galaxy is anchored by a black hole that is nearly 5 million times the mass of our Sun.**

- Surrounding it is a chaotic city of stars, gas, and dust that we call Sagittarius A.
- We stacked false-color X-ray, infrared, and radio images into this single picture to show you the different structures hidden inside the core of our Galaxy.
- X-rays (purple) radiate from the super-hot gas trapped in the black hole’s grasp.
- The surrounding dust is heated by friction as it chaotically orbits around the black hole and then glows in infrared light (gold).
- And the enormous pools and three-armed rivers of gas shine in radio light (oranges and reds) to trace the complexity of magnetic fields in this violent neighborhood.

**NOTE:** A language professor has given a Hawaiian name — Powehi — to the black hole depicted in an image produced in a landmark experiment.

Though the Event Horizon Telescope set out to image **both M87 and Sagittarius A\* the black hole at the centre of the Milky way**, they have succeeded only in imaging the former, despite its being much further away.

**Q.24)** Besides earth, which of the following **celestial body** has places with standing bodies of liquid on the surface?

- Mars
- Saturn
- Titan
- Moon

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Titan and Earth are the solar system’s two places with standing bodies of liquid on the surface.** Titan boasts lakes, rivers and seas of hydrocarbons: compounds of hydrogen and carbon like those that are the main components of petroleum and natural gas.

“Titan is the most Earth-like body in the solar system. It has lakes, canyons, rivers, dune fields of organic sand particles about the same size as silica sand grains on Earth”.

**Q.25)** The word “**Helium hydride ion (HeH<sup>+</sup>)**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- Ancient molecule
- Energy efficient battery
- High altitude balloons
- None

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Scientists have detected the most ancient type of molecule in our universe in space for the first time ever.

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- Helium hydride ion (HeH<sup>+</sup>) was the first molecule that formed when, almost 14 billion years ago, falling temperatures in the young universe allowed recombination of the light elements produced in the Big Bang.
- At that time, ionised hydrogen and neutral helium atoms reacted to form HeH<sup>+</sup>, said researchers from The Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy (MPIfR) in Germany.
- Despite its importance in the history of the early Universe, HeH<sup>+</sup> has so far escaped detection in astrophysical nebulae — cloud of gas and dust in outer space.
- Operating the GREAT far-infrared spectrometer onboard the flying observatory SOFIA, an international team reported unambiguous detection of the molecule towards the planetary nebula NGC 7027.

**Q.26)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Indian Bullfrog**”:

1. It is native to the Indian subcontinent and is the largest frog in India.
2. It is one of the invasive species on the islands of Andaman and Nicobar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Indian bullfrog *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (native to the Indian subcontinent) has rapidly invaded the Andaman Islands after it was introduced there in the early 2000s.

- In human-dominated areas, it now shares space with other native (and often endemic) frog species.
- The bullfrogs are prolific breeders: they have short breeding seasons, and each egg clutch can contain up to 5,750 eggs.
- Its tadpoles are carnivorous and eat other tadpoles (including their own species).
- **It is native to the Indian subcontinent (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan) and is the largest frog in India.**

**Q.27)** Recently, which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has developed a unified script for nine Indian languages, named the **Bharati Script**?

- a) IIT – Madras
- b) IIT – Kanpur
- c) IIT – Bombay
- d) IIT – Hyderabad

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Taking a cue from European languages, several of which have the same (Roman letter-based) script, Srinivasa Chakravathy’s team at IIT Madras has, over the last decade, developed a unified script for nine Indian languages, named the Bharati script.

- The team has now gone a step further since developing the script: it has developed a method for reading documents in Bharati script using a multi-lingual optical character recognition (OCR) scheme.
- The team has also created a finger-spelling method that can be used to generate a sign language for hearing-impaired persons.
- In collaboration with TCS Mumbai, the researchers have found a way for persons with hearing disability to generate signatures using this finger-spelling technique.

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- **The scripts that have been integrated include Devnagari, Bengali, Gurmukhi, Gujarati, Oriya, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil.** English and Urdu have not been integrated so far.
- In general, optical character recognition schemes involve first separating (or segmenting) the document into text and non-text.
- The text is then segmented into paragraphs, sentences words and letters.
- Each letter has to be recognised as a character in some recognisable format such as ASCII or Unicode.
- The letter has various components such as the basic consonant, consonant modifiers, vowels etc

**Q.28)** The “**G Finder survey**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Mobile Generations and their penetrations
- b) Research and development for neglected disease
- c) Geo-thermal energy survey
- d) Human Genome survey

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** It is encouraging that India was reported to be the fourth largest funder of research and development (R&D) in neglected diseases as per the **G Finder Survey which tracks global investments in R&D for the neglected diseases.**

- This reflects the government’s commitment towards addressing the innovation problem in neglected diseases.
- Neglected diseases are mostly tropical infectious diseases, and the market size for drugs for such diseases is small due to their limited geographical incidence.
- To highlight the common problem of lack of innovation for drugs, diagnostics and vaccines for this basket of diseases, WHO started addressing these as neglected diseases from late 1980s.
- Some examples of neglected diseases are malaria, tuberculosis, leishmaniasis (kala azar), dengue, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis and diarrhoeal diseases.

**NOTE:** These diseases face an innovation deficit as they are neglected in R&D efforts of the pharmaceutical industry.

- However, it is not just the neglected diseases in the developing world that face this innovation deficit.
- **Several rare diseases that affect the developed markets are called “orphan diseases.”**
- These are called orphans because the pharmaceutical industry does not find it profitable to develop and market products intended for only a small number of patients suffering from rare diseases.

**Q.29)** The word “**hobbits**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Fossils of amphibian mammals
- b) Ancient Paleo-river stream
- c) Geological time period
- d) Archaic human species

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The discovery of Homo luzonensis, a small-bodied hominin on April 2019, from the island of Luzon in the Philippines was based on studies carried out on seven teeth and six small bones that were recovered.

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- The hominin lived at least 50,000-67,000 years ago in the island.
- The discovery of Denisovans, an extinct species of human, in 2008 was based on fragmentary remains.
- Genetic studies carried on a small finger sample suggested that they survived for thousands of years and died out just 40,000 years ago.
- **Similarly, in the case of 'hobbits' (Homo floresiensis), which was discovered in 2004 in Flores, Indonesia and found to have survived till as recently as 12,000 years ago, the confirmation of its hominin nature came from studying a variety of bones.**
- Fairly complete cranium and mandible, right leg, less complete bones of the left leg, hands and feet, and fragments of vertebral column, ribs, sacrum (triangular bone at the base of the spine) among others were recovered and studied.

**Q.30)** The word “Yeti” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) High altitude Deer
- b) Giant creature (wild man) of Himalayas
- c) Ancient rock found in deep seas
- d) None

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In 1951, a British explorer named Eric Shipton looking for an alternative route up Mt. Everest found a footprint that appeared to be hominoid.

- **He took a picture, and the mystery of the Yeti—a Sherpa word for “wild man”—cast a spell over the world.**
- Daniel Taylor, author of Yeti: The Ecology of a Mystery has been searching for signs of this “**Abominable Snowman**” in the high Himalayas since he was a child.

While there are only claims of sightings of Yeti and giant footprints on snow, results from two studies based on samples collected from the Himalayas do not provide any evidence in support of Yeti. Both studies have indicated that samples belonged to bears.

- An August 2014 paper in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B studied two hair samples — one from Ladakh and the other from Bhutan. These had close genetic affinity to polar bears or a previously unrecognised bear species.
- A November 2017 study published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B analysed 24 mitochondrial DNA samples of hair, tissue, bone, and faeces of Himalayan brown bears and purported Yeti collected from the Tibetan Plateau-Himalaya region.
- Eight of the nine purported Yeti samples matched regional bear populations, including the Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*).
- The results “strongly suggest that the biological basis of the Yeti legend is local brown and black bears”, the researchers concluded.

**Q.31)** The word “Roc” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Satellite to study stratosphere
- b) Largest aircraft
- c) Helium balloon to study stratosphere
- d) Drone to study upper atmosphere

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The world's largest aircraft took off over the Mojave Desert in California, the first flight for the carbon-composite plane built by Stratolaunch Systems Corp,

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started by late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, as the company enters the lucrative private space market.

The **white airplane called Roc**, which has a wingspan the length of an American football field and is powered by six engines on a twin fuselage, took to the air shortly before 7 a.m. Pacific time (1400 GMT) and stayed aloft for more than two hours before landing safely back at the Mojave Air and Space Port as a crowd of hundreds of people cheered.

**Q.32)** Recently, which of the following country unveiled a **3D print of a heart** with human tissue and vessels?

- a) United States of America
- b) China
- c) Israel
- d) Australia

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Scientists in Israel unveiled a 3D print of a heart with human tissue and vessels, calling it a first and a “major medical breakthrough” that advances possibilities for transplants.

- The heart marked “the first time anyone has successfully engineered and printed an entire heart replete with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers,” said Tel Aviv University’s Tal Dvir, who led the project.
- People have managed to 3D-print the structure of a heart in the past, but not with cells or with blood vessels.

**Q.33)** The term “**Zero-day attacks**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Cyber attacks
- b) Outer space attacks
- c) Deep sea submarine attacks
- d) Pest attacks

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Cyber security experts have found zero-day vulnerability in Windows, allowing attackers to gain higher privileges on the target machine and dodging protection mechanisms in the Google Chrome browser.

- The newly discovered exploit was used in the malicious WizardOpium operation.
- **A zero day exploit is a cyber-attack that occurs on the same day a weakness is discovered in software.**
- At that point, it is exploited before a fix becomes available from its creator.
- Zero-day vulnerabilities are basically bugs in software, which leaves the doors open for cyber criminals to break into the system.

**Q.34)** The “**Operation Shadow Hammer**” is sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Earth observation satellites
- b) Manufacturing Unmanned aerial vehicles
- c) Mars’s mission
- d) Cyber attacks

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Maharashtra Cyber Department has issued advisory warning users of ASUS, a reputed computer manufacturer that came under attack.

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- **The Cyber police officers said the attack, named Operation Shadow Hammer, affected the ASUS Live Update Utility, which automatically downloads updates for its systems and applications.**
- Officials said the attack created back doors in the computers using a MAC address.

**Q.35)** The “**Gravitational Lensing**” concept is often seen in news is suggested by which of the following scientist?

- a) Albert Einstein
- b) Yakov Borisovich Zel'dovich
- c) Igor Dmitriyevich Novikov
- d) Stephen Hawking

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Black holes are not radiant and will not be visible through any telescope.

- However, as first suggested by **Albert Einstein**, if by chance, a tiny primordial black hole eclipses a distant star, light rays of the star will bend around the black hole due to gravitational effect, resulting in the star appearing to be brighter than it originally is for a short while. Called ‘gravitational lensing’, this rare phenomena can occur only when the star, the black hole and the observer on the Earth are aligned in a straight line.
- When the black hole is in alignment with a distant star, due to gravitational attraction, light rays are bent inwards like a lens, making the star appear brighter.

**Q.36)** The famous “**Transition to Triumph**” book is related to which of the following defense force of India?

- a) Army
- b) Navy
- c) Air-force
- d) Coastguard

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Transition to Triumph book is the history of the Indian navy covers the period from 1965 to 1975.

- Indian Naval history (Transition to Triumph) also records that “by themselves the ships of the Eastern Fleet were too few and too slow to enforce contraband control and help would be needed from Vikrant’s aircraft.
- But the extraordinary extent to which Vikrant’s aircraft actually succeeded in assisting ships in contraband control and apprehending merchant ships, over and above their air strikes against East Pakistan, came to be fully realised only after the war.”

**Q.37)** Which of the following is/are **air – craft carriers of India**?

1. INS Vikrant
2. INS Viraat
3. INS Vikramaditya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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**ANS: D**

**Explanation: INS Vikrant** - Initially laid down as HMS Hercules for the British Navy, but construction was put on hold. India purchased the incomplete carrier in 1957, and construction was completed in 1961 and inducted as first aircraft carrier of India.

It was decommissioned in 1997, scrapped in 2014.

\*NOTE: INS Vikrant (2013) - First domestically built aircraft carrier expected to join service by 2020.

**INS Viraat** - A Centaur-class aircraft carrier commissioned in 1959 as the British Navy's HMS Hermes and later sold to India in 1987 and it was decommissioned in 2017.

**INS Vikramaditya** - Originally built as Baku for Soviet Navy and it was entered into Indian Navy in 2013.

**Q.38) "MQ-4C Triton"** is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- Frigates
- Submarine Missile
- Torpedo

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Northrop Grumman's MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft system (UAS) provides real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) over vast ocean and coastal regions.

- Based on the proven Global Hawk UAS, Triton's autonomous operations are supported by land-based command and control mission planners and sensor operators.
- Triton will be equipped with a unique and robust mission sensor suite that provides 360-degree coverage on all sensors, providing unprecedented maritime domain awareness for the U.S. Navy.
- Triton also incorporates a reinforced airframe, for increased internal payload, and wing for hail, bird strike, and gust load protection, along with de-icing and lightning protection systems.
- These features allow the aircraft to descend and ascend through harsh maritime weather environments to gain a closer view of ships and other targets at sea when needed.
- Built for the U.S. Navy, Triton will support a wide range of missions including maritime ISR patrol, signals intelligence, search and rescue and communications relay.
- The aircraft can fly over 24 hours at a time, at altitudes higher than 10 miles, with an operational range of 8,200 nautical miles.

**Q.39)** Consider the following statements regarding the "**L2 Pro India**":

1. It is a website developed by NITI Aayog.
2. It will aid and enable youth, innovators, entrepreneurs in understanding IPRs for their ownership and protection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Secretary Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), launched the website and mobile application [Learn to Protect, Secure and Maximize Your Innovation] on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) today in New Delhi.

- The website and app has been developed by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)-DPIIT in collaboration with Qualcomm and National Law University (NLU), Delhi.
- The modules of this e-learning platform [L2Pro India IP e-learning Platform and the L2Pro India Mobile App] will aid and enable youth, innovators, entrepreneurs and small and medium industries (SMEs) in understanding IPRs for their ownership and protection, integrate IP into business models and obtain value for their R&D efforts.
- The L2Pro has been successfully implemented in Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and France, benefiting immensely from close collaboration with respective IP organizations and public research institutions.
- The learning app has been customized for India in order to ensure that innovation which is fundamental to startups are protected, managed and commercialised.

**Q.40)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**National Supercomputing Mission**”:

1. Mission launched in 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period.
2. It was implemented jointly by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Mission, launched in 2015, envisages empowering our national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of more than 70 high performance computing facilities.

- The mission would be implemented jointly by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) through two organizations the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- The Mission envisages empowering our national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities.

## Geography

**Q.1)** Arrange the following **water reservoirs** on Earth's surface in descending order:

1. Ground Water
2. Atmosphere
3. Soil Moisture
4. Biosphere

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** About 71 per cent of the planetary water is found in the oceans. The remaining is held as freshwater in glaciers and icecaps, groundwater sources, lakes, soil moisture, atmosphere, streams and within life. Nearly 59 per cent of the water that falls on land returns to the atmosphere through evaporation from over the oceans as well as from other places. The remainder runs-off on the surface, infiltrates into the ground or a part of it becomes glacier.

**Table 13.1 : Water on the Earth's surface**

<i>Reservoir</i>	<i>Volume (Million Cubic km)</i>	<i>Percentage of the Total</i>
Oceans	1,370	97.25
Ice Caps and Glaciers	29	2.05
Groundwater	9.5	0.68
Lakes	0.125	0.01
Soil Moisture	0.065	0.005
Atmosphere	0.013	0.001
Streams and Rivers	0.0017	0.0001
Biosphere	0.0006	0.00004

**Q.2)** Which of the following are **relief features** of an Ocean Basin?

1. Plateaux
2. Submarine ridges
3. Canyons
4. Sea mounts

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The ocean floors can be divided into four major divisions:

- The Continental Shelf;
- The Continental Slope;

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- The Deep Sea Plain;
- The Oceanic Deeps.

