

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon
September, 2020

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

History

Q.1) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Archaeological Site : State

1. Daojali Hading : Meghalaya
2. Chirand : Uttar Pradesh
3. Koldihwa : Bihar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Chirand: Chirand is a place in Saran district of Bihar and has significant importance archaeological and historical study of Bihar as well as India.

- In Chapra-Sonpur road, Chirand Village is situated near Doriiganj has its unprecedented archaeological, historical and cultural heritage.
- This region was dominated by Charo Dynasty hence it was named Chirand.
- In 1871, Sir W. W Hunter brought light to the archaeological significance of this area.

Daojali Hading: The excavation site at Daojali Hading (Assam) occupies an important place in the archaeological history of India as the first evidence of an Eastern Asiatic Neolithic complex of double-shouldered Celts and cord-marked pottery in India was reported from there.

- The discovery had put Northeast India on the Neolithic map of the world for the first time.
- However, the precise age of the artifacts were not known.

Koldihwa: Belan Valley in Uttar Pradesh near Prayag in Uttar Pradesh is one site where evidences of Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic sites have been found in sequence.

- The prehistoric sites of Belan valley include Mahgara, Chopani Mando, and Koldihwa.
- Koldihwa in Belan valley has provided earliest evidence of rice cultivation.

Q.2) “While some of the raw materials that the Harappans used were available locally, many items had to be brought from distant places”. Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Raw material : Imported from

1. Copper : Rajasthan and Oman
2. Tin : Afghanistan and Iran
3. Precious stones : Gujarat and Afghanistan

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: Raw materials are substances that are either found naturally (such as wood, or ores of metals) or produced by farmers or herders.

- While some of the raw materials that the Harappans used were available locally, many items such as copper, tin, gold, silver and precious stones had to be brought from distant places.
- **The Harappans probably got copper from present-day Rajasthan, and even from Oman in West Asia.**
- **Tin, which was mixed with copper to produce bronze, may have been brought from present-day Afghanistan and Iran.**
- **Gold could have come all the way from present-day Karnataka, and precious stones from present-day Gujarat, Iran and Afghanistan.**

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “**Dholavira City**”:

1. It was located on the banks of Sabarmati River.
2. It was divided into three parts, and each part was surrounded with massive stone walls, with entrances through gateways.

Which 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 city of Dholavira was located on Khadir Beyt (also spelled as Bet) in the Rann of Kutch, where there was fresh water and fertile soil.

- Unlike some of the other Harappan cities, which were divided into two parts, Dholavira was divided into three parts, and each part was surrounded with massive stone walls, with entrances through gateways.
- There was also a large open area in the settlement, where public ceremonies could be held.
- Other finds include large letters of the Harappan script that were carved out of white stone and perhaps inlaid in wood.
- This is a unique find as generally Harappan writing has been found on small objects such as seals.

Q.4) The term “**kammakaras**” in ancient period is related to which of the following?

- a) Agricultural labours
- b) Traders
- c) Farmers
- d) Warriors

ANS: A

Explanation: There were two major changes in agriculture around Janapadas period.

- One was the growing use of iron ploughshares. This meant that heavy, clayey soil could be turned over better than with a wooden ploughshare, so that more grain could be produced.
- Second, people began transplanting paddy. This meant that instead of scattering seed on the ground, from which plants would sprout, saplings were grown and then planted in the fields.

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- This led to increased production, as many more plants survived. However, it was back breaking work.
- Generally, slave men and women, (dasas and dasis) and landless agricultural labourers (kammakaras) had to do this work.

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

Philosophical school: Founder

1. Vaishesika : Konada
2. Nyaya : Kapila
3. Samkhya : Gotama

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: Over centuries, India's intellectual exploration of truth has come to be represented by six systems of philosophy.

- These are known as Vaishesika, Nyaya, Samkhya, Yoga, Purva Mimansa and Vedanta or Uttara Mimansa.
- These six systems of philosophy are said to have been founded by sages Konada, Gotama, Kapila, Patanjali, Jaimini and Vyasa, respectively.
- These philosophies still guide scholarly discourse in the country.
- German-born British indologist, Friedrich Max Muller, has observed that the six systems of philosophy were developed over many generations with contributions made by individual thinkers.
- However, today, we find an underlying harmony in their understanding of truth, although they seem distinct from each other.

Q.6) Consider the following statements "**Buddhism and Jainism**":

1. Both the Mahavira and the Buddha felt that only those who left their homes could gain true knowledge.
2. They arranged sangha, an association of those who left their homes.

Which 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: Both the Mahavira and the Buddha felt that only those who left their homes could gain true knowledge.

- They arranged for them to stay together in the sangha, an association of those who left their homes.
- The rules made for the Buddhist sangha were written down in a book called the Vinaya Pitaka.
- From this we know that there were separate branches for men and women. All men could join the sangha.
- However, children had to take the permission of their parents and slaves that of their masters.

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- Those who worked for the king had to take his permission and debtors that of creditors.
- Women had to take their husbands' permission.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding "Battle of Chausa":

1. It was between Sher Shah Suri and Babur.
2. After the battle, Sher Shah assumed the royal title of Farīd al-Dīn Shēr Shah.

Which 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: Mughal emperor Humayun attacked Sherkhan, the ruler of Bengal and Bihar, in 1537 with aim of bringing the latter's province under the control of the Mughals.

- Sherkhan was an able strategist than Humayun and he coped up a peace treaty with the Mughal king.
- When Humayun turned his attention from the east Sherkhan attacked him at a place called Chausa.
- In this battle of Chausa in 1539, Humayun was defeated and he escaped to Agra.
- Sher Khan after defeating a Bengal army, he took over the rule of Bihar.
- In early 1539 he conquered Bengal and, through clever deception, the Rohtas stronghold southwest of Bengal.
- At the Battle of Chausa on June 26, 1539, he defeated the Mughal emperor Humāyūn and assumed the royal title of Farīd al-Dīn Shēr Shah.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the "Arya Samaj":

1. It was founded by Dayananda Saraswati.
2. Arya Samaj fixed the marriageable age at 25 years for boys and 16 years for girls.
3. It denied inter-caste marriage and widow re-marriage.

Which of the following codes given below is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Arya Samaj Movement, revivalist in form though not in content, was the result of a reaction to Western influences.

- Its founder, Dayananda Saraswati or Mulshankar (1824-1883) was born in the old Morvi state in Gujarat in a brahmin family.
- He wandered as an ascetic for fifteen years (1845-60) in search of truth.
- The first Arya Samaj unit was formally set up by him at Bombay in 1875 and later the headquarters of the Samaj were established at Lahore.
- The Arya Samaj fixed the minimum marriageable age at twenty-five years for boys and sixteen years for girls.
- Swami Dayananda once lamented the Hindu race as "the children of children".
- Inter-caste marriages and widow remarriages were also encouraged.
- Equal status for women was the demand of the Samaj, both in letter and in spirit.

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Q.9) “Kalibangan” is an ancient site is located in which of the following state?

- a) Haryana
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Punjab
- d) Gujarat

ANS: B

Explanation: The settlement of Kalibangan is located in Rajasthan along the dried up bed of the river Ghaggar.

- Kalibangan was excavated in the 1960s under the guidance of B.K. Thapar.
- This place has yielded evidence for the existence of Pre-Harappan and Harappan habitations.
- It shows significant variation from Harappan in the sphere of religious beliefs.
- Some scholars have suggested that Kalibangan might have been part of the 'Eastern Domain' of the Harappan Civilization.
- In the areas of present day Haryana, East Punjab and Western U.P. Harappan sites like Bara, Siswal and Alamgirpur have been discovered.
- They give evidence of the presence of distinct local traditions in pottery along with the Harappan pottery.
- Kalibangan might have been a mediator between the Harappan cultural zone and the eastern provinces.

Q.10) World famous **Ajanta Caves** are situated on the banks of which of the following River?

- a) Waghora River
- b) Narmada River
- c) Tapti River
- d) Bheema River

ANS: A

Explanation: Ajanta groups of caves, a World Heritage Site which overlooks a narrow sinuous gorge, through which flows the stream of Waghora.

- The river is descended from the head of the Cave 28 from a waterfall of seven leaps. Waghore means Tiger River in Marathi.
- Located at Aurangabad in the Indian State of Maharashtra, the thirty excavated rock cut temples at Ajanta are famous for Buddhist monuments and paintings.
- The caves at Ajanta are excavated in the semi-circular scarp of a steep rock about 76 m high.

Q.11) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Ancient name	:	Significance
1. Maha-danda-nayaka	:	Chief judicial officer
2. Nagarashreshthi	:	City councilor
3. Prathama-kulika	:	Village chief

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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ANS: A

Explanation: Important Posts (Assemblies and Individuals) in Ancient period: Mahadanda-nayaka - chief judicial officer.

- **kumar-amatya**, meaning an important minister,
- **sandhi-vigrahika**, meaning a minister of war and peace.
- **Nagarashreshthi** or chief banker or merchant of the city.
- The **sarthavaha** or leader of the merchant caravans.
- **prathama-kulika** or the chief craftsman.
- And the head of the **kayasthas** or scribes.

Q.12) With reference to **Chola inscriptions** mention several categories of land, which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

1. Brahmadeya : land gifted to Brahmanas
2. shalabhoga : land for the maintenance of a school
3. vellanvagai : land donated to Jaina institutions

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: Chola inscriptions mention several categories of land:

- **Vellanvagai** - land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors
- **Brahmadeya** - land gifted to Brahmanas
- **Shalabhoga** - land for the maintenance of a school
- **devadana, tirunamattukkani** - land gifted to temples
- **pallichchandam** - land donated to Jaina institutions

Q.13) In 1318 the poet Amir Khusrau noted that there was a different language in every region of Indian sub – continent. Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

- | Region | : | Language spoken |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Southern Karnataka | : | Dvarsamudri |
| 2. Kerala | : | Ma'bari |
| 3. Bengal | : | Hindawi |

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: In 1318 the poet Amir Khusrau noted that there was a different language in every region of this land: Sindhi, Lahori, Kashmiri, Dvarsamudri (in southern Karnataka), Telangani (in Andhra Pradesh), Gujari (in Gujarat), Ma'bari (in Tamil Nadu), Gauri, (in Bengal) ... Awadhi (in eastern Uttar Pradesh) and Hindawi (in the area around Delhi).

Q.14) "Three dynasties of medieval India continuously fought for the **city of Kanauj in the ganga valley**". Which of the following are the three dynasties of tripartite struggle?

1. Rashtrakutas
2. Gurjara – Pratiharas

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3. Palas
4. Chahmanas

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, 3 and 4 only

ANS: A

Explanation: For centuries, rulers belonging to the Gurjara-Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties fought for control over Kanauj.

Because there were three “parties” in this longdrawn conflict, historians often describe it as the “tripartite struggle”.

Q.15) Which of the following statement is **NOT** correct about Chola temples of 9th century to 12th century?

- a) They are not only worship/religious places but also the centres of craft production.
- b) They were endowed with land by rulers as well as by others.
- c) The produce of this land went into maintaining the specialists in and around temples and also for maintenance of state army.
- d) None.

ANS: C

Explanation: The big temples of Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram, built by Rajaraja and Rajendra, are architectural and sculptural marvels.

- Chola temples often became the nuclei of settlements which grew around them.
- These were centres of craft production. Temples were also endowed with land by rulers as well as by others.
- The produce of this land went into maintaining all the specialists who worked at the temple and very often lived near it – priests, garland makers, cooks, sweepers, musicians, dancers, etc.
- In other words, temples were not only places of worship; they were the hub of economic, social and cultural life as well.

Q.16) Which of the following statement is **NOT** correct about tawarikh in Delhi sultanate period?

- a) The authors of tawarikh lived in cities and hardly ever in villages.
- b) They often wrote their histories for Sultans in the hope of rich rewards.
- c) These authors advised rulers on the need to preserve an ideal social order based on birthright and gender distinctions.
- d) Their ideas were shared by everybody.

ANS: D

Explanation: Although inscriptions, coins and architecture provide a lot of information, especially valuable are “histories”, tarikh (singular)/tawarikh (plural), written in Persian, the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans.

The authors of tawarikh were learned men: secretaries, administrators, poets and courtiers, who both recounted events and advised rulers on governance, emphasising the importance of just rule.

Keep the following additional details in mind:

- The authors of tawarikh lived in cities (mainly Delhi) and hardly ever in villages.

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- They often wrote their histories for Sultans in the hope of rich rewards.
- These authors advised rulers on the need to preserve an “ideal” social order based on birthright and gender distinctions.
- Their ideas were not shared by everybody.

Q.17) “Mohiniattam or Mohiniyattam” is an Indian classical dance form that evolved in which of the following state?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Mohiniattam or Mohiniyattam is an Indian classical dance form that evolved in the state of Kerala, India, and is counted among the two popular dance arts of the state, the other being Kathakali.

- Although its roots date back to the age-old Sanskrit Hindu text on performing arts called ‘Natyashastra’, similar to other Indian classical dance forms, Mohiniattam adheres to the Lasya type that showcases a more graceful, gentle and feminine form of dancing.
- Mohiniattam derives its name from the word ‘Mohini’, a female avatar of Lord Vishnu. Conventionally a solo dance performed by female artists, it emotes a play through dancing and singing where the song is customarily in Manipravala which is a mix of Sanskrit and Malayalam language and the recitation may be either performed by the dancer herself or by a vocalist with the music style being Carnatic.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Indian National Association**”:

1. It was founded by Dadabhai Naoroji.
2. It demanded holding of civil service examination in India only.

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indian Association of Calcutta (also known as the Indian National Association) superseded the Indian League and was founded in 1876 by younger nationalists of Bengal led by Surendranath Banerjea and Ananda Mohan Bose, who were getting discontented with the conservative and pro-landlord policies of the British Indian Association.

The Indian Association was the most important of pre- Congress associations and aimed to “promote by every legitimate means the political, intellectual and material advancement of the people.” It set out to—

- Create a strong public opinion on political questions, and
- Unify Indian people in a common political programme.

It protested against the reduction of age limit in 1877 for candidates of the Indian Civil Service examination.

- The association demanded simultaneous holding of civil service examination in England and India and Indianisation of higher administrative posts.

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- It led a campaign against the repressive arms act and the vernacular press act.

Q.19) “Treaty of Ryswick” was concluded between which of the following nations in 17th Century?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The French position in India was badly affected with the outbreak of war between the Dutch and the French.

- Bolstered by their alliance with the English since the Revolution of 1688, the Dutch captured Pondicherry in 1693.
- Although the Treaty of Ryswick concluded in September 1697 restored Pondicherry to the French, the Dutch garrison held on to it for two more years.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding **“Pitts India Act of 1784”**:

1. It gave the British government a large measure of control over the Company’s affairs.
2. The presidencies of Bombay and Madras were made subordinate to the governor-general.
3. No prohibition was placed on aggressive wars and treaties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Pitt’s India Act gave the British government a large measure of control over the Company’s affairs.

- In fact, the Company became a subordinate department of the State. The Company’s territories in India were termed ‘British possessions’.
- The government’s control over the Company’s affairs was greatly extended. A Board of Control consisting of the chancellor of exchequer, a secretary of state and four members of the Privy Council (to be appointed by the Crown) were to exercise control over the Company’s civil, military and revenue affairs. All dispatches were to be approved by the board. Thus a dual system of control was set up.
- In India, the governor-general was to have a council of three (including the commander-in-chief), and the presidencies of Bombay and Madras were made subordinate to the governor-general.
- A general prohibition was placed on aggressive wars and treaties (breached often).

Q.21) The **“Thomas Daniel, Tilly Kettle and George Willison”** is associated to which of the following?

- a) British Parliament members to deal with East India Company Affairs.
- b) Advisors of Secretary of State of British India.
- c) European Artists who visited British India.
- d) European Social Scientists who studied the British colonial system.

ANS: C

Explanation: One popular imperial tradition was that of picturesque landscape painting.

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- This style of painting depicted India as a quaint land, to be explored by travelling British artists; its landscape was rugged and wild, seemingly untamed by human hands.
- **Thomas Daniell and his nephew William Daniell** was the most famous of the artists who painted within this tradition.
- They came to India in 1785 and stayed for seven years, journeying from Calcutta to northern and southern India.
- They produced some of the most evocative picturesque landscapes of Britain's newly conquered territories in India.

Their large oil paintings on canvas were regularly exhibited to select audiences in Britain, and their albums of engravings were eagerly bought up by a British public keen to know about Britain's empire.

Tilly Kettle and George Willison are the European artists who visited India (south), to paint Muhammad Ali Khan portraits, and gifted these paintings to the King of England and the Directors of the East India Company.

Q.22) The words “**pataus and kumors**” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Painters and Goldsmiths
- b) Nomads and Pastoralists
- c) Painters and Potters
- d) Writers and Dancers

ANS: C

Explanation: In Bengal, around the pilgrimage centre of the temple of Kalighat, local village scroll painters (called patuas) and potters (called kumors in eastern India and kumhars in north India) began developing a new style of art.

- Before the nineteenth century, the village patuas and kumors had worked on mythological themes and produced images of gods and goddesses.
- On shifting to Kalighat, they continued to paint these religious images.
- Traditionally, the figures in scroll paintings looked flat, not rounded.
- Now Kalighat painters began to use shading to give them a rounded form, to make the images look three-dimensional. Yet the images were not realistic and lifelike.
- In fact, what is specially to be noted in these early Kalighat paintings is the use of a bold, deliberately non-realistic style, where the figures emerge large and powerful, with a minimum of lines, detail and colours.

Q.23) In Medieval and Modern period of India, the “**wootz steel**” is widely used for making swords?

- a) Central India
- b) North India
- c) Western India
- d) South India

ANS: D

Explanation: The Tipu's sword had an incredibly hard and sharp edge that could easily rip through the opponent's armour.

- **This quality of the sword came from a special type of high carbon steel called Wootz which was produced all over south India.**
- Wootz steel when made into swords produced a very sharp edge with a flowing water pattern.

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- This pattern came from very small carbon crystals embedded in the iron.
- Francis Buchanan, who toured through Mysore in 1800, a year after Tipu Sultan's death, has left us an account of the technique by which Wootz steel was produced in many hundreds of smelting furnaces in Mysore.
- Wootz is an anglicized version of the Kannada word ukku, Telugu hukku and Tamil and Malayalam urukku – meaning steel.
- Indian Wootz steel fascinated European scientists.
- Michael Faraday, the legendary scientist and discoverer of electricity and electromagnetism, spent four years studying the properties of Indian Wootz (1818-22).
- However, the Wootz steel making process, which was so widely known in south India, was completely lost by the mid-nineteenth century.

Q.24) The “**patola, jamdani and chintz**” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Decorative motifs on cloths
- b) Tax collectors in different areas
- c) Bonded labour system prevailed in different areas
- d) Money lending systems

ANS: A

Explanation: **Patola** was woven in **Surat, Ahmedabad and Patan**. Highly valued in Indonesia, it became part of the local weaving tradition there.

Jamdani is fine muslin on which decorative motifs are woven on the loom, typically in grey and white.

- Often a mixture of cotton and gold thread was used, as in the cloth in this picture.
- The most important **centres of jamdani and mulmul weaving were Dacca in Bengal and Lucknow in the United Provinces**.

Chintz: Printed design on fine cloth (chintz) produced in Masulipatnam, Andhra Pradesh, mid nineteenth century.

- This is a fine example of the type of chintz produced for export to Iran and Europe.
- Amongst the pieces ordered in bulk were printed cotton cloths called **chintz, cossaes (or khassa) and bandanna**.

Similarly, the word **bandanna** now refers to any brightly coloured and printed scarf for the neck or head.

- Originally, the term derived from the word “bandhna” (Hindi for tying), and referred to a variety of brightly coloured cloth produced through a method of tying and dyeing.
- **Bandanna patterns were mostly produced in Rajasthan and Gujarat**.

Q.25) Which of the following **bhakti saint (s)** is/are contemporaries of **Kabir**?

1. Raidas
2. Manikkavasagar
3. Namdev

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Kabir, who probably lived in the fifteenth-sixteenth centuries, was one of the most influential saints.

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- He was brought up in a family of Muslim julahas or weavers settled in or near the city of Benares (Varanasi). We have little reliable information about his life.
- We get to know of his ideas from a vast collection of verses called sakhis and pads said to have been composed by him and sung by wandering bhajan singers.
- Some of these were later collected and preserved in the Guru Granth Sahib, Panch Vani and Bijak.
- Kabir's teachings were based on a complete, indeed vehement, rejection of the major religious traditions.



Q.26) The “varkari sect” is related to which of the following?

- Jainism
- Buddhism
- Shaivism
- Vaishnavism

ANS: D

Explanation: The Vaishnava poet-saints of Maharashtra such as Jnaneshwar, Namadeva, Eknath and Tukaram, Sakhubai and the family of Chokhamela, who belonged to the “untouchable” Mahar caste, were devotees of lord Vitthala (form of lord Vishnu).

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- Devotion around lord Vitthala gave rise to the Varkari sect which lay emphasis on an annual pilgrimage to **Pandharpur**.
- The cult of Vitthala emerged as a powerful mode of devotion and was very popular amongst the people.

Q.27) The “**Appar, Sambandar and Manikkavasagar**” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Vira-shavites
- c) Nayanars
- d) Alvars

ANS: C

Explanation: Nayanars: There were 63 Nayanars, who belonged to different caste backgrounds such as potters, “untouchable” workers, peasants, hunters, soldiers, Brahmanas and chiefs.

- The best known among them were **Appar, Sambandar, Sundarar and Manikkavasagar**.
- There are two sets of compilations of their songs – **Tevaram and Tiruvacakam**.

Alvars: There were 12 Alvars, who came from equally divergent backgrounds, the best known being **Periyalvar, his daughter Andal, Tondaradippodi Alvar and Nammalvar**.

- Their songs were compiled in the **Divya Prabandham**.

Q.28) Which of the following pair (s) is/are **NOT** correctly matched?

Poet	:	Work
1. Silappadikaram	:	Sattanar
2. Manimekalai	:	Ilango
3. Meghaduta	:	Kalidasa

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Epics are grand, long compositions, about heroic men and women, and include stories about gods.

- A famous Tamil epic, the **Silappadikaram, was composed by a poet named Ilango**, around 1800 years ago.
- It is the story of a merchant named Kovalan, who lived in Puhar and fell in love with a courtesan named Madhavi, neglecting his wife Kannagi.
- Another Tamil epic, the **Manimekalai was composed by Sattanar** around 1400 years ago. This describes the story of the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi.
- Kalidasa – Meghaduta in Sanskrit.

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Sikh style of Architecture**”:

1. The use of multiple Chhatris or kiosks on the top of the construction.
2. The buildings had fluted domes, which were generally covered by brass and copper guilds for decoration and support.

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: Sikh style of architecture developed in the region of modern day Punjab. It was heavily influenced by the Mughal style of architecture. Some of the features of the Sikh school are:

- The use of multiple Chhatris or kiosks on the top of the construction.
- Use of shallow cornices. The buildings had fluted domes, which were generally covered by brass and copper guilds for decoration and support.
- The arches were decorated by the use of numerous foliations.
- Example: Shri Harmandir Sahib or Golden temple. It was initiated in 1585 and completed by Arjan Dev in 1604.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding the difference between **“Greek and Roman styles of Art”**:

1. The Greek style is realistic in nature and Roman is Idealistic in nature.
2. Greeks used Concrete and Romans used marble as raw material for building the art.
3. Gandhara School integrates both the styles.

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: There exists some difference between Greek and Roman styles and Gandhara School integrates both the styles.

- The idealistic style of Greeks is reflected in the muscular depictions of Gods and other men showing strength and beauty.
- Lots of Greek mythological figures from the Greek Parthenon have been sculpted using marble.
- On the other hand, Romans used art for ornamentation and decoration and is realistic in nature as opposed to Greek idealism.
- The Roman art projects realism and depicts real people and major historical events.
- The Romans used concrete in their sculptures. They were also famous for their mural paintings.

Q.31) “There were at least three different kinds of people living in most villages in the southern and northern parts of the subcontinent in ancient times”, which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Group of persons	:	Associated with
1. Vellalar	:	Ploughman
2. Uzhavar	:	Large landowners
3. kadaiyyar	:	Landless labours

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

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ANS: C

Explanation: Village in Ancient India: There were at least three different kinds of people living in most villages in the southern and northern parts of the subcontinent.

In the **Tamil region: large landowners were known as vellalar, ordinary ploughmen were known as uzharar, and landless labourers, including slaves, were known as kadaisiyar and adimai.**

North India: In the northern part of the country, the village headman was known as the grama bhojaka.

- The post was hereditary. The grama bhojaka was often the largest landowner.
- He also functioned as a judge, and sometimes as a policeman.
- Apart from the gramabhojaka, there were other **independent farmers, known as grihapatis**, most of whom were smaller landowners.
- And then there were men and women such as the **dasa karmakara**, who did not own land, and had to earn a living working on the fields owned by others.

Q.32) The term “**muvedar**” in ancient times is related to which of the following?

- Gupta period
- Tamil confederacy
- Satavahanas
- Kushans

ANS: B

Explanation: Sangam poems mention the muvedar.

- This is a Tamil word meaning three chiefs, used for the heads of three ruling families, the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas who became powerful in south India around 2300 years ago.
- Each of the three chiefs had two centres of power: one inland, and one on the coast.
- Of these six cities, two were very important: **Puhar or Kaveripattinam, the port of the Cholas, and Madurai, the capital of the Pandyas.**

Q.33) Consider the following statements:

- Mughals believe in the rule of primogeniture and they promoted it strictly.
- Mughals were followed the Timurid custom of Inheritance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Mughals did not believe in the rule of primogeniture, where the eldest son inherited his father's estate.

Instead they followed the Mughal and Timurid custom of coparcenary inheritance, or a division of the inheritance amongst all the sons.