**Besides, these divisions there are also major and minor relief features in the ocean floors like ridges, hills, sea mounts, guyots, trenches, canyons, etc.**

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Oceans**:

1. Around 50-80% of the oxygen production on Earth comes from the ocean.
2. The majority of this production is from oceanic plankton.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Scientists estimate that 50-80% of the oxygen production on Earth comes from the ocean.

- The majority of this production is from oceanic plankton — drifting plants, algae, and some bacteria that can photosynthesize.
- One particular species, Prochlorococcus, is the smallest photosynthetic organism on Earth.
- But this little bacteria produces up to 20% of the oxygen in our entire biosphere.
- That's a higher percentage than all of the tropical rainforests on land combined.
- It's important to remember that although the ocean produces at least 50% of the oxygen on Earth, roughly the same amount is consumed by marine life.
- Like animals on land, marine animals use oxygen to breathe, and both plants and animals use oxygen for cellular respiration.
- Oxygen is also consumed when dead plants and animals decay in the ocean.

**Q.4)** World's largest **dead zone** is located in which of the following sea?

- a) Black sea
- b) Gulf of Mexico
- c) Arabian Sea
- d) Coral sea

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: A massive "dead zone" in the Arabian Sea is the largest in the world, a new study reveals.**

- Dead zones are oxygen-starved ocean regions where few organisms can survive.
- They emerge in ocean depths ranging from 650 to 2,600 feet (200 to 800 meters), when influxes of chemical nutrients — typically from human pollution — spur algae growth, which sucks up oxygen.
- A significant oxygen-deprived region has bloomed in the Gulf of Oman for decades, but it was last surveyed in the 1990s.
- The Gulf of Oman, which spans 70,000 square miles (181,000 square kilometers), connects the Arabian Sea to the Persian Gulf.
- It has long been off-limits to researchers because of the region's political instability and the threat of ocean piracy.
- For eight months, these AUVs gathered data on oxygen levels, and then transmitted their readings to the scientists via satellite.

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- Researchers then used computer models to visualize the ocean currents that circulated oxygen around the gulf from the Arabian Sea.
- They found that the oxygen-poor region had grown dramatically, and the scant oxygen formerly held in the depleted zone — based on data from the 1990s — had drained significantly, leaving bigger areas with no oxygen at all.

**Q.5)** Which of the following **rivers** are flows into Black sea?

1. Danube River
2. Southern Bug River
3. Dniester River
4. Rhone River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Black Sea is a body of water and marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean between Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Western Asia. **It is supplied by a number of major rivers, including the Danube, Dnieper, Southern Bug, Dniester, Don, and the Rioni.**



**Q.6)** The highest tides in the world occur in the **Bay of Fundy** is located in which of the following country?

- a) United States of America
- b) Canada
- c) Mexico
- d) Peru

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The highest tides in the world occur in the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia, Canada.

- The tidal bulge is 15 - 16 m. Because there are two high tides and two low tides every day (roughly a 24 hour period); then a tide must come in within about a six hour period.

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- As a rough estimate, the tide rises about 240 cm an hour (1,440 cm divided by 6 hours).

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Peninsular Drainage System**”:

1. Peninsular Drainage System is older than Himalayan drainage system.
2. The Western Ghats running close to the western coast act as the water divide between the major Peninsular Rivers.
3. Chambal, Narmada and Tapi rivers flow from east to west.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Peninsular drainage system is older than the Himalayan one. This is evident from the broad, largely-graded shallow valleys, and the maturity of the rivers.

- The Western Ghats running close to the western coast act as the water divide between the major Peninsular Rivers, discharging their water in the Bay of Bengal and as small rivulets joining the Arabian Sea.
- Most of the major Peninsular Rivers except Narmada and Tapi flow from west to east. The Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa, the Ken, the Son, originating in the northern part of the Peninsula belong to the Ganga river system.
- The other major river systems of the peninsular drainage are – the Mahanadi the Godavari, the Krishna and the Kaveri. Peninsular rivers are characterised by fixed course, absence of meanders and non-perennial flow of water.
- The Narmada and the Tapi which flow through the rift valley are, however, exceptions.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the **agro-based industries** in India:

1. The first successful textile mill was established in Mumbai in 1854.
2. The first jute mill was set up near Kolkata in 1859.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In ancient India, cotton textiles were produced with hand spinning and handloom weaving techniques.

- After the 18th century, power-looms came into use. Our traditional industries suffered a setback during the colonial period because they could not compete with the mill-made cloth from England.
- The first successful textile mill was established in Mumbai in 1854. The two world wars were fought in Europe, India was a British colony.
- There was a demand for cloth in U.K. hence; they gave a boost to the development of the cotton textile industry.
- The first jute mill was set up near Kolkata in 1859 at Rishra.
- After Partition in 1947, the jute mills remained in India but three-fourth of the jute producing area went to Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan).

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**Q.9)** Which of the following institution implements the **Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA)** programme?

- a) UNEP
- b) FAO
- c) World Bank
- d) WEF

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA) programme strengthens FAO's longstanding work to address climate change in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors and supports countries participating in the climate change negotiation processes within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**Q.10)** Which of the following United Nations agency launched the "**2 Billion Kilometers to Safety campaign**"?

- a) UNICEF
- b) UNESCO
- c) UNHCR
- d) UNEP

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, announced a new global campaign calling on people all over the world to cover the distance travelled by refugees each year.

- The 2 Billion Kilometres to Safety campaign will encourage people to support refugees by championing individual acts of solidarity. These acts, when taken together, acknowledge the resilience and strength of refugees.
- UNHCR traced the journeys of refugees around the world and calculated that collectively, people forced to flee travel approximately two billion kilometres every year to reach the first point of safety.
- In 2016, Syrian refugees travelled more than 240 kilometres to reach Turkey. South Sudanese refugees travelled more than 640 kilometres to reach Kenya and Rohingya refugees in Myanmar travelled approximately 80 kilometres to reach Bangladesh.
- The 2 Billion Kilometres to Safety campaign invites people to act in solidarity and run, walk or cycle to achieve a cumulative total of two billion kilometres.

**Q.11)** Arrange the following **dams/reservoirs** from south to north direction:

1. Mettur dam
2. Nizam sagar
3. Nagarjuna sagar
4. Indira sagar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

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**Q.12)** Arrange the following **mahajanapadas** from east to west direction:

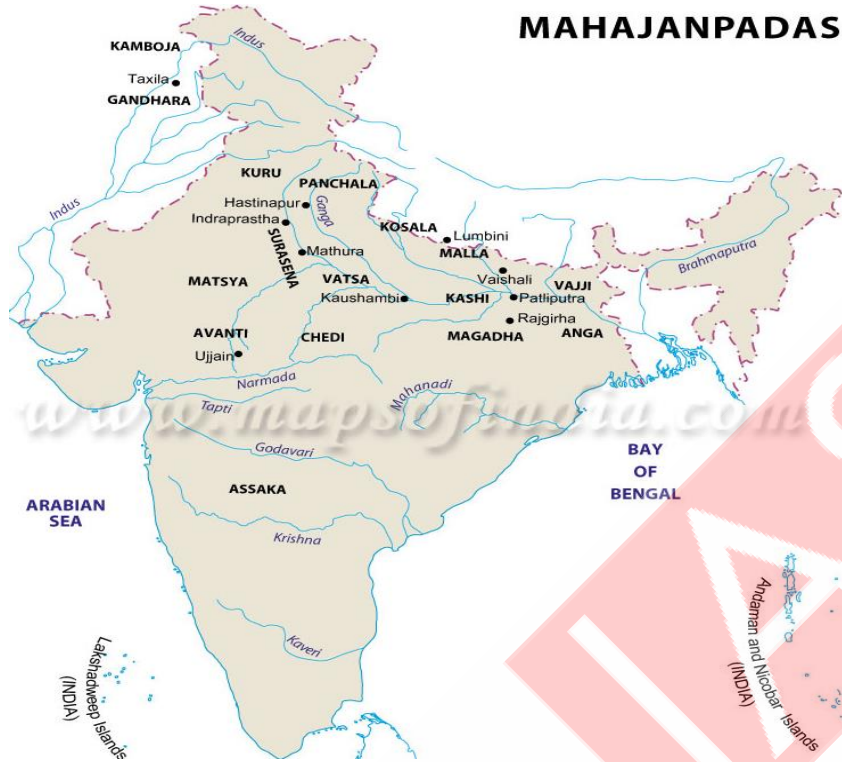
1. Anga
2. Kashi
3. Vatsa
4. Avanti

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**



**Q.13)** Arrange the following **rivers flow through Arunachal Pradesh** from west to east:

1. Subansiri River
2. Kameng River
3. Lohit River
4. Dibang River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**





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**Q.14)** The **National Highway 44** passes through which of the following states?

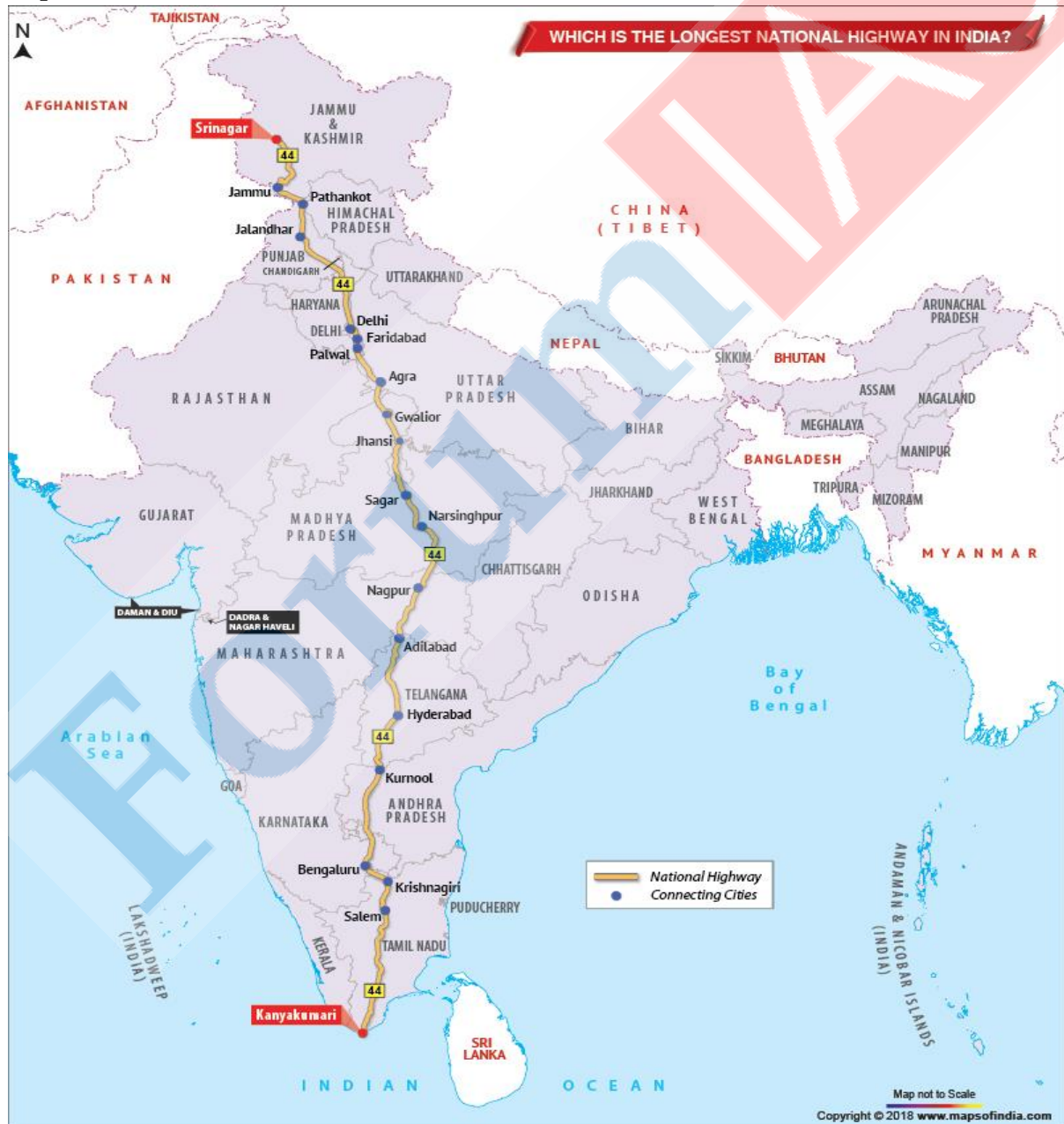
1. Himachal Pradesh
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Chhattisgarh
5. Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**



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**Q.15)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

<b>Caves</b>	:	<b>State</b>
1. Kanheri caves	:	Gujarat
2. Belum caves	:	Andhra Pradesh
3. Barabar caves	:	Bihar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Kanheri caves: Kanheri the Kanhasela, Krishnagiri, Kanhagiri of ancient inscriptions, is located north of Mumbai and was a major Buddhist centre.

- Kanheri is located in the island of Salsette and 6 miles from Thana.
- The Kanheri Caves demonstrate the Buddhist influence on the art and culture of India.
- Kanheri comes from the Sanskrit Krishnagiri, which means Black Mountain.
- They were chiseled out of a massive basaltic rock outcropping.

**Belum caves:** are located in Andhra Pradesh.

**Barabar caves:** The Barabar Caves are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India, mostly dating from the Maurya Empire (322–185 BCE), some with Ashokan inscriptions, located in the Bela Ganj Block of Gaya district, Bihar, India, 24 km north of Gaya.

- The caves were used by ascetics from the Ajivika sect, founded by Makkali Gosala, a contemporary of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, and of Mahavira, the last and 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.
- Also present at the site are several rock-cut Buddhist and Hindu sculptures.

**Q.16)** Which of the following lakes are located in Rajasthan?

- 1. Pichola Lake
- 2. Fateh Sagar Lake
- 3. Swaroop Sagar Lake
- 4. Ana Sagar Lake

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

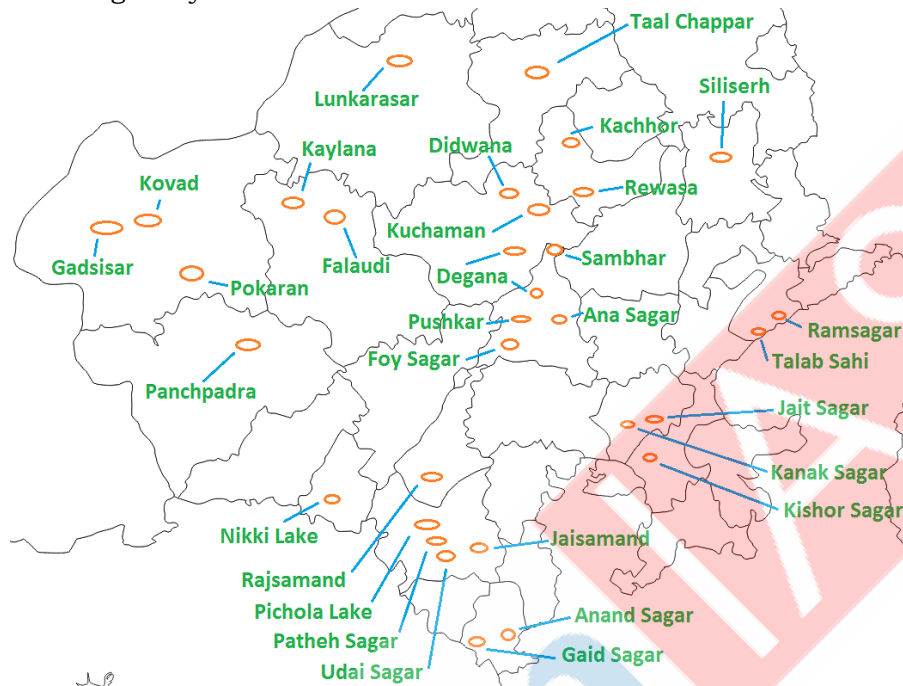
**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** A contentious decision of the Udaipur Urban Improvement Trust to redefine and protect the boundaries of the famous Pichola and Fateh Sagar lakes at their “full tank level” has led to 30% shrinkage in their size and reduced their submergence area to 4.5 sq. km and 2.5 sq. km, respectively.

- The subsequent construction activities on the lakefront land have changed their ecological character of the once beautiful lakes.
- The increasing threat to the lake ecosystem in the City of Lakes, which is a globally renowned tourist destination.

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- The entire lake system, comprising Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, Badi and Udai Sagar, should be restored to the “maximum water level” with the erection of pillars and the lakefront be left undisturbed for nesting and breeding activities of local and migratory birds.



**Q.17)** The “**Buddha Nullah**” – is a seasonal stream often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- Haryana
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Uttar Pradesh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Originating at village Koom Kalan of Ludhiana (Punjab) and running for 47 kms till Walipur Kalan where it merges with River Sutlej, this stream carrying fresh water was earlier known as ‘Buddha Dariya’.

- Over the years, the name got changed to Buddha Nullah (drain) owing to the sewage, industrial and domestic waste that is dumped into it in the 14-km stretch within Ludhiana city municipal corporation limits beginning from Tajpur road.
- There are three major sources polluting Buddha Nullah – untreated sewage waste from Ludhiana city Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), untreated industrial effluents from 228 dyeing units, and 16 ‘outlets’, which are directly releasing sewage and industrial waste into the stream. Of these 16 outlets, 11 are “MC disposal points” through which the civic body is directly releasing untreated sewage waste into the stream.

**Q.18)** The words “**Saranda and Chaibasa**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- Underground reservoirs
- Uranium mines
- Iron ore reserves
- Copper Mines

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**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Saranda and Chaibasa — in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district had large iron ore reserves.**

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) will soon form a committee to explore the prospect of opening conservation or no-mining zone in Saranda and Chaibasa in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand for iron ore mining.
- Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM), which regulates mining in Chaibasa and the Saranda Sal forest area.

**Q.19)** Recently the union cabinet approved a proposal to set up a **major port at VadHAVAN** is located in which of the following state?

- Maharashtra
- Odisha
- Gujarat
- Andhra Pradesh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to set up a major port at VadHAVAN near Dahanu in Maharashtra with a total cost of ₹65,545 crore, including about ₹14,500 crore of GST.

This is part of the government's plan to develop infrastructure projects with a cost of ₹100-lakh crore over the next five years.

**Q.20)** The “**Natuna Islands**” is recently in news, is located in which of the following sea?

- Adriatic Sea
- Mediterranean Sea
- South China Sea
- Barents Sea

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: The Natuna Islands is located in Indonesia's Riau Islands province, the west side of the South China Sea.**

The Island overlaps with China's nine-dash line claim under which China argues that the waters around the Natuna islands are Chinese traditional fishing grounds.

**Q.21)** The term “**lucky latitudes**” is related to which of the following?

- Latitudes which are helpful to sailors in tropical belt.
- Latitudes of poles.
- Latitudes where the practice of domestication of wild plants and animals began to happen for the first time.
- Latitudes of frontal regions.

**ANS: C**

**Explanation: Lucky latitudes are refers to the geographical regions where the practice of domestication of wild plants and animals began to happen for the first time in human history.**

- It includes land that lies between the latitudes of 20 and 35 degrees north in the Old World, and 15 degrees south and 20 degrees north in the Americas.
- These regions became more favourable to the rise of civilization when the rise in earth's temperature ended the last Ice Age around 12,000 years ago.

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- Consequently, people located in these geographic regions gained a head-start over the rest of the world.
- The term was coined by Ian Morris in his book *Why the West Rules — For Now*.

**Q.22)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**debris-laden Himalayan glaciers**”:

1. About 20% of Himalayan glaciers are debris-laden.
2. Glaciers without debris cover the rate of melting increases as the elevation decreases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Studying debris-laden Himalayan glaciers is important from the point of view of how climate change affects them.

- **About 20% of Himalayan glaciers are debris-laden, and their dynamics are very different from the ones without debris cover.**
- **In glaciers without a debris cover, the rate of melting increases as the elevation decreases.**
- However, in glaciers covered with debris, the thick cover partially insulates the glacier from the warm exterior and thereby slows down the melting.
- The thickness of the debris cover, by and large, increases as the glacier flows down.
- This works against the general trend that the lower the elevation, the higher the rate of melting.
- Matters are further complicated because the thickness of the debris cover is not uniform but fluctuates randomly.

**Q.23)** The words “**Pizol, Aletsch and Okjokull**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Alpine glaciers
- b) High altitude lakes
- c) Geo-thermal points
- d) Deep sea canyons

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Dozens of people will undertake a “funeral march” up a steep Swiss mountainside on September 2019, to mark the disappearance of an Alpine glacier amid growing global alarm over climate change.

- Dressed in black, they will make the solemn two-hour “funeral march” up the side of **Pizol mountain** in northeastern Switzerland to the foot of the steep and rapidly melting ice formation, situated at an altitude of around 2,700 metres (8,850 feet) near the Liechtenstein and Austrian borders
- The move comes after Iceland made global headlines last month with a large ceremony and the laying of a bronze plaque to commemorate **Okjokull, the island’s first glacier** lost to climate change.
- The researchers indicated that the **Alps’ largest glacier, the mighty Aletsch**, could completely disappear over the next eight decades.

**Q.24)** Which of the following **rivers are originate/feed** from the glaciers of Hindu Kush – Himalaya region?

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1. Ganges River
2. Indus River
3. Yellow River
4. Irrawaddy River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Two-thirds of Himalayan glaciers, **the world's "Third Pole"**, could melt by 2100 if global emissions are not reduced, scientists warned in a major new study issued in 2019.

- And even if the "most ambitious" Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° C is achieved, one-third of the glaciers would go, according to the Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment.
- Glaciers in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region are a critical water source for some 250 million people in the mountains as well as to 1.65 billion others in the river valleys below, the report said.
- **The glaciers feed 10 of the world's most important river systems, including the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong, Yangtze, Yellow, Amu Darya and Tarim.**
- And directly or indirectly supply billions of people with food, energy, clean air and income.

**Q.25)** Consider the following statements regarding the "**altitude of the midday sun**":

1. The sun is vertically overhead at the equator only.
2. Beyond the tropics the sun is never overhead at any time of the year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In the course of a year, the earth's revolution round the sun with its axis inclined at  $66\frac{1}{2}$  to the plane of the ecliptic changes the apparent altitude of the midday sun.

- **The sun is vertically overhead at the equator on two days each year. These are usually 21<sup>st</sup> march and 21<sup>st</sup> September.**
- **After the March equinox the sun appears at move north and is vertically overhead at the tropic of cancer on about 21<sup>st</sup> June.**
- **By about 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the sun will be overhead at the tropic of Capricorn.**
- **The tropics thus mark the limits of the overhead sun, for beyond these, the sun is never overhead at any time of the year.**

**Q.26)** Consider the following statements regarding the "**igneous rocks**":

1. The acid igneous rocks are highly dense and darker in colour.
2. The basic igneous rocks are less dense and lighter in colour.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Igneous rocks may be subdivided on the basis of mineral composition.

- **When they contain a high proportion of silica they are said to be acid.**
- **Acid igneous rocks, such as granite, are less dense and are lighter in colour than basic rocks.**
- **These contain a greater proportion of basic oxides, e.g. of iron, aluminum or magnesium, and are thus denser and darker in colour.**

**Q.27)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

**Instrument** : **Elements of weather**

- 1. Stevenson screen : Temperature
- 2. Beaufort scale : Humidity
- 3. Hygrometer : Precipitation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

**Stevenson screen:** A Stevenson screen (also known as an instrument shelter) is a meteorological screen to shield instruments against precipitation and direct heat radiation from outside sources, while still allowing air to circulate freely around them.

It forms part of a standard weather station.

**Beaufort scale:** The Beaufort Scale is an empirical measure that relates wind speed to observed conditions at sea or on land. Its full name is the Beaufort wind force scale.

**Hygrometer:** Hygrometer, instrument used in meteorological science to measure the humidity, or amount of water vapour in the air.

**Q.28)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

**Affected state:** **Cyclone**

- 1. Tamil Nadu : Ockhi
- 2. Gujarat : Fani
- 3. Odisha : Vayu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The effects of climate change are at our doorsteps.

- **Cyclones such as Thane, Vardah, Ockhi and Gaja have affected Tamil Nadu in recent times;**
- Chennai saw terrible floods in 2015.

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- Floods wreaked havoc in Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar this year, and Mumbai received record monsoon rains.
- Kerala witnessed floods for the second consecutive year.
- **Cyclone Fani devastated Odisha, Cyclone Vayu ravaged Gujarat this year. All these are because of climate change.**

**Q.29)** Which of the following **deserts** is/are influenced by ocean currents?

1. Atacama Desert
2. Namib Desert
3. Gobi Desert

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

**Namib Desert: the Namib Desert is a direct result of the Benguela Current.**

- Seamounts near to the coastline beneath the Atlantic's surface cause the icy Benguela River to flow very close to the Namibian coast.
- This causes a harsh coastal climate with very little rainfall.

**Atacama Desert: Cold ocean currents contribute to the formation of coastal deserts.**

- Air blowing toward shore, chilled by contact with cold water, produces a layer of fog. This heavy fog drifts onto land.
- The Atacama Desert, on the Pacific shores of Chile, is a coastal desert.
- Some areas of the Atacama are often covered by fog. But the region can go decades without rainfall. In fact, the Atacama Desert is the driest place on Earth.

**Gobi Desert:** Interior deserts, which are found in the heart of continents, exist because no moisture-laden winds reach them.

- By the time air masses from coastal areas reach the interior, they have lost all their moisture. Interior deserts are sometimes called inland deserts.
- The Gobi Desert, in China and Mongolia, lays hundreds of kilometers from the ocean. Winds that reach the Gobi have long since lost their moisture.
- The Gobi is also in the rain shadow of the Himalaya Mountains to the south.

**Q.30)** The words "**macchia, maquis and chaparral**" is related to which of the following?

- a) Shrub vegetation
- b) Tropical vegetation
- c) Tundra vegetation
- d) Alpine vegetation

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Chaparral is sclerophyllous vegetation that is tolerant of seasonal drought.**

- **It consists of small trees, woody grasses and oleose, xerophytic shrubs that form a nearly continuous cover of intertwined branches.**
- Usually less than 10 per cent of the ground is bare, though the proportion may be higher at inhospitable sites.



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- Where annual precipitation is in the range 250–500 mm, plants may be only 1–2 m high, while crowns may reach 3.5–4 m where precipitation is 500–750 mm.
- In California chaparral is common at elevations of 300–1500 m. It occupies 3.4 million ha (8.5 per cent) of the state, particularly in its southern part and at moderate elevations.
- **The European synonym for chaparral, maquis (in Italian, macchia, plural macchie), is derived from the Corsican word for a species of sun rose (Cistus), which is often a striking component of the maquis community.**

**Q.31)** The “**Abdul Kalam Island**” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Andaman Islands
- d) Odisha

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island, is an island off the coast of Odisha, India, approximately 150 kilometers (93 mi) from the state capital Bhubaneswar.

- The Integrated Test Range missile testing facility is located on the island. The island was originally named after English commandant Lieutenant Wheeler.
- On 4 September 2015, the island was renamed to honour the late Indian president - Abdul kalam.
- Abdul Kalam Island is located in the Bay of Bengal approximately 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) off the eastern coast of India and about 70 kilometres (43 mi) south of Chandipur in Balasore district, Odisha.
- The island is about 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) in length and 390 acres (1.6 km<sup>2</sup>) in area.

**Q.32)** Which of the following countries of Africa is/are **landlocked**?

1. Malawi
2. Zimbabwe
3. Mozambique

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**



**Q.33)** Which of the following city in the world **spread across two continents**?

- a) Istanbul
- b) Guatemala city
- c) Baku city
- d) Tanager city

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey and the fifth-largest city in the world by population, is considered European, yet it occupies two different continents.

- One part of Istanbul lies in Europe and the other part lies in Asia.
- Istanbul's European part is separated from its Asian part by the Bosphorus strait, a 31-km-long waterway that connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara, and forms a natural boundary between the two continents.
- Two suspension bridges across the Bosphorus—the Bosphorus Bridge and the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge, also called Bosphorus Bridge II—connect the two sides, yet many tourists prefer to visit the European side of Istanbul because of its historical significance.

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- The European side is also the city's commercial center with banks, stores and corporations and two-third of its population.
- The Asian side feels more relaxed, with wide boulevards, residential neighbourhoods and fewer hotels and tourist attractions.

**Q.34)** Which of the following is/are the examples of **Vertical Farming**?

1. Hydroponics
2. Aquaponics
3. Aeroponics

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In vertical farming, crops are grown indoors, under artificial conditions of light and temperature.

- **Crops are grown indoors, under artificial conditions of light and temperature. It aims at higher productivity in smaller spaces.**
- **It uses soil-less methods such as hydroponics, aquaponics and aeroponics.**
- **Vertical farming uses significantly less water and pesticides than traditional agricultural methods.**
- **Being indoors, the crops aren't subject to seasons and hence give high productivity year-round.**
- Lettuces, tomatoes and green crops can be produced through this practice.
- **Japan has been one of the early pioneers in vertical farming.**
- It holds the largest share in the global vertical farming market.
- In Japan, vertical farming is born out of necessity where traditional farming is losing its face due to ageing population and rural migration.

**Q.35)** Consider the following statements regarding "**Copper mineral**" in India:

1. India is critically deficient in the reserve and production of copper.
2. Balaghat mines in Maharashtra produce more than 50% per cent of India's copper.
3. Khetri mines in Rajasthan are famous for copper ores.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** India is critically deficient in the reserve and production of copper.

- Being malleable, ductile and a good conductor, copper is mainly used in electrical cables, electronics and chemical industries.
- The Balaghat mines in Madhya Pradesh produce 52 per cent of India's copper.
- The Singbhum district of Jharkhand is also a leading producer of copper.
- The Khetri mines in Rajasthan are also famous.

**Q.36)** Consider the following statements regarding **mica**:

1. Properties of mica is excellent di-electric strength and low power loss factor.

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2. Koderma Gaya-Hazaribagh belt of Jharkhand is one of the leading producer of mica. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Mica is a mineral made up of a series of plates or leaves. It splits easily into thin sheets.

- These sheets can be so thin that a thousand can be layered into a mica sheet of a few centimeters high.
- Mica can be clear, black, green, red yellow or brown. Due to its excellent di-electric strength, low power loss factor, insulating properties and resistance to high voltage, mica is one of the most indispensable minerals used in electric and electronic industries.
- Mica deposits are found in the northern edge of the Chota Nagpur plateau. Koderma Gaya – Hazaribagh belt of Jharkhand is the leading producer.
- In Rajasthan, the major mica producing area is around Ajmer. Nellore mica belt of Andhra Pradesh is also an important producer in the country.

**Q.37)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Tropical Thorn Forest**”:

- 1. These occur in areas with rainfall less than 50 cm.
- 2. Important species found here are oak, teak and sal.
- 3. The forests are given an expression of scrub vegetation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Tropical thorn forests occur in the areas which receive rainfall less than 50 cm.

- These consist of a variety of grasses and shrubs. It includes semi-arid areas of south west Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- In these forests, plants remain leafless for most part of the year and give an expression of scrub vegetation.
- Important species found are babool, ber, and wild date palm, khair, neem, khejri, palas, etc. Tussocky grass grows upto a height of 2 m as the under growth.

**Q.38)** “**Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie**” areas are famous for which of the following?

- a) Coal reserves
- b) Gold reserves
- c) Iron ore reserves
- d) Bauxite reserves

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Australia is the largest producer of bauxite in the world.