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding the “**revenue administration in Akbar period**”:

- Zamindars are act as intermediaries to collect tax for state.
- Zabt system was prevailed in Akbar period.

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

- 1 only

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The main source of income available to Mughal rulers was tax on the produce of the peasantry.

- In most places, peasants paid taxes through the rural elites, that is, the headman or the local chieftain.
- **The Mughals used one term – zamindars – to describe all intermediaries, whether they were local headmen of villages or powerful chieftains.**
- Akbar's revenue minister, Todar Mal, carried out a careful survey of crop yields, prices and areas cultivated for a 10-year period, 1570- 1580.
- On the basis of this data, tax was fixed on each crop in cash.
- **Each province was divided into revenue circles with its own schedule of revenue rates for individual crops. This revenue system was known as zabt.**
- It was prevalent in those areas where Mughal administrators could survey the land and keep very careful accounts.
- This was not possible in provinces such as Gujarat and Bengal.

Q.35) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Office/Position	:	Associated with
1. Diwan	:	Financial officer
2. Bakhshi	:	Military paymaster
3. Sadr	:	Religious and charitable patronage

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: Abul Fazl explained that the empire was divided into **provinces called subas, governed by a subadar** who carried out both political and military functions.

- Each province also had a **financial officer or diwan**.
- For the maintenance of peace and order in his province, the subadar was supported by other officers such as the **military paymaster (bakhshi)**.
- The **minister in charge of religious and charitable patronage (sadr), military commanders (faujgars) and the town police commander (kotwal)**.

Q.36) Which of the following ruler (s) is/are contemporaries of "**Akbar the Great**":

- 1. Queen Elizabeth – I of England
- 2. Shah Abbas of Safavid – Iran
- 3. Czar Ivan IV Vasilyevich – Russia

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: The Contemporaries of Akbar: Akbar's contemporaries – the ruler of England, Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603); the Safavid ruler of Iran, Shah Abbas (1588-1629); and the more controversial Russian ruler, Czar Ivan IV Vasilyevich, also called “Ivan the Terrible” (1530-1584).

Q.37) The words “**Manigramam and Nanadesi**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Military commanders
- b) Village heads
- c) Guilds
- d) Temple heads in South India

ANS: C

Explanation: There were many kinds of traders. These included the Banjaras.

- Several traders, especially horse traders, formed associations, with headmen who negotiated on their behalf with warriors who bought horses.
- Since traders had to pass through many kingdoms and forests, they usually travelled in caravans and formed guilds to protect their interests.
- There were several such guilds in south India from the eighth century onwards – the most famous being the **Manigramam and Nanadesi**.

Q.38) “**Divya Prabandham**” – is a songs compilation towards god was compiled by which of the following?

- a) Nayanars
- b) Alvars
- c) Buddhists
- d) Jains

ANS: B

Explanation: There were 12 Alvars, who came from equally divergent backgrounds, the best known being **Periyalvar, his daughter Andal, Tondaradippodi Alvar and Nammalvar**.

- Their songs were compiled in the **Divya Prabandham**.

There were 63 Nayanars, who belonged to different caste backgrounds such as potters, “untouchable” workers, peasants, hunters, soldiers, Brahmanas and chiefs.

- The best known among them were **Appar, Sambandar, Sundarar and Manikkavasagar**.
- There are two sets of compilations of their songs – **Tevaram and Tiruvacakam**.

Q.39) The term “**ijaradars**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Revenue farmers
- b) Tax collectors
- c) Weavers
- d) Iron smiths

ANS: A

Explanation: Burhan-ul-Mulk tried to decrease Mughal influence in the Awadh region by reducing the number of office holders (jagirdars) appointed by the Mughals.

- He also reduced the size of jagirs, and appointed his own loyal servants to vacant positions.
- The accounts of jagirdars were checked to prevent cheating and the revenues of all districts were reassessed by officials appointed by the Nawab's court.

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- He seized a number of Rajput zamindaris and the agriculturally fertile lands of the Afghans of Rohilkhand.
- The state depended on local bankers and mahajans for loans. It sold the right to collect tax to the highest bidders.
- **These “revenue farmers” (ijaradars)** agreed to pay the state a fixed sum of money.

Q.40) The “**Calico Act – 1720**” was introduced by British in England to contain imports of which of the following?

- a) Spices
- b) Indigo
- c) Cotton textiles
- d) Sugar cane

ANS: C

Explanation: In 1720, the British government enacted a legislation banning the use of printed cotton textiles – chintz – in England. Interestingly, this Act was known as the Calico Act.

- In **1764, the spinning jenny was invented by John Kaye** which increased the productivity of the traditional spindles.
- The **invention of the steam engine by Richard Arkwright in 1786** revolutionized cotton textile weaving.

Economy

Q.1) With reference to the new hydro policy 2019, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It includes large hydro projects within the ambit of renewable energy.
2. It created additional resources for the development of large hydro projects.

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: A

Explanation: the Union Cabinet approved a new hydroelectricity policy that, among other things, **included large hydro projects within the ambit of renewable energy.**

- Prior to the policy, only small hydro projects of a capacity of less than 25 MW were treated as renewable energy. Large hydro projects were treated as a separate source of energy.
- India's renewable energy sector had an installed capacity of 75,055.92 MW as of February 2019, according to data with the Central Electricity Authority.
- This made up about 21.4% of the overall energy mix, with the rest coming from thermal, nuclear and large hydro sources.
- With the inclusion of large hydro in renewable energy, the energy mix changes drastically.
- Renewable energy capacity would now be 1,20,455.14 MW or 34.4% of the overall energy mix.

It must be noted that this is a purely cosmetic change. **No additional resources have been created through this policy. It is a reclassification of existing capacity.**

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

- a) It is a new domestic rating agency of India.
- b) It is a sub-committee representing South Asia of International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- c) It is a new accounting norms.
- d) It is a bad bank created to control the growing Non Performing Assets (NPA).

ANS: C

Explanation: Indian Accounting Standard (abbreviated as Ind-AS) is the Accounting standard adopted by companies in India and issued under the supervision of Accounting Standards Board (ASB) which was constituted as a body in the year 1977.

Presently, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has issued 39 Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) which have been notified under the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 ('Ind AS Rules'), of the Companies Act, 2013.

Q.3) Which of the following is/are the benefit (s) of a **Real Estate Investment Trust or REIT**?

1. Investment in REIT is just like investing in direct equity that can be done through a demat account.
2. It will earn rental income from commercial properties.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: A Real Estate Investment Trust or REIT is an investment vehicle that provides an opportunity to invest in various projects by only investing in the units of a sponsor entity that will manage the paperwork and may be, even the hindrances of investing in the real estate market.

- **The biggest benefit is the ease of investment as investing in REIT is just like investing in direct equity that can be done through a demat account.**
- **The other big advantage is getting an opportunity to invest in commercial properties that will earn rental income.**
- **This is a significant advantage as commercial properties typically earn more rent than residential properties with built-in clauses of rent hikes at fixed intervals.**
- Moreover, REIT regulations mandate the distribution of 90% of the rental income to unit holders. The remaining 10% can be used for business purposes.
- Also, since REIT is a publicly listed and traded instrument, liquidity should ideally not be a concern.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **President of World Bank:**

1. Since the bank's creation following World War II, all of its Presidents have been American men.
2. David Malpass is the 13th President of World Bank.
3. The World Bank President is Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA).

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: David Malpass, a top U.S. Treasury official in Trump administration, was on April 5 unanimously selected as the new President of the World Bank.

- The World Bank's 25-member executive board unanimously approved 63-year-old Malpass, who is currently Under Secretary of Treasury for International Affairs, as the development lender's **13th President for a five-year term beginning April 9.**
- **Since the bank's creation following World War II, all of its Presidents have been American men.**
- **The World Bank President is Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA).**
- The President is also ex officio Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the Administrative Council of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

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Q.5) The term “**Debt Transparency Initiative**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is an initiative of World Economic Forum to contain debt of Emerging and Developing economies.
- b) It is a joint initiative of World Bank and IMF to address debt vulnerabilities in low income developing countries.
- c) It is an initiative of European Union to contain debt of Greece, Spain and Iceland.
- d) It is an initiative of Asian Development Bank to contain debt of South Asian Countries.

ANS: B

Explanation: The World Bank Group takes a comprehensive approach to enhancing debt transparency—through its own engagement with more than 100 low- and middle-income countries and in close collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

- In 2018, the World Bank has launched—together with the IMF—a comprehensive approach to address debt vulnerabilities in low-income developing countries.
- Debt transparency is a key pillar of this approach.
- It also seeks to promote debt transparency in the context of the proposed Sustainable Development Finance Policy under IDA19 and through its engagement in international fora and outreach to other creditors.
- In addition, the Bank made several important contributions to global knowledge and best practices on debt transparency.
- Two joint notes, prepared in collaboration with the IMF, were delivered to the G-20 in 2018.
- The first identified ways the international financial community can help low- and lower-middle-income countries improve the recording, monitoring, and reporting of debt.
- The second evaluated how the World Bank Group and the IMF can strengthen public debt transparency by disseminating debt data, publishing public debt analysis, enhancing creditor outreach, and promoting sustainable borrowing and lending practices.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the “**output gap**”:

1. It refers to the difference between the actual output of the economy and its maximum potential.
 2. It is used by policy makers to gauge inflation.
- Which 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 output gap is an economic measure of the difference between the actual output of an economy and its potential output.

- Potential output is the maximum amount of goods and services an economy can turn out when it is most efficient—that is, at full capacity.
- Often, potential output is referred to as the production capacity of the economy.
- Policymakers often use potential output to gauge inflation and typically define it as the level of output consistent with no pressure for prices to rise or fall.
- In this context, the output gap is a summary indicator of the relative demand and supply components of economic activity.

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- As such, the output gap measures the degree of inflation pressure in the economy and is an important link between the real sides of the economy—which produces goods and services—and inflation.
- All else equal, if the output gap is positive over time, so that actual output is greater than potential output, prices will begin to rise in response to demand pressure in key markets.
- Similarly, if actual output falls below potential output over time, prices will begin to fall to reflect weak demand.

Q.7) Recently, which of the following institution found that nearly 38% of the companies it surveyed using the MCA-21 database were unusable for GDP data collection purposes?

- a) National Sample Survey Organization.
- b) Central Statistics Office.
- c) Economic Census.
- d) Annual Survey of Industries.

ANS: A

Explanation: A recent report by the National Sample Survey Organisation titled 'Technical Report on Service Sector Enterprises in India' found that nearly 38% of the companies it surveyed using the MCA-21 database were unusable for data collection purposes.

- About 21% were designated "out of coverage", 12% as untraceable, and 4.5% as closed.
- The government has started using the MCA-21 database to calculate the Gross Domestic Product and the Gross Value Added.

Q.8) With reference to central government aim to combine 44 central laws into four codes, which of the following are the **four codes**?

1. Code on Wages.
2. Code on Industrial Relations.
3. Code on Social security and Welfare.
4. Code on occupational safety, health and working conditions.

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: D

Explanation: Central government will aim to combine 44 central laws into **four codes wages, industrial relations, social security and welfare, and the fourth - occupational safety, health and working conditions.**

Q.9) With reference to the **tax buoyancy in India**, which of the following factors is/are influence the tax buoyancy?

1. Size of the tax base.
2. Friendliness of the tax administration.
3. Reasonableness and simplicity of the tax rates.

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: Tax buoyancy is one of the key indicators to assess the efficiency of a government's tax system.

Tax buoyancy explains this relationship between the changes in government's tax revenue growth and the changes in GDP.

Tax buoyancy depends largely on –

- the size of the tax base
- the friendliness of the tax administration
- the reasonableness and simplicity of the tax rates

Q.10) “Uruguay Round” negotiations is related to which of the following given below institution?

- a) World Trade Organizations
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) UNIDO
- d) AIIB

ANS: A

Explanation: The Uruguay Round was the 8th round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) conducted within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), spanning from 1986 to 1994 and embracing 123 countries as "contracting parties".

- The negotiations and process ended with the signing of the Final Act of the Marrakesh Agreement in April 1994 at Marrakesh, Morocco.
- The round led to the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), with GATT remaining as an integral part of the WTO agreements.

Q.11) Which of the following are the objectives of the “National Digital Communications Policy”?

1. Broadband for all by 2022.
2. Creating 10 Million additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector.
3. Enhancing the contribution of the Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from 6% in 2017.
4. Ensuring Digital Sovereignty.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 seeks to unlock the transformative power of digital communications networks - to achieve the goal of digital empowerment and improved well-being of the people of India; and towards this end, attempts to outline a set of goals, initiatives, strategies and intended policy outcomes.

The National Communications Policy aims to accomplish the following Strategic Objectives by 2022:

- Provisioning of Broadband for All
- Creating 4 Million additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector

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- Enhancing the contribution of the Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from ~ 6% in 2017
- Propelling India to the Top 50 Nations in the ICT Development Index of ITU from 134 in 2017
- Enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains
- Ensuring Digital Sovereignty

Q.12) Which of the following measures will **spur the economic growth**?

1. Transparent and hassle free land acquiring.
2. Availability of Skilled labour.
3. Lower interest rates in the economy.
4. Decrease in effective demand.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The traditional argument is that the lower the interest rate, the better for businesses as it brings down the cost of capital, making investments more attractive.

- Any government would love this as the country would then draw higher investments leading to higher growth and more job creation.
- Governments abhor higher interest rates as, theoretically, these push up project costs and keep investors away.
- Capital is one of the three main factors of production, which are critical to the growth of a commercial entity, the other two being land and labour.
- But capital is only a necessary, not sufficient, condition. Land, unless allocated by the local government, is too costly for investors seeking to set up shop.
- On labour, even if adequate hands are available for a job, the skill quotient is still low. Training graduates to be job-ready is a form of tax that companies pay.
- Also to be taken into account is the market environment and demand. If end users are seeing lesser money in hand than earlier, demand will certainly be impacted.
- Therefore, in an environment where the other factors of production are not favourable for an investor, low interest rates by themselves may not prove attractive enough.
- Any revival of economic activity will be contingent on joint efforts by the government on the fiscal front to stimulate demand, and the RBI, to keep interest rates low.

Q.13) Which of the following currency is also called as "**people's money**"?

- a) Chinese renminbi
- b) American Dollar
- c) Japanese Yen
- d) Euro

ANS: A

Explanation: The renminbi is the official currency of the People's Republic of China, and translates to "people's money." Its international symbol is CNY (or CNH in Hong Kong; but abbreviated RMB, with the symbol ¥).

Q.14) Which of the following is/are the **reasons for the currency depreciation?**

1. reduced monetary policy interest rates.
2. A surge in exports.
3. Traders and speculators selling currencies on the market.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Currency depreciation can occur for a variety of reasons. Broadly these include changes in inflation rates, political instability and other economic factors. More specifically, some of the leading causes of currency depreciation are:

- Lower export revenues
- A surge in imports
- Reduced monetary policy interest rates
- Central bank intervention
- Traders and speculators selling currencies on the market

Q.15) Which of the following are the **factors behind the recent slowdown** in the Indian economy?

1. Gradual rise in consumption demand.
2. Decline in manufacturing activity.
3. Inability of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to resolve cases in a time-bound manner.
4. Rising global trade tension.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: India's real or inflation-adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) grew at 5 per cent in the June 2019 quarter of financial year 2019-20 (Q1FY20), the slowest growth in six years (25 quarters). In nominal terms, the growth stood at 7.99 per cent, lowest since December 2002.

- A slowdown in consumption demand, decline in manufacturing, inability of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to resolve cases in a time-bound manner, and rising global trade tension and its adverse impact on exports are some of the factors affecting India's growth
- "Private consumption, which contributes nearly 55-60 per cent, to India's GDP has been slowing down.
- While the reduced income growth of households has reduced urban consumption, drought/near-drought conditions in three of the past five years coupled with collapse of food prices has taken a heavy toll on rural consumption".
- Savings by household sector – which are used to extend loans for investment -- have gone down from 35 per cent (FY12) to 17.2 per cent (FY18). Households, including MSMEs, make 23.6 per cent of the total savings in the GDP.

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- Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), a metric to gauge investment in the economy, too has declined from 34.3 per cent in 2011 to 28.8 per cent in 2018, government data show. Similarly, in the private sector, it has declined from 26.9 per cent in 2011 to 21.4 per cent in 2018.
- The household sector, which is the biggest contributor to the total capex in the economy, invests nearly 77 per cent in the real estate sector, which has lost steam since demonetization.

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. A cyclical slowdown is a period of lean economic activity that occurs at regular intervals.
2. A structural slowdown is a more deep-rooted phenomenon that occurs due to a one-off shift from an existing paradigm.

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: A cyclical slowdown is a period of lean economic activity that occurs at regular intervals.

- Such slowdowns last over the short-to-medium term, and are based on the changes in the business cycle.
- Generally, interim fiscal and monetary measures, temporary re-capitalisation of credit markets, and need-based regulatory changes are required to revive the economy.
- A structural slowdown, on the other hand, is a more deep-rooted phenomenon that occurs due to a one-off shift from an existing paradigm.
- The changes, which last over a long-term, are driven by disruptive technologies, changing demographics, and/or change in consumer behaviour.

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

1. It taxes funds raised by startups if they exceed the fair market value of the company.
2. It was introduced in 2015.
3. It is an indirect tax.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Angel investors finance small startups. They provide funds at a stage where such startups find it difficult to obtain funds from traditional sources of finance such as banks, financial institutions, etc. In this way, they encourage entrepreneurship in the country.

- Further, such investors provide mentoring to entrepreneurs as well as access to their own business networks. Thus, they bring both experience and capital to new ventures.
- Angel Tax, formally known as Section 56 (2) (vii b) of the Income Tax Act, taxes funds raised by startups if they exceed the fair market value of the company.

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- It was introduced in 2012 by the UPA government in order to detect money laundering practices and catch bogus startups.

Q.18) Which of the following statement is **NOT** correct about Central Public Sector Enterprise Exchange Traded Fund (CPSE ETF)?

- a) It was launched by the government in March 2014 to help divest its stake in select public sector undertakings through the ETF route.
- b) It is based on the Nifty CPSE index that comprises 11 PSEs.
- c) The parameters based on which companies have been made part of the index include a criteria that they have paid at least 10% dividend in the last two consecutive years.
- d) None

ANS: D

Explanation: CPSE ETF, as the name suggests, is an exchange-traded fund (ETF) comprising public sector enterprises (PSEs).

- The ETF was launched by the government in March 2014 to help divest its stake in select public sector undertakings through the ETF route.
- The ETF is based on the Nifty CPSE index that comprises 11 PSEs such as ONGC, NTPC, Coal India, Indian Oil Corporation, REC, Power Finance Corporation, Bharat Electronics, Oil India, NBCC (India), NLC India and SJVN.
- The parameters based on which companies have been made part of the index include a criteria that they have paid at least 10% dividend in the last two consecutive years.

Q.19) Consider the following statements:

1. WTO allows member countries to classify themselves as developing or developed.
2. Only the least developed countries status is designated by United 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: C

Explanation:

Matter of choice

WTO allows member countries to classify themselves as "developed" or "developing". However, other members can challenge the decision of a country to be classified as "developing". Only the "least-developed countries" status is designated by the UN. Countries in the three lists:

Developing	Developed	Least-developed countries
India	U.S.	Afghanistan
China	European Union	Bangladesh
Russia	Japan	Bhutan
Brazil	Canada	Myanmar
South Africa	Australia	Nepal
South Korea	New Zealand	South Sudan

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2020

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the **shadow banking (lenders)**:

1. It refers to high-yield lending that takes place outside the regular banking sector.
2. Examples of shadow lenders include Special Purpose Entities, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Hedge Funds etc.

Which 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: Shadow banking refers to often high-yield lending undertaken by NBFCs that takes place outside the regular banking sector. They are not subject to strict regulation and can sometimes be risky.

- The term 'shadow bank' was coined by Paul McCulley in 2007.
- Examples of shadow lenders include Special Purpose Entities, Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Hedge Funds etc.
- These institutions function as intermediaries between the investors and the borrowers, providing credit, thus, leading to financial inclusion and hence generate liquidity in the system.

Q.21) With reference to the ongoing apprehension of United States of America towards "**Developing Country**" status, which of the following statement is **NOT** correct?

- a) World Trade Organization (WTO) does not formally classify any of its members as a developing country.
- b) Individual countries are allowed to unilaterally classify themselves as developing economies.
- c) As many as two-thirds of the 164 members of the WTO have classified themselves as developing countries.
- d) The developing country status allows a member of the WTO to seek permanent exception from the commitments under various multilateral trade agreements ratified by the organization.

ANS: D

Explanation: The "developing country" status allows a member of the **WTO to seek temporary exception from the commitments** under various multilateral trade agreements ratified by the organization.

- It was introduced during the initial days of the WTO as a mechanism to offer some respite to poor countries while they try to adjust to a new global trade order marked by lower barriers to trade.
- Countries such as India and China, while seeking exception from various WTO agreements, have argued that their economic backwardness should be considered when it comes to the timeline of implementation of these agreements.
- The issue of farm subsidies, for instance, is one over which rich and poor countries have had major disagreements.
- **The WTO, however, does not formally classify any of its members as a developing country.**
- **Individual countries are allowed to unilaterally classify themselves as developing economies.**
- **So, as many as two-thirds of the 164 members of the WTO have classified themselves as developing countries.**

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Q.22) Which of the following statement is **NOT** correct about recommendations of economic capital framework Committee headed by Bimal Jalan?

- a) It recommended the economic capital of realized equity and revaluation balances should be distributed between RBI and Central Government.
- b) It recognized that RBI's provisioning for monetary, financial and external stability risks is the country's savings for a monetary or financial stability crisis.
- c) It recommended the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) to be maintained within a range of 6.5% to 5.5% of the RBI's balance sheet.
- d) None.

ANS: A

Explanation: The RBI had formed a committee chaired by former Governor Bimal Jalan to review its economic capital framework and suggest the quantum of excess provision to be transferred to the government.

- The committee was formed after a demand from the government for more money. The RBI Board has accepted all the recommendations of the Jalan committee.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at its board meeting (August 2019) decided to transfer a whopping ₹1.76 lakh crore to the Centre — including interim dividend of ₹28,000 crore paid in February — which is likely to address the precarious fiscal situation of the government to a great extent.
- The panel recommended a clear distinction between the two components of economic capital - realized equity and revaluation balances.
- It was recommended that realized equity could be used for meeting all risks/ losses as they were primarily built up from retained earnings, while revaluation balances could be reckoned only as risk buffers against market risks as they represented unrealized valuation gains and hence were not distributable.
- The committee also recognised that RBI's provisioning for monetary, financial and external stability risks is the country's savings for a 'rainy day', (a monetary or financial stability crisis), which has been consciously maintained with the RBI in view of its role as the Monetary Authority and the Lender of Last Resort.
- "This risk provisioning made primarily from retained earnings is cumulatively referred to as the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) and has been recommended to be maintained within a range of 6.5% to 5.5% of the RBI's balance sheet," the RBI statement said.

Q.23) The "**Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS)**" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It allows public sector banks to purchase high-rated pooled assets from financially sound NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs).
- b) It provides low interest loans to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's).
- c) It provides low cost loans on the lines of Mudra Bank to Self-help groups.
- d) It provides low cost capital to start-ups.

ANS: A

Explanation: The Centre had announced the PCGS in July 2019, allowing public sector banks to purchase high-rated pooled assets from financially sound NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs).

- As a part of its Aatmanirbhar initiative, finance minister had extended the scheme in May to cover primary market issuance of bonds by NBFCs, HFCs and micro finance institutions (MFIs) with low credit ratings.

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- The idea was to provide liquidity support to institutions with low credit ratings and ensure continuity of credit support to small businesses.

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the “**gig economy**”:

1. It undermines the traditional economy of full-time workers who rarely change positions and instead focus on a lifetime career.
2. India is the 5th largest country for flexi-staffing.

Which 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: Gig economy can be defined as a work engagement where on one side, there is a service seeker i.e. a consumer with a demand for a specific task, and on the other side, and there is a service provider i.e. a gig worker who can perform that specific task.

- A gig economy undermines the traditional economy of full-time workers who rarely change positions and instead focus on a lifetime career.
- In this economy, tech-enabled platforms connect the consumer to the gig worker to hire services on a short-term basis.
- Gig workers include self-employed, freelancers, independent contributors and part-time workers.
- The digital gig economy generated a gross volume of approximately \$204 bn from worldwide customers in 2018.
- Transportation-based services contributed to over 50% of this value. The size of the gig economy is projected to grow by a 17% CAGR and generate a gross volume of ~\$455 bn by 2023.
- India has emerged as the 5th largest country for flexi-staffing after US, China, Brazil and Japan.
- Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Telangana have most opportunities in terms of growth for the flexi-workers.

Q.25) With reference to recent merger of public sector banks, which of the following pair (s) is/are correct matched?

Bank (s)	:	Merged into
1. Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank	:	Punjab National Bank
2. Syndicate Bank	:	Central Bank of India
3. Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank	:	Canara Bank

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 largest of the mergers announced is that of Punjab National Bank with Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank.

- The amalgamated entity — to be called Punjab National Bank — will become the second-largest public sector bank in India, after the State Bank of India.

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- It will also become the second-largest bank in India in terms of its branch network, with a combined total of 11,437 branches.
- The second merger announced was that of Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank, which would render the merged entity the fourth-largest public sector bank.
- The merger also has the potential to lead to large cost reductions due to network overlaps, adding that the similar business cultures of the two banks would also facilitate a smooth transition.
- The third merger is of Union Bank of India with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank, the Finance Minister said, which would make the merged entity the fifth largest public sector bank.
- This merger would have the potential to increase the post-merger bank's business by 2-4.5 times.
- The fourth merger announced is of Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank.
- This, too, would lead to a doubling of the size of the business and would also lead to a huge potential for scaling up due to the complementary networks of the two banks.

Following all these mergers, the country will have a total of 12 public sector banks, half of which—Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Indian Bank, State Bank of India, and Bank of Baroda—will be able to compete at a global level.

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the **transfer of surplus capital of RBI to central government:**

1. RBI appointed Bimal Jalan Committee to review the surplus transfer to central government under Economic Capital Framework (ECF).
2. In last five years the surplus transfer by RBI to central government was continuously increased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

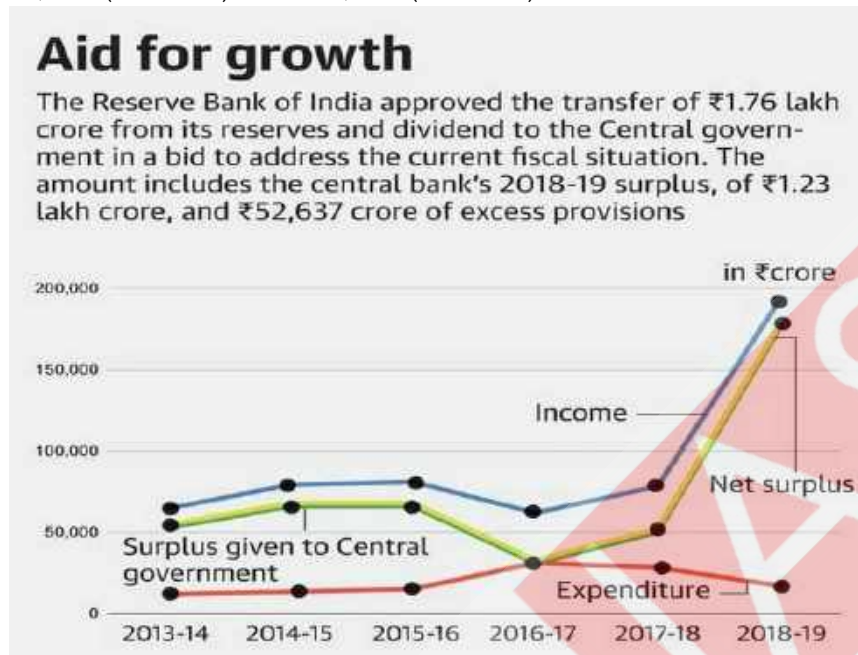
ANS: A

Explanation: On August 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) central board decided to transfer ₹1.76 lakh crore to the government (including a sum of ₹52,637 crore from its contingency reserve), a move that is likely to address the Central government's precarious fiscal situation.

- The transfer amount included the payment of dividend worth ₹1.23 lakh crore, and funds from its reserves, as identified under a new economic capital framework (ECF) adopted by the RBI board.
- The RBI had formed a committee chaired by former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan to review its ECF last year.
- Each year, the RBI transfers to the government any money in its balance sheet that it deems to be beyond its operational and contingency needs. The RBI's transfer of funds to the government per se is nothing new.
- But what has raised eyebrows this time is that the amount of funds being transferred by the central bank to the government this year is much higher than earlier — 146.8% more than what it had paid out last year, when it transferred ₹50,000 crore as dividend.
- Previously, the highest amount of surplus funds that the RBI had transferred to the government was ₹65,896 crore in 2014-15.

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- The net surplus figures are: ₹52,683 (2013-14); ₹65,896 (2014-15); ₹65,880 (2015-16); ₹30,659 (2016-17) and ₹50,000 (2017-18).



Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Financial Benchmarks India Private Ltd**”:

- It was jointly promoted by Reserve Bank of India, Fixed Income Money Market & Derivative Association of India (FIMMDA) and Indian Banks Association.
 - It was recognized by Reserve bank of India as an independent Benchmark administrator.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: In terms of recommendations of the Committee on Financial Benchmarks set up by Reserve Bank of India (February 2014) to review the systems governing major financial benchmarks in India, Fixed Income Money Market & Derivative Association of India (FIMMDA) and Foreign Exchange Dealers’ Association of India (FEDAI) were identified as benchmark administrators for the Indian rupee interest rate benchmarks and Foreign exchange benchmarks respectively.

- Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) was jointly promoted by Fixed Income Money Market & Derivative Association of India (FIMMDA), Foreign Exchange Dealers’ Association of India (FEDAI) and Indian Banks’ Association (IBA).
- It was incorporated on 9th December 2014 under the Companies Act 2013.
- It was recognised by Reserve bank of India as an independent Benchmark administrator on 2nd July 2015.
- The company is run by a Board of Directors, assisted by an oversight committee.
- The main object of the company is to act as the administrators of the Indian interest rate and foreign exchange benchmarks and to introduce and implement policies and procedures to handle the benchmarks.
- It also will make policies for possible cessation of any benchmark and to follow steps for ensuring orderly transition to the new benchmarks.

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- FBIL will review each benchmark to ensure that the benchmarks accurately represent the economic realities of the interest that it intends to measure.
- It will take up/consider such other benchmarks as may be required from time to time by periodically assessing the emerging needs of the end -users.

Q.28) The “Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made it mandatory for all banks to link floating rate loans — to an external benchmark”. Which of the following are comes under external benchmark rates?

1. Repo rate
2. Reverse repo rate
3. Three - month Treasury bill yield
4. Six - month Treasury bill yield

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: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made it mandatory for all banks to link floating rate loans — to retail customers and loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) — to an external benchmark.

- Some banks have already started to link home and auto loan rates to the repo rate, which is an external benchmark.
- “The RBI, therefore, has issued a circular making it mandatory for banks to link all new floating rate personal or retail loans and floating rate loans to MSMEs to an external benchmark effective October 1, 2019.”
- The norms for external benchmark linking of interest rates was scheduled to be operational from April 1, but was deferred.
- At present, interest rates on loans are linked to a bank’s marginal cost of fund-based interest rate (MCLR).
- Banks can choose from one of the four external benchmarks — repo rate, three-month treasury bill yield, six-month treasury bill yield or any other benchmark interest rate published by Financial Benchmarks India Private Ltd.

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the “**World Gold Council**”:

1. It is an inter-governmental body under International Monetary Fund.
2. India is among top five countries of highest gold reserves.

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: C

Explanation: The World Gold Council’s 28 Members are some of the world’s most forward-thinking gold mining companies. They are headquartered across the world and have mining operations in over 45 countries.

India has piped the Netherlands to move into the list of top ten countries in terms of total gold reserves.

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- According to the World Gold Council, India has gold reserves totalling 618.2 tonnes, which is marginally higher than the Netherlands' reserves of 612.5 tonnes.
- Interestingly, in terms of individual countries, India actually ranks ninth since the International Monetary Fund (IMF) occupies the third position after the U.S. and Germany.
- According to the latest release by the World Gold Council, U.S. leads the country list with total gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes.
- While the IMF is ranked third with a holding of 2,451.8 tonnes, it is followed by countries such as Italy (2,451.8 tonnes), France (2,436.1 tonnes), Russia (2,219.2 tonnes), China (1,936.5 tonnes), Switzerland (1,040 tonnes) and Japan (765.2 tonnes) before India at the 10th spot.

India's entry into the list of top ten countries comes at a time when the quantum of monthly purchases is the lowest in over three years.

Q.30) Which of the following are the **International Credit Rating Agencies**?

1. S & P
2. Moody's
3. Fitch
4. DBRS

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Presently, India is rated by six international credit rating agencies, namely Standard and Poor's (S&P), Moody's Investor Services, FITCH, Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS), the Japanese Credit Rating Agency (JCRA), and the Rating and Investment Information Inc., Tokyo(R&I).

Q.31) Recently, the government of India announced annual mega shopping festivals on four themes. Which of the following are the four themes?

1. Engineering products
2. Gems and Jewellery
3. Handicrafts
4. Textiles
5. Leather

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 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

ANS: B

Explanation: India will hold annual mega shopping festivals in four places starting March 2020 on four themes — Gems and Jewellery, handicrafts/yoga/tourism, textiles, and leather.

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding the "**Effective Tax Rate**":

1. The effective tax rate for a corporation is the average rate at which its pre-tax profits are taxed.

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2. Effective tax rate represents the percentage of their taxable income that individuals have to pay in taxes.
3. The effective tax rate is a more accurate representation of a person's or corporations overall tax liability than their marginal tax rate, and it is typically lower.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The effective tax rate is the average tax rate paid by an individual or a corporation.

- The effective tax rate for individuals is the average rate at which their earned income, such as wages, and unearned income, such as stock dividends, is taxed.
- The effective tax rate for a corporation is the average rate at which its pre-tax profits are taxed, while the statutory tax rate is the legal percentage established by law.
- The effective tax rate is a more accurate representation of a person's or corporations overall tax liability than their marginal tax rate, and it is typically lower.
- When considering a marginal versus an effective tax rate, bear in mind that the marginal tax rate refers to the highest tax bracket into which their income falls.

Q.33) Recently, government of India announced the tax cuts for Corporations. What would be the **likely impact on economy** due to tax cuts?

1. It will raise the animal spirits of investors.
2. It will put more money on the hands of private sector.
3. It will raise the exports.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a significant cut in corporate tax rates, thus bringing down the effective tax rate (including various cesses and surcharges) on corporations from 35% to 25%.

- Also under the new corporate tax policy, new companies that set up manufacturing facilities in India starting in October and commence production before the end of March, 2023 will be taxed at an effective rate of 17%.
- Following the government's decision, both the NIFTY and the SENSEX rose over 5%, which is their biggest one-day rise in a decade.
- Tax cuts, by putting more money in the hands of the private sector, can offer people more incentive to produce and contribute to the economy. Thus the present tax cut can help the wider economy grow.
- The corporate tax rate, it is worth noting, is also a major determinant of how investors allocate capital across various economies.
- So there is constant pressure on governments across the world to offer the lowest tax rates in order to attract investors.
- The present cut in taxes can make India more competitive on the global stage by making Indian corporate tax rates comparable to that of rates in East Asia.

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- The tax cut, however, is expected to cause a yearly revenue loss of ₹1.45 lakh crore to the government which is struggling to meet its fiscal deficit target.
- At the same time, if it manages to sufficiently revive the economy, the present tax cut can help boost tax collections and compensate for the loss of revenue.

Q.34) The “**SAFE PLUS loans**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) NABARD
- b) SIDBI
- c) SBI
- d) EXIM

ANS: B

Explanation: The SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against Corona virus - SAFE PLUS will be offered collateral free and disbursed within 48 hours.

- SIDBI informed that the loans will be offered at an interest rate of five per cent.
- Meanwhile, the bank further informed that the limit of SAFE loans, announced a few days back has been enhanced from 50 lakh rupees to two crore rupees.
- The scheme was launched to provide financial assistance to MSMEs engaged in manufacturing of hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, head gear, bodysuits, shoe-covers, ventilators and goggles used in dealing with COVID-19.

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Long Term Repo Operations (LTRO)**”:

1. It is a tool that lets banks borrow five year tenure funds from the central bank at the repo rate.
2. It provides banks with access to cheaper capital from the RBI.

Which 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: LTRO is a tool that lets banks borrow one to three-year funds from the central bank at the repo rate, by providing government securities with similar or higher tenure as collateral.

- This helps banks get funds for a longer duration as compared to the short-term (up to 28 days) liquidity provided by the RBI through other tools such as Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF).
- It is called 'Targeted' LTRO as in this case, the central bank wants banks opting for funds under this option to be specifically invested in investment-grade corporate debt
- LTROs provide banks with access to cheaper capital from the RBI.
- This, in turn, encourages them to lend more and spur economic activity. • They can also invest these long-term funds in assets that yield better returns to improve profitability.
- Also, as banks provide government securities as collateral, the demand for such government bonds increases and helps in lowering yield.
- RBI stipulated that small and mid-sized NBFCs and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) should receive at least 50% of these funds.
- Banks can avail ₹ 50,000 crore through the targeted long-term repo operation

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Q.36) The term “**Helicopter money**” is often seen in news is coined by which of the following economist?

- a) Raghu Ram Rajan
- b) Milton Friedman
- c) Paul Krugman
- d) J M Keynes

ANS: B

Explanation: Recently, the Telangana Chief Minister suggested that the helicopter money can help states to come out of the economic chaos created by Covid-19 pandemic.

- Helicopter money is an unconventional monetary policy tool, which involves printing large sums of money and distributing it to the public, to stimulate the economy during a recession (decline in general economic activity) or when interest rates fall to zero.
- The term was coined by American economist **Milton Friedman**; it basically denotes a helicopter dropping money from the sky.

Q.37) Which of the following sectors comes under “**priority sector lending (PSL)**”?

1. Export Credit
2. Education
3. Housing
4. Social Infrastructure

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: Under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines, banks have to set aside a specific portion of bank lending to sectors deemed important by the central bank.

The following are the categories listed by RBI under PSL:

- Agriculture
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Export Credit
- Education
- Housing
- Social Infrastructure
- Renewable Energy

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding “**Local Area Banks (LABs)**”:

1. They were created to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit framework in the rural and semi-urban areas.
2. The minimum start-up capital of a LAB was fixed at Rs.5crore.

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

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ANS: D

Explanation: In 1996 it was decided to allow the establishment of local banks in the private sector.

- These banks were expected to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit framework in the rural and semi-urban areas and provide efficient and competitive financial intermediation services in their area of operation.
- The minimum start-up capital of a LAB was fixed at Rs.5 crore.
- The promoters of these banks were required to bring in the entire minimum share capital up-front.
- It was also decided that a family among the promoter group could hold equity not exceeding 40% of the capital.
- The NRI contributions to the equity of the bank were not to exceed 40% of the paid-up capital.
- The entire initial capital subscribed by the promoters (including their friends and relatives/associates) would carry a lock in period of three years from the date of licensing of the bank.
- Further, the promoters' equity to the extent of 40% of the initial paid-up capital was to be locked in at least for two years beyond the aforesaid period of three years subject to review before expiry of five years from the date of licensing of the bank.
- The promoters of a LAB could be individuals, corporate entities and societies. The number of NRI promoters was not to exceed 20% of the total number of promoters.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding the economic conditions in India at the time of independence:

1. The structural distortions in industrial sector.
2. The unilateral transfer of investible capital to Britain.
3. Agriculture sector growth is positive in nature

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The economic profile of India was in complete distress at the time of Independence.

- Being a typical case of colonial economy, India was serving a purpose of development not for herself but for a foreign land—the United Kingdom.
- Both agriculture and industry were having structural distortions while the state was playing not even a marginal role.
- During the half century before India became independent, the world was having accelerated development and expansion in its agriculture and industry on the shoulders of the active role being played by the states, with the same happening in the UK itself.
- There was not only the unilateral transfer of investible capital to Britain by the colonial state (the 'drain of wealth'), but the unequal exchange was day by day crippling India's commerce, trade and the thriving handloom industry, too.

Q.40) Which one among the following items has maximum weight in wholesale price index (WPI)?

- a) Raw materials

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- 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.41) Which of the following statement is correct about “**call money rate**”?

- a) Rate which government borrow from central bank.
- b) Rate which commercial banks borrow from central bank.
- c) Rate which government borrow commercial banks.
- d) Rate which banks borrow from other banks.

ANS: D

Explanation: Call money rate is the rate at which short term funds are borrowed and lent in the money market.

- The duration of the call money loan is 1 day.
- Banks resort to these type of loans to fill the asset liability mismatch, comply with the statutory CRR and SLR requirements and to meet the sudden demand of funds.
- RBI, banks, primary dealers etc are the participants of the call money market.
- Demand and supply of liquidity affect the call money rate.
- A tight liquidity condition leads to a rise in call money rate and vice versa.

Source: Ramesh Singh (Indian Economy)

Q.42) The “**World Economic Outlook**” is published by which of the following institution?

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) UNCTAD

ANS: A

Explanation: WEO is a survey by the IMF that is usually published twice a year in the months of April and October.

- It analyzes and predicts global economic developments during the near and medium term.
- In response to the growing demand for more frequent forecast updates, the WEO Update is published in January and July between the two main WEO publications released usually in April and October.

Source: The Hindu

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding “**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 in CDS’s are commercial banks, primary dealers, NBFCs, insurance companies and mutual funds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: 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.

Source: Ramesh Singh (Indian Economy)

Q.44) "BASEL ACCORDS" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Health Infrastructure
- b) Environmental Conservation
- c) Global Commons
- d) Banking Provisions

ANS: D

Explanation: The Basel Accords (i.e., Basel I, II and now III) are a set of agreements set by the Basel Committee on Bank Supervision (BCBS), which provides recommendations on banking regulations in regards to capital risk, market risk and operational risk.

- The purpose of the accords is to ensure that financial institutions have enough capital on account to meet obligations and absorb unexpected losses.
- They are of paramount importance to the banking world and are presently implemented by over 100 countries across the world.

Source: Ramesh Singh (Indian Economy)

Q.45) The term "randomised controlled trials" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is to test the effectiveness of various policy interventions to alleviate poverty.
- b) CoVID – 19 test trials in different countries.
- c) Effective monitoring of endangered species in different countries.
- d) Monitoring tropical monsoon in different countries.

ANS: A

Explanation: The 2019 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to three economists on Monday for their pioneering research into the use of experimental approaches to fight global poverty.

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- The trio, based in the United States, includes Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, who currently work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Michael Kremer of Harvard University.
- The Prize committee noted that these economists "introduced a new approach to obtaining reliable answers about the best ways to fight global poverty."
- **The new Nobel laureates are considered to be instrumental in using randomized controlled trials to test the effectiveness of various policy interventions to alleviate poverty.**

Source: The Hindu

Q.46) The term "**New Arrangement to Borrow (NAB)**" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) World Bank
- b) AIIB
- c) Bank of International Settlements
- d) IMF

ANS: D

Explanation: The New Arrangement to Borrow is the fund mobilization arrangement of the IMF to mobilize additional funds through borrowing from member countries.

- Under NAB, member countries and institutions can stand ready to lend to the Fund.
- The NAB is structured as a set of credit arrangements between the IMF and 38-member countries (can be changed) and institutions.
- The NAB was proposed for the first time at the 1995 G-7 Halifax Summit following the Mexican financial crisis.
- In January 1997, the IMF's Executive Board adopted a decision establishing the NAB, which became effective in November 1998.
- The NAB was revived in the context of the global financial crisis in 2009; to meet the lending requirements of the Euro zone crisis.

Source: Ramesh Singh (Indian Economy)

Q.47) "**FERA and FEMA**" are constantly in news related to which of the following?

- a) Foreign funding
- b) Bilateral trade relations
- c) Foreign exchange
- d) Agriculture sector reforms

ANS: C

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.

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- 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.

Source: Ramesh Singh (Indian Economy)

Q.48) Which of the following is/are part of “**revenue expenditure**”?

1. Interest payments on loans raised by government.
2. Subsidies forwarded to all sectors by the government.
3. Grants given by the government to Indian states and foreign countries.

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: All expenditures incurred by the government are either of revenue kind or current kind or compulsive kind. The basic identity of such expenditures is that they are of consumptive kind and do not involve creation of productive assets. They are either used in running of a productive process or running a government. A broad category of things that fall under such expenditures in India are:

- Interest payment by the government on the internal and external loans;
- Salaries, Pension and Provident Fund paid by the government to government employees;
- Subsidies forwarded to all sectors by the government;
- Defense expenditures by the government;
- Postal Deficits of the government;
- Law and order expenditures (i.e., police & paramilitary);
- Expenditures on social services (includes all social sector expenditures as education, health care, social security, poverty alleviation, etc.) and general services (tax collection, etc.);
- Grants given by the government to Indian states and foreign countries.

Source: Ramesh Singh (Indian Economy)

Q.49) Which of the following is/are **NOT** recommendation (s) of “**N K Singh committee**” to review the implementation of FRBM?

1. The combined debt-to-GDP ratio of the centre and states should be brought down to 60 per cent by 2023.
2. The Committee advocated Primary Deficit as the operating target to bring down public debt.
3. The Committee also recommends that centre reduce its revenue deficit steadily by 0.5% GDP points each year.

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 FRBM Review Committee headed by former Revenue Secretary, NK Singh was appointed by the government to review the implementation of FRBM.

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In its report submitted in January 2017, titled, 'The Committee in its Responsible Growth: A Debt and Fiscal Framework for 21st Century India', the Committee suggested that a rule based fiscal policy by limiting government debt, fiscal deficit and revenue deficits to certain targets is good for fiscal consolidation in India.

Following are the main recommendations of the NK Singh Committee.

- Public debt to GDP ratio should be considered as a medium-term anchor for fiscal policy in India. The combined debt-to-GDP ratio of the centre and states should be brought down to 60 per cent by 2023 (comprising of 40 per cent for the Centre and 20% for states) as against the existing 49.4 per cent, and 21per cent respectively.
- Fiscal deficit as the operating target: The Committee advocated fiscal deficit as the operating target to bring down public debt. For fiscal consolidation, the centre should reduce its fiscal deficit from the current 3.5% (2017) to 2.5% by 2023.
- Revenue deficit target: The Committee also recommends that the central government should reduce its revenue deficit steadily by 0.25 percentage (of GDP) points each year, to reach 0.8% by 2023, from a projected value of 2.3% in 2017.
- Formation of Fiscal Council to advise the government: The Committee advocated formation of institutions to ensure fiscal prudence in accordance with the FRBM spirit. It recommended setting up an independent Fiscal Council. The Council will provide several advisory functions.
- Escape Clause to accommodate counter cyclical issues.

Source: The Hindu

Q.50) "Assets Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)" is the outcome of which of the following act?

- a) Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (RDDBFI Act), 1993.
- b) SARFAESI Act, 2002.
- c) Financial Regulation Act, 2018.
- d) Banking Regulations Act, 1949.

ANS: B

Explanation: Assets Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) acquire non-performing assets (NPAs) from banks or financial institutions along with the underlying securities mortgaged and/or hypothecated by the borrowers to the lenders.

- The ARCs then try and manage or resolve these NPAs acquired from banks. It can even infuse more funds in order to reconstruct the asset.
- If reconstruction is not possible and the borrower is unwilling to repay the loan, the ARCs even sell the secured assets.
- ARCs acquire NPAs by way of 'true sale', i.e., once an NPA has been sold, the seller has no further interest in that asset.
- ARCs are a product of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act).

Source: Ramesh Singh (Indian Economy)

Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Atal Bhujal Yojana**”:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme aims to improve ground water management through community participation in identified priority areas in seven States.
 2. It is funded by Asian Development Bank.
 3. It pays special attention to those areas where groundwater was very low.
- 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: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Atal Bhujal scheme to strengthen the institutional framework for **participatory groundwater management and bringing about behavioral changes at the community level** for sustainable groundwater resource management in seven States.

- The scheme will be implemented in about 8,350 gram panchayats in 78 districts of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- Of the total outlay of ₹6,000 crore to be provided from 2020-21 to 2024-25, 50% will be in the form of **World Bank loan** to be repaid by the Central government.
- The remaining part will be made available via Central assistance from regular budgetary support.
- The entire World Bank’s loan component and the Central assistance will be passed on to the States as grants.
- The Prime Minister said the scheme, or the guidelines related to the Jal Jeevan Mission, were big steps in proving the resolve to deliver water to every household in the country by 2024.
- He said the Jal Jeevan Mission would work towards delivering piped water supply to every house and **Atal Bhujal scheme would pay special attention to those areas where groundwater was very low.**

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Cyber Shiksha**”:

1. It is launched by Microsoft & Data Security Council of India (DSCI) in association with Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).
 2. It is exclusively for women and making them Industry ready by imparting the requisite technical skills in the domain of Cyber Security.
- Which 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: Microsoft & Data Security Council of India (DSCI) in association with ISEA of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) have launched Project Cyber Shikshaa for skilling women engineering graduates in the niche field of Cyber Security in September 2018.

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As part of this program, C-DAC, NIELIT and other noted training partners are conducting training **exclusively for women** and making them Industry ready by imparting the requisite technical skills in the domain of Cyber Security.

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

- It is an AADHAR Biometric Authentication based digital life certificates for Pensioners and facilitates online submission.
- It is a marriage incentive scheme for inter-caste marriage.
- It is a pension scheme for landless labour in rural areas.
- It is a newly launched pension scheme for women employees.

ANS: A

Explanation: One of the major requisite for the pensioners post their retirement from service, is to provide life certificates to the authorized pension disbursing agencies like Banks, Post offices etc., following which their pension is credited to their account.

- In order to get this life certificate the individual drawing the pension is required to either personally present oneself before the Pension Disbursing Agency or have the Life Certificate issued by authority where they have served earlier and have it delivered to the disbursing agency.
- Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners Scheme of the Government of India known as Jeevan Pramaan seeks to address this very problem by digitizing the whole process of securing the life certificate.**
- It aims to streamline the process of getting this certificate and making it hassle free and much easier for the pensioners.
- With this initiative the pensioner's requirement to physically present him/her in front of the disbursing agency or the certification authority will become a thing of the past benefiting the pensioners in a huge way and cutting down on unnecessary logistical hurdles.

Q.4) Which of the following states are covered under the provisions of the **Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution**?

- Assam
- Manipur
- Tripura
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Mizoram

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1, 3 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

ANS: C

Explanation: The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244a of the Indian Constitution.

- Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).
- ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.

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- The governors of these states are empowered to reorganize boundaries of the tribal areas. In simpler terms, she or he can choose to include or exclude any area, increase or decrease the boundaries and unite two or more autonomous districts into one.
- They can also alter or change the names of autonomous regions without a separate legislation.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)**”:

1. Minimum age for joining the scheme is 55 years.
 2. Policy term for the scheme is 20 years.
 3. It is exempted from GST.
- Which of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) is a Pension Scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above which was available from 4th May, 2017 to 31st March, 2020.

- The scheme is now extended up to 31st March, 2023 for a further period of three years beyond 31st March, 2020.
- Pension is payable at the end of each period, during the policy term of 10 years, as per the frequency of monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly as chosen by the pensioner at the time of purchase.
- The scheme is exempted from GST.
- Loan up to 75% of Purchase Price shall be allowed after 3 policy years (to meet the liquidity needs).
- Loan interest shall be recovered from the pension installments and loan to be recovered from claim proceeds.
- On death of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the Purchase Price shall be paid to the beneficiary.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “**Pressure Group**”:

1. The term pressure group originated in Germany.
2. It influences the policy making by using methods like lobbying, correspondence, publicity, propagandizing, petitioning, public debating and maintaining contacts with their legislators.