- It is a leading producer of gold, diamond, iron ore, tin and nickel. It is also rich in copper, lead, zinc and manganese.

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- Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie areas of Western Australia have the largest deposits of gold.

**Q.39)** India has the shortest land frontier with which of the following country?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Myanmar
- d) Afghanistan

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** India has 15,106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7,516.6 Km including island territories. The length of our land borders with neighbouring countries is as under:

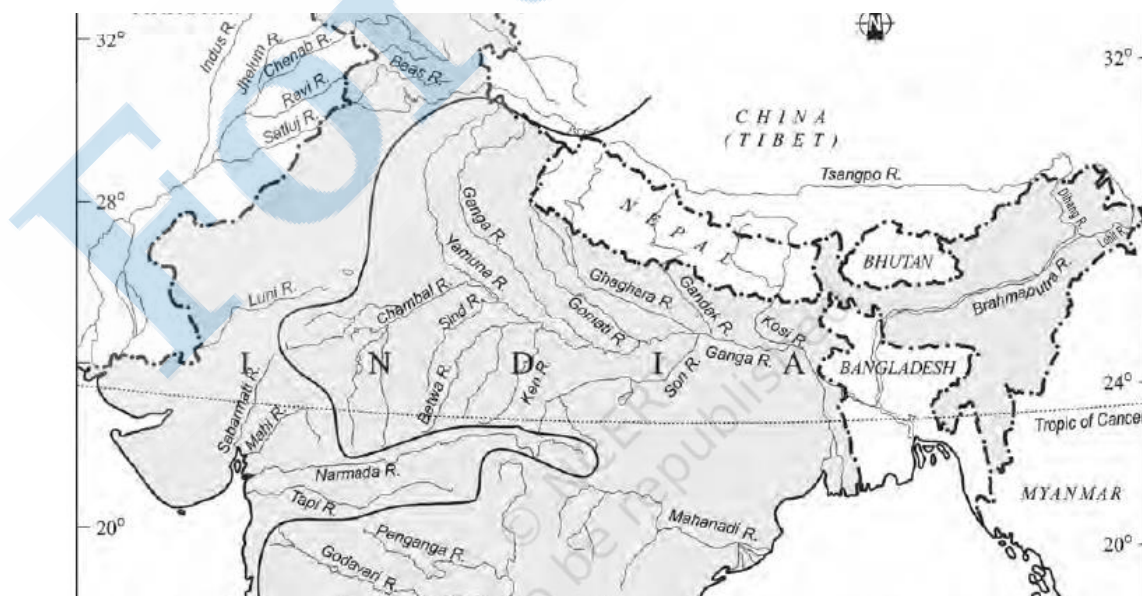
Name of the country	Length of the border (in Km)
Bangladesh	4,096.7
China	3,488
Pakistan	3,323
Nepal	1,751
Myanmar	1,643
Bhutan	699
Afghanistan	106
Total	15,106.7

**Q.40)** Which of the following river does not flow northwards?

- a) Chambal River
- b) Betwa River
- c) Kosi River
- d) Son River

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Chambal, Betwa, Ken and Son are the northward flowing rivers. Kosi originates in Tibet and flows southwards to merge in Ganga.



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## *Environment*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the **State of Global Air 2019**:

1. It is published by Health Effects Institute with the support of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).
2. According to the report air pollution is the third-highest cause of death among all health risks in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The **State of Global Air 2019 annual report and accompanying interactive website are designed and implemented by the Health Effects Institute in cooperation with the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Texas, Austin.**

- According to the report exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution contributed to over 1.2 million deaths in India in 2017.
- The report added that worldwide, air pollution was responsible for more deaths than many better-known risk factors such as malnutrition, alcohol abuse and physical inactivity.
- **In India, air pollution is the third-highest cause of death among all health risks, ranking just above smoking;**
- Each year, more people globally die from air pollution related disease than from road traffic injuries or malaria.
- Meanwhile, for the first time, this year's report and website include worldwide estimates of the effect of air pollution on life expectancy.
- Worldwide, air pollution reduced life expectancy by an average of 20 months in 2017, a global impact rivaling that of smoking; this means a child born today will die 20 months sooner, on average, than would be expected without air pollution.
- The report also highlighted that **nearly half of the world's population — a total of 3.6 billion people — were exposed to household air pollution in 2017.** Globally, there has been progress: the proportion of people cooking with solid fuels has declined as economies develop.

**Q.2)** The term "**Farmcil**" is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Eco-friendly plantable seed pencils
- b) Herbicide
- c) Fish medicine
- d) Solar energy from farm

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** **Farmcil, an eco-friendly plantable seed pencils.**

- Farmcil pencils come with a seed capsule containing seeds of ten different varieties of plants, including vegetables such as tomato, ladies finger and brinjal and flowering plants such as sunflower, zinnia and balsam.

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- The capsule part can be buried into the soil after the pencil has shortened with use.

**Q.3)** Which of the following **product (s)** is/are come (s) under the purview of e-waste management rules 2016?

1. Personal Computers
2. Refrigerators
3. Solar e-waste

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016, enacted since October 1, 2017.

- Over **21 products (Schedule-I) were included under the purview of the rule.**
- The rule also extended its purview to components or consumables or parts or spares of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE), along with their products.
- **Currently, India's e-waste rules have no laws mandating solar cell manufacturers to recycle or dispose waste from this sector.**

**NOTE:** Some of the 21 products of Schedule 1 are Centralized data processing: Mainframes, Minicomputers, Personal Computers (Central Processing Unit with input and output devices), Cellular telephones, Television sets (including sets based on (Liquid Crystal Display and Light Emitting Diode technology), Refrigerator, Washing Machine and Air-conditioners excluding centralized air conditioning plants.

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):**

1. It is an independent intergovernmental body.
2. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
3. According to the recent IPBES report that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** **The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by States** to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

- It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 Governments. **It is not a United Nations body.**
- However, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, **the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.**

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- A landmark new report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the summary of which was approved at the 7th session of the IPBES Plenary, meeting last week (29 April – 4 May) in Paris.
- **The Report finds that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history.**
- To increase the policy-relevance of the Report, the assessment's authors have ranked, for the first time at this scale and based on a thorough analysis of the available evidence, the five direct drivers of change in nature with the largest relative global impacts so far. **These culprits are, in descending order: (1) changes in land and sea use; (2) direct exploitation of organisms; (3) climate change; (4) pollution and (5) invasive alien species.**

**Q.5)** The “*Sand and Sustainability: Finding new solutions for environmental governance of global sand resources*” report is recently in news is released by which of the following?

- a) United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
- b) Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC)
- c) Conservation International
- d) World Economic Forum

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released (May 2019) a report, Sand and Sustainability: Finding new solutions for environmental governance of global sand resources, that highlights a problem that has largely stayed under the radar: sand consumption globally has been increasing and we are extracting it at rates exceeding natural replenishment rates.

- Sand and gravel, the report says, are the second largest natural resources extracted and traded by volume after water, but among the least regulated.
- The report notes that China and India head the list of critical hotspots for sand extraction impacts in rivers, lakes and on coastlines.
- The report suggests better spatial planning and reducing unnecessary construction — including speculative projects or those being done mainly for prestige — thereby making more efficient use of aggregates, investing in infrastructure maintenance and retrofitting rather than the demolish and rebuild cycle, embracing alternative design and construction methods, even avoiding use of cement and concrete where possible, and using green infrastructure.

**Q.6)** The “*Balukhand Wildlife Sanctuary and Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary*” is sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following state?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Severe Cyclone Fani rendered not only several thousand people homeless as it tore along India's east coast last week, but also dealt a body blow to wildlife and forest resources in the region.



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- The scenic stretch along the tree-lined Marine Drive that bisects the **Balukhand Wildlife Sanctuary** adjacent to the Bay of Bengal between Puri and Konark, is now a wasteland with hardly any tree left untouched.
- “As many as 20% of the trees were uprooted, while the rest were found snapped and broken. The devastation has left around 400 spotted deer homeless”.
- Apart from deer, the sanctuary, spread over an area of 87 sq km, was home to wild boar, jackals, striped hyenas, wolves and mongooses.
- In Bhubaneswar, the cyclone had uprooted decades-old trees inside the **Nandankanan Zoological Park**.
- Several animal enclosures too have been affected forcing authorities to shut down the zoo for an indefinite period.
- The **Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary**, which is close by, has also been impacted with thousands of trees uprooted. Authorities are attempting to assess the extent of damage.
- As a result, hundreds of displaced monkeys have now entered residential colonies in the periphery of Bhubaneswar. Residents have reported cases of the simians attacking people after loss of habitat and food sources.

**Q.7)** Recently a team of herpetologists have described (found) a **new species of reddish-brown pit viper** in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** India now has a fifth brown pit viper but with reddish tinge.

- **A team of herpetologists have described a new species of reddish-brown pit viper — a venomous snake with a unique heat-sensing system — from a forest in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The new species also makes Arunachal Pradesh the only Indian state to have a pit viper named after it.
- The other four — Malabar, horseshoe, hump-nosed and Himalayan — were discovered 70 years ago.

**Q.8)** The “**Porites solida, Montipora digitate and Acropora hyacinthus Species**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Coral Reefs
- b) Endemic frog species
- c) Wild Grass
- d) Snake eels

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The National Centre for Coastal Research, an institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, in India, has a field research station in the Gulf of Mannar region, and researchers have found an alarming pattern of bleaching in the reefs in Mandapam, Keezhakkarai and Palk Bay.

- **About 12% of coral species observed at depths between 0m and 2m such as Porites solida, Poritis lutea, Montipora digitate, Acropora hyacinthus were completely bleached.**

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- About 5% of species observed at depths between 2m and 4m such as *Acropora formosa*, *Acropora hyacinthus*, *Montipora digitata*, *Montipora foliosa*, *Pocillopora damicornis*, *Goniastrea retiformis*, *Platygyra sinensis*, *Dipsastrea favus*, *Dipsastrea speciosa* were partially bleached.
- *Porites* species observed in Palk Bay region were completely bleached at depths from zero to 4 metres. Corals at depths over 5m did not face bleaching.
- In some sites the massive corals such as *Porites* species were completely bleached but branching corals such as *Montipora digitata* and *Acropora* species were not bleached.
- Coral reefs are important hotspots of biodiversity in the ocean. Corals are animals in the same class (Cnidaria) as jellyfish and anemones.
- They consist of individual polyps that get together and build reefs. Coral reefs support a wide range of species and maintain the quality of the coastal biosphere.
- Corals control the level of carbon dioxide in the water by converting it into a limestone shell.
- If this process does not take place, the amount of carbon dioxide in the ocean water would increase significantly and affect ecological niches.

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the **Whale Shark**:

1. It is majorly found in the Indian Ocean.
2. It is an endangered species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Indian Ocean is home to 75% of the world's population of the whale shark, a slow-moving, filter-feeding carpet shark and the largest fish species on earth.

- **The whale shark — an endangered species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**
- The Whale Shark also receives international protection due to its inclusion in Appendix II of the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**Q.10)** The “**Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary**” is recently in news is located at?

- a) Leh
- b) Tawang
- c) Pithorgarh
- d) Chamba

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Changthang sanctuary is home to a diversity of flora and fauna and is spread over an area of 1,600 sq km.

- **It is located in the Ladakhi Changthang Plateau in the Leh district of Ladakh Union Territory.**
- It boasts of the highest lake on earth, Tso Moriri. Not just that it is also believed to include the world's highest village, Korzok Village that draws tourists for the Korzok Monastery.

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- From sighting the rare snow leopard, one can also spot a kiang or a wild ass, along with the dark-necked crane.
- Other interesting species one can find are the Tibetan wolf, wild yak, bharal, brown bear and the marmot that seems to be present everywhere.
- It also has a wide variety of avifauna and around 44 types of water birds and seasonal species of migratory birds are also found here.

**Q.11)** The “**Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary**” is sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Assam
- c) Goa
- d) Odisha

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** If one wants to see multi-storeyed forests with tall trees and rare plants, where hardly any light reaches the ground, Cotigao Sanctuary is the place to go to.

- It touches the border of Karnataka state and in the lean season, several gaurs are known to come into Cotigao from its neighbourhood.
- The vegetation is mostly moist-deciduous type, interspersed with semi-evergreen and evergreen patches.
- **The Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1969 to protect a remote and vulnerable area of forest lining the Goa- Karnataka border.**
- Encompassing 86-sq-kms of mixed deciduous woodland, the reserve is certain to inspire tree lovers, but less likely to yield many wildlife sightings: its tigers and leopards were hunted out long ago, **while the Gazelles, Sloth Bears, Porcupines, Panthers and Hyenas that allegedly lurk in the woods rarely appear.**

**Q.12)** Recently a **new species of dung beetle**, which is relatively large size, distinct blue colour and distinguishing characteristic of the strong sexual dimorphism, is discovered in which of the following state?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) West Bengal
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Rajasthan

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** A new species of dung beetle has been discovered in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

- **The species, Enoplotrupes tawangensis, is shining dark blue in colour and, measuring up to 27 mm, is relatively bigger than most of the dung beetles.**
- Dung beetles belong to the super family scarabaeoidea, having clubbed antennae and pro-tibiae (pro-legs) modified for burrowing dung inside the soil.
- These groups of insects are considered beneficial to the environment as they help in nutrient cycling of the soil. Often referred to as little recyclers, these scavenger beetles require mammalian dung to survive.
- “Insects comprise almost 65% of all animal species on the planet. From India, approximately 65,000 species of insects are known, of them, more than 22,000 species are beetles.

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- Dung beetles are the one of the fascinating group of insects because of their ability to bury dung deep in the soil and are indicators of the ecological health of an ecosystem”.
- Other than the relatively large size and distinct blue colour, another important distinguishing characteristic of this species is the strong sexual dimorphism, with the fronto-clypeal horn shorter in females than males.

**Q.13)** The “**Chakrashila wildlife sanctuary**” is sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Tripura
- d) Assam

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary is famous for being the second protected habitat of the Golden Langur.**

- **Charkashila was previously a reserve forest, but in the year 1994, it was declared as a wildlife sanctuary.**
- **It covers a total area of 45.50 sq km and its jurisdiction falls under two districts – namely of Dhubri and Kokrajhar district of Assam.**
- In the Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, tourists can see as many as 273 species of birds apart from 14 different species of reptiles, 60 kinds of fish and 11 species of amphibians.
- There are two lakes in the wildlife sanctuary which add to the beauty of the place. They are called Dheer Beel and Diplai Beel, and they are located on the two sides of the sanctuary.
- Chakrashila, India’s first wildlife sanctuary with golden langur as the primary species.
- Chakrashila has about 600 golden langurs whose population is scattered across western Assam and the foothills of Bhutan.

**Q.14)** Which of the following **transport industry** releases highest CO2 emitted per km travelled by a passenger?

- a) Air transport
- b) Rail transport
- c) Road transport
- d) Ship transport

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In recent months, climate activists have stepped up efforts to convince travellers to boycott **air travel**, with Swedish schoolgirl and campaigner Greta Thunberg spearheading the trains-over-planes movement and making “**flygskam**”, or flight shame, a buzzword in the Scandinavian country.

- **The industry has been under fire over its carbon emissions, which at 285 g of CO2 emitted per km travelled by a passenger far exceed all other modes of transport.** Road transportation follows at 158 and rail travel is at 14, according to European Environment Agency figures.
- The International Civil Aviation Organization estimates that air transport is responsible for 2% of global CO2 emissions.