Which 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 term pressure group originated in the USA. A pressure group is a group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest.

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- It is so called as it attempts to bring a change in the public policy by exerting pressure on the government. It acts as a liaison between the government and its members.
- The pressure groups are also called interest groups or vested groups.
- They are different from the political parties in that they neither contest elections nor try to capture political power.
- They are concerned with specific programmes and issues and their activities are confined to the protection and promotion of the interests of their members by influencing the government.
- **The pressure groups influence the policy-making and policy implementation in the government through legal and legitimate methods like lobbying, correspondence, publicity, propagandising, petitioning, and public debating, maintaining contacts with their legislators and so forth.**
- However, sometimes they resort to illegitimate and illegal methods like strikes, violent activities and corruption which damages public interest and administrative integrity.

Q.7) The provisions of the “**Part XVI**” of the Indian Constitution are related to which of the following?

- a) Schedule and Tribal areas.
- b) Finance, Property, Contract and Suits.
- c) Elections.
- d) Special provisions relating to certain classes.

ANS: D

Explanation: In order to realize the objectives of equality and justice as laid down in the Preamble, the Constitution makes special provisions for the scheduled castes (SCs), the scheduled tribes (STs), the backward classes (BCs) and the Anglo-Indians.

These special provisions are contained in Part XVI of the Constitution from Articles 330 to 342.

Q.8) Which of the following class/classes is/are specifies/defined in the Indian Constitution?

1. Schedule Castes.
2. Schedule Tribes.
3. Other Backward Classes.
4. Anglo-Indian Community.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constitution does not specify the castes or tribes which are to be called the SCs or the STs.

- Similarly, the Constitution has neither specified the BCs nor used a single uniform expression to characterize the BCs.
- **Unlike in the case of SCs, STs and OBCs, the Constitution has defined the persons who belong to the Anglo-Indian community.**

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- Accordingly, an Anglo-Indian means a person whose father or any of whose other male progenitors in the male line is or was of European descent but who is domiciled within the territory of India and is or was born within such territory of parents habitually resident therein and not established there for temporary purposes only.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the “**features of Cabinet Committees**”:

1. Constitution of India provides clear provisions related to cabinet committees.
2. They are set up by the President according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation.

Which 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 following are the features of Cabinet Committees:

- **They are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution.** However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.
- They are of two types—standing and ad hoc. The former are of a permanent nature while the latter are of a temporary nature. The ad hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed.
- **They are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation.** Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition vary from time to time.
- Their membership varies from three to eight. They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership.
- They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.
- They are mostly headed by the Prime Minister. Sometimes other Cabinet Ministers, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also acts as their Chairman. But, in case the Prime Minister is a member of a committee, he invariably presides over it.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the “**salaries and pensions of High Court Judges**”:

1. The salaries, allowances, privileges, leave and pension of the judges of a high court are determined from time to time by the concerned State Legislature.
2. The retired chief justice and judges are entitled to 100% of their last drawn salary as monthly pension.

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: C

Explanation: The salaries, allowances, privileges, leave and pension of the judges of a high court are determined from time to time by the Parliament.

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- They cannot be varied to their disadvantage after their appointment except during a financial emergency.
- In 2009, the salary of the chief justice was increased from 30,000 to 90,000 per month and that of a judge from 26,000 to 80,000 per month.
- They are also paid sumptuary allowance and provided with free accommodation and other facilities like medical, car, telephone, etc.
- **The retired chief justice and judges are entitled to 50% of their last drawn salary as monthly pension.**

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

1. The Supreme Court and the high courts can issue the writs.
2. President can empower any other court to issue writs.

Which 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 **Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the high courts (under Article 226) can issue the writs** of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quowarranto.

- Further, the **Parliament (under Article 32) can empower any other court to issue these writs.**
- Since no such provision has been made so far, only the Supreme Court and the high courts can issue the writs and not any other court.

Q.12) “Real duties are the result of the fulfillment of rights” – said by which of the following personality?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: It is only after guarantee to all the full sum of humanity, dignity, equality, and freedom promised by the Constitution, that we can ask of them to do their duty.

Perhaps, then, it is time to update Hind Swaraj (Gandhi) for the constitutional age: “**real duties are the result of the fulfillment of rights**”.

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Both Parliament and State Legislature can make laws prescribing residence as a condition for certain employments or appointments in a state or union territory or local authority or other authority.
2. Only Parliament can abrogate or restrict the application of Fundamental Rights to members of armed forces, police forces.

Which 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: Article 35 lays down that the power to make laws, to give effect to certain specified fundamental rights shall vest only in the Parliament and not in the state legislatures.

- This provision ensures that there is uniformity throughout India with regard to the nature of those fundamental rights and punishment for their infringement.
- In this direction, Article 35 contains the following provisions:

The Parliament shall have (and the legislature of a state shall not have) power to make laws with respect to the following matters:

- Prescribing residence as a condition for certain employments or appointments in a state or union territory or local authority or other authority (Article 16).
- Empowering courts other than the Supreme Court and the high court's to issue directions, orders and writs of all kinds for the enforcement of fundamental rights (Article 32).
- Restricting or abrogating the application of Fundamental Rights to members of armed forces, police forces, etc. (Article 33).
- Indemnifying any government servant or any other person for any act done during the operation of martial law in any area (Article 34).

Q.14) Which of the following “**directive principles of state policy**” are added through 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1972?

1. To minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities.
2. To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries.
3. To secure opportunities for healthy development of children.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added four new Directive Principles to the original list. They require the State:

- To secure opportunities for healthy development of children (Article 39).
- To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor (Article 39 A).
- To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43 A).
- To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wild life (Article 48 A).

The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 added one more Directive Principle, which requires the State to minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities (Article 38).

Q.15) Arrange the following acts in chronological order:

1. The Payment of Bonus Act.
2. The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act.
3. The Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act.
4. The Workmen's Compensation Act.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- b) 4 – 1 – 2 – 3

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- c) 4 – 1 – 3 – 2
d) 1 – 3 – 2 – 4

ANS: C

Explanation: The Minimum Wages Act (1948), the Payment of Wages Act (1936), the Payment of Bonus Act (1965), the Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act (1970), the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (1986), the Bonded Labour System Abolition Act (1976).

- The Trade Unions Act (1926), the Factories Act (1948), the Mines Act (1952), the Industrial Disputes Act (1947), the Workmen's Compensation Act (1923) and so on have been enacted to protect the interests of the labour sections.
- In 2006, the government banned the child labour.
- In 2016, the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (1986) was renamed as the Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Lok adalat**”:

1. It is a statutory forum for conciliatory settlement of legal disputes.
2. Its awards are enforceable, binding on the parties and final as no appeal lies before any court against them.

Which 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 Legal Services Authorities Act (1987) has established a nation-wide network to provide free and competent legal aid to the poor and to organize lok adalat for promoting equal justice.

- Lok adalat is a statutory forum for conciliatory settlement of legal disputes.
- It has been given the status of a civil court.
- Its awards are enforceable, binding on the parties and final as no appeal lies before any court against them.

Q.17) Which of the following **acts/legal provisions** are for the implementation of fundamental duties?

1. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act (1971).
2. The Protection of Civil Rights Act (1955).
3. The Indian Penal Code (IPC).
4. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Verma Committee on Fundamental Duties of the Citizens (1999) identified the existence of legal provisions for the implementation of some of the Fundamental Duties. They are mentioned below:

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- The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act (1971) prevents disrespect to the Constitution of India, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- The various criminal laws in force provide for punishments for encouraging enmity between different sections of people on grounds of language, race, place of birth, religion and so on.
- The Protection of Civil Rights Act (1955) provides for punishments for offences related to caste and religion.
- The Indian Penal Code (IPC) declares the imputations and assertions prejudicial to national integration as punishable offences.
- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967 provides for the declaration of a communal organisation as an unlawful association.
- The Representation of People Act (1951) provides for the disqualification of members of the Parliament or a state legislature for indulging in corrupt practice, which is, soliciting votes on the ground of religion or promoting enmity between different sections of people on grounds of caste, race, language, religion and so on.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 prohibits trade in rare and endangered species.
- The Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 checks indiscriminate deforestation and diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Goods and Service Tax council**”:

1. Article 279-A empowers the Parliament to constitute a GST Council.
2. 1/3rd of the total number of members of the Council is the quorum for conducting a meeting.

Which 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 101st Amendment Act of 2016 paved the way for the introduction of a new tax regime (i.e. goods and services tax - GST) in the country.

- The smooth and efficient administration of this tax requires co-operation and coordination between the centre and the states.
- In order to facilitate this consultation process, the amendment provided for the establishment of Goods and Services Tax Council or the GST Council.
- The amendment inserted a new Article 279-A in the Constitution. This Article empowered the President to constitute a GST Council by an order.
- Accordingly, the President issued the order in 2016 and constituted the Council.

The decisions of the Council are taken at its meetings. One-half of the total number of members of the Council is the quorum for conducting a meeting. Every decision of the Council is to be taken by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting at the meeting.

Q.19) Which of the following statement is **NOT** correct about “Attorney General of India”?

- a) Article 75 has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India.
- b) He is the highest law officer in the country.
- c) He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.
- d) Both A and C.

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ANS: A

Explanation: The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India.

- He is the highest law officer in the country.
- The Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the president.
- He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.
- In other words, he must be a citizen of India and he must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the president.

Q.20) The “**Section 188 of IPC**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Sedition.
- b) Marital discords.
- c) Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant.
- d) Registration of political parties.

ANS: C

Explanation: Section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, provides penalties for disobeying any regulation or order made under the Act.

These are according to Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant).

Q.21) “**Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) – project**” is often seen in news is launched with the help of which of the following nation?

- a) France
- b) Japan
- c) Israel
- d) United States of America

ANS: D

Explanation: Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) is USAID flagship innovative financing platform to promote health financing models and provide catalytic support to social enterprises (IBMs) for improving access to affordable and quality healthcare solutions for the urban poor communities, with a focus on Tuberculosis, Maternal and Child Health and WASH.

- PAHAL has built a platform that provides unparalleled access to social enterprises for reducing cost and improving access to quality healthcare services.
- US announced that it will provide an additional \$3 million to India, through its aid agency USAID, for mitigating the spread of Covid-19.
- In coordination with the Indian government, USAID is providing these funds to the Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) project.

Q.22) “The freedoms of the air are a set of commercial aviation rights granting a country's airlines the privilege to enter and land in another country's airspace”. With reference to the **freedom of air**, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Total six freedoms of air rights formed by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
2. The sixth freedom of air includes the right to fly from a foreign country to another while stopping in one's own country for non-technical reasons.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The freedoms of the air (9 rights) are a set of commercial aviation rights granting a country's airlines the privilege to enter and land in another country's airspace.

- The Freedom of air was formulated in the Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944, known as the Chicago Convention.
- The fifth freedom of air includes the right to fly between two foreign countries on a flight originating or ending in one's own country.
- The sixth freedom of air includes the right to fly from a foreign country to another while stopping in one's own country for non-technical reasons.

Q.23) "Loya Jirga or Grand Council" is often seen in news is related to which of the following country?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Afghanistan

ANS: D

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

- The gathering involves participation of Afghan tribal elders, religious figures, and political leaders.
- The Loya Jirga is a centuries-old institution that has been convened at times of national crisis or to settle national issues.
- Historically, it has been used to approve a new constitution, declare war, choose a new king, or to make sweeping social or political reforms.
- It is considered the "highest expression" of the Afghan people, but it is not an official decision-making body.

Q.24) "Most Favoured Nation (MFN)" is often seen in news is related to which of the following International Organization?

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) United Nations
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) World Trade Organization

ANS: D

Explanation: According to the MFN principle of the WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), each of the WTO member countries should "treat all the other members equally as 'most-favoured' trading partners."

- If a special favour such as a lower customs duty rate is grant to someone by a nation, then it has to do the same for all other WTO members.
- Thus, in effect it means non-discrimination.
- Recently, India withdrew the Most Favored Nation (MFN) status from Pakistan.

Q.25) “Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)” is recently in news is an initiative of which of the following country?

- a) Russia
- b) China
- c) Japan
- d) United States of America

ANS: D

Explanation: US President has signed ARIA act to counter the threat from China and to reinvigorate US leadership in the Indo-Pacific region.

- It aims to establish a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The new law mandates actions countering China’s illegal construction and militarization of artificial features in the South China Sea and coercive economic practices.
- ARIA recognizes the vital role of the strategic partnership between the U.S. and India in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region and it calls for strengthening diplomatic, economic, and security ties between both the countries.
- It allocates a budget of \$1.5 billion over a five year period to enhance cooperation with America’s strategic regional allies in the region.

Q.26) Which of the following are “Nordic countries”?

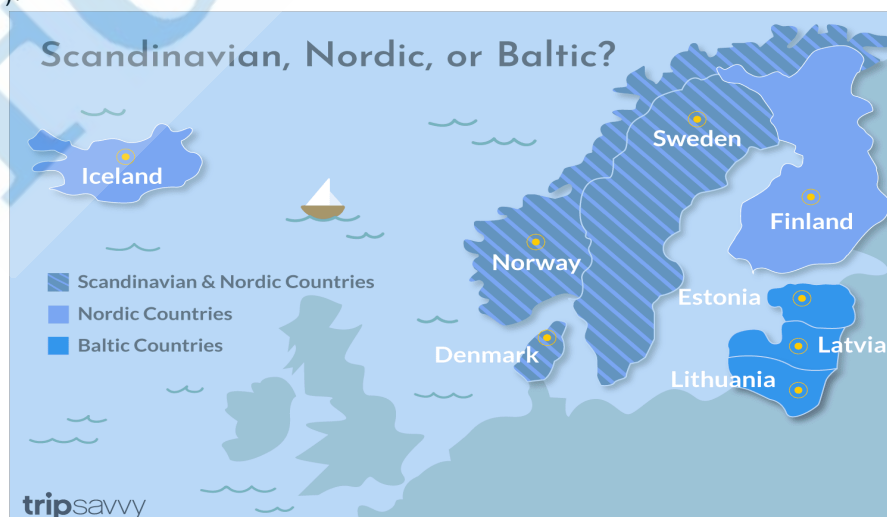
- 1. Iceland
- 2. Denmark
- 3. Finland
- 4. Sweden
- 5. Norway

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Nordic countries include Finland, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and the Faroe Islands (an archipelago of islands as an autonomous country within the kingdom of Denmark).



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Q.27) “**Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project**” is often seen in news is a joint initiative between India and which of the following country?

- a) Thailand
- b) Myanmar
- c) Bhutan
- d) Nepal

ANS: C

Explanation: India and Bhutan have signed a concession agreement on the 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project (KHEL) for work to start on it.

- The hydroelectric project will be the first-ever Joint Venture project to be implemented in Bhutan under an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) signed in 2014.
- The joint venture partners of the project are India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL) and Druk Green Power Corporation Limited (DGPC).

Q.28) The “**High Impact community Development Partnership**” initiative often seen in news is a joint initiative between India and?

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Maldives
- d) Madagascar

ANS: C

Explanation: HICDPs constitute an important dimension of the dynamic development partnership between India and the Maldives.

- Under HICDP, India and Maldives have committed to execute projects under a total grant of USD 5.5 million.
- These projects are driven by the needs of communities on the islands.
- They will be implemented by City and Local Councils.
- It will enhance the capacities of locally-elected representatives and support the decentralization efforts of the Government of Maldives.
- Recently, India and Maldives signed a contract for setting up Neighborhood Fish Processing Plants at two of the islands in the neighboring country.

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding “**Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**”:

1. Articles 315 to 323 of the Indian Constitution related to UPSC.
2. It consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the President of India.
3. Parliament determines the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is the central recruiting agency in India. It is an independent constitutional body in the sense that it has been directly created by the Constitution.

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- Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution contain elaborate provisions regarding the composition, appointment and removal of members along with the independence, powers and functions of the UPSC.
- The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India.
- The Constitution, without specifying the strength of the Commission has left the matter to the discretion of the president, who determines its composition.
- Usually, the Commission consists of nine to eleven members including the chairman.
- Further, no qualifications are prescribed for the Commission's membership except that one-half of the members of the Commission should be such persons who have held office for at least ten years either under the Government of India or under the government of a state.
- The Constitution also authorizes the president to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding “**Inter-State council**”:

1. Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states.
2. Parliament can establish such a council to serve the public interest.

Which 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: Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states.

- Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment.
- He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure.

Q.31) “The President may, with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a state, after consultation with the Governor there of by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall, for the purposes of this constitution, is deemed to be scheduled tribes in relation to that state or Union Territory, as the case may be” – describes which of the following Article of Indian Constitution?

- a) Article 366
- b) Article 355
- c) Article 332
- d) Article 342

ANS: D

Explanation: Article 342. Scheduled Tribes—

(1) The President may with respect to any State or. Union Territory and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purpose of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union Territory, as the case may be.

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(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under 'the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the “Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)”:

1. Ministry of Home Affairs characterizes a tribe as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

2. Highest number of PVTGs are located in Madhya Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)'s. PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them.

State-wise list of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)					
Name of States/Union Territory	S.No	Name of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group	Name of States/Union Territory	S.No	Name of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group
Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana)	1	Chenchu	Maharashtra	41	Katkaria /kathodi
	2	Bodo Gadaba		42	Kolam
	3	Gutob Gadaba		43	Maria Gond
	4	Dongaria Khond	Orissa	44	Maram Naga
	5	Kutia Kondha		45	Chukutia Bhunjia
	6	Kolam		46	Birhor
	7	Konda Reddi		47	Bondo
	8	Kondasavara		48	Didayi
	9	Bondo Porja		49	Dongaria Khond
	10	Khond Porja		50	Juang
	11	Parngi Porja		51	Kharia
	12	Tothi		52	Kutia Kondha
13	Asur	53		Lanjia Saura	
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	14	Birhor	54	Lodha	
	15	Birjia	55	Mankirdia	
	16	Hill Kharia	56	Paudi Huiya	
	17	Korwa	57	Saura	
	18	Mal Paharia	Rajasthan	58	Saharia
	19	Parharya		59	Irular
	20	Sauria Paharia	Tamil Nadu	60	Kattunayakan
21	Savara	61		Kota	
22	Kolgha	62		Korumba	
23	Kathodi	63		Paniyan	
24	Kotwalin	64		Toda	
Gujarat	25	Padhar	Tripura	65	Raing
	26	Siddi	Uttar Pradesh (including Utrakhand)	66	Buksa
Karnataka	27	Jenu Kuruba		67	Raji
	28	Koraga	West Bengal	68	Birhor
Kerala	29	Cholanayakan		69	Lodha
	30	Kadar		70	Totos
	31	Kattunayakan	Andaman & Nicobar island	71	Great Andamanites
	32	Koraga		72	Jarawa
	33	Kurumbas		73	Ornge
34	Abujh Maria	74		Sentinelese	
35	Baiga	75		Shom Pen	
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	36	Bharia			
	37	Birhor			
	38	Hill Korba			
	39	Kamar			
	40	Sahariya			

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PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.

In this context, in 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 17 states and one Union Territory (UT), in the country (2011 census).

Q.33) Which of the following Act/rule defines the “**minor forest produce**”?

- Indian forests act, 1878
- Indian forests act, 1927
- The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006

ANS: D

Explanation: The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 defines a Minor Forest Produce (MFP) as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, Tusser, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu/kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tuber and the like.

Q.34) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Tribe	:	State
1. Reang tribe	:	Tripura
2. Chenchu tribe	:	Andhra Pradesh
3. Sahariya tribe	:	Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The **Saharia**, Sahar, Sehariya, or Sahariya are an ethnic group in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India.

- **Chenchus** are a designated Scheduled Tribe in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Odisha.
- **Reang (aka Bru in Mizoram)** are one of the 21 scheduled tribes of the Indian state of Tripura.

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the “**price stabilization fund scheme**”:

1. It helps to regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities.
2. It provides for maintaining a strategic buffer of aforementioned commodities for subsequent calibrated release to moderate price volatility.
3. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is the nodal agency to implement the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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ANS: B

Explanation: The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) was set up in 2014-15 under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW).

- The PSF scheme was later transferred from DAC&FW to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DOCA) in 2016.
- The fund is to help regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, and potatoes. Pulses were also added subsequently.
- The scheme provides for maintaining a strategic buffer of aforementioned commodities for subsequent calibrated release to moderate price volatility and discourages hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.
- For building such stock, the scheme promotes direct purchase from farmers/farmers'association at farm gate/Mandi.
- The PSF is utilized for granting interest free advance of working capital to Central Agencies, State/UT Governments/Agencies to undertake market intervention operations.

Q.36) The “**SAKALA scheme**” - to curb corruption in public service delivery in key departments is launched by which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Karnataka

ANS: D

Explanation: The scheme is being implemented in the State of Karnataka to curb corruption in public service delivery in key departments.

- More than 725 services are being provided under this mission.
- Now, the state government has proposed to launch the version 2 of SAKALA scheme with the existing SAKALA-1 fails to curb corruption.
- SAKALA -2 will address shortcomings in the existing Act by including a provision for imposing penalty of Rs. 250 per day for delay in addressing complaints.

Q.37) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)/Maternity Benefit Programme, government provides cash incentives to pregnant and lactating women. Which of the following conditions is/are eligible to get cash incentive (s)?

1. For the wage loss so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery.
2. To improve her health and nutrition during the period of pregnancy and lactation.
3. To breastfeed the child during the first nine months of the birth which is very vital for the development of the child.

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: Pan-India Expansion of Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahyog Yojana is called Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)/Maternity Benefit Programme.

The Scheme provides cash incentives to pregnant and lactating women.

- for the wage loss so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery;
- to improve her health and nutrition during the period of pregnancy and lactation;

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- to breastfeed the child during the first six months of the birth, which is very vital for the development of the child.

All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding those in regular employment with the Government or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being are eligible.

- Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers who are eligible will receive a cash benefit of Rs.5,000/- in three instalment.
- The cash incentive is payable in three instalments for the first live birth, as normally, the first pregnancy of a woman exposes her to new kind of challenges and stress factors.
- However, to address the problem of malnutrition and morbidity among children, the anganwadi services, which is universal, is available to all PW&LM including the second pregnancy.
- The cash transfer would be Aadhaar linked through the individual bank/post office account etc. in DBT mode.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the cost sharing between Centre and States is 60:40 for all the States and UTs (with legislature), 90:10 for NER and Himalayan States and 100% GoI share for UTs without legislatures.
- Thus a PW&LM will get Rs. 5,000/- under PMMVY and the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6000/-

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding “**Rajya Sabha**”:

1. It is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution.
2. The Constitution has not fixed the term of office of members of the Rajya Sabha.

Which 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 Rajya Sabha (first constituted in 1952) is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution.

- However, one-third of its members retire every second year.
- Their seats are filled up by fresh elections and presidential nominations at the beginning of every third year.
- The retiring members are eligible for re-election and renomination any number of times.
- The Constitution has not fixed the term of office of members of the Rajya Sabha and left it to the Parliament.
- Accordingly, the Parliament in the Representation of the People Act (1951) provided that the term of office of a member of the Rajya Sabha shall be six years.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding “**adjournment motion**”:

1. It is introduced in the Parliament for a definite matter of urgent public importance.
2. It needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.
3. Rajya Sabha is also permitted to make use of the adjournment motion

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

- a) 1 only

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Adjournment Motion is introduced in the Parliament to draw attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance, and needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

- As it interrupts the normal business of the House, it is regarded as an extraordinary device.
- It involves an element of censure against the government and hence Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device.
- The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding “**Constituent Assembly**”:

1. It was constituted under the scheme formulated by the Cripps Mission.
2. The members of the Constituent Assembly were elected directly.

Which 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 Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan. The features of the scheme were:

- The total strength of the Constituent Assembly was to be 389. Of these, 296 seats were to be allotted to British India and 93 seats to the Princely States. Out of 296 seats allotted to the British India, 292 members were to be drawn from the eleven governors’ provinces and four from the four chief commissioners’ provinces, one from each.
- Each province and princely state (or groups of states in case of small states) were to be allotted seats in proportion to their respective population. Roughly, one seat was to be allotted for every million population.
- Seats allocated to each British province were to be divided among the three principal communities—Muslims, Sikhs and general (all except Muslims and Sikhs), in proportion to their population.
- The representatives of each community were to be elected by members of that community in the provincial legislative assembly and voting was to be by the method of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.
- The representatives of princely states were to be nominated by the heads of the princely states.
- It is thus clear that the Constituent Assembly was to be a partly elected and partly nominated body. Moreover, the members were to be indirectly elected by the members of the provincial assemblies, who themselves were elected on a limited franchise.

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Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding “**President**”:

1. President is part of union executive.
2. Nominated members of the parliament participate in President Election.

Which 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 Union executive consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the council of ministers and the attorney general of India.

The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of Electoral College consisting of:

- The elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;
- The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
- The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

Thus, the nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the members (both elected and nominated) of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the election of the President.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding “**Finance Commission**”:

1. The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the president.
2. They are not eligible for reappointment.

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 Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the president.

- They hold office for such period as specified by the president in his order. They are eligible for reappointment.
- The Constitution authorizes the Parliament to determine the qualifications of members of the commission and the manner in which they should be selected.
- Accordingly, the Parliament has specified the qualifications of the chairman and members of the commission.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding “**Chief Minister**”:

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

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

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.
- But, when no party has a clear majority in the assembly, then the governor may exercise his personal discretion in the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister.
- In such a situation, the governor usually appoints the leader of the largest party or coalition in the assembly as the Chief Minister and asks him to seek a vote of confidence in the House within a month.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding “**composition of state assembly**”:

1. The maximum strength is 500 and minimum strength is 80.
2. The governor can nominate two members from the Anglo-Indian 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: D

Explanation: The legislative assembly consists of representatives directly elected by the people on the basis of universal adult franchise.

- Its maximum strength is fixed at 500 and minimum strength at 60.
- It means that its strength varies from 60 to 500 depending on the population size of the state.
- However, in case of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa, the minimum number is fixed at 30 and in case of Mizoram and Nagaland it is 40 and 46 respectively.
- Further, some members of the legislative assemblies in Sikkim and Nagaland are also elected indirectly.
- The governor can nominate one member from the Anglo-Indian community, if the community is not adequately represented in the assembly.
- Originally, this provision was to operate for ten years (ie, upto 1960).
- But this duration has been extended continuously since then by 10 years each time.
- Now, under the 95th Amendment Act of 2009, this is to last until 2020.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding “**Tribunals**”:

1. The original constitution did not contain any provisions related to tribunals.
2. The 44th Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A related to Tribunals.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals.

- The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution.
- This part is entitled as Tribunals and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.46) The “**58th Constitutional Amendment of Indian Constitution**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Panchayati Raj
- b) Municipalities
- c) Co-operatives
- d) Authoritative text of the Constitution

ANS: D

Explanation: Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to an authoritative text of the Constitution in the Hindi language.

- Later, a provision in this regard was made by the 58th Constitutional Amendment Act of 19871.
- This amendment inserted a new Article 394-A in the last part of the Constitution i.e., Part XXII.

This article contains the following provisions:

1. The President shall cause to be published under his authority:
 - The translation of the Constitution in Hindi language.
 - The modifications which are necessary to bring it in conformity with the language, style and terminology adopted in the authoritative texts of the Central Acts in Hindi can be made in it.
 - All the amendments of the Constitution made before such publication should be incorporated in it.

The translation in Hindi of every amendment of the constitution made in English.

2. The translation of the Constitution and its every amendment published shall be construed to have the same meaning as the original text in English. If any difficulty arises in this matter, the President shall cause the Hindi text to be revised suitably.
3. The translation of the Constitution and its every amendment published shall be deemed to be, for all purposes, its authoritative text in Hindi.

Source: Indiakanon

Q.47) Which of the following country is **NOT** a member of Mekong- Ganga Cooperation?

- a) Thailand
- b) Laos
- c) Myanmar
- d) Bangladesh

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ANS: D

Explanation: Mekong- Ganga Cooperation is an initiative by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam (Mekong passes through these five countries along with China).

- It seeks for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications. It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Laos.
- Both the Ganga and the Mekong are Civilization Rivers, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins.

Source: Mekong – Ganga Cooperation Website

Q.48) “Motihari-Amlekhgunj” oil pipeline is developed between India and which of the following country?

- a) Bhutan
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Myanmar
- d) Nepal

ANS: D

Explanation: India and Nepal have successfully concluded the ‘testing transfer’ of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil Pipeline.

- The 69-km long petroleum pipeline from Motihari in Bihar to Amelkhgunj in Nepal has been constructed by India.
- This is the first transnational petroleum pipeline from India, first South Asian oil pipeline corridor and first oil pipeline in Nepal.
- It will ensure smooth, cost-effective and environment-friendly supply of petroleum products to Nepal.
- The Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline project was first proposed in 1996.
- The two governments had inked an agreement to execute the project in August 2015.

Source: The Hindu

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding “**Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)**”:

1. Israel has neither signed nor ratified the Biological Weapon Convention.
2. India has signed and ratified the Biological Weapon Convention.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is a legally binding treaty that outlaws biological arms.

- After being discussed and negotiated in the United Nations' disarmament forum starting in 1969, the BWC opened for signature on April 10, 1972, and entered into force on March 26, 1975.
- It currently has 183 states-parties, including Palestine, and four signatories (Egypt, Haiti, Somalia, Syria, and Tanzania).
- Ten states have neither signed nor ratified the BWC (Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Israel, Kiribati, Micronesia, Namibia, South Sudan and Tuvalu).

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Statement 2 is correct: India has ratified the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and pledges to abide by its obligations.

- There is no clear evidence, circumstantial or otherwise, that directly points toward an offensive BW program.
- India has defensive biological warfare (BW) capabilities and has conducted research on countering various diseases.
- India also has an extensive and advanced dual-use pharmaceutical industry.

Source: Biological Weapons Convention

Q.50) “New Southern Policy” is recently in news is adopted by which of the following country?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The importance of India in South Korea’s foreign policy has risen in recent years.

- South Korean President Moon Jae-in’s “New Southern Policy” (NSP) attached primacy to strengthening the country’s economic and strategic relations with India, as well as the countries of Southeast Asia.
- It is the first time that South Korea has clearly designed a foreign policy initiative for India and officially documented it.

Source: The Hindu

Science and technology

Q.1) The “**Helsinki Declaration**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- It is related to ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects, including research on identifiable human material and data.
- It is related to development of indigenous methods of farming and agriculture system.
- It is related to promote efficiency of multiple types of renewables.
- Both B & C.

ANS: A

Explanation: The World Medical Association (WMA) has developed the Declaration of Helsinki as a statement of ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects, including research on identifiable human material and data.

- The Declaration of Geneva of the WMA binds the physician with the words, “The health of my patient will be my first consideration,” and the International Code of Medical Ethics declares that, “A physician shall act in the patient’s best interest when providing medical care.”
- It is the duty of the physician to promote and safeguard the health, well-being and rights of patients, including those who are involved in medical research.
- The physician’s knowledge and conscience are dedicated to the fulfillment of this duty.
- Medical progress is based on research that ultimately must include studies involving human subjects.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “**Gagandeep Kang**”:

- She became the first Indian woman to be elected as a Royal Society Fellow in 2019.
- She played a key role in India’s first indigenously developed vaccine for rotavirus infections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Gagandeep Kang, 56, is Director of the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad.

Acclaimed for her key role in the development of Rotavac, India’s first indigenously developed vaccine for rotavirus infections, Kang was recently awarded Fellowship of the Royal Society (FRS), United Kingdom — the first Indian woman scientist to be thus feted.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the “**ultrasensitive quantum thermometer**”:

- It has high sensitivity when measuring different temperatures and can measure very minute (micro Kelvin) changes in temperature.
- It will be useful in healthcare to measure the incubation temperature of biological cells and molecules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Researchers at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, have developed an ultrasensitive quantum thermometer using graphene quantum dots.

- The thermometer can precisely measure a wide range of temperature: 27 degree C to -196 degree C.
- The thermometer has high sensitivity when measuring different temperatures and can measure very minute (micro Kelvin) changes in temperature.
- The thermometer showed extremely quick response time of just about 300 milliseconds to register a change in temperature from 27 degree C to -196 degree C.
- The device can find widespread applications in cryogenic temperature sensing.
- Since the sensor has high sensitivity and ability to measure minute changes in temperature, it will be useful in the pharmaceutical industry, healthcare to measure the incubation temperature of biological cells and molecules and the automobile industry to measure the ignition temperature within the engine.

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

Fruits : **Vitamin/Antioxidant**

- 1. Red grapes : Antioxidant resveratrol
- 2. Mango : Vitamin A
- 3. Banana : Vitamin B6

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: Mangoes are seasonal fruits, and both are high on fibre. The former has vitamin A (a precursor to beta carotene and is antioxidant-rich) and C that helps build immunity.

Banana is one of the easiest snacks to consume: it 'pre-packaged' with B6, magnesium and potassium.

Red wine is made from grapes that contain an antioxidant resveratrol that is good for the heart.

Q.5) The term "**HELINA**" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is sonar radar to measure depth of the deep sea.
- b) It is a Helicopter Launched Nag missile.
- c) It is a surface to Air missile.
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: HELINA is an acronym for Helicopter Launched Nag missile.

- Nag is a third generation Anti-Tank guided missile indigenously developed under -Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) of DRDO.
- Anti-Tank Guided Missiles are primarily designed to hit and destroy heavily armored military vehicles.

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- Helina is the helicopter launch variant of Nag, which can be fired from Dhruv advanced light helicopter and HAL Rudra attack helicopter.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the Facilitating Offshore Wind in India (FOWIND) project:

1. It is funded by World Bank.
2. It focuses on the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu for identification of potential zones for development of wind energy.

Which 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 consortium led by Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) is implementing the Facilitating Offshore Wind in India (FOWIND) project.

- National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) joined the consortium as knowledge partner on 15 June 2015.
- It was formed in response to a project proposal call under the Indo-European co-operation on Renewable Energy Program and is funded through a grant from European Union.
- In close consultation with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and State governments, this project will facilitate offshore wind power development in India and in turn contribute to India's transition towards use of clean technologies in the power sector.
- The project focuses on the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu for identification of potential zones for development through techno-commercial analysis and preliminary resource assessment.
- It will also establish a platform for structural collaboration and knowledge sharing between stakeholders from European Union and India, on offshore wind technology, policy, regulation, industry and human resource development.
- FOWIND activities will also help facilitate a platform to stimulate offshore wind related R&D activities in the country.

Q.7) The IceCube observatory in South Pole of Antarctica searches for which of the following particle?

- a) Protons
- b) Electrons
- c) Neutrinos
- d) Plasma

ANS: C

Explanation: The IceCube Neutrino Observatory is the first detector of its kind, designed to observe the cosmos from deep within the South Pole ice.

- An international group of scientists responsible for the scientific research makes up the IceCube Collaboration.
- Encompassing a cubic kilometer of ice, IceCube searches for nearly mass-less subatomic particles called neutrinos.
- These high-energy astronomical messengers provide information to probe the most violent astrophysical sources: events like exploding stars, gamma-ray bursts, and cataclysmic phenomena involving black holes and neutron stars.

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Q.8) "National Gene Fund" is constituted by Government of India is related to which of the following?

- a) pharmaceuticals
- b) Animal Cloning
- c) Plant varieties
- d) None of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: The Government of India has notified the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (Recognition and Reward from the Gene Fund) Rules, 2012, whereby a farmer who is engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of land races and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation shall be entitled to "Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Reward & Farmer Recognition" along with cash prize from National Gene Fund.

There are 10 rewards each comprising of citation, memento and cash of Rs. One and half lakh each and 20 recognitions each consisting of a cash prize of Rs. One Lakh, citation and memento in a year.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the "National Innovation Fund (NIF)":

1. NIF is established with assistance of NITI Aayog.
2. It is India's national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge.

Which 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 National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India was set up in March 2000 with the assistance of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

- It is India's national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge.
- Its mission is to help India become a creative and knowledge-based society by expanding policy and institutional space for grassroots technological innovators.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research' (INSPIRE) scheme:

1. It was renamed as MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge).
2. It aims to promote research in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10.

Which 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: 'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research' (INSPIRE) scheme is one of the flagship programmes of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.

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- The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge), being executed by DST with National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF), an autonomous body of DST, aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10.
- The objective of the scheme is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children.
- Under this scheme, schools can nominate 2-3 best innovative ideas online through this website. The online nominations for 2019-20 are open till 31st August, 2019.

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

1. Justice Srikrishna Committee report recommended that the data stored only locally.
2. Currently, the only mandatory rule on data localization in India is by the Reserve Bank of India for payment systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Data localisation laws refer to regulations that dictate how data on a nation’s citizens is collected, processed and stored inside the country.

- Among reasons supporting data localisation put out by the Justice Srikrishna Committee report last year, a few key ones are: Data localisation is critical for law enforcement.
- Access to data by Indian law agencies, in case of a breach or threat, cannot be dependent on the whims and fancies, nor on lengthy legal processes of another nation that hosts data generated in India.
- A key observation of the report is that it is ideal to have the data stored only locally, without even having a copy abroad, in order to protect Indian data from foreign surveillance.
- Currently, the only mandatory rule on data localisation in India is by the Reserve Bank of India for payment systems. Other than this, there are only reports or drafts of bills that are yet to be signed into law.
- Among material available in the public domain on data localisation is the white paper that preceded the Justice Srikrishna Committee report, inviting public comments.
- The second piece is the Draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018 itself which has specific requirements on cross-border data transfers. This is seen as being more restrictive than the recommendations of the Srikrishna Committee.
- The draft e-commerce policy also has clauses on cross-border data transfer. For example, it suggests that if a global entity’s India subsidiary transfers Indian users’ data to its parent, the same cannot be transferred to a third party even with the user’s consent.

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Biotherapeutic medicines or biologics**”:

1. It is a product that is produced from living organisms or contains components of living organisms.
2. Most biologics are complex mixtures that are not easily identified or characterized.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Biological products include a wide range of products such as vaccines, blood and blood components, allergenics, somatic cells, gene therapy, tissues, and recombinant therapeutic proteins.

- Biologics can be composed of sugars, proteins, or nucleic acids or complex combinations of these substances, or may be living entities such as cells and tissues.
- Biologics are isolated from a variety of natural sources - human, animal, or microorganism - and may be produced by biotechnology methods and other cutting-edge technologies.
- Gene-based and cellular biologics, for example, often are at the forefront of biomedical research, and may be used to treat a variety of medical conditions for which no other treatments are available.
- In contrast to most drugs that are chemically synthesized and their structure is known, most biologics are complex mixtures that are not easily identified or characterized.
- Biological products, including those manufactured by biotechnology, tend to be heat sensitive and susceptible to microbial contamination.
- Therefore, it is necessary to use aseptic principles from initial manufacturing steps, which is also in contrast to most conventional drugs.
- Biological products often represent the cutting-edge of biomedical research and, in time, may offer the most effective means to treat a variety of medical illnesses and conditions that presently have no other treatments available.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the “**measuring units**”:

1. Standard units of measure such as the Kilogram, second, metre, ampere, Kelvin, mole and candela defined on the basis of physics constants.
2. The CSIR-NPL is India’s official reference keeper of units of measurements.

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: With the definition of the ‘kilogram’ getting a global, technical makeover, textbooks — from those used in schools to ones recommended by engineering colleges in India — are set to undergo an update.

- The kilogram derived its provenance from the weight of a block of a platinum-iridium alloy housed at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in France.
- All other prototypes that served as national reference standards, including the one at New Delhi’s CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL), were calibrated to it. No longer.

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- On May 20, the kilogram joined other standard units of measure such as the second, metre, ampere, Kelvin, mole and candela that would no longer be defined by physical objects.
- The measures are all now defined on the basis of unchanging universal, physics constants. The kilogram now hinges on the definition of the Planck Constant, a constant of nature that relates to how matter releases energy.
- The CSIR-NPL, which is India's official reference keeper of units of measurements, on Monday, released a set of recommendations requiring that school textbooks, engineering-education books, and course curriculum update the definition of the kilogram.

Q.14) The term “**Kibble Balance**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Device to measure Planck Constant.
- b) Device to measure heat balance.
- c) Device to measure water balance.
- d) Device to measure wind balance.

ANS: A

Explanation: ‘Kibble Balance’, is a device that was used to measure the Planck Constant and thereby reboot the kilogram.

- Named after its inventor, Bryan Kibble at the U.K.'s National Physical Laboratory (NPL), who conceptualized it in 1975, the Kibble balance is an exquisitely accurate weighing machine.
- Like any balance, it is designed to equalize one force with another: In this case, the weight of a test mass is exactly offset by a force produced when an electrical current is run through a coil of wire immersed in a surrounding magnetic field.

***NOTE:** According to National Physics Laboratory director, a Kibble Balance capable of measuring at least a kilogram takes about ₹50 crore to manufacture.

Q.15) Which of the following tree is also called as “**Magic Tree**”?

- a) Palm tree
- b) Banyan tree
- c) Drumstick tree
- d) Papaya tree

ANS: C

Explanation: Magic Moringa Tree has been crowned by WHO as a magical tree. In Europe and America was happening once called as “Miracle Tree”.

- Apparently it's called "Kelor Tree" in Indonesia.
- Researchers have finally unravelled how each part of drumstick (Moringa oleifera), the “magic tree”, is nutritionally rich compared with other plants such as rice, papaya, spinach and cocoa.
- All the five tissues — stem, root, leaf, flower and seed — of drumstick studied were found to be rich either in certain vitamins or essential minerals.
- A team led by Prof. from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru analysed the genes on complimentary DNA (cDNA) of all the five tissues.
- The team found drumstick leaves, which are the most nutritious part of the tree, are rich in vitamins, while the roots are mineral-rich.
- The stem is rich in vitamin C and the flowers and seeds are rich in potassium. The pod and flower also have enzymes that help bring down cholesterol level.

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Q.16) Recently, **India's largest Liquid Hydrogen Storage Tank** is established in which of the following state?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: ISRO Chairman K Sivan flagged off the shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank at the VRV Asia Pacific's manufacturing plant at Sri City in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

- VRV Asia Pacific manufactured the storage tank with a Liquid Nitrogen (LIN) shield, in a collaborative effort with Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, under the Make in India initiative.
- The storage capacity of the tank is 120 kilo liters. Liquid hydrogen is used as fuel for satellite launch vehicles.

Q.17) The words “**Motion interpolation, video interpolation, and the soap opera effect**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Frame rate of videos
- b) Long distance telescopes
- c) Micro telescopes for drug therapy
- d) Thermal image radar system

ANS: A

Explanation: Motion smoothing is also known as motion interpolation, video interpolation, and the soap opera effect, it refers to a process of reducing motion blur by artificially inflating the frame rate of the film or series.

- So, from 24 frames per second (fps) it is increased to 60fps, 120fps or even higher (higher rates are perceived as motion), digitally combining the images to simulate more.
- This effect can be useful when watching sports, as the action moves quickly, and enabling the feature allows viewers to catch more details.

*NOTE: Motion interpolation is a feature that increases a video's frame rate, usually up to the maximum frame rate of the TV. This has the effect of making movements look smoother, clearer, and more lifelike than what you typically see from movies and TV – pretty similar to the look of movement in soap operas (hence the alternate name of 'soap opera effect'). This feature only matters if you want to be able to make movement in videos look a bit smoother. We test all our TVs to see whether they are able to interpolate 30 fps and 60 fps video. Only 120Hz TVs will be able to interpolate 24, 30, and 60 fps video up to a higher frame rate, but some 60Hz TVs are able to interpolate 24 and 30 fps video.

Q.18) Recently the World Health Organization said that “**burnout**” remains an “occupational phenomenon” and it is not considered as a medical condition. Which of the following is/are the characteristics of burnout syndrome?

1. Feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion.
2. Increased mental distance from one's job.
3. Reduced professional efficacy.

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 World Health Organization said on May 28 that “burnout” remains an “occupational phenomenon” that could lead someone to seek care but it is not considered a medical condition.

- The clarification came a day after the WHO mistakenly said it had listed burnout in its International Classification of Diseases (ICD) for the first time.
- While burnout was listed in the previous version, the ICD-10, its definition has been changed in the latest edition of the text. “The definition has been modified based on existing research”.
- WHO has now defined burnout as “a syndrome conceptualised as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed”.
- It said the syndrome was characterised by: “1) feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion; 2) increased mental distance from one's job, or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one's job; and 3) reduced professional efficacy.”
- “Burn-out refers specifically to phenomena in the occupational context and should not be applied to describe experiences in other areas of life,” according to the definition.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding “**Apsara Nuclear Reactor**”:

1. It was the first nuclear reactor in Asia.
2. It was permanently shut down in 2010.

Which 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: APSARA is the first nuclear reactor in Asia to have achieved criticality on August 4, 1956.

- It is a pool type reactor of 1 MW power with highly enriched uranium as fuel (4.5 kg) in the form of plates.
- Light water was used as both moderator and coolant. The maximum neutron flux was around 10^{13} neutrons/cm²/s.
- It was mainly used for production of isotopes, basic research, shielding experiments, neutron activation analysis, and neutron radiography and for testing neutron detectors.
- Apsara was permanently shutdown in 2010.

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding “**Poly-metallic Nodules**”:

1. These are commonly called manganese nodules.
2. These are most abundant on abyssal plains.

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

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ANS: D

Explanation: Of all the mineral resources considered as potential targets for deep-sea mining, poly-metallic nodules (also commonly called manganese nodules) are probably the most likely commodity to be developed into a commercial operation.

- Poly-metallic nodules are rounded accretions of manganese and iron hydroxides that cover vast areas of the seafloor, but are most abundant on abyssal plains at water depths of 4000-6500 metres.
- They form through the aggregation of layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a central particle (such as a shell or small rock fragment), and range in size from a few millimeters to tens of centimeters.
- The composition of nodules varies with their environment of formation, but in addition to manganese and iron, they can contain nickel, copper and cobalt in commercially attractive concentrations as well as traces of other valuable metals such as molybdenum, zirconium and Rare Earth Elements.

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding “**World Food Safety Day (WFSD)**”:

1. The first world food safety day was celebrated in 2015.
2. World food safety day 2019 theme was “Food Safety, everyone’s business”.
3. It is organized by Food and Agriculture Organization in collaboration with World Health Organization.

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 first-ever “World Food Safety Day” adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with WHO, will be celebrated on 7th of June 2019 under the theme "Food Safety, Everyone's Business".

Q.22) Recently, which Indian Institute of technology (IIT) has developed a **paper based test kit for malaria detection**?

- a) Indian Institute of technology (IIT) – Guwahati
- b) Indian Institute of technology (IIT) – Madras
- c) Indian Institute of technology (IIT) – Bombay
- d) Indian Institute of technology (IIT) – Kanpur

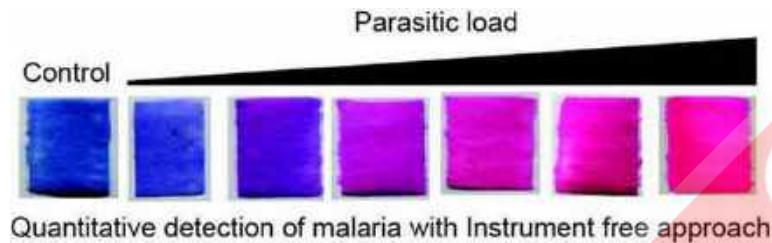
ANS: A

Explanation: With over one million reported cases in 2017, malaria still continues to be a burden for India and most countries of south-east Asia.

- Now, a group of researchers from IIT Guwahati has developed a simple detection method that uses an instrument when in the lab or a piece of chromatographic paper when in the field.
- The kit can be used to detect Plasmodium parasite, which causes malaria and also specifically detect Plasmodium falciparum, a notorious species.
- Using an ordinary syringe fitted with a small magnet, magnetic beads and few chemicals inside, the researchers were able to specifically capture the antigen released by the parasites in the blood of malaria patients.

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- When the captured antigens interact with specific substrates inside the syringe, the blue dye turns pink. The dye is then adsorbed over a modified chromatographic paper.
- The formation of pink colour on the paper is a direct indication of the presence of parasites in the blood serum.
- The intensity of the colour increases when the concentration of antigen is high.



Q.23) Consider the following statements:

1. In scram-jet technology, combustion of fuel takes place in a chamber in the missile at supersonic speeds.
2. In ram jet system where the system collects the air it needs from the atmosphere during the flight at subsonic speeds and the propellants burn in the combustion chamber.

Which 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

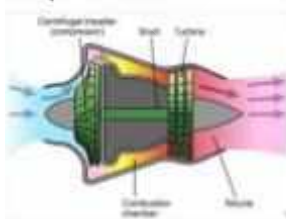
Explanation: In scram-jet technology, combustion of fuel takes place in a chamber in the missile at supersonic speeds.

This is different from a ram jet system where the system collects the air it needs from the atmosphere during the flight at subsonic speeds and the propellants burn in the combustion chamber.

TYPES OF ATMOSPHERIC JET ENGINES

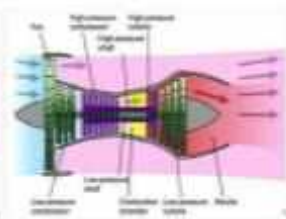
TURBOJET

Turbojets are the oldest and most general purpose jet engines, finding use in a large variety of applications. They are most efficient at supersonic velocities, and are capable of speeds around Mach 3. They were also found on the Concorde and the Tupolev Tu-144.



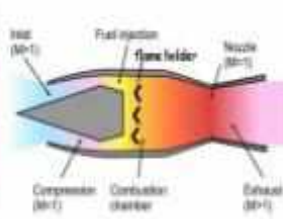
TURBOFAN

A turbofan is essentially a turbojet but with a large ducted fan that provides additional thrust by moving large amount of low velocity air around the main engine. This type of engine is more efficient than turbojets at subsonic speeds. Ex. Boeing 747.



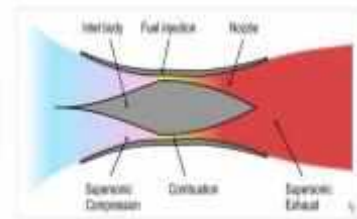
RAMJET

A ramjet is nothing more than a turbojet with all of the rotating parts removed. Ramjets are primarily used with missiles, due to their simple, small, and high-velocity design.



SCRAMJET

A scramjet is identical to a ramjet, but with one difference: combustion occurs with the air moving at supersonic velocities. As a result, scramjets are estimated not to work well below Mach 5, but could possibly reach speeds of Mach 24 (18000 mph).



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Q.24) The term “**Total Polar Compounds**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Edible oils
- b) Crude oil
- c) Ocean deposits
- d) Cosmetics and Shampoos

ANS: A

Explanation: During frying, oil undergoes degradation due to their exposure to elevated temperatures which result in changes in the physico-chemical, nutritional and sensory properties of the oil.

- Polar compounds are formed during frying.
- The toxicity of these compounds is associated with several diseases such as hypertension, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease liver diseases etc.
- Therefore, it is essential to monitor the quality of vegetable oils during frying.
- In order to safeguard consumer health, FSSAI has fixed a limit for Total Polar Compounds at 25% beyond which the vegetable oil shall not be used. Therefore, Vegetable Oils should not be repeatedly used for frying.
- The estimation of Total Polar Compounds (TPC) is a widely accepted parameter to decide whether the oil is safe for further use or not.
- The TPC Value is considered a better indicator since it refers to all degraded products from the initial triglycerides present in the oil.