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- But aircraft also emit particles such as nitrogen oxides, which can trap heat at high altitude, meaning the industry is responsible for 5% of warming, according to the Climate Action Network.
- **The industry has committed to improving fuel efficiency by 1.5% per year from 2009 to 2020 and stabilising its CO2 emissions in preparation for a 50% reduction by 2050 compared to 2005.**

**Q.15)** Recently, Indian scientists from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), an international conservation charity, and University College London (UCL) have discovered **six colour morphs of the golden cat** (cinnamon, golden, gray, melanistic, ocelot and tightly rosetted) in one place in which of the following state?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) West Bengal
- c) Gujarat
- d) Karnataka

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Golden is no longer the only colour the elusive Asiatic golden cat can be associated with.**

- **Its coat comes in five other shades in Arunachal Pradesh, scientists have discovered.**
- The Asiatic golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*) is listed as near threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of threatened species.
- It is found across eastern Nepal through north-eastern India to Indonesia.
- Indian scientists from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), an international conservation charity, and University College London (UCL) have discovered six colour morphs of the golden cat in Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Scientists have found that its coat comes in six types: cinnamon, golden, gray, melanistic, ocelot and tightly rosetted.**

**Q.16)** Which of the following **mining's** is/are source of Carbon Dioxide emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>)?

1. Copper mining
2. Bitcoin mining
3. Bauxite mining

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: The use of Bitcoin — a popular virtual currency — emits over 22 megatonnes of carbon dioxide annually, comparable to the total emissions of cities such as Las Vegas and Vienna, a study has found.**

- Researchers from Technical University of Munich (TUM) in Germany carried out a detailed calculation of the carbon footprint of the Bitcoin system.
- For a Bitcoin transfer to be executed and validated, a mathematical puzzle must be solved by an arbitrary computer in the global Bitcoin network. The network, which anyone can join, rewards the puzzle solvers in Bitcoin.
- The computing capacity used in this process — known as Bitcoin mining — has increased rapidly in recent years. Statistics show that it quadrupled in 2018 alone.

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- Consequently, the Bitcoin boom raises the question of whether the cryptocurrency is imposing an additional burden on the climate.
- **The Bitcoin system has a carbon footprint of between 22 and 22.9 megatonnes per year. That is comparable to the footprint of such cities as Hamburg, Vienna or Las Vegas.**

**Q.17)** Recently **European Union** set a target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions (Climate Neutrality) by?

- a) 2025
- b) 2030
- c) 2040
- d) 2050

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: EU leaders will this week discuss setting a target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.**

- European Union leaders met in Brussels to debate the 2050 target of “climate neutrality” that the environmental group WWF says now has the support of 16 of the EU’s 28 countries.
- “We urgently need to step up our action to manage this existential threat,” a draft of the EU’s strategic agenda for the next six years says.
- “The EU must lead the way, by engaging in an in-depth transformation of its own economy and society to achieve climate neutrality,” according to the draft.
- The draft contained a footnote, saying the wording may be adjusted to reflect the results of the summit debate, which an EU source said would focus on the 2050 target.
- The source said that a number of EU countries want more debate on financing the shift from an economy running on fossil fuels, especially those in eastern Europe, to one driven by clean energy.

**Q.18)** Recently the “**Bangkok declaration**” is in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Marine debris
- b) Deep sea fishing
- c) Forest fires
- d) Solar Waste

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: With Southeast Asia awash in rubbish, from plastic-choked whales to trash-clogged canals, leaders are planning to push through a deal to fight maritime debris at a regional meeting in June 2019.**

- Just five Asian countries — China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand — dump more than half of the eight million tonnes of plastic waste that end up in oceans every year, according to a 2017 Ocean Conservancy report.
- The region has come under fire for not doing enough to tackle its mounting trash troubles, with single-use plastic and sub-par waste management adding to the problem.
- **Leaders at a weekend meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are expected to sign a “Bangkok Declaration” on fighting maritime waste — a first of its kind — which promises to “prevent and significantly reduce marine debris”.**

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**Q.19)** The term “**Day Zero**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Water scarcity
- b) Earth’s gravity
- c) Carbon emission
- d) Solar energy

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The day when a city's taps dry out and people have to stand in line to collect a daily quota of water.

- **Through most of June, this has been the situation in Chennai, one of India's major cities facing an acute, unprecedented water shortage.**
- Many other big cities, including the national capital Delhi, are likely to run out of groundwater by next year, according to India’s policy making body NITI Aayog’s recent assessment.
- In all, 600 million people are facing the worst water crisis in the history of India.
- Adding to the woes is the gloomy prediction that by 2030, the overall demand for water in India will double. “Forty per cent of the population would have no access to drinking water by 2030,” the report warns.

**Q.20)** The “**Living Planet Report**” is published by which among the following organization?

- a) Global Environment Facility
- b) IUCN
- c) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- d) World Economic Forum

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1961, working in the field of wilderness preservation, and the reduction of human impact on the environment.

- It was formerly named the World Wildlife Fund, which remains its official name in Canada and the United States.
- WWF aims to "stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature."
- The Living Planet Report is published every two years by WWF since 1998; it is based on a Living Planet Index and ecological footprint calculation.
- In addition, WWF has launched several notable worldwide campaigns including Earth Hour and Debt-for-Nature Swap, and its current work is organized around these six areas: food, climate, freshwater, wildlife, forests, and oceans.

**Q.21)** The “**Prior Informed Consent (PIC)**” procedure is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Rotterdam Convention
- b) Stockholm Convention
- c) Basel convention
- d) Both A and C

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure is followed by Rotterdam Convention and Basel Convention.

- The Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure is the mechanism for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing Parties, as to whether they wish to

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receive future shipments of those chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention and for ensuring compliance with these decisions by exporting Parties.

- The chemicals listed in Annex III include pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by two or more Parties and which the Conference of the Parties has decided to subject to the PIC procedure.

**Q.22)** The “**Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZZP)**” is sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following state?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The **Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZZP) (Odisha)** has lost one of its beloved members — **41-year-old Orangutan**, an extant species of great apes.

- According to NZZP, the Orangutan **named ‘Bini’** died due to age-related complications.
- He also suffered from respiratory tract infection.

**Q.23)** The “**Rain loving snake (Ruahlawmrul)**” is sometimes seen in news is found in which of the following state?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Kerala
- c) Mizoram
- d) Tamil Nadu

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The new genus and species of the natricine — predominantly aquatic — that took a seven-member team of herpetologists 12 years to document, has been named *Smithophis atemporalis* after eminent British herpetologist Malcolm Arthur Smith for his immense contribution to Indian herpetology.

- Although new to science, the discovery is locally called **Ruahlawmrul or rain-loving snake**.
- The maximum recorded size of the new species is 655 mm and is commonly seen in human dominated landscapes after rains.
- The team led by Varad B. Giri of the Bengaluru-based National Centre for Biological Sciences and comprising two Mizoram zoologists — H.T. Lalremsanga and Samuel Lalronunga — had conducted molecular analyses to find that **Ruahlawmrul and other species called bicoulored forest snake (Rhabdops bicolor), found primarily in Meghalaya, differed from the Olive forest snake (Rhabdops olivaceous) endemic to Western Ghats.**

**Q.24)** The “**Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)**” is sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) UNEP Finance Initiative
- b) Global Environment Facility
- c) UNFCCC
- d) World Economic Forum



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### **ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) was created in 2015 by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) to develop consistent climate-related financial risk disclosures for use by companies, banks, and investors in providing information to stakeholders.

- Increasing the amount of reliable information on financial institutions' exposure to climate-related risks and opportunities will strengthen the stability of the financial system, contribute to greater understanding of climate risks and facilitate financing the transition to a more stable and sustainable economy.
- Following the publication of the final recommendations by FSB's TCFD in June 2017, **UNEP FI** began a series of 'TCFD Pilot Projects' for banks, investors, and insurers. Participants in these pilots have worked to pioneer practical approaches for the assessment and disclosure of climate risks and opportunities.

**NOTE:** United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private sector finance for sustainable development.

- UNEP FI works with more than 300 members – banks, insurers, and investors – and over 100 supporting institutions – to help create a financial sector that serves people and planet while delivering positive impacts.
- We aim to inspire, inform and enable financial institutions to improve people's quality of life without compromising that of future generations. By leveraging the UN's role, UNEP FI accelerates sustainable finance.

**Q.25)** The "**Trimethoprim, Metronidazole and Ciproflaxacin**" often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Pesticides
- b) Antibiotics
- c) Preservation agents of food
- d) Fruit ripening agents

### **ANS: B**

**Explanation:** An assessment of antibiotic pollution in rivers across the world shows that the concentration of antibiotics in some rivers is much higher than what is considered safe.

- According to the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) industry alliance standards, the safe level ranges from 20-32,000 nanogramme per litre, depending on the antibiotic.
- However, in Bangladesh, the **antibiotic metronidazole** was found to 300 times the safe level — this was 170 times higher than what was estimated in London's River Thames.
- The researchers — who presented their findings at the two day annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) in Helsinki, which began on May 27 — estimated presence of 14 antibiotics in rivers of 72 countries across six continents.
- A total of 711 sites were tested and antibiotics were found at 65 per cent of them.
- **Trimethoprim**, an antibiotic used to treat urinary tract infection, was found at 307 of the 711 sites tested.
- **Ciproflaxacin** most frequently exceeded safe levels, surpassing the safety threshold at 51 places.

**Q.26)** Which of the following act (s) consent is/are required for the **River valley and River interlinking projects**?

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1. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
3. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The National Green Tribunal has issued an order restraining Andhra Pradesh from proceeding further with the Godavari-Krishna-Penna river-linking project till the requisite environmental clearances and other permissions are taken under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

- The river valley projects require environmental clearance and also consent under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- The project could not be allowed till the requisite environmental requirements were met.

**Q.27)** Which Global sportswear giant aims to **eliminate the use of virgin plastics** in its products by 2024?

- a) Puma
- b) Nike
- c) Adidas
- d) Reebok

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Global sportswear giant Adidas aims at eliminating the use of virgin plastics in its products by 2024 — with a little help from a Maharashtra-based firm — the only one of its kind in the country to produce yarn out of discarded PET bottles.

- At its first factory set up in Nashik five years ago, Polygenta Technology Limited deploys a unique technology to break down used PET (short for Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles and convert them into polyester filament yarn.
- The firm, with a capacity to convert 30 tonnes of PET bottles into yarn a day, plans to scale up capacity to around 100 tonnes a day in the next two years to meet demand from the likes of Adidas — one of its first clients.

**NOTE:** According to the United Nations, around 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year — roughly the weight of the entire human population. Of this, eight million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in the oceans; PET bottles are the main contributors to plastic waste globally and in India.

**Q.28)** Consider the following statements regarding the **ecologically sensitive zones (ESZs) notification 2019**:

1. It notifies that area within 10 km of protected areas comes under ESZs.
2. They are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Environment (Protection) Rules 1986.

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

### **ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Over 30% of India's protected area has been covered under the final ecologically sensitive zone (ESZ) notification, the Environment Ministry informed the Lok Sabha.

- As on June 25, 2019, final ESZ notifications covering 316 protected areas (PAs) and draft ESZ notification covering 199 protected areas have been published by the ministry.
- **According to the ministry, out of the 651 Protected Areas (PAs) in India, 316 have been covered under the final ESZ notification which provides for prohibition of mining, stone quarrying and crushing units located within one k.m. of such protected areas.**
- **In the absence of the notification, an area of 10 k.m. around the PAs is considered 'default ESZ' according to the directions of the Supreme Court.**
- Out of the 316 areas covered in ESZ final notification, 100 PAs are in Andaman and Nicobar Islands followed by 29 in Maharashtra and 23 protected areas in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- **The ESZ notifications are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Environment (Protection) Rules 1986.**

**Q.29)** Consider the following statements regarding the "Zero Tillage":

1. It is the process where the crop seed will be sown through drillers without prior land preparation.
2. Residual moisture can be effectively utilized in Zero Tillage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### **ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Zero tillage is the process where the crop seed will be sown through drillers without prior land preparation and disturbing the soil where previous crop stubbles are present.

- Zero tillage not only reduce the cost of cultivation it also reduces the soil erosion, crop duration and irrigation requirement and weed effect which is better than tillage.
- Zero Tillage (ZT) also called No Tillage or Nil Tillage.

**Advantages of Zero Tillage:** Reduction in the crop duration and thereby early cropping can be obtained to get higher yields.

- Reduction in the cost of inputs for land preparation and therefore a saving of around 80%.
- Residual moisture can be effectively utilized and number of irrigations can be reduced.
- Dry matter and organic matter get added to the soil.
- Environmentally safe - Greenhouse effect will get reduced due to carbon sequestration.
- No tillage reduces the compaction of the soil and reduces the water loss by runoff and prevents soil erosion.

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- As the soil is intact and no disturbance is done, No Till lands have more useful flora and fauna.

**Q.30)** Which of the following protocol/agreement is **NOT** related to Ozone layer?

- a) Kigali Agreement
- b) Vienna Convention
- c) Cartagena Protocol
- d) Montreal Protocol

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The ozone layer is a natural layer of gas in the upper atmosphere that protects humans and other living things from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

- Although ozone is present in small concentrations throughout the atmosphere, most (around 90%) exists in the stratosphere, a layer 10 to 50 kilometres above the Earth's surface.
- The ozone layer filters out most of the sun's harmful UV radiation and is therefore crucial to life on Earth.

**Ozone depletion:** Scientists discovered in the 1970s that the ozone layer was being depleted.

- Atmospheric concentrations of ozone vary naturally depending on temperature, weather, latitude and altitude, while substances ejected by natural events such as volcanic eruptions can also affect ozone levels.
- However, these natural phenomena could not explain the levels of depletion observed and scientific evidence revealed that certain man-made chemicals were the cause.
- These ozone-depleting substances were mostly introduced in the 1970s in a wide range of industrial and consumer applications, mainly refrigerators, air conditioners and fire extinguishers.
- **Vienna Convention (1985), Montreal Protocol (1987) and Kigali Agreement (2016) all three deal with the protection of ozone layer.**

**Q.31)** Which of the following **factors** are affecting the Indian monsoon?

1. Differential heating of the landmass of Asia and the Indian Ocean.
2. Existence of the Himalayan ranges and the Tibetan Plateau.
3. Changes in the equatorial Atlantic Ocean.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The term monsoon has been derived from the Arabic word mausin or from the Malayan word monsin meaning 'season'.

Monsoons are seasonal winds (Rhythmic wind movements - Periodic Winds) which reverse their direction with the change of season.

**Factors affecting monsoon in India-**

- The differential heating of the landmass of Asia and the Indian Ocean.
- The existence of the Himalayan ranges and the Tibetan Plateau.
- The occurrence of heavy-light snow over the Tibetan Plateau.

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- The existence and circulation of the upper air jet stream in the troposphere.
- Changes in the equatorial Atlantic Ocean have been known to have an inverse relationship with the Indian summer monsoon rainfall. This means if there is a cold phase in the Atlantic, it can bring more rainfall to India and vice versa.

**Q.32)** Recently which state has opened its **first specialized hydrotherapy treatment for elephants** suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments?

- a) Kerala
- b) Assam
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Uttar Pradesh

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** India has opened its first specialised hydrotherapy treatment for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC), which currently houses 20 rescued elephants and is run in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO Wildlife SOS.

- **Situated on the banks of the Yamuna in Mathura**, the new hydrotherapy jumbo pool is 11-foot-deep and has 21 high pressure jet sprays that create water pressure that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation.
- "The hospital started in 2018 already offers state-of-the-art modern facilities including wireless digital X-ray, laser treatment, dental X-ray, thermal imaging and ultra-sonography to treat injured, sick and geriatric elephants".

**Q.33)** Which of the following species are **critically endangered** in India?

1. Northern River Terrapin
2. Nicobar Megapode
3. Arabian Sea Humpback Whale
4. Red Panda

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** There are 21 critically endangered species in India. Snow Leopard, Bustard (including Floricans), Dolphin, Hangul, Nilgiri Tahr, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, Edible Nest Swiftlet, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Vultures, Malabar Civet, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp Deer, Jerdon's Courser, the Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and Red Panda.

**Q.34)** With reference to the centrally sponsored scheme - Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH), which if the following are the **components of the scheme**?