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the “**five-day annual International Pulsar Timing Array (IPTA) meet**”:

1. It is hosted by Pune based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA).
2. The IPTA is a collaboration of radio astronomers from a dozen countries across the globe.
3. It uses more than 12 radio telescopes all over the world with an aim to detect ultra-low frequency gravitational waves.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) is all set to host the five-day annual International Pulsar Timing Array (IPTA) meet from June 17 to 21.

- The IPTA is a collaboration of radio astronomers from a dozen countries across the globe.
- It uses more than 12 radio telescopes all over the world with an aim to detect ultra-low frequency gravitational waves.
- More than 40 expert international astronomers and 30 international students are expected to participate in the event, besides several Indian participants.
- “The upgrade of the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) in Pune and the Ooty Radio Telescope (ORT) has helped us meet the parameters for being a full member of the IPTA.
- The current status of the quest for ultra-low frequency Gravitational Waves and the roadmap for future technical and scientific challenges is to be the main focus of the meeting.

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- These waves are wrinkles in space-time produced by two massive black holes, each revolving around the other.
- Such black holes, which weigh billion times more than our Sun, are found in the centres of colliding galaxies.
- These waves affect radio pulses from 10km size stars called radio pulsars by changing ever so slightly the period of radio pulsation of these stars.

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding “**Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)**”:

1. It is a professional body which ensures focused action on issues related to IPRs.
2. It works under Department of Science & Technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: A professional body under the aegis of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) which ensures focused action on issues related to IPRs and addresses the 7 identified objectives of the policy.

- CIPAM assists in simplifying and streamlining of IP processes, apart from undertaking steps for furthering IPR awareness, commercialization and enforcement.
- Simplifying and streamlining of IP processes by formulating and implementing a focused strategy for each policy objective
- Coordination with State level agencies and Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, industry bodies as well as international agencies; IP cells to be set up
- IPR awareness campaign across the country in schools,colleges/universities and the industry
- Training and sensitization programmes for enforcement agencies and Judiciary; coordination for effective enforcement of IPR rights.
- Study and facilitate implementation of best practices for promotion and commercialization of IP within the country

Q.27) “**Lunar X Prize**” is recently in news is sponsored by which of the following social media giant?

- a) Face Book
- b) Google
- c) YouTube
- d) Twitter

ANS: B

Explanation: The Google Lunar XPRIZE (GLXP), sometimes referred to as Moon 2.0, was a 2007–2018 inducement prize space competition organized by the X Prize Foundation, and sponsored by Google.

The challenge called for privately funded teams to be the first to land a robotic spacecraft on the Moon, travel 500 meters, and transmit back to Earth high-definition video and images.

Q.28) The “**Berne Convention of 1886**” is related to which of the following?

- a) Primary Health Care
- b) Environmental Protection
- c) Global peace
- d) Intellectual property rights

ANS: D

Explanation: The Berne Convention, adopted in 1886, deals with the protection of works and the rights of their authors.

- It provides creators such as authors, musicians, poets, painters etc. with the means to control how their works are used, by whom, and on what terms.
- It is based on three basic principles and contains a series of provisions determining the minimum protection to be granted, as well as special provisions available to developing countries that want to make use of them.

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding “**Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)**”:

1. It has been launched to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
2. It targets to immunize all children against seven vaccine preventable diseases.

Which 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 has been launched by the Government of India to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.

- It targets to immunize all children against seven vaccine preventable diseases namely Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Childhood Tuberculosis, Polio, Hepatitis B and Measles.
- In addition to this, vaccines for Japanese Encephalitis, Haemophilus influenza type B, inactivated polio vaccine, Rotavirus vaccine and Measles Rubella vaccine are also being provided in selected states.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding “**protection of plant varieties and farmers rights (PPV&FR) Act**”:

1. To recognize and protect the rights of farmers in respect of their contributions made at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources.
2. To accelerate agricultural development in the country, protect plant breeders’ rights.

Which 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: To recognize and protect the rights of farmers in respect of their contributions made at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of new plant varieties.

- To accelerate agricultural development in the country, protect plant breeders' rights;
- Stimulate investment for research and development both in public & private sector for the development new of plant varieties.
- Facilitate the growth of seed industry in the country, to ensure the availability of high quality seeds and planting material to the farmers.
- The protection period is for 15 years, and 18 years in the case of trees and vines.
- Establishes Plant Varieties Protection Appellate Tribunal (PVPAT): The decisions of the PVPAT can be challenged in High Court.
- The Tribunal shall dispose of the appeal within one year.

Q.31) The term “**GW190412**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Detection of a merger of two unequal-mass black holes.
- b) Bacterial strain that consumes complex aromatic compounds.
- c) It is an asteroid which rotating very near to earth orbit.
- d) A massive west Antarctica ice-sheet.

ANS: A

Explanation: For the first time since it started functioning, the gravitational wave observatories at LIGO scientific collaboration have detected a merger of two unequal-mass black holes.

- The event, dubbed GW190412, was detected nearly a year ago, and this is almost five years after the first ever detection of gravitational wave signals by these powerful detectors.
- Subsequent analysis of the signal coming from the violent merger showed that it involved two black holes of unequal masses coalescing, one of which was some 30 times the mass of the Sun and the other which had a mass nearly 8 times the solar mass.
- The actual merger took place at a distance of 2.5 billion light years away.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Primordial Black Holes**”:

1. PBHs were formed during the Hot Big Bang phase.
2. PBH can be massively large as 3000kms or be extremely tiny like nucleus of an atom.

Which of the following 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: Primordial Black Holes (PBH) were formed during the Hot Big Bang phase.

- PBH can be massively large as 3000kms or be extremely tiny like nucleus of an atom.
- It is believed that they are formed as a result of collapsing radiations as opposed to the collapse of massive stars, which is the case of any other black holes.
- A recent study on Primordial black holes has confirmed that this marginal rise in potential energy resulted in birth of several PBHs and also emitted very powerful gravitational waves.

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- Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), has studied primordial black holes that were born as a result of a tiny bump in the potential energy levels of the universe, at a time when it was expanding rapidly.

Q.33) The “**Artemis (human spaceflight programme)**” is recently in news is launched by which of the following space agency?

- a) European Space agency
- b) Roscosmos
- c) NASA
- d) JAXA

ANS: C

Explanation: The Artemis program is a US (NASA) government-funded crewed spaceflight program that has the goal of landing "the first woman and the next man" on the Moon, specifically at the lunar South Pole region by 2024.

Q.34) The **X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)** is a planned space observatory to study polarization of cosmic X-rays – is going to launch by which of the following agency?

- a) ISRO
- b) NASA
- c) JAXA
- d) Both A and B

ANS: A

Explanation: The X-ray Polarimeter Satellite is a planned space observatory to study polarisation of cosmic X-rays.

- It is planned to be launched in 2021, and to provide a service time of at least five years.
- The telescope is being developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Raman Research Institute.

Q.35) Which of the following country is **NOT** a member of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD, also known as the Quad)?

- a) Japan
- b) South Korea
- c) Australia
- d) United States of America

ANS: B

Explanation: The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD), better known as the ‘Quad’, started as a strategic dialogue in 2007.

- The dialogue members included **India, the US, Australia and Japan**.
- It was established to check the growth of Chinese power in what was still referred to as ‘Asia-Pacific’, and which has since become ‘Indo-Pacific’.
- The Quad had its real genesis in the response to the 2004-2005 Asian Tsunami when India showed prowess in spearheading the relief and rescue effort in South East Asia.
- However, the principal aim of the Quad was strategic, with a quest to manage the consequences for the regional balance of power in the Indo-Pacific due to the scale and scope of China’s rise.

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Q.36) Which of the following pair (s) is/are **NOT** correctly matched?

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Operation | : | Associated with |
| 1. Operation Samudra Setu | : | Repatriation of Indian citizens |
| 2. Operation Sanjeevani | : | Gulf of Oman |
| 3. Operation Sankalp | : | Maldives |

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: Indian Navy has launched **Operation Samudra Setu** - meaning Sea Bridge, as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.

- Under **Operation Sanjeevani** an Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130J transport aircraft delivered 6.2 tons of essential medicines and hospital consumables to Maldives.
- Indian Navy launched **Operation Sankalp** in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on Thursday to reassure Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area following the recent maritime incidents in the region.

Q.37) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Missile/Defense system | : | Origin Country |
| 1. Spike Missile | : | Israel |
| 2. Tsirkon missile | : | Russia |
| 3. Maareech torpedo defense system | : | India |

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: Russian administration announced on Russian Navy would be equipped with hypersonic nuclear strike weapons and underwater nuclear drones.

- Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile is designed to be carried on surface ships; it is under final phase of testing.

Spike Missile: Spike is an Israeli fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile and anti-personnel missile.

- It was developed and designed by the Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

Maareech torpedo defense system: It is an Advanced Torpedo Defence System (ATDS) that is capable of being fired from all frontline ships.

- It has been designed and developed indigenously by DRDO.
- It is capable of detecting, locating and neutralizing incoming torpedoes.

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding the “**project AHANA**”:

- 1. It is a flagship national programme, is working for a world where no child is born with HIV/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
- 2. It is implemented by National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) with the support of World Health Organization.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: AHANA, a flagship national programme, is working for a world where no child is born with HIV/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

- It focuses on the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and is implemented by Plan India with support from The Global Fund.
- AHANA is being implemented in close coordination with the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and National Health Mission (NHM) to influence policies and strategies in both the design and implementation phases of the National Health Mission Programme.
- AHANA aims to cover 55% of India's annual pregnancy load and reach 16.5 million annual pregnancies across 357 districts in 14 states each year with HIV testing.
- AHANA also provides care and support to HIV exposed babies until they are 18 months old, along with facilitating postpartum care for the lactating mother.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding the “**National Biopharma Mission**”:

1. It is an Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission of Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
2. It is co-funded by the Asian Development Bank and is being implemented at Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: National Biopharma Mission is an Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission of Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

- It aims for accelerating discovery research to early development for Biopharmaceuticals approved by the Cabinet for a total cost US\$ 250 million.
- It is 50% co-funded by the World Bank is being implemented at Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- This program is dedicated to deliver affordable products to the nation with an aim to improve the health standards of India's population.

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding “**INS Arihant**”:

1. It is India's first indigenously built nuclear submarine.
2. It is a ship submersible ballistic, nuclear (SSBN) submarine.
3. French designers assisted in building the Arihant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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ANS: B

Explanation: INS Arihant is India's first nuclear-powered submarine.

- The ship submersible ballistic, nuclear (SSBN) submarine was launched at the Indian Navy's dockyard in Visakhapatnam, which is the headquarters of India's Eastern Naval Command.
- Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who has inaugurated the vessel into the Indian Navy, asserted that the indigenously built submarine would be used for self defence.
- The name Arihant derives from two words – Ari meaning enemy and Hanth meaning destroy.
- Arihant, India's first indigenously built nuclear submarine, cost \$2.9bn.
- It was jointly developed by the Indian Navy, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
- Russian designers assisted in building the vessel.

Geography

Q.1) Which of the following is/are the evidence (s) in support of the **Continental Drift**?

1. Jig – Saw – Fit.
2. Tillite.
3. Placer deposits.

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: A variety of evidence was offered in support of the continental drift. Some of these are given below.

The Matching of Continents (Jig-Saw-Fit): The shorelines of Africa and South America facing each other have a remarkable and unmistakable match.

- It may be noted that a map produced using a computer programme to find the best fit of the Atlantic margin was presented by Bullard in 1964.
- It proved to be quite perfect. The match was tried at 1,000- fathom line instead of the present shoreline.

Tillite: It is the sedimentary rock formed out of deposits of glaciers.

- The Gondawana system of sediments from India is known to have its counterparts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.
- At the base, the system has thick tillite indicating extensive and prolonged glaciation.
- The glacial tillite provides unambiguous evidence of palaeo-climates and also of drifting of continents.

Placer Deposits: The occurrence of rich placer deposits of gold in the Ghana coast and the absolute absence of source rock in the region is an amazing fact.

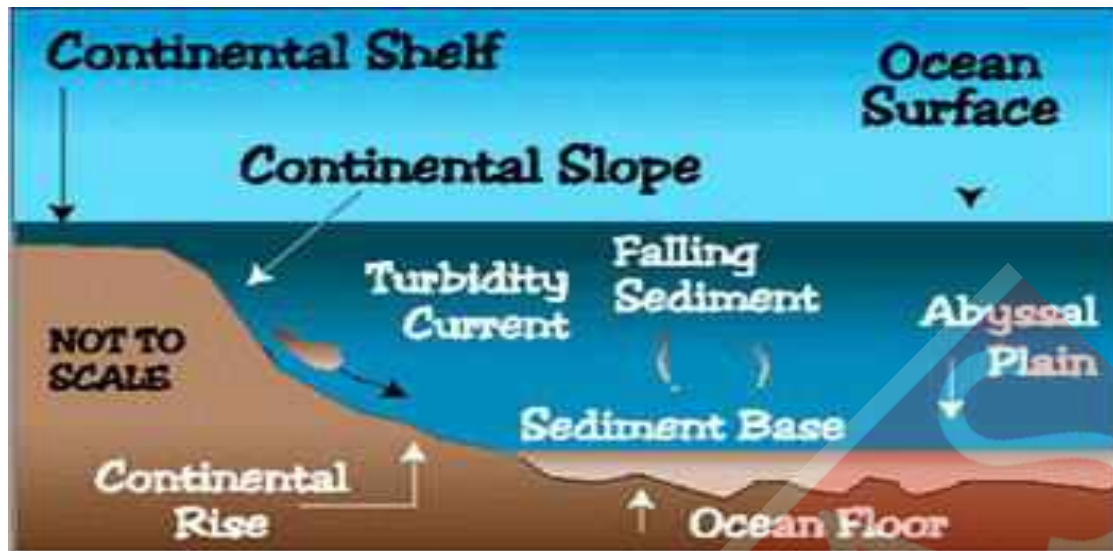
The gold bearing veins are in Brazil and it is obvious that the gold deposits of the Ghana are derived from the Brazil plateau when the two continents lay side by side.

Q.2) The term “**Abyssal Plain**” is related to which of the following?

- a) The plain which is formed due to glacial deposition.
- b) The plain which is formed due to river deposits.
- c) The underground plains are formed due water deposition and erosion.
- d) It is an underwater plain on the deep ocean floor.

ANS: D

Explanation: An abyssal plain is an underwater plain on the deep ocean floor, usually found at depths between 3,000 metres (9,800 ft) and 6,000 metres (20,000 ft). Lying generally between the foot of a continental rise and a mid-ocean ridge, abyssal plains cover more than 50% of the Earth's surface.



Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the “Mid – Oceanic Ridges”:

1. It forms an inter-connected chain of mountain system within the ocean.
2. It is the longest mountain-chain on the surface of the earth though submerged under the oceanic waters.

Which 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: Mid – Oceanic Ridges: This forms an interconnected chain of mountain system within the ocean.

- It is the longest mountain-chain on the surface of the earth though submerged under the oceanic waters.
- It is characterised by a central rift system at the crest, a fractionated plateau and flank zone all along its length.
- The rift system at the crest is the zone of intense volcanic activity.

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

- | Minor plate | : | Location |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 1. Nazca plate | : | Between South America and Pacific plate |
| 2. Cocos plate | : | Between Asiatic and Pacific plate |
| 3. Caroline plate | : | Between Central America and Pacific plate |

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: Some important minor plates are listed below:

- Cocos plate: Between Central America and Pacific plate
- Nazca plate: Between South America and Pacific plate
- Arabian plate: Mostly the Saudi Arabian landmass

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- Philippine plate: Between the Asiatic and Pacific plate
- Caroline plate: Between the Philippine and Indian plate (North of New Guinea)
- Fuji plate: North-east of Australia.

Q.5) “These are deep valleys, sometimes found cutting across the continental shelves and slopes, often extending from the mouths of large rivers” – describes which of the following?

- a) Seamount
- b) Submarine Canyons
- c) Guyots
- d) Atoll

ANS: B

Explanation: These are deep valleys, some comparable to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River.

- They are sometimes found cutting across the continental shelves and slopes, often extending from the mouths of large rivers.
- The Hudson Canyon is the best known submarine canyon in the world.

Q.6) Which of the following Ocean Current is **NOT** a cold ocean current?

- a) Kuroshio Current
- b) Oyashio Current
- c) Canaries Current
- d) Labrador Current

ANS: A

Explanation: The Kuroshio, also known as the Black or Japan Current or the Black Stream, is a north-flowing, warm ocean current on the west side of the North Pacific Ocean.

Q.7) Which of the following tribal groups is/are practice (s) **transhumance**?

1. Bhotiyas
2. Todas
3. Koyas

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: Movement in search of pastures is undertaken either over vast horizontal distances or vertically from one elevation to another in the mountainous regions.

- The process of migration from plain areas to pastures on mountains during summers and again from mountain pastures to plain areas during winters is known as transhumance.
- In mountain regions, such as Himalayas, **Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis and Bhotiyas** migrate from plains to the mountains in summers and to the plains from the high altitude pastures in winters.

Q.8) The “**Scun Thorpe, Dusseldorf and Pittsburgh**” are famous areas for which of the following?

- a) Dairy production centres

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- b) Iron and steel industry centres
- c) Wheat producing centres
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Iron & Steel Industry: The industry is one of the most complex and capital-intensive industries and is concentrated in the advanced countries of North America, Europe and Asia.

- Pittsburg area is now losing ground. It has now become the “rust bowl” of U.S.A.
- In Europe, U.K., Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Russia are the leading producers.
- The important steel centres are Scun Thorpe, Port Talbot, Birmingham and Sheffield in the U.K.;
- Duisburg, Dortmund, Dusseldorf and Essen in Germany; Le Creusot and St. Etienne in France;
- And Moscow, St. Petersburg, Lipetsk, Tula, in Russia and Krivoi Rog, and Donetsk in Ukraine.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the “oil refineries in India”:

1. Trombay Refinery is India’s oldest refinery.
2. Digboi Oil refinery is located in Assam.
3. Barauni Oil refinery in Bihar is built in collaboration with Russia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Digboi Refinery is India’s oldest refinery. It was established in 1901. It gets crude oil from Moran and Naharkatiya fields.

- Barauni petrochemicals plant is in the country the second oil refinery in the public sector and forms an important part of the Indian petrochemical industry.
- It belongs to the Indian oil corporation limited (IOCL). It was built in partnership with Romania and USSR.
- The plant of Barauni petrochemicals is located from Patna at a distance of 125 kilometers. In 1964 it was commissioned and had a 1 mmtpa refining capacity.

Q.10) “Lake Pampulha” is recently in news is located in which of the following country?

- a) Brazil
- b) South Africa
- c) Russia
- d) Indonesia

ANS: A

Explanation: In a lake in Brazil, researchers have discovered a virus that they find unusual and intriguing called Yaravirus, it has a “puzzling origin and phylogeny”, they report in a study on the pre-print server bioRxiv.

- The Yaravirus infects amoeba and has genes that have not been described before, something that could challenge how DNA viruses are classified.

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- The researchers found the Yaravirus while looking in the lake for giant viruses that infect amoeba.
- Because of the Yaravirus's small size, it was unlike other viruses that infect amoeba and they named it as a tribute to Yara, the "mother of waters" in the mythological stories of the Tupi-Guarani indigenous tribes.

Q.11) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Latitude : **Passes through**

1. Tropic of Cancer : Ranchi
2. 20 ° Latitude : Hyderabad
3. 12 ° Latitude : Chennai

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:



Q.12) The "Tropic of Cancer" falls directly on which of the following caves?

- a) Khadagiri caves
- b) Bhimbetka caves
- c) Kanheri caves
- d) Udaygiri caves

ANS: D

Explanation: The Udayagiri caves, in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, contain some of the oldest Hindu temples and iconography. They were built during the Gupta period (350-550 CE).

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- These caves were not just an expression of religious piety but also a political statement. They lie on two low sandstone hills between the rivers Betwa and Bes.
- **It is possible that when these caves were carved out, they fell directly on the Tropic of Cancer and thus the name translates to Mount of Sunrise.**
- On the day of summer solstice, the sun would have been directly overhead, making this a place of worship.

Q.13) Arrange the following rivers of Arunachal Pradesh from **east to west**:

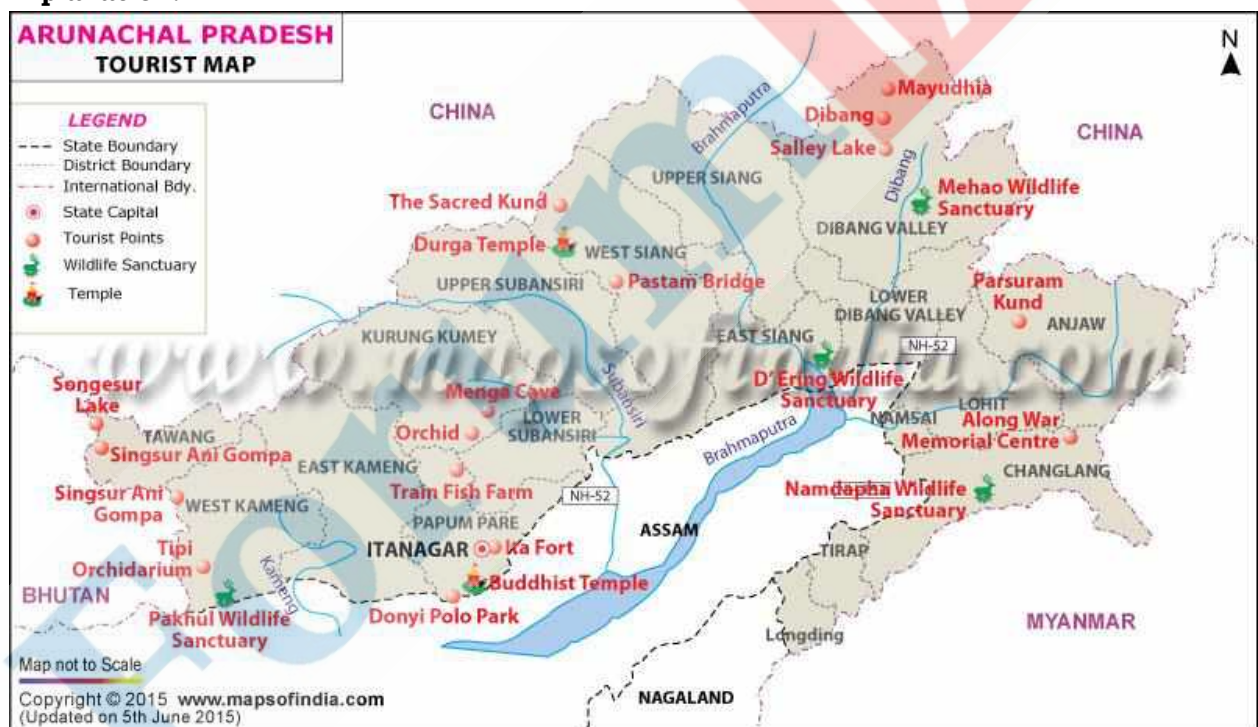
1. Dibang River
2. Dihang River
3. Lohit River
4. Subansiri River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation:



Q.14) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

- Pilgrimage centre** : **Adjacent River**
1. Parasuram kund : Brahmaputra River
 2. Ujjain : Shipra River
 3. Bhadrachalam : Krishna River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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ANS: B

Explanation: Parshuram Kund is a Hindu pilgrimage sites situated on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit River and 21 km north of Tezu in Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh, India.

The Shipra, also known as the Kshipra, is a river in Madhya Pradesh state of central India.

- The river rises in the North of Dhar district, and flows north across the Malwa Plateau to join the Chambal River at the MP-Rajasthan boundary in Mandsaur district.
- It is one of the sacred rivers in Hinduism.
- The holy city of Ujjain is situated on its east bank.

Bhadrachalam is a town, known as a Hindu pilgrimage site, in the south Indian state of Telangana.

Beside the Godavari River, the huge 17th-century Bhadrachalam (or Sita Rama Chandra swamy) Temple complex is dedicated to Lord Rama and has many ornate carvings.

Q.15) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Tourist place	:	State
1. Gol Gumbaz	:	Karnataka
2. Ganapatipule	:	Maharashtra
3. Srisailam	:	Telangana

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: Bijapur, or Vijayapura (Karnataka) as it is now known, was the capital of the Adil Shahi dynasty from 1490 to 1686.

- It is famous for its impressive buildings and dargahs. Undoubtedly, the most magnificent mausoleum is that of the seventh ruler of the dynasty, Mohammad Adil Shah (1627-1656), called the **Gol Gumbaz** (round dome).
- Covering an area of 18,225 sq ft, Gol Gumbaz has the distinction of being the largest space covered by a single dome in the world, followed by the Pantheon in Rome.
- Its dome is the second largest, after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Ganapatipule (Maharashtra): Ganpatipule is a town on the Konkan Coast of western India.

- It's known for its beaches, such as Ganpatipule Beach and nearby Aare Ware Beach.
- On Ganpatipule Beach, the centuries-old Swayambhu Ganpati Temple is a pilgrimage site and houses a large orange statue of Ganesh.
- Prachin Konkan is an open-air museum with models depicting traditional Konkan life.
- Jaigad Fort and a British-built lighthouse lie to the north.

Srisailam (Andhra Pradesh): Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple in Srisailam, renowned as the Varanasi of South, is one among the 12 Jyotirlingas in the country.

Every year, tens of thousands of devotees trek up to the hill-top temple, crossing the precarious Nallamala forests on foot, to participate in the Maha Sivaratri Brahmotsavam.