1. Support to Protected Areas.
2. Protection of Wildlife outside Protected Areas.
3. Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.
4. Climate Change.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (IDWH) is an on-going centrally Sponsored Scheme which has been made operational by adding more components and activities to the erstwhile centrally Sponsored Scheme - "Assistance for the Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" during the 11th Plan Period.

Under IDWH, the financial assistance is provided to State/UT Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitats in Protected Areas (PAs) as well as outside PAs and also for the recovery programmes of the critically endangered species.

Components of the scheme:

- **Support to Protected Areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves).**
- **Protection of Wildlife outside Protected Areas.**
- **Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.**

**Q.35)** According to the “**Botanical Survey of India report - Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide**”, a publication detailing all the species of India, which of the following state has **highest endemic species of orchids?**

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Botanical Survey of India has come up with the first comprehensive census of orchids of India putting the total number of orchid species or taxa to 1,256.

- Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide, a publication detailing all the species of India was unveiled earlier this month by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The 1,256 species or taxa of orchids belong to 155 genera and 388 species are endemic to India.
- A State-wise distribution of orchid species points out that the Himalayas, North-East parts of the country and Western Ghats are the hot-spots of the beautiful plant species.
- The highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh with 612 species, followed by Sikkim 560 species and West Bengal; Darjeeling Himalayas have also high species concentration, with 479 species.
- While north-east India rank at the top in species concentration, the Western Ghats have high endemism of orchids.
- There are 388 species of orchids, which are endemic to India of which about one-third (128) endemic species are found in Western Ghats. The publication point out that Kerala has 111 of these endemic species while Tamil Nadu has 92 of them.
- Another interesting factor is that the entire orchid family is listed under appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and hence any trade of wild orchid is banned globally.
- “Some of the orchids like Dendrobium , Phalaenopsis, Oncidium and Cymbidium are quite popular in floriculture trade and have a demand both within and outside country”.

**NOTE:** Orchids can be broadly categorised into three life forms:

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- epiphytic (plants growing on another plants including those growing on rock boulders and often termed lithophyte),
- terrestrial (plants growing on land and climbers) and
- mycoheterotrophic (plants which derive nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi that are attached to the roots of a vascular plant).

About 60% of all orchids found in the country, which is 757 species, are epiphytic, 447 are terrestrial and 43 are mycoheterotrophic.

**Q.36)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Ganges River Dolphin**”:

1. It can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind.
2. The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) is the only dolphin sanctuary 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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Dolphins are one of the oldest creatures in the world along with some species of turtles, crocodiles and sharks.

- The Ganges river dolphin was officially discovered in 1801.
- 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.
- They are frequently found alone or in small groups, and generally a mother and calf travel together.
- Calves are chocolate brown at birth and then have grey-brown smooth, hairless skin as adults.
- Females are larger than males and give birth once every two to three years to only one calf.
- **The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS), from Sultanganj to Kahalganj on the Ganga in Bihar is the only dolphin sanctuary in the country.**

**Recent Measures:** Restricting the speeds of vessels and blowing sirens and horns is how the Ministry of Shipping plans to safeguard the population of the Ganges River Dolphin, in the country’s one dolphin reserve through which National Waterway-1 connecting Haldia to Varanasi passes.

**Q.37)** The “**Biofloc technology**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Bio-fertilizers
- b) Aquaculture
- c) Biogas from solid-waste
- d) Renewable energy

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In an effort to help aquaculture farmers, the Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University has developed a new feed that will aid in the growth of the vannamei shrimp and the tilapia fish.

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- Using biofloc, a new technology that obviates the need for the use of plankton in aquaculture, the feed, called Nutrifloc, and has been developed.
- “We balance the carbon-nitrogen ratio in the water due to which certain microbes develop. These microbes help maintain the quality of the water and reduce formation of sludge”.
- The technology reduces the use of water, which earlier had to be changed on a regular basis, brings down power consumption and cuts the cost of feed.
- With the adoption of the technology, aquaculture can be done indoors as well since sunlight would be required only for those using plankton.

**Q.38)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Fall Armyworm (FAW)**”:

1. It is an agriculture pest indigenous to African continent.
2. It was first reported on maize in Karnataka in 2018.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Fall Armyworm (FAW), an insect indigenous to the Americas, has been spreading across the globe harming crops.

- It migrated to Africa in 2016 and India in June 2018.
- It has also spread to neighboring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Southern parts of China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Bangladesh.
- The impact of the FAW is so intense that in one year — 2017-18 — it has damaged 20-25% crop yield worth \$3.5 billion to 5 billion in about 40 African countries.
- For the first time, India has imported 5 million tonnes maize and it is suspected that the impact of FAW might be one of the reasons for that.
- This lepidopteran pest feeds in large numbers on leaves and stems of more than 80 plant species causing major damage to economically important cultivated crops and grasses such as maize, rice, sorghum and sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton.
- America addressed the problem by introducing BT Maize.

**Crops under attack**

FAW IS A LONG-TIME AMERICAN PEST MUNCHING ITS WAY AROUND THE GLOBE, ATTACKING MOSTLY MAIZE, SORGHUM, MINOR MILLETS AND VEGETABLES.

The Fall Armyworm pest feeding on a plant on ICRISAT campus.

- It lays eggs on plants from which larvae hatch and start feeding on the leaves and stems, destroying them in the process.
- The female moth is a strong flyer and can cover 100 km in one night.
- In 2017-18, it damaged 20-25% crop yield worth \$3.5 billion to \$5 billion in about 40 African countries.
- In India, FAW infestation was first reported on maize in Karnataka in July 2018 followed by Telangana. It is now reported to have spread to Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and parts of West Bengal.
- India has imported 5 million tonnes maize, and one of the reasons for that could be large-scale FAW infestation. More than 80 crops were hit by the FAW.
- America addressed the problem by introducing BT Maize.

ICRISAT deputy director general Kiran Sharma, US Consul General Katherine Hadda, ICAR director general Trilochan Mohapatra and CMYYT Global Maize Programme director B.M. Prasanna addressing the media on the pest threat at the institute in Patancheru of Sangareddy district on Wednesday.

\*MOHD, ARIIF



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**Q.39)** The words “**Bhungroo and Urdhavam**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Water harvesting systems
- b) Tribal agriculture festivals
- c) Wild Bamboos
- d) Gums and resins

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Under Corporate Social Responsibility, Marico Company takes up water conservation projects, through the Parachute Kalpavriksha Foundation, largely in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

It identifies farm lands, talks to farmers, and promotes different types of water conservation systems - farm ponds, bunds on small farm lands, desilting of dams, Bhungroo, Urdhvam and a combination of Urdhvam and Bhungroo (recharging borewells).

**Q.40)** “The rainfall mostly experienced in winters. It is also known as Subtropical Winter Rain Zone. The vegetation is mostly deciduous type. In summer, short stature, moisture retentive trees especially citrus fruits grow here.” Which of the following **region** describes the above lines?

- a) Tropical grasslands
- b) Tropical monsoon type
- c) Mediterranean region
- d) Temperate grasslands

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The climate is known for warm to hot, dry summers and mild to cool, wet winters. Winter temperatures are usually between 30 and 65 degrees. Summer months all average above 50 degrees. The warmest month averages about 72 degrees.

- The cause of this climate is directly related to large bodies of water such as the Mediterranean Sea and ocean currents.
- During the summer, cold currents keep the climate mild and dry. Ocean currents shift as the seasons change.
- During the winter the water that was warmed up all summer moves in and keeps the land warm and often brings rain.
- Plants in Mediterranean climate must be able to survive long dry summers. Evergreens such as Pine and Cypress trees are mixed with deciduous trees such as some Oaks.
- Fruit trees and vines such as grapes, figs, olives, and citrus fruits grow well here. Other plants include what are called "scrub", which include small shrubs, grasses, and herbs.

**Q.41)** The “**Bridgestone World Solar Challenge (BWSC)**” is often seen in news is conducted in which of the following country?

- a) Japan
- b) Australia
- c) United States of America
- d) Switzerland

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** For over 30 years, the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge has welcomed the greatest minds from around the world to Australia to push the limits of technological innovation and travel the outback in a vehicle powered only by the energy of the sun.

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- **Traversing 3,000km from Darwin to Adelaide, teams comprise of tertiary and secondary students from over 30 countries.**
- These students and their support team have achieved greatness by engineering and building a vehicle with their own hands and powering it across some of the world's most challenging landscape.
- In 2017, the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge celebrated its 30th Anniversary. The 2021 competition marks the 16th journey from the Top End to Adelaide.
- Based on the original notion that a 1000W car would complete the journey in 50 hours, solar cars are allowed a nominal 5kW hours of stored energy, which is 10% of that theoretical figure.
- All other energy must come from the sun or be recovered from the kinetic energy of the vehicle. These are arguably the most efficient electric vehicles.

**Q.42)** According to IUCN, which of the following **vulture species** is/are **critically endangered**?

1. White-backed vulture
2. Indian Griffon vulture
3. Bearded vulture

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** There has been a sharp decline in the population of vultures in the country which has come down from 40 million to 19,000 in a span of over three decades, the Environment Ministry told the Parliament.

- Responding to a query on the status of vultures in the country, Union Environment Minister said there are **three species of critically endangered resident Gyps vultures – white-backed vulture, long-billed vulture and slender-billed vulture – whose population as per the latest figures is 6,000, 12,000 and 1,000, respectively.**
- The Minister said nationwide vulture surveys are being carried out by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) every four years sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Departments of various States since 1990.
- The major cause of mortality of vultures was found to be the veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug 'Diclofenac', given to cattle in pain and inflammation.
- It said that for protection and conservation of vultures in the country, the government has also upgraded the status of White-backed, Long-billed and Slender-billed vultures from Schedule IV to Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

**NOTE:** Indian Griffon vulture – Least Concerned and Bearded vulture – Near Threatened.

**Q.43)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**prescribed burning**”:

1. It is the process of planning and applying fire to a predetermined area, under specific environmental conditions, to achieve a desired outcome.
2. Recently it was practiced in both Eravikulam National Park (ENP) and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve.

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Prescribed burning is the process of planning and applying fire to a predetermined area, under specific environmental conditions, to achieve a desired outcome.

- Prescribed, controlled and planned burns are the same thing.
- Prescribed burning was experimentally introduced in the **Eravikulam National Park (ENP) and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve (PKMTR)** recently.

**Q.44)** Which of the following institution (s) is/are announced/launched the “**Clean Air Initiative**”?

1. Climate and Clean Air Coalition.
2. World Health Organization (WHO).
3. United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Ahead of the upcoming 2019 Climate Action Summit, the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and Climate and Clean Air Coalition announced today the “Clean Air Initiative”, calling on governments at all levels to join the Initiative.

- The “Clean Air Initiative” calls on national and sub national governments to commit to achieving air quality that is safe for citizens, and to align climate change and air pollution policies by 2030.
- According to WHO, each year, air pollution causes 7 million premature deaths, of which 600,000 are children.
- According to the World Bank, air pollution costs the global economy an estimated US\$5.11 trillion in welfare losses and in the 15 countries with the highest greenhouse gas emissions, health impacts of air pollution are estimated to cost more than 4 per cent of GDP.
- Meeting the Paris Agreement on climate change, however, could save over 1 million lives a year by 2050 and yield health benefits worth an estimated US\$54.1 trillion – about twice the costs of mitigation – through reduced air pollution alone.

**Q.45)** Recently researchers have found a **dragon tree species** for the first time in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Assam has added to India’s botanical wealth a plant that yields dragon’s blood — a bright red resin used since ancient times as medicine, body oil, varnish, incense and dye.

- A trio of researchers led by Assam forest officials has discovered *Dracaena cambodiana*, a dragon tree species in the Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong.

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- This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India.
- *Dracaena cambodiana* is an important medicinal plant as well as an ornamental tree.
- It is a major source of dragon's blood, a precious traditional medicine in China.
- Several antifungal and antibacterial compounds, antioxidants, flavonoids, etc., have been extracted from various parts of the plant.

**Q.46)** Consider the following statements regarding the “tiger census” in India:

1. It is conducted for once in four years.
2. It was first conducted in 2002 by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Tiger census is conducted for once in four years.

- **Since 2006, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) — an Environment Ministry funded body — has been tasked with coordinating the exercise.**
- That year, the once in four years exercise calculated that India had only 1,411 tigers.
- This rose to 1,706 in 2010 and 2,226 in 2014 on the back of improved conservation measures and new estimation methods.
- India accounts for most of the 3,500-odd tigers that are scattered among Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- As part of an agreement in 2010 among these countries, there is a goal to double the global tiger count by 2022.

**Q.47)** Recently, Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) has released its latest variety - “Arka Suprabath” is related to which of the following?

- a) Mango
- b) Papaya
- c) Pine apple
- d) Banana

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) has released its latest variety, Arka Suprabath, much to the delight of fruit connoisseurs.

- Mango is a highly cross-pollinated and heterozygous crop, which means it is difficult to get all the desired characters/traits in a single variety.
- So, it was developed by, to combine the best of Amrapali (for pulp, colour, taste and bearing) and Arka Anmol (for size and colour).
- It is a double-cross hybrid developed by using parents Amrapali (which is a cross of Dashehari and Neelam) and Arka Anmol (which is a cross of Alphonso and Janardhan Pasand).
- Arka Suprabath is a rare variety as it has got Alphonso shape with the pulp colour of Amrapali.
- Tastewise, it is sweet with less acidic properties (0.12%). Its deep orange firm pulp is less fibrous than other varieties.
- Alphonso tends to show irregular bearing after 15 to 20 years of cultivation, but Arka Suprabath grows consistently in bunches.

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**Q.48)** The “**prickly pear cactus**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Bio-fuel
- b) Biodegradable plastics
- c) Wild Alien flora species
- d) None

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Mexico’s prickly pear cactus, which is emblazoned on the country’s flag, could soon play a new and innovative role in the production of biodegradable plastics.

- A packaging material that is made from the plant has been developed by a Mexican researcher and is offering a promising solution to one of the world’s biggest pollution conundrums.
- That substance is then mixed with non-toxic additives and stretched to produce sheets that are coloured with pigments and folded to form different types of packaging.

**Q.49)** Which of the following states prepared the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans with support from the World Bank?

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. West Bengal
4. Odisha
5. Gujarat

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The objective of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Project is to assist Government of India (GoI) in building national capacity for implementation of comprehensive coastal management approach in the country, and piloting the integrated coastal zone management approach in states of Gujarat, Orissa and West Bengal.

- There are four components to the project, the first component being national ICZM capacity building. The national component will include mapping, delineation and demarcation of the hazard lines, and delineation of coastal sediment cells all along the mainland coast of India.
- The second component is the piloting ICZM approaches in Gujarat. This component will support capacity building of the state level agencies and institutions, including preparation of an ICZM plan for the coastal sediment cell that includes the Gulf of Kachchh, and pilot investments.
- The third component is the piloting ICZM approaches in Orissa. This component will include capacity building of the state level agencies and institutions, including preparation of an ICZM plan for the coastal sediment cells that include the stretches of Paradip-Dhamra and Gopalpur-Chilika, including a regional coastal process study, and pilot investments.
- Finally, the fourth component is the piloting ICZM approaches in West Bengal.

**Q.50)** The “**miscanthus, reed canary and switch grasses**” often seen in news is related to which of the following?

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- a) Energy grasses
- b) Bio fertilizers
- c) Bio pesticides
- d) None

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** A long-term research has revealed that reed canary grass can be turned into an excellent 'green' fuel for biomass power stations and, on a smaller scale, boilers in buildings like schools.