Q.16) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Hills	:	State
1. Horsley hills	:	Karnataka
2. Nandi hills	:	Andhra Pradesh

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3. Parasnath hills : Jharkhand
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Horsley Hills (Andhra Pradesh): Horsley Hills, located 1,290 metres above sea level and spread over 2 km radius, is best suited for rock climbing, gliding, trekking and cycling because of its zigzag terrain and a picturesque ghat road flanked by verdant forests.

- In fact, it was the scenic beauty, coupled with the pleasant climate that drew the attention of British officer W.D. Horsley in 1870, who later made it his home.
- Till Independence, Horsley Hills remained a hot destination for nature lovers, and enjoyed the patronage of the colonial rulers.

Nandi Hills (Karnataka): Nandi Hills, or Nandidurg, is a hill fortress in the south Indian state of Karnataka.

- Tipu Sultan Fort, a summer retreat of the namesake 18th-century ruler, features stone carvings and wall paintings.
- Prisoners are said to have been thrown to their death from Tipu's Drop, now known for its panoramic views.
- Local Hindu temples include the hilltop Yoga Nandeeshwara Temple, guarded by a huge statue of a bull (nandi).

Parasnath hills (Jharkhand): Parasnath is a mountain peak in the Parasnath Range.

- It is located towards the eastern end of the Chota Nagpur Plateau in the Giridih district of the Indian state of Jharkhand, India.
- The hill is named after Lord Parshvanatha, the 23rd Tirthankara.

Q.17) Which of the following are the bordering countries of North Sea?

- 1. England
- 2. Ireland
- 3. Germany
- 4. France
- 5. Sweden

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The North Sea - a part of the Atlantic Ocean - is bordered by Norway and Denmark, Scotland and England, (and in the southeast) by the Frisian Islands and Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France.



Q.18) The **Amazon forest** spread across which of the following countries?

1. Guyana
2. Colombia
3. Bolivia
4. Paraguay
5. Argentina

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Amazon is a vast region that spans across eight rapidly developing countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana, an overseas territory of France.

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Q.19) Arrange the following national parks from north to south direction:

1. Vansada national park
2. Sanjay Gandhi national park
3. Bhagawan Mahavir national park
4. Blackbuck (velavadar) national park

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:



Q.20) Which of the following latitude separates the Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands?

- a) Eighth degree channel
- b) Ninth degree channel
- c) Tenth degree channel
- d) Eleventh degree channel

ANS: C

Explanation: The Ten Degree Channel is a channel that separates the Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands from each other in the Bay of Bengal. The two sets of islands together form the Indian Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Q.21) The term “Yarrabubba Crater” is often seen in news is located in which of the following place?

- a) Australia
- b) France
- c) Siberia
- d) Namibia

ANS: A

Explanation: The Yarrabubba crater is an asteroid impact structure, the eroded remnant of a former impact crater, situated in the Mid-West Western Australia.

- It has a precise age of 2.229 billion years, it is the oldest known impact structure on Earth.
- According to recent study, Australia’s Yarrabubba asteroid impact crater is the oldest on earth and it may have been responsible for ending an ice age.

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- Other older asteroid crater are the Vredefort Dome in South Africa (2.023 billion years old) and Canada’s Sudbury Basin (1.850 billion years old).
- These are the only other precisely dated Precambrian impact structures that are currently known.
- Originally stretching roughly 70 km wide, the Yarrabubba resisted reliable estimates of its age because of erosion and plate tectonics.
- It is now an elliptical structure with a diameter of approximately 20 km.

Q.22) Arrange the following time scales of **geological time scale in ascending order**:

1. Epoch
2. Age
3. Era
4. Period
5. Eon

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

	Eon	Era	Period	Epoch	
Younger ↑	Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene	← Today
				Pleistocene	← 11.8 Ka
			Neogene	Pliocene	
				Miocene	
			Paleogene	Oligocene	
				Eocene	
		Paleocene	← 66 Ma		
		Mesozoic	Cretaceous	~	← 252 Ma
			Jurassic	~	
			Triassic	~	
			Permian	~	
				~	
		Paleozoic	Carboniferous	Pennsylvanian	~
				Mississippian	~
Devonian	~				
Silurian	~				
Ordovician	~				
Cambrian	~		← 541 Ma		
Older ↓	Proterozoic	~	~	← 2.5 Ga	
	Archean	~	~	← 4.0 Ga	
	Hadean	~	~	← 4.54 Ga	

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Indian Ocean Dipole**”:

1. It is an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the ocean.
2. It affects the strength of monsoons over the Indian subcontinent.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), also known as the Indian Niño, is an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer (positive phase) and then colder (negative phase) than the eastern part of the ocean.

- The IOD involves a periodic oscillation of sea-surface temperatures (SST), between "positive", "neutral" and "negative" phases.
- The IOD also affects the strength of monsoons over the Indian subcontinent.
- The IOD is one aspect of the general cycle of global climate, interacting with similar phenomena like the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the Pacific Ocean.

Q.24) The term “**Limiting Factor – Vehicle**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Missile controller
- b) Re – usable launch pads
- c) Deep submersibles
- d) Unmanned Aerial Launch pads

ANS: C

Explanation: The Limiting Factor is a two-man vessel that is capable of diving to full ocean depth.

- It is the world’s first and only manned-submersible that will be certified for dives to 11,000 m / 36,000 ft.
- A team of scientists is preparing to dive deep into the depths of the Indian Ocean — into a “Midnight Zone” where light barely reaches but life still thrives.
- Scientists from the British-led Nekton Mission plan to survey wildlife and gauge the effects of climate change in the unexplored area.
- Working with the Seychelles and Maldives governments, the five-week expedition is targeting seamounts — vast underwater mountains that rise thousands of meters from the sea floor.
- To explore such inhospitable depths, Nekton scientists will board one of the world’s most advanced submersibles, called “Limiting Factor.”

Q.25) The terms “**Ciara & Sabina**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Typhoons of south China
- b) Tropical cyclones of Indonesia
- c) Storm in Northern Europe
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: On February 9 - 2020, a major storm hit northern Europe, disrupting travel and public events in the region.

- The storm, named ‘Ciara’ in the UK, is expected to hit Ireland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany. In Germany, it is being referred to as ‘Sabine’.

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- The storm has two names because there isn't yet a pan-European system in place for labeling weather systems.
- Hurricane-force winds up to 129 kph battered the country, the strongest since 2013. Trains, flights, and ferries were cancelled and weather warnings were issued at several places.

Q.26) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Gas Field	:	Nation
1. Jebel Ali	:	United Arab Emirates
2. North Field	:	Russia
3. South Pars	:	Qatar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: On February 3 - 2020, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced it had discovered a new natural gas field with 80 trillion standard cubic feet (tscf) of shallow gas resources.

- The gas field discovery, reportedly the largest in the world since 2005, holds the potential of helping UAE's gas self-sufficiency, reducing its reliance on neighbouring Qatar for the fuel.
- The reservoir, named '**Jebel Ali**', is located between the emirates of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, which along with five other emirates form the UAE.
- According to officials, it spans around 5,000 square kilometres.
- According to a Bloomberg report, the gas find is the largest since the discovery of the **Galkynysh field in Turkmenistan** in 2005.
- At 80 tscf, the new reservoir would now be ranked the fourth largest by size in the Middle East, behind the **North Field in Qatar, South Pars in Iran, and the Bab field in Abu Dhabi.**
- The Qatari and Iranian fields are part of the same deposit.

Q.27) Arrange the following **mountain passes from east to west:**

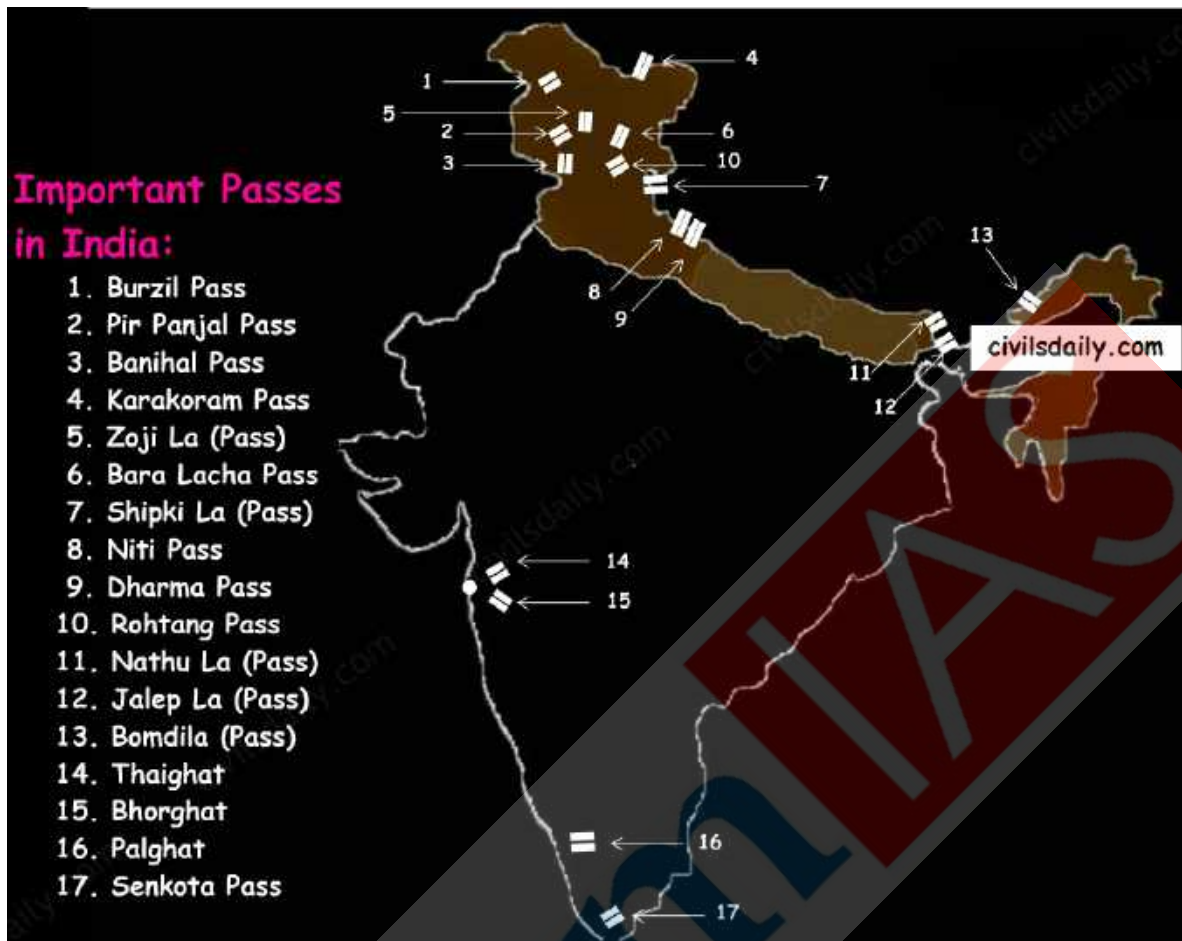
- Bomdila Pass
- Dharma Pass
- Jalep La Pass

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 - 2 - 3
- 2 - 1 - 3
- 1 - 3 - 2
- 2 - 3 - 1

ANS: C

Explanation:



Q.28) Which of the following lake (s) consists of Panama Canal?

1. Gatun Lake
2. Alajuela Lake
3. Miraflores Lake

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 canal consists of artificial lakes, several improved and artificial channels, and three sets of locks. An additional artificial lake, Alajuela Lake (known during the American era as Madden Lake), Gatun Lake and Miraflores lake acts as a reservoir for the canal.

Q.29) According to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) – 2019, which state recorded **highest number of forest fire alerts?**

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Nagaland
- d) Mizoram

ANS: D

Explanation: About 21.40% of forest cover in India is prone to fires, with forests in the north-eastern region and central India being the most vulnerable, the 2019 report by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has said.

- The forest fire points (FFP) identified during the 13 years add up to 2,77,758.
- They were analysed using a moderate resolution imaging spectroradiometer (MODIS) by overlaying the points coverage over the grid coverage of 5 km x 5 km.
- The total number of alerts issued for each state based on MODIS data from November 2018 to June 2019 was 29,547 and interestingly, Mizoram, a small State, recorded the highest number of fire alerts (2,795).
- The seven States of the north-eastern region accounted for 10,210 fire alerts, which make up about one-third of alerts in the country.
- Central Indian States also recorded a high number of forest fire alerts, with Madhya Pradesh accounting for 2,723 alerts; Maharashtra 2,516; Odisha 2,213 and Chattisgarh 1,008 alerts between November 2018 to June 2019.

Q.30) Consider the following statements:

1. Mesosphere lies above Stratosphere and extends up-to a height of 120km.
2. The ionosphere contains electrically charged particles known as ions, and hence, it is known as ionosphere.
3. The stratosphere extends up to a height of 50 km and it contains the ozone layer.

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 stratosphere is found above the tropo-pause and extends up to a height of 50 km. One important feature of the stratosphere is that it contains the ozone layer.

- This layer absorbs ultra-violet radiation and shields life on the earth from intense, harmful form of energy.
- The mesosphere lies above the stratosphere, which extends up to a height of 80 km.
- In this layer, once again, temperature starts decreasing with the increase in altitude and reaches up to minus 100°C at the height of 80 km.
- The upper limit of mesosphere is known as the mesopause. The ionosphere is located between 80 and 400 km above the mesopause.
- It contains electrically charged particles known as ions, and hence, it is known as ionosphere. Radio waves transmitted from the earth are reflected back to the earth by this layer.

Q.31) With reference to the “**Brahmaputra River**”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is known as the Cradle of Tibetan Civilization.
2. It rises from 27 kilometers long Zemu glacier.
3. It forms a Grand Canyon, flowing 1,000 km first Eastward, then takes a horse shoe bend westward near Namche Barwa.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

d) 2 and 3 only

ANS: C

Explanation: Brahmaputra River: Yarlung Tsangpo or Brahmaputra, the only male river that literally translates as 'Son of Brahma', is revered by Hindus, Jains and Buddhists.

- Buddhists believe that long ago the Chang Thang Plateau was a great lake.
- Yarlung Tsangpo, known as the 'Cradle of Tibetan Civilisation' rises in the Chemayungdung Glacier in the Kailash Range in Tibet.
- It descends rapidly from Tibet, forming a grand canyon, flowing 1,000 km first Eastward, then takes a horse shoe bend westward near Namche Barwa in Sadiya in the State of Arunachal Pradesh in the Pemakop region.
- Here the river is christened as Siang.
- Namche Barwa (7,782m.) and Giyala Peri (7,294m.) are two distinct peaks that mark the Eastern end of the Himalaya where Brahmaputra takes this unapproachable bend.

The rich rainforests of this basin is home to many species of flora and fauna and is dotted with several settlements. It hosts National Parks like the Kaziranga and Manas.

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

Religious/tourist place	:	River
1. Badami	:	Ghatprabha
2. Nanded	:	Wainganga
3. Sabiramala	:	Pamba

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Malaprabha River is a tributary of the Krishna River. The temples of Aihole, Pattadakal and Badami are on the banks of the Malaprabha.

Nanded is a city in Maharashtra state, India. Nanded is a major destination for Sikh pilgrims, because the 10th Sikh Guru (Guru Gobind Singh) made Nanded his permanent abode and passed his guruship to the Guru Granth Sahib before his death in 1708.

- Nanded is located on the banks of Godavari River in central west India.

The Pamba River is the third longest river in the South Indian state of Kerala after Periyar and Bharathappuzha and the longest river in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore.

- Sabarimala temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is located on the banks of the river Pamba.

Q.33) The "Mount Etna" volcano is often seen in news is located in which of the following country?

- a) Germany
- b) Spain
- c) Switzerland
- d) Italy

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ANS: D

Explanation: Etna is about 3,326 metres high and is the highest peak in Italy, South of the Alps.

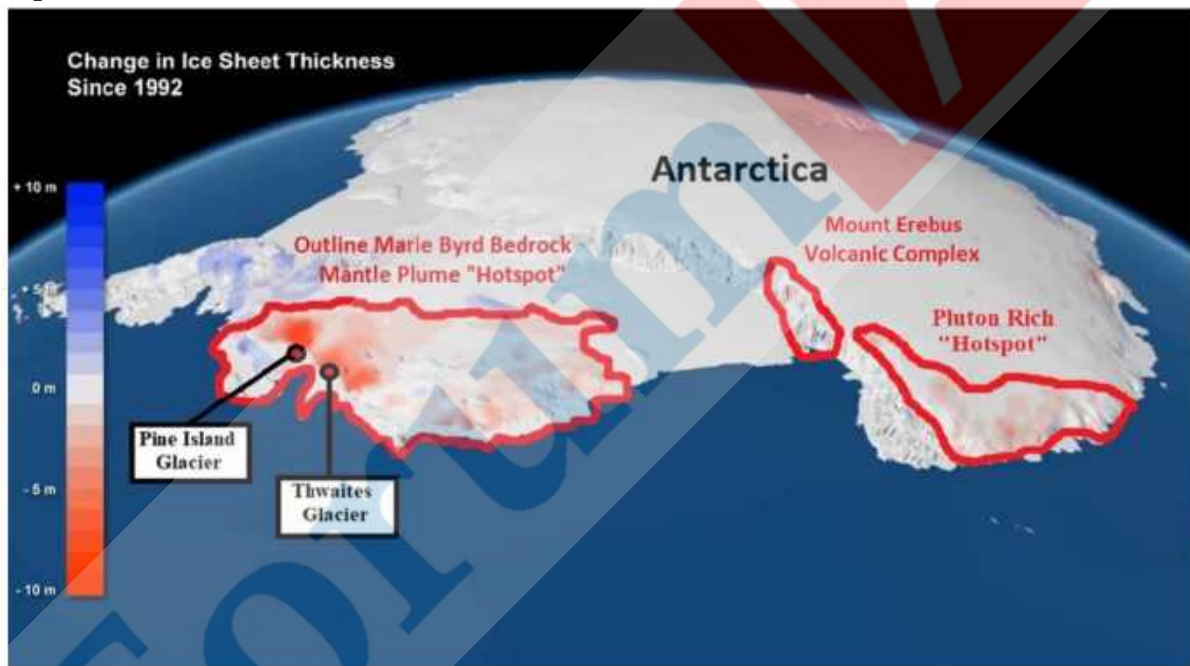
- It is two-and-a-half times bigger than Vesuvius, which destroyed Pompeii.
- Mount Etna is one of the most active volcanoes and is in an almost constant state of activity.
- The fertile volcanic soil supports agriculture, vineyards and orchards spread across the lower slopes and the broad plains of Catania to the South.

Q.34) The “**Pine Island and Thwaites Glaciers**” are often seen in news is located in which of the following?

- Green Land
- Arctic Ocean
- Antarctica
- Siberia

ANS: C

Explanation:



Q.35) The “**Sonabhadra gold mines**” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- Uttar Pradesh
- Karnataka
- Andhra Pradesh
- West Bengal

ANS: A

Explanation: Geographical Survey of India (GSI) provided estimates for the amount of gold that can be extracted from a site in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.

- The gold resource is located near a village called Mahuli, around 70 km from Sonbhadra district, the land is mainly forest area and inhabited mostly by tribal and members of backward classes.

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- The site is part of the Mahakoshal region that includes parts of UP, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Q.36) “Rushikulya River” is often seen in news is flows through which of the following state?

- West Bengal
- Karnataka
- Odisha
- Assam

ANS: C

Explanation: The Rushikulya River is one of the major rivers in the state of Odisha and covers entire catchment area in the districts of Kandhamal and Ganjam of Odisha.

- The Rushikulya originates at an elevation of about 1000 metres from Daringbadi hills of the Eastern Ghats range.
- The place from where the river originates, Daringbadi is called the ' Kashmir of Odisha '. The river meets the Bay of Bengal at Puruna Bandha in Ganjam.
- Its tributaries are the Baghua, the Dhanei, Badanadi etc. It has no delta as such at its mouth.
- Gahirmatha marine sanctuary and Rushikulya rookery coast in Ganjam district are main Olive Ridley Nesting sites in Odisha.

Q.37) Which of the following statements is/are NOT correct about “Reunion Island”?

1. It is a remote Indian Ocean Island located between Madagascar and Mauritius.
2. It is an overseas region of France.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Reunion Island is a remote Indian Ocean island located between Madagascar and Mauritius. It is an overseas region of France.

- The island’s capital is Saint-Denis which is home to one-fifth of the population.
- The Island is home to one of the world’s most active volcanoes, the Piton de la Fournaise which is also a World Heritage site.
- India and France have conducted joint patrols from the Reunion Island for the first time.



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Q.38) Which of the following state is **NOT** part of Krishna River Water dispute tribunal?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Krishna is an east-flowing river that originates at Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.

- **It is flowing through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before entering into the Bay of Bengal.**
- A dispute over the sharing of Krishna waters has been ongoing for many decades.
- In 1969, the 'Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal' (KWDT) was set up under the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding **"Nallamala forest"**:

1. It is spread across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Chattisgarh states.
2. Chenchus, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) lives in this forest.

Which 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: Nallamala forest is spread across five districts in Andhra Pradesh and two erstwhile districts in Telangana – Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda.

- The forest may soon face what is being dubbed as an environmental catastrophe by activists.
- The Forest Advisory Committee under the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change recently recommended an 'in-principle' approval to the Department of Atomic Energy for survey and exploration of uranium over 83 square kilometres in as many as four blocks.
- The exploration in the region has particularly triggered concerns about the Chenchus, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Telangana, who already are witnessing a decline in their population.
- According to the 2011 Census, their population is 16,912. Most of them reside deep in the Nallamala forest.

Q.40) Consider the following statements:

1. Insolation received by the earth is in long waves forms and heats up its surface.
2. Earth radiates its energy in short wave forms.

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: C

Explanation: The insolation received by the earth is in short wave's forms and heats up its surface.

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- The earth after being heated itself becomes a radiating body and it radiates energy to the atmosphere in long wave form.
- This energy heats up the atmosphere from below. This process is known as terrestrial radiation.
- The long wave radiation is absorbed by the atmospheric gases particularly by carbon dioxide and the other greenhouse gases. Thus, the atmosphere is indirectly heated by the earth's radiation.
- The atmosphere in turn radiates and transmits heat to the space.
- Finally the amount of heat received from the sun is returned to space, thereby maintaining constant temperature at the earth's surface and in the atmosphere.

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Environment

Q.1) With reference to the **greater one – horned rhino**, in which of the following places it can be found?

1. Kaziranga National Park
2. Dudhwa National Park
3. Jaldapara National Park

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

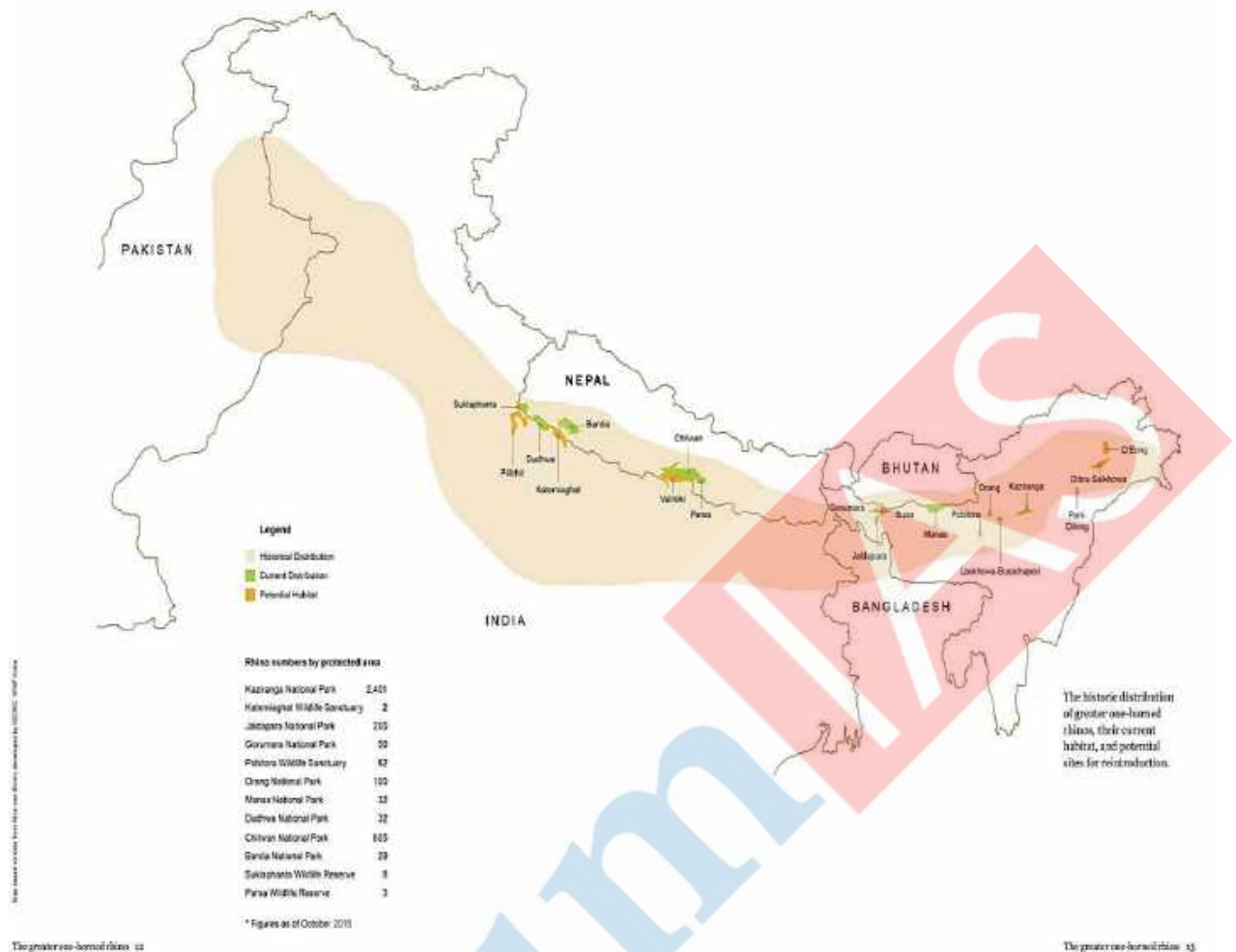
- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: The greater one-horned rhino (or “Indian rhino”) is the largest of the rhino species. Once widespread across the entire northern part of the Indian sub-continent, rhino populations plummeted as they were hunted for sport or killed as agricultural pests.