- The five-year research project was carried out by researchers from Teesside University's Contaminated Land and Water Centre.
- Reed canary grass, which is native to Britain, is turned into bricks and pellets. These not only burn well but also don't add to greenhouse gases or contribute to global warming.
- **The research team experimented with four types of plant, willow trees, the current favourite for biomass power stations, and the miscanthus, reed canary and switch grasses.**

**Q.51)** The "**Global Deal for Nature (GDN)**" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is a United Nations (UN) policy to reverse the growing climate change.
- b) It is a policy of a group of independent scientists to save the diversity and abundance of life on the earth — for the price tag of \$100 billion a year.
- c) It is a policy of European Union to save earth from the sixth extinction.
- d) It is a policy of Least Developed Countries (LDC's) to promote sustainable development.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In 2017, 49 scientists authored a landmark paper, "An Ecoregion-Based Approach to Protecting Half the Terrestrial Realm" that called for a Global Deal for Nature (GDN) — a companion to the Paris Climate Agreement — to promote increased habitat protection and restoration, national and regional conservation strategies, and the empowerment of indigenous peoples to protect their sovereign lands.

- The goal of such a deal would be to protect half the terrestrial realm to halt the extinction crisis while sustaining human livelihoods.
- A key concept in the paper is that each of the world's 846 terrestrial ecoregions needs its own plan shared by the countries whose boundaries overlap its geophysical extent.
- In April 2019, many of these scientists published a new paper called "A Global Deal for Nature: Guiding Principles, Milestones, and Targets" that explains why protecting half the Earth is needed, and presents a science-driven plan to save the diversity and abundance of life on Earth.
- It builds upon many scientific proposals for protecting key biodiversity areas and the latest climate science, calling for a milestone of at least 30% of lands protected by 2030 with an additional 20% in climate stabilization areas. It is also the first to include land, freshwater, and marine eco-regions in one global plan.

**The policy's mission is to save the diversity and abundance of life on the earth — for the price tag of \$100 billion a year.**

**Q.52)** The term "**KNO<sub>x</sub>OUT**" is sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is a type of paint that can eliminate harmful air pollutants such as nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and other volatile organic compounds.

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- b) It is a type of diesel that produces less nitrogen oxide pollution.
- c) It is a type of catalytic converter used in internal combustion engines which eliminate air pollutants such as nitrogen oxide (NOx) and other volatile organic compounds.
- d) It is a type of air-purifier which intake atmospheric pollutants like nitrogen oxide (NOx).

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** A local paint manufacturer and distributor have developed a type of paint that can eliminate harmful air pollutants such as nitrogen oxide (NOx) and other volatile organic compounds.

- Mainly generated by vehicle emissions, NOx is a common air pollutant known to have serious consequences for health and the environment, including causing acid rain and smog.
- **Called KNOxOUT, the paint – developed by Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Inc. – contains ultrafine titanium dioxide that breaks down NOx and converts it into harmless substances.**

**Q.53)** The term “*Earth Beats*” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is an international and collaborative initiative gathering 18 news media outlets from around the world to focus on solutions to waste and pollution.
- b) It is an UNFCCC’s initiative to promote awareness about climate change and its effects.
- c) It is an initiative of OECD countries to promote sustainable use of resources.
- d) It is an initiative of World Bank to conserve global commons.

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Earth Beats, an international and collaborative initiative gathering 18 news media outlets from around the world to focus on solutions to waste and pollution.



**Q.54)** Consider the following statements:

1. Paedophryne Amauensis is a species of frog from Papua New Guinea, is considered the world’s smallest known vertebrate.
2. Coastal Redwood is the tallest tree in the world at 377 feet.
3. Amazon Water Lily is the largest aquatic plant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** From Wandering Albatross to Coastal Redwood, Google on April 22, 2019 celebrated Earth Day with a series of animations on six unique inhabitants on the Earth.

- While Wandering Albatross has the widest wingspan in the world, Coastal Redwood is the tallest tree in the world at 377 feet.
- Paedophryne Amauensis is a species of frog from Papua New Guinea. At 7.7 mm in length, it is considered the world's smallest known vertebrate.
- Another animation is on Amazon Water Lily which is the largest aquatic plant.
- Then there is Coelacanth — a fish that was long considered a “living fossil”. It evolved into roughly its current form approximately 400 million years ago.
- Several recent studies have shown that Coelacanth body shapes are much more diverse than previously thought.
- The last animation is on “Deep Cave Springtail”, insects that live in total darkness in caves where they feed on fungi and decomposing organic matter.

The theme of this year's Earth Day was 'Protect Our Species' and intended to draw attention to the rapid global destruction and reduction of the world's plant and wildlife populations.

**Q.55)** Which of the following are in “*Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve*”?

- a) Mudumalai and Wyanaad Wildlife Sanctuaries; Bandipur, Nagarhole, Mukurthi and Silent Valley National parks.
- b) Mudumalai and kalakad Wildlife Sanctuaries; Bandipur, Nagarhole, Mukurthi National parks.
- c) Kalakad and Wyanaad Wildlife Sanctuaries; Guindy, Indira Gandhi, Nagarhole, Mukurthi National parks.
- d) Mudumalai, Kalakad and Wyanaad Wildlife Sanctuaries; Bandipur, Nagarhole, Mukurthi National parks.

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve falls under the biogeographic region of the Malabar rain forest. The Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Wyanaad Wildlife Sanctuary Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley are the protected areas present within this reserve.

**Q.56)** Which of the following state has the unique distinction of having three (3) biosphere reserves of UNESCO (MAB) programme?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer State in Protected Area management and development of forest resources and wildlife.

- The total area under the protected area management is 7,072.95 sq. km. which comes to 30.92% of the State's Forest area.
- The Protected Areas in the State includes 5 National parks, 15 Wildlife sanctuaries, 15 bird sanctuaries and 2 conservation reserves besides 4 Tiger Reserves viz. Anamalai, Kalakkad - Mundanthurai, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam.



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- These Protected Areas have been established under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Further Tamil Nadu also has the distinction of having 3 Biosphere Reserves viz. Nilgiris, Gulf of Mannar and Agasthiarmalai, which are internationally acclaimed for their rich and unique biodiversity.**

**Q.57)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

<b>Biological Park/Bird Sanctuary</b>	:	<b>State</b>
1. Machia Biological Park	:	Gujarat
2. Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)	:	Tamil Nadu
3. Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary	:	Madhya Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- None

**ANS: D**

**Explanation: Bannerghatta National Park (Karnataka):** was declared a national park in 1974, with a portion of it being made into BBP in 2002. BBP has four divisions: the zoo, the safari, the butterfly park and the rescue centre.

**Machia Biological Park (Jhodpur, Rajasthan):** The primary aim of the Park is conservation and to supplement the efforts for in situ conservation of the flora and fauna of the Aravalli and desert ecosystem.

**Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary** is located at Agra (Uttar Pradesh).

**Q.58)** “Tropical wet evergreen-type forest of the western ghats, extends to over 600 square kilometers and provides a habitat for three big carnivores- tiger, leopard, and wild dog- amongst several other species such as lion-tailed macaque. The place is also origin of three rivers- the nethravathi, the Tunga River and the Bhadra River”. The above description defines which of the following national park?

- Rajiv Gandhi national park (Nagarhole)
- Bannerghatta national park
- Bandipur national park
- Kudremukh national park

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Kudremukh National Park is located at a distance of 96 km from the district of Chikmagalur in the state of Karnataka in India.

- Nestled in the Western Ghats, the park is spread over an area of over 600 sq km at an altitude of 1,894 m above sea level.
- The Kudremukh National Park derives its name from a hill top that resembles the shape of the head of a horse.
- The park houses four ranges named Kudremukh, Kerekatte, Kalasa, and Shimoga. The entire park is covered by thick forests with various species of flora. It is also surrounded by tea and coffee plantations.
- The Kudremukh National Park falls under the Global Tiger Conservation Priority-I, under the format developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and World Wide Fund-USA.
- It is also the origin of three very well-known rivers – the Nethravathi, the Tunga and the Bhadra.

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- A statue of Lord Varaha at a height of six feet can be found inside an ancient cave and a temple of goddess Bhagavathi is also present here. These attract many tourists, mainly pilgrims, here.
- Kudremukh National Park is home to several species of flora and fauna. Eucalyptus, casuarinas, acacia auriculiformis and Grevillea Robusta are some of the species of flora found here.
- Together with a wide array of wildlife consisting of tigers, leopards, wild dogs, Malabar giant squirrels, common langurs, sloth bears, gaurs, porcupines, sambar, spotted deer, barking deer, jackals, giant flying squirrels and mongoose found here.

**Q.59)** “Recycling of nutrients in the ecosystem through the process of mineralization of dead organic materials is the most important role for decomposers”, which of the following given is decomposers?

- a) Autotrophs
- b) Heterotrophs
- c) Phagotrophs
- d) Saprotrophs

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Saprotrophs feed by a process known as absorptive nutrition, in which the nutritional substrate (e.g., dead organism or other nonliving organic matter) is directly digested by a variety of enzymes that are excreted by the saprotroph.

The enzymes convert the detritus into simpler molecules, which are then absorbed by the cells to feed the organism.

**Q.60)** The logo of which of the following famous organizations is a Giant Panda?

- a) World Wildlife Fund or World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- b) International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The inspiration came from Chi-Chi: a giant panda that had arrived at the London Zoo in the year 1961, when WWF was being created.

Aware of the need for a strong, recognizable symbol that would overcome all language barriers, WWF’s founders agreed that the big, furry animal with her appealing, black-patched eyes would make an excellent logo.

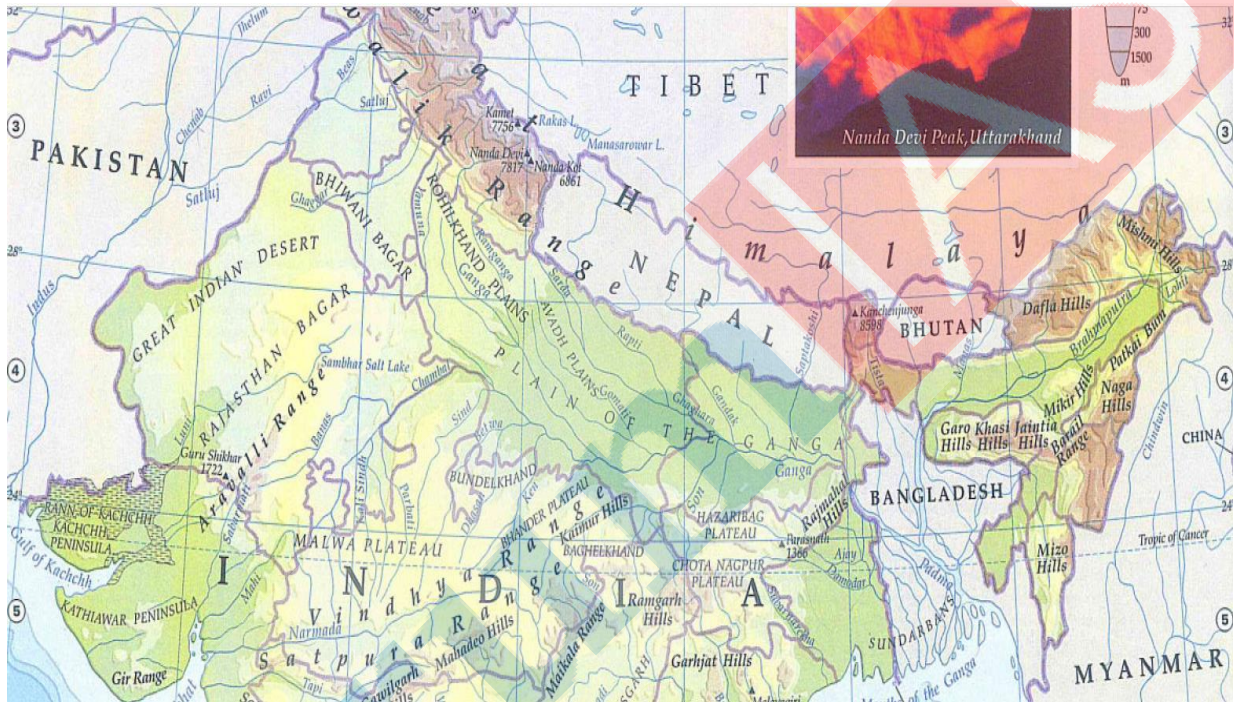
## Map Based Question

**Q.1)** Which of the following river **rises north** of the tropic of cancer in India?

- a) Mahi River
- b) Chambal River
- c) Parbati River
- d) Dhasan River

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**



**Q.2)** Arrange the following **hills** from east to west direction:

- 1. Ramgarh hills
- 2. Gawilgarh hills
- 3. Mahadeo hills
- 4. Satmala hills

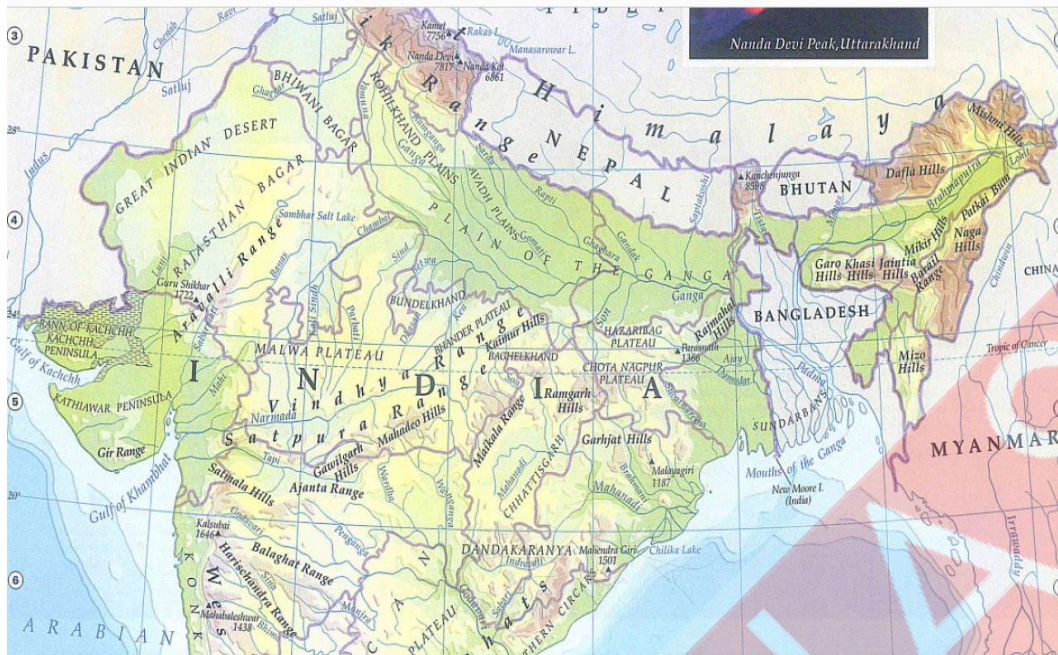
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**



**Q.3)** Arrange the following **cultural world heritage sites** in India from north to south direction:

1. Elephanta caves
2. Pattadakal monuments
3. Hampi
4. Mahabalipuram monuments

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**



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**Q.4)** The “keeladi excavation site” is sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following state?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Archaeologists have been busy digging out the treasures buried in Keeladi, a village in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu, and historians and anthropologists are now interpreting the rich finds from the Sangam era.

- This is the fifth phase of excavations, and it has revealed many more artefacts and engineering designs.
- The fourth phase had established that the antiquities unearthed here could date from the 6th century BCE to the 1st century CE.
- The present phase has shed more light, particularly on the advanced engineering techniques used then, “establishing that there was a culture and civilisation” in the region, as one archaeologist puts it.
- This is the first time that such a large-scale excavation on a ‘habitational mount’ has been carried out in Tamil Nadu.
- The excavations offer insights into engineering techniques that are more than 2,000 years ago.

**Q.5)** Arrange the following **tiger reserves** from south to north direction:

- 1. Anaimalai
- 2. Bandipur
- 3. Bhadra
- 4. Mudumalai

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**



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

- Pilgrimage centre : State**
1. Lepakshi temple : Karnataka
  2. Nako Monastery : Arunachal Pradesh
  3. Kailashnath temple: Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**



**Q.7)** Arrange the following Indus Valley Civilization sites from East to West direction:

1. Alamgirpur
2. Jilalpur
3. Shahi Tump

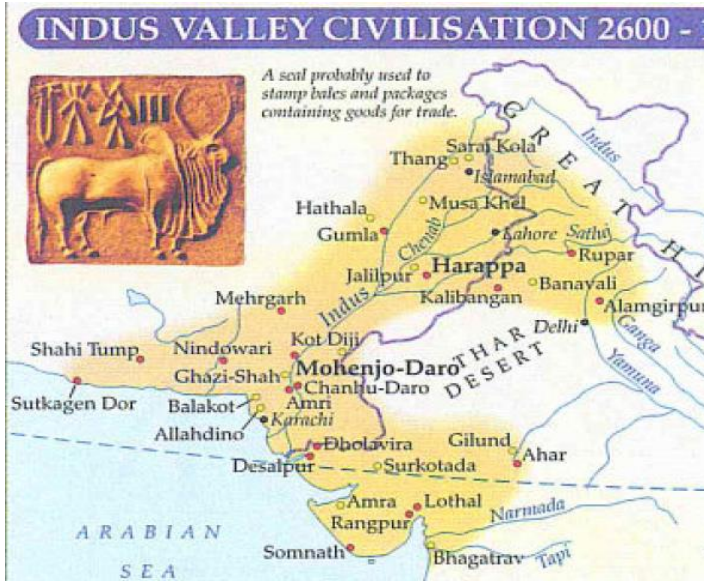
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

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**Q.8)** Arrange the following **capital cities** from north to south direction:

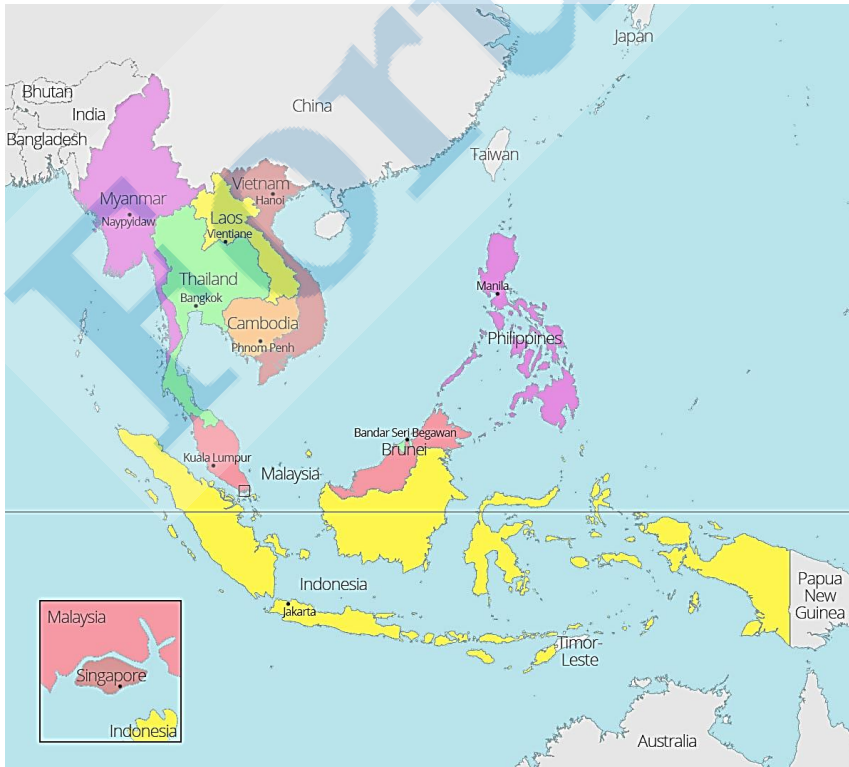
1. Phnom Penh
2. Bangkok
3. Myanmar
4. Hanoi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**



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**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020**

**Q.9)** Which of the following river is **not** flow through Punjab before entering Pakistan?

- a) Satluj
- b) Ravi
- c) Chenab
- d) Beas

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**



**Q.10)** Arrange the following **alluvium deposits** from north to south:

- 1. Tarai
- 2. Khaddar
- 3. Bhangar
- 4. Bhabar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

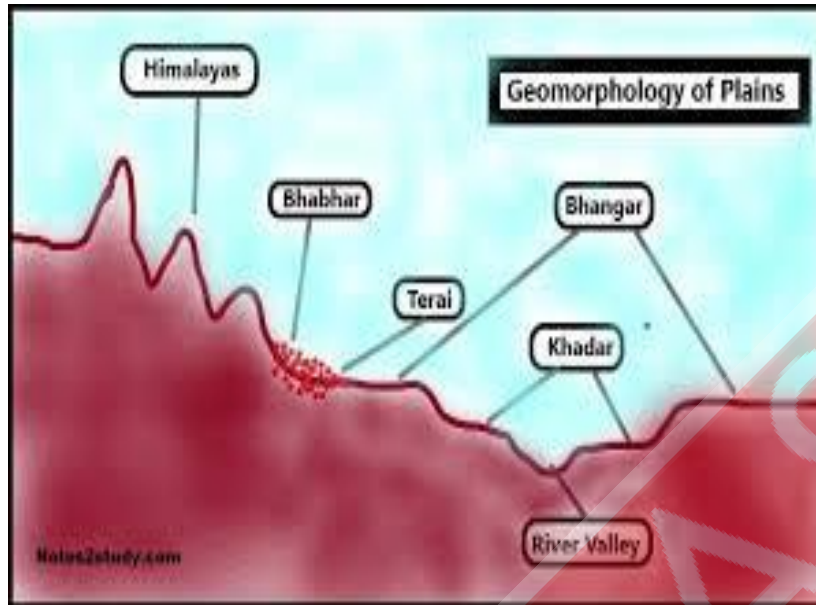
- a) 2 – 3 – 4 – 1
- b) 4 – 1 – 3 – 2
- c) 3 – 1 – 4 – 2
- d) 2 – 4 – 3 – 1

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The northern plains are formed by the alluvial deposits brought by the rivers – the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.

- These plains extend approximately 3,200 km from the east to the west. The average width of these plains varies between 150-300 km.
- The maximum depth of alluvium deposits varies between 1,000-2,000 m. From the north to the south, these can be divided into three major zones: the Bhabar, the Tarai and the alluvial plains. The alluvial plains can be further divided into the Khadar and the Bhangar.
- Bhabar is a narrow belt ranging between 8-10 km parallel to the Shiwalik foothills at the break-up of the slope.
- As a result of this, the streams and rivers coming from the mountains deposit heavy materials of rocks and boulders, and at times, disappear in this zone.
- South of the Bhabar is the Tarai belt, with an approximate width of 10-20 km where most of the streams and rivers re-emerge without having any properly demarcated channel, thereby, creating marshy and swampy conditions known as the Tarai.
- This has a luxurious growth of natural vegetation and houses a varied wildlife.





- The south of Terai is a belt consisting of old and new alluvial deposits known as the Bhangar and Khadar respectively.
- These plains have characteristic features of mature stage of fluvial erosional and depositional landforms such as sand bars, meanders, oxbow lakes and braided channels.
- The Brahmaputra plains are known for their riverine islands and sand bars. Most of these areas are subjected to periodic floods and shifting river courses forming braided streams.

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## *Reports & commissions*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following committee (s) is/are related to **Defence** in British India?

1. Skeen Committee
2. Chatfield Committee
3. Babington Smith Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The crucial link between the founding of a military academy and the attainment of independence was acutely realized by a section of Indian leadership in the days of struggle for independence, whose concerted efforts resulted in the recommendations of the Montague Chelmsford Reforms Committee that enabled ten Indians for receiving training at Sandhurst for induction as commissioned officers;

- **Setting up of the Skeen Committee in 1925** and later holding of Round Table Conference in London in 1930, which **recommended the establishment of the Indian Sandhurst.**
- As a follow up action, **a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, the then Commander-in-Chief of India, to work out modalities for establishment of an Indian Sandhurst.**
- In Jul 1931, the committee recommended establishment of a military academy for induction of 40 Gentlemen Cadets (GC) in each term comprising 15 as Direct Entries, 15 from the ranks through Kitchner College, Nowgaon and 10 from princely states.
- The training span was initially envisaged for three years but later reduced to two and a half years.

**Q.2)** Which of the following Act (s) is/are passed during the period of **Indira Gandhi**?

1. The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act.
2. Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA).
3. Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTP).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Important acts were passed during the period of Indira Gandhi.

- **Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971 (MISA):** A controversial law which gave the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and law enforcement gave absolute power to search and seize properties without a warrant, put individuals under preventive detention and use wiretapping.
- **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP):** The objective of the Act was to restrict monopolistic trade activities and to maintain the economy of

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the country in balance. In short, the law was to make sure that the wealth of the country does not remain concentrated in the hands of the rich.

- **Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA):** What is now popularly known as FEMA, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 was called FERA back in 1973. The Act aimed to regulate foreign payments and investments and the conversion of foreign exchange.
- **The Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973:** Acquisition, transfer of right, title and interest of the owners of coal mines was covered under the law.

**Q.3)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

<b>Committee</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1. Sivaraman Committee	:	NABARD
2. B.D. Kumar Committee	:	EXIM Bank
3. Sukomoy Chakravarty committee:	:	SIDBI Bank

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The B.D. Kumar Committee, which submitted its report in 1975, recommended for setting up of an export-import Bank type institution to finance and promote exports of engineering goods and turnkey projects.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at the insistence of the Government of India, constituted a Committee to Review the Arrangements For Institutional Credit for Agriculture and Rural Development (CRAFICARD) to look into these very critical aspects.

- **The Committee was formed on 30 March 1979, under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman, former member of Planning Commission, Government of India.**
- Its recommendation was formation of a unique development financial institution which would address these aspirations and formation of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was approved by the Parliament through Act 61 of 1981.

**Q.4)** The “Gender Social Norms Index” is released by which of the following institution?

- World Economic Forum
- UNESCO
- World Bank
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Nine in 10 people are prejudiced against women, such as thinking university education is more important for men or that men deserve jobs more if work is scarce, the United Nations said.

More than a quarter of men and women also think it is justified for a husband to beat his wife, found the **Gender Social Norms Index by the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP)**, designed to measure how social beliefs obstruct gender equality.

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**Q.5)** The “**principles for responsible banking**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Bank of International Settlements.
- b) World Bank
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) UNEP Financial Initiative

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The banking sector plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable development.

- It can lead the way to a more sustainable economy by lending to economic activities that yield the best return from society’s point of view and by guiding customers and stakeholders to manage social and environmental challenges and opportunities.
- At UNEP FI, we work hand in hand with our member banks to increase lending that supports socially and environmentally sustainable economic activities.
- The Principles for Responsible Banking are a unique framework for ensuring that signatory banks’ strategy and practice align with the vision society has set out for its future in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.
- More than 185 banks have now joined this movement for change, leading the way towards a future in which the banking community makes the kind of positive contribution to people and the planet that society expects.
- These banks represent more than a third of the global banking industry. This is a journey of unprecedented scale and scope at a time when such ambition is urgently needed.

**Q.6)** Which of the following are the **indicators of Democracy Index** 2019?

- 1. Electoral Pluralism
- 2. Democratic decentralization
- 3. Political culture
- 4. Fundamental Rights
- 5. Government functioning

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The latest edition of the Democracy Index spells gloom for India. The world’s biggest democracy slipped 10 places in the 2019 global ranking to 51st place.

The report published by The Economist Intelligence Unit — the research and analysis division of The Economist Group, which is the sister company to The Economist newspaper — records how global democracy fared, analyzing 165 independent states and two territories.

India was graded in electoral process and pluralism (8.67), government functioning (6.79), political participation (6.67), political culture (5.63) and civil liberties (6.76).

## Liberty in jeopardy

Of all the five categories that make up the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index, India's civil liberties index fell the most

Index	Value in 2019	Change from 2018
Democracy	6.90	-0.33
Electoral pluralism	8.67	-0.5
Government	6.79	0
Political participation	6.67	-0.55
Political culture	5.63	0
Civil liberties	6.76	-0.59

**Q.7)** The “**World Migration Report – 2020**” is published by which of the following institution/organization?

- UNESCO
- World Economic Forum
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** It is becoming clear that climate crisis is creating more refugees than war. Instead of focusing on weeding out ‘illegal immigrants’, the government should stress on what is a much larger issue: the irreversible damage we are causing our environment and the rise in climate refugees.

- Before you roll your eyes at the comparison, you may want to look at these hard-hitting statistics on environmental migrants from the World Migration Report, **2020**.
- **It states that by end-2018, there were a total of 28 million new internal displacements across 148 countries and territories.**
- **Nearly 61% (17.2 million) of these new displacements were triggered by disasters, and 39% (10.8 million) were caused by conflict and violence.**
- **Brought out by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**, the report highlights that, as in previous years, weather-related disasters triggered the vast majority of all new displacements across the world.

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Consumer Protection Bill, 2019**”:

1. Under the new bill, definition of consumer as a person who buys any good or resale good or avails a service for a consideration.
2. Penalty up to 1crore for misleading advertisements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan on July 8, 2019. The Bill replaces the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Key features of the Bill include:

- A consumer is defined as a person who buys any good or avails a service for a consideration. It does not include a person who obtains a good for resale or a good or service for commercial purpose. It covers transactions through all modes including offline, and online through electronic means, teleshopping, multi-level marketing or direct selling.
- **Six consumer rights have been defined in the Bill**, including the right to: (i) be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property; (ii) be informed of the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods or services; (iii) be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices; and (iv) seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices.
- The central government will set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. It will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements.
- **The CCPA may impose a penalty on a manufacturer or an endorser of up to Rs 10 lakh and imprisonment for up to two years for a false or misleading advertisement. In case of a subsequent offence, the fine may extend to Rs 50 lakh and imprisonment of up to five years.**
- Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (CDRCs) will be set up at the district, state, and national levels.
- Complaints against an unfair contract can be filed with only the State and National Appeals from a District CDRC will be heard by the State CDRC. Appeals from the State CDRC will be heard by the National CDRC. Final appeal will lie before the Supreme Court.

**Q.9)** Which of the following **acts relevant provisions** are subsumed by Code on Wages Bill, 2019?

1. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
2. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936.
3. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.
4. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Lok Sabha passed the Code on Wages Bill, 2019, which amends and consolidates laws relating to wages/bonus and universalizes the provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling.

- At present, the provisions of both Minimum Wages Act and Payment of Wages Act apply to workers below a particular wage ceiling working in Scheduled Employments only.

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2020

- “This Bill would ensure Right to Sustenance for every worker and intends to increase the legislative protection of minimum wage from existing about 40% to 100% workforce.”
- A release issued by the Ministry noted that the Code on Wages Bill, 2019, subsumes relevant provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
- After the enactment of the Bill, all these four Acts will get repealed.

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the “**Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019**”:

1. It defines golden hour as the time period of up to two hours.
2. It requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 15, 2019. The Bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide for road safety.

The Act provides for grant of licenses and permits related to motor vehicles, standards for motor vehicles, and penalties for violation of these provisions.

**Compensation for road victims:** The central government will develop a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour.

- The Bill defines golden hour as the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.
- The central government may also make a scheme for providing interim relief to claimants seeking compensation under third party insurance.
- The Bill increases the minimum compensation for hit and run cases as follows: (i) in case of death, from Rs 25,000 to two lakh rupees, and (ii) in case of grievous injury, from Rs 12,500 to Rs 50,000.

**Compulsory Insurance:** The Bill requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India.

**Good Samaritans:** The Bill defines a good samaritan as a person who renders emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a victim at the scene of an accident.

- The assistance must have been (i) in good faith, (ii) voluntary, and (iii) without the expectation of any reward.
- Such a person will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim, caused due to their negligence in providing assistance to the victim.

**Recall of Vehicles:** The Bill allows the central government to order for recall of motor vehicles if a defect in the vehicle may cause damage to the environment, or the driver, or other road users.

**Taxi aggregators:** The Bill defines aggregators as digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). These aggregators will be issued licenses by state further they must comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000.