- This pushed the species very close to extinction and by the start of the 20th century; around 200 wild greater one-horned rhinos remained.
- The recovery of the greater one-horned rhino is among the greatest conservation success stories in Asia.
- Thanks to strict protection and management from Indian and Nepalese wildlife authorities, the greater one-horned rhino was brought back from the brink.
- Today populations have increased to around 3,500 rhinos in northeastern India and the Terai grasslands of Nepal.
- The greater one-horned rhino is identified by a single black horn about 8-25 inches long and a grey-brown hide with skin folds, which gives it an armor-plated appearance.
- The species is solitary, except when adult males or rhinos nearing adulthood gather at wallows or to graze. Males have loosely defined home ranges that are not well defended and often overlap.
- They primarily graze, with a diet consisting almost entirely of grasses as well as leaves, branches of shrubs and trees, fruit, and aquatic plants.

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Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **tigers**:

1. There are 50 tiger reserves in India which are governed by Project Tiger.
2. India is home to 50% of tigers in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: There are 50 tiger reserves in India which are governed by Project Tiger which is administrated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

India is home to 70% of tigers in the world. In 2006, there were 1,411 tigers which increased to 1,706 in 2010 and 2,226 in 2014, according to the NTCA.

Q.3) Which of the following are the **constituents/norms** used by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to measure the acceptable river quality?

1. Sludge
2. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)
3. Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
4. Total Coliform Matter (TCM)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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- 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: B

Explanation: Seven months after the plugging of Kanpur's infamous Sisamau drain, which once drained nearly 140 million litres of untreated sewage into the Ganga and was a symbol of pollution in the river — the river continues to be unfit for bathing or drinking, according to a perusal of water quality reports.

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has defined norms on what constitutes acceptable river water quality.
- Three attributes: Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Coliform Matter (TCM) must conform to certain numbers.
- The DO should be 4 milligram/litre or more for it to be fit for drinking after disinfection and treatment and, BOD should be 3mg/l or less and TCM/100 ml should be 5,000 or less.
- For it to be a fit source of bathing water: DO should be 5 or more, BOD should be 3 or less and TCM 500 or less.

Q.4) "It makes its way to North and Central India from Africa by crossing the Arabian Sea, along with the monsoon winds and this bird heralds the onset of the monsoon in India" – related to which of the following birds?

- a) Jacobin Cuckoo
- b) Red-whiskered bulbul
- c) Bengal florican
- d) Greater flamingo

ANS: A

Explanation: The Jacobin Cuckoo is one lucky bird indeed. At least according to Indian myth. Also known as the Pied Cuckoo or Chatak, this bird heralds the onset of the monsoon in India.

- Being an agricultural economy the rainy season is considered one of the most auspicious seasons in the country. And so, the Pied Cuckoo in North and Central India is a welcome sight.
- It is a bird with black and white plumage (pied) with a fancy crest on the head. Its scientific name is *Clamator jacobinus*.
- The genus 'Clamator' literally translates to being a shouter, a bird which is quite vocal, so you'll hear yourself surrounded by the calls close to the monsoon. The word 'jacobinus' relates to pied birds.
- There are two populations of the Pied Cuckoo in India. One is a resident in the southern part of the country.
- **The other, according to tracking by birders, makes its way to North and Central India from Africa by crossing the Arabian Sea, along with the monsoon winds.**
- When the monsoon arrives in all its majesty, its sighting also spreads widely.
- The bird is primarily arboreal, which means that it mostly lives on trees but often forages for food in low bushes, and sometimes even on the ground.
- Considering its arboreal nature, it prefers forests, well-wooded areas and also bushes in semi-arid regions.

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- These birds are primarily insectivores and feed on grasshoppers, beetles and are also often seen feeding on fruits and berries from trees.

Q.5) The term “eXXpedition” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is a joint initiative of UNEP and WMO to fight marine pollution.
- b) It is a joint initiative of UNEP and WMO to predict the trajectory of Indian Monsoon.
- c) It is a joint initiative of NASA and European Space Agency to protect sea vessels across Atlantic Ocean.
- d) It is a not-for-profit organization that runs pioneering all-female sailing research expeditions to investigate the causes of and solutions to ocean plastic pollution.

ANS: D

Explanation: eXXpedition is a Community Interest Company and not-for-profit organisation that runs pioneering all-female sailing research expeditions to investigate the causes of and solutions to ocean plastic pollution.

- Founded in 2014, we have run expeditions all over the world.
- Previous scientific research has highlighted the endemic nature of micro-plastics within our ocean environments globally.
- Our focus now is to advance a better understanding of the plastics issue as a whole and to work with industry to pinpoint solutions and policy at a global level by addressing knowledge-gaps and delivering evidence to inform effective solutions.

Q.6) Recently, which of the following **African country** planted more than 200 million trees in a single day?

- a) Mozambique
- b) Algeria
- c) Ethiopia
- d) Tanzania

ANS: C

Explanation: Ethiopians planted more than 200 million trees on July 29, 2019 which officials stated will be a world record.

- The ambitious initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed aims to help restore the country’s landscape which experts say is fast being eroded by deforestation and climate change.
- The state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate announced more than 224 million trees were planted on Monday, surpassing the initial goal of 200 million trees planted in one day.
- Ethiopia is in the midst of a tree planting campaign in which it aims to plant 4 billion trees between May and October.
- Agriculture officials stated that so far more than 2.6 billion trees have been planted in almost all parts of the East African nation.

Q.7) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

State	:	Wildlife/Bird Sanctuary
1. Karnataka	:	Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary
2. Goa	:	Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Telangana	:	Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary and Dudhsagar waterfalls are located in Goa.

- **Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary:** is in sanga reddy district of Telangana State.
- **Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary:** is located in Karnataka.

Q.8) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

River	:	Tiger Reserve
1. Ken River	:	Panna Tiger Reserve
2. Vamsadhara River	:	Satkosia Tiger Reserve
3. Cauvery River	:	Kalakad-Mudunthurai Tiger Reserve

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: Satkosia spreads along the magnificent gorge over the mighty river Mahanadi in Odisha.

- Established in 1976 as a wildlife sanctuary, Satkosia is a paradise of immense scenic charm.
- It is one of the best ecosystems in the country, representing a diverse floral and faunal extravaganza. The name Satkosia originates from two words; sat meaning seven and kos meaning two miles, indicating the length of the gorge as 14 miles or 22 km.
- The area was declared as Satkosia Tiger Reserve in 2007, comprising two adjoining wildlife sanctuaries; the Satkosia Gorge sanctuary and Baisipalli sanctuary. The Reserve is spread over 4 districts like; Angul, Cuttack, Nayagarh and Boudh.

The forests of Panna National Park (Tiger Reserve) along with Ken Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining territorial divisions form a significant part of the catchment area of the 406 km (252 mi) Ken River which runs northeast for about 72 km (45 mi) through the park.

Q.9) With reference to conservation of biodiversity in India, which of the following Central Acts deals with conservation of Biodiversity?

1. Mining and Mineral Development (Regulation) Act, 1957.
2. Fisheries Act 1897.
3. Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (recognition of rights) act 2006.

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: Conservation of biodiversity includes the preservation of all species, flora and fauna, the enhancement of wildlife habitat, the control of wildlife problems and the sustainable use of forests and wildlife.

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- The rapid rate of extinction of many species of animals is an increasing concern. Habitat preservation and enhancement are critical to existence of wildlife in an area.
- Animals cannot live in an area that does not provide proper food, cover, water and special needs.
- People's activities alter many habitats, which acts as a detriment to wildlife. Conservation and sustainable use of biological resources based on local knowledge systems and practices is ingrained in the Indian ethos and way of life.

Legislation Relevant To Biodiversity Conservation:

- Fisheries Act 1897.
- Indian Forests Act 1927.
- Mining and Mineral Development Regulation Act 1957.
- Prevention of cruelty to animals 1960.
- Wildlife protection act 1972.
- Water (prevention and control of pollution) act 1974.
- Forest Conservation Act 1980.
- Air (prevention and control of pollution) act 1981.
- Environment Protection Act 1986.
- Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (recognition of rights) act 2006.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “**Stockholm Conference**”:

1. It was held in Stockholm, Sweden.
2. It was the UN's first major conference on international environmental issues.

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 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (also known as the Stockholm Conference) was an international conference convened under United Nations auspices held in Stockholm, Sweden from June 5-16, 1972.

It was the UN's first major conference on international environmental issues, and marked a turning point in the development of international environmental politics.

Q.11) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

National Highway cuts through	:	Protected Area
1. National Highway 44	:	Bandavgarh
2. National Highway 6	:	Simlipal
3. National Highway 37	:	Manas

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: **National Highway 44** cuts through wildlife corridors connecting Kanha, Satpura, Pench, Bandhavgarh, Panna tiger reserves and at least four other protected areas.

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- **National Highway 6** — India's second longest highway that runs across the breadth of the country from Surat to Kolkata — passes through corridors around Melghat, Bor, Nagzira, Simlipal tiger reserves and seven other national parks and sanctuaries.
- **National Highway 37** (Assam to Manipur) – Kaziranga National Park.

Q.12) The word “**Flygskam**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Solar based aircraft which circled Earth.
- b) Solar based flying car developed by Volkswagen.
- c) Anti – flying movement.
- d) Anti – fossil fuels movement.

ANS: C

Explanation: As a fiery Greta Thunberg (she has Asperger syndrome, and believes her ‘neurodiversity’ has enabled her to see climate change with a different lens) called out world leaders on their actions impacting the environment — at the recently-concluded Climate Action Summit at the UN headquarters in New York — she birthed a new movement well before she arrived: **flight shaming**.

- Having chosen to sail to the event rather than take a flight, the 16-year-old has got everyone thinking about how leaders headlining such global events get there.
- **Reportedly, it has also led to an anti-flying movement — flight shame, or flygskam in Swedish** — resulting in a decline in Swedish passengers travelling by air and opting instead for low-carbon alternatives such as rail and electric-powered road travel.

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. United Nations-led Conference to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the only legally binding international agreement on land issues.
2. In India, nearly 30 % of the land out of the total geographical area is considered as degraded.

Which 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 two-week long United Nations-led Conference to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ended with a commitment to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030. Such neutrality is defined by the U.N. as ensuring that enough land is available across the world to ensure a sustainable future.

- The Delhi Declaration, a consensus document, agreed upon by more than 100 countries “welcomed” the proposed adoption of a “voluntary” land degradation neutrality target by India, which has committed to restoring at least 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- **The UNCCD is the only legally binding international agreement on land issues.**
- Its 196 parties aim, through partnerships, to implement the Convention and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- India had agreed, again on a voluntary basis, to restore 20 million hectares by 2020. Nearly 96 million hectares of land is deemed ‘degraded’ in India.

Land in trouble

The decline in the productive capacity of land due to climatic factors and human intervention is land degradation. A look at important conclusions from the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, 2016, which was the latest survey done on the subject

94.53

million hectares (mha)
Area of India undergoing the process of land degradation, as of 2003-05 – 28.76% of the total geographic area

96.4

million hectares (mha)
Area of India undergoing the process of land degradation, as of 2011-13 – 29.32% of the total geographic area

26 million hectares (mha)

The number of hectares of degraded land which India now aims to rehabilitate by 2030, up from the previous commitment of 21 mn hectares



Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to Southern Western Ghats.
2. Indian Grey Hornbill is common hornbill species found only in the Indian subcontinent.
3. The “big four” snakes - the common cobra, common krait, Russell’s viper, and saw-scaled viper are found in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: **The Nilgiri Tahr** (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*, former name is *Hemitragus hylocrius*) is an endangered mountain ungulate endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.

- The species is found in a roughly 400 km stretch in the Western Ghats which falls in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- The Eravikulam National Park has the highest density and largest surviving population of Nilgiri tahr.

"Big Four" refers to the four most common venomous snake species in India—spectacled cobra (*Naja naja*), saw-scaled viper (*Echis carinatus*), Russell’s viper (*Daboia russelii*) and common krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*).

The Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) is a fairly common hornbill species found only in the Indian subcontinent.

- It is a medium-sized hornbill with a beak to tail length of about 50 cm, but one of the larger conspicuous birds we may see in our backyards.
- These birds are known to be arboreal, i.e. spend most of their time on tall trees, but may descend for food and to collect mud pellets for nesting.
- They feed on fruits and berries from fig trees, insects, reptiles (snakes, lizards), small birds (mostly fledglings) but on occasion can go after slightly bigger adult birds as well.

Q.15) The “**Deep Carbon Observatory**” is often seen news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is located in Antarctica and to study the Cryo-sphere.

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- b) It is a global community of more than 1000 scientists on a ten-year quest to understand the quantities, movements, forms, and origins of carbon in Earth.
- c) It is a group of deep ocean observatories located in all oceans to study carbon storage in the oceans.
- d) It is space based observatory to study earth's carbon cycle.

ANS: B

Explanation: The Deep Carbon Observatory (DCO) is a global community of more than 1000 scientists on a ten-year quest to understand the quantities, movements, forms, and origins of carbon in Earth.

- Human activity churns out up to 100 times more planet-warming carbon each year as all the volcanoes on Earth, says a decade-long study released Tuesday.
- The Deep Carbon Observatory (DCO), a 500-strong international team of scientists, released a series of papers outlining how carbon is stored, emitted and reabsorbed by natural and manmade processes.
- They found that manmade carbon dioxide emissions drastically outstrip the contribution of volcanoes — which belch out gas and are often fingered as a major climate change contributor — to current warming rates.

By comparison, the CO₂ released annually by volcanoes hovers around 0.3 and 0.4 gigatonnes — roughly 100 times less than manmade emissions.

Q.16) Recently, which of the following country forests are affected by beetle infestation and which has turned climate-stressed woodlands into brown **ecological graveyards**?

- a) Italy
- b) Brazil
- c) Australia
- d) Germany

ANS: D

Explanation: Germany's forests have long been treasured by its people, so the country has reacted with alarm and dismay as a beetle infestation has turned climate-stressed woodlands into brown ecological graveyards.

- After two unusually hot summers in a row, vast patches of the forests mythologised by medieval fairytales, Goethe's writings and Romantic painters have turned into tinder-dry dead zones.
- Given the scale of the threat to the one third of German territory covered by trees, Chancellor Angela Merkel's government convened a "national forest summit" on September 2019.

Q.17) The “Nandankanan Zoological Park” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Odisha
- d) Kerala

ANS: C

Explanation: Nandankanan Zoological Park is a premier large zoo of India.

- Unlike other zoos in the country, Nandankanan is built right inside the forest and set in a completely natural environment.

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- The animals are housed in enclosures with greenery with a feel of real forest and live with no fear or apprehension of becoming the hunter's prey.
- Nandankanan is 15 kms from Odisha's capital, Bhubaneswar.
- The Bhubaneswar railway station is at a distance of 18 kms and the Biju Patnaik International Airport is at a distance of 20 kms.

Q.18) The words “**Nimesulides and Flunixin**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Preservatives in processed foods
- b) Fruit ripening agents
- c) Vulture toxic drugs
- d) Moisturizing agents in cosmetics

ANS: C

Explanation: The use of anti-inflammatory drugs like diclofenac, nimesulides and flunixin threat to Vultures.

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**”:

1. It has eight schedules which give varying degrees of protection.
2. Blue Whale falls in Schedule I of 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: B

Explanation: The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 provides for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants; and for matters connected there with or ancillary or incidental thereto.

- It extends to the whole of India.
- **It has six schedules which give varying degrees of protection.**
- **The blue whale falls in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**

*NOTE: Tiger, Blackbuck, Himalayan Brown Bear, Brow-Antlered Deer, Blue whale, Common Dolphin, Cheetah, Clouded Leopard, Hornbills, Indian Gazelle, and many others comes under Schedule 1.

Q.20) Which of the following place is known for “**Salt water crocodile**”?

- a) Rann of Kutch
- b) Bhitarkanika
- c) Pulicat Lake
- d) Machilipatnam

ANS: B

Explanation: Crocodiles are ambush hunters and apex predator of river systems of the India.

- There are three crocodilians species found in India, Mugger crocodile, the Gharial and the Saltwater Crocodile.
- Mugger crocodile and the gharial are found throughout the Indian subcontinent and they are ambush hunters, mostly prey on fish, reptiles, birds and mammals.
- Saltwater Crocodiles are the largest species of crocodilians family and largest of all living reptiles in the world.

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- The apex predator found in saline and brackish mangrove swamp forest of Bhitarkanika and Sunderbans.
- Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district of Odisha is a separate swamp region and mangroves forest.
- The park is home to largest Saltwater Crocodiles in India and many other species of reptiles such as White Crocodile, Indian Python and King Cobra.

Q.21) The words “**SWAS, STAR and SAFAL**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Green Crackers
- b) Organic vegetables brands
- c) Air purifying machines
- d) Bio-diesel outlets

ANS: A

Explanation: 'Green' crackers have a small shell size compared to traditional crackers.

- They are produced using less harmful raw materials and have additives which reduce emissions by suppressing dust.
- Green crackers don't contain banned chemicals such as lithium, arsenic, barium and lead.
- **They are called Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR) and Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL) crackers.**

Green crackers release water vapour and don't allow the dust particles to rise. They are designed to have 30% less particulate matter pollution.

Q.22) “It has the highest concentration of one-horned rhinos in the world and is often called ‘**Mini Kaziranga**’ due to similar landscape and vegetation” – describes which of the following protected area?

- a) Manas national park
- b) Dibru- Saikhowa wild life Sanctuary
- c) Nameri national park
- d) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

ANS: D

Explanation: Assam’s Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, which has the highest concentration of one-horned rhinos in the world and is often called ‘**Mini Kaziranga**’ due to similar landscape and vegetation.

- Pobitora is popularly known as ‘miniature Kaziranga’ for its highest density of one horned rhino in Assam.
- It is situated in the flood plains of River Brahmaputra in the district of Morigaon and 45 kms from Guwahati.
- Once the grazing reserve of erstwhile Nagaon district, Pobitora came into limelight during 1961-62 for the presence of one horned rhino (*Rhinoceros Unicornis*).

Q.23) The famous “**Godavarman Judgement**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It was related to protection of Wildlife.
- b) It was related to community forest areas.
- c) It was related to freedom to define forests.
- d) It was related to tribal rights of minor forest produce.

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ANS: C

Explanation: The freedom to define land, not already classified as forests by the Centre or state records, as forest has been the prerogative of the States since 1996 and stems from a Supreme Court order called the **Godavarman judgement**.

Godavarman judgement: On December 12, 1996, a bench led by Chief Justice J.S. Verma passed an interim order directing that tree-felling and non-forestry activity in forests across the country be stopped.

- The path-breaking order re-defined the meaning of forests and extended protection to all areas with natural forests irrespective of their ownership.
- It laid down that 'forests' will be understood by its dictionary meaning, and the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, shall apply to all thickly wooded areas.
- States were directed to form expert committees to identify forests as defined and file reports. Senior Counsel Harish Salve was appointed Amicus Curie to assist the Supreme Court.

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the “**Great Nicobar Island of Andaman**”:

1. It is home to one of the most primitive tribes of India — the Shompens.
2. It includes the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (GNBR) comprising of the Galathea National Park and the Campbell Bay National Park.
3. It is home to giant robber crabs, the rare megapode as well as leatherback turtles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Great Nicobar Island of Andaman has an area of about 1044 sq. km.

- According to the 2011 census, has a population of about 8,069.
- The island is home to one of the most primitive tribes of India — the Shompens (PVTG).
- The island includes the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (GNBR) comprising of the Galathea National Park and the Campbell Bay National Park.
- The island harbours a wide spectrum of ecosystems from tropical wet evergreen forests, mountain ranges and coastal plains.

The island is also home to giant robber crabs, crab-eating macaques, the rare megapode as well as leatherback turtles.

Q.25) Which of the following Central Asian countries are part of **Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)**?

1. Tajikistan
2. Uzbekistan
3. Turkmenistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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ANS: A

Explanation: The HKH region spans **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.**

- It traverses about 5 million square kilometres and hosts a large and culturally diverse population.
- The Third Pole, which contains vast cryospheric zones, is also the world's largest store of snow and ice outside the polar region.

Q.26) In which of the following agriculture produce (s), India is the world's largest producer of?

1. Banana
2. Mango
3. Chilies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The King of fruits — Mango —and it may come as a surprise to many that India is the world's largest producer of Mangoes, along with Banana, Papaya, and Lemon. Also, Milk, Chilli pepper, Ginger, Chickpea, Millet, Jute and Wood fuel feature in the list of items in which India leads the world. The list was released by **The Spectator Index.**

Mango: Indian Mango had been on the international radar as in 2007, India allowed investments by Harley Davidson in exchange for the lifting of 18 years old ban on mangoes in the US.

- Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are the leading Mango producers in the country.
- India produces over 40% of mangoes in the world. The fruit is exported to UAE, Bangladesh, UK, Saudi Arabia, and Nepal.

Banana: Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra are the topmost Banana producing Indian states.

- Bananas are the fifth largest agricultural commodity in world trade after cereals, sugar, coffee and cocoa.
- India's Banana productivity per hectare is over twice as compared to the rest of the world.
- India exports the fruit to UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries.

Chillies: Most of the Indian states produce chilly pepper. Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Pakistan are some of the importers of Indian chilly.

Q.27) The "**Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE)**" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Protected areas
- b) Renewable energy
- c) Sustainable agriculture
- d) Energy efficiency

ANS: A

Explanation: **Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) is the assessment of how well protected areas** such as national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves,

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community reserves and tiger reserves are being managed and their effectiveness in conserving target flora and fauna.

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

- Mountain peak** : **Country**
1. Mount Kilimanjaro : Tanzania
 2. Mount Denali : United States of America
 3. Mount Kosciuszko : Russia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Important Mountain Peaks.

- **Mount Everest, Asia (8,848 metres)**
- **Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa (Tanzania) (5,895 metres)**
- **Mount Denali, North America (USA - Alaska) (6,190 metre)**
- **Mount Aconcagua, South America (6,962 metre)**
- **Mount Elbrus, Europe (5,642 metre)**
- **Mount Vinson Massif, Antarctica (4,892 metre)**
- **Mount Kosciuszko, Australia (2,228 metre)**

Q.29) The “**Sisseri River**” is often seen in news is a tributary of which of the following River?

- a) Lohit River
- b) Dibang River
- c) Subansri River
- d) Manas River

ANS: B

Explanation: Sisseri is a tributary of Dibang.

- Dambuk in Lower Dibang Valley district is cut off from the rest of the country for around six months each monsoon.
- The Border Road Organization constructing Sisseri Bridge, so residents welcomed the prospect of actually driving over dry land instead of piggy-backing on elephants to cross River Sisseri (known as Sissar in the Adi tribal language).

Q.30) Which of the following theories/hypothesis are explaining the **origin of the earth**?

1. Nebular Hypothesis
2. Binary theories
3. Big-bang theory

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: A large number of hypotheses were put forth by different philosophers and scientists regarding the origin of the earth.

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- One of the earlier and popular arguments was by German philosopher Immanuel Kant. Mathematician Laplace revised it in 1796. It is known as Nebular Hypothesis.
- The hypothesis considered that the planets were formed out of a cloud of material associated with a youthful sun, which was slowly rotating.
- Later in 1900, Chamberlain and Moulton considered that a wandering star approached the sun. As a result, a cigar-shaped extension of material was separated from the solar surface.
- As the passing star moved away, the material separated from the solar surface continued to revolve around the sun and it slowly condensed into planets.
- Sir James Jeans and later Sir Harold Jeffrey supported this argument. At a later date, the arguments considered of a companion to the sun to have been coexisting.
- These arguments are called binary theories. The most popular argument regarding the origin of the universe is the Big Bang Theory.
- It is also called expanding universe hypothesis. Edwin Hubble, in 1920, provided evidence that the universe is expanding.

Q.31) Which of the following are the “Ramsar sites” in India?

1. Majauli Island
2. Pulicat Lake
3. Point Calimere

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

Sr. No.	Page	Sr. No.	Page		
The Ramsar Sites Criteria	1	21	Hokera Wetland	42	
1	Chilika Lake	2	22	Renuka Wetland	44
2	Keoladeo National Park	4	23	Rudrasagar Lake	46
3	Harike Lake	6	24	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	48
4	Loktak Lake	8	25	Upper Ganga River	50
5	Sambhar Lake	10	26	Nalsarovar	52
6	Wular Lake	12	27	Sundarban Wetland	54
7	Kanjil	14	28	Nandur Madhameshwar	56
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9	Ashtamudi Wetland	18	30	Sarsai Nawar Jheel	60
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12	Deepor Beel	24	33	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	66
13	East Calcutta Wetlands	26	34	Sandi Bird Sanctuary	68
14	Kolleru Lake	28	35	Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	70
15	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	30	36	Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	72
16	Pong Dam Lake	32	37	Saman Bird Sanctuary	74
17	Sasthamkotta Lake	34			
18	Tsomoriri	36			
19	Vembanad-Kol Wetland	38			
20	Chandertal Wetland	40			

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Q.32) “A comment article in Nature, published on November 27 – 2019, draws attention to the alarming possibility that certain climate thresholds related to the earth as a system may be on the verge of being breached. The study points out nine such elements which may be closer to the tipping point that calculated and worse, that they may be interlinked in a way that has a global cascading effect”. Which of the following are the “**9 tipping points**”?

1. Global Warming
2. Boreal Forests
3. Coral reefs
4. Permafrost
5. Atlantic Ocean circulation
6. Amazon rain forest

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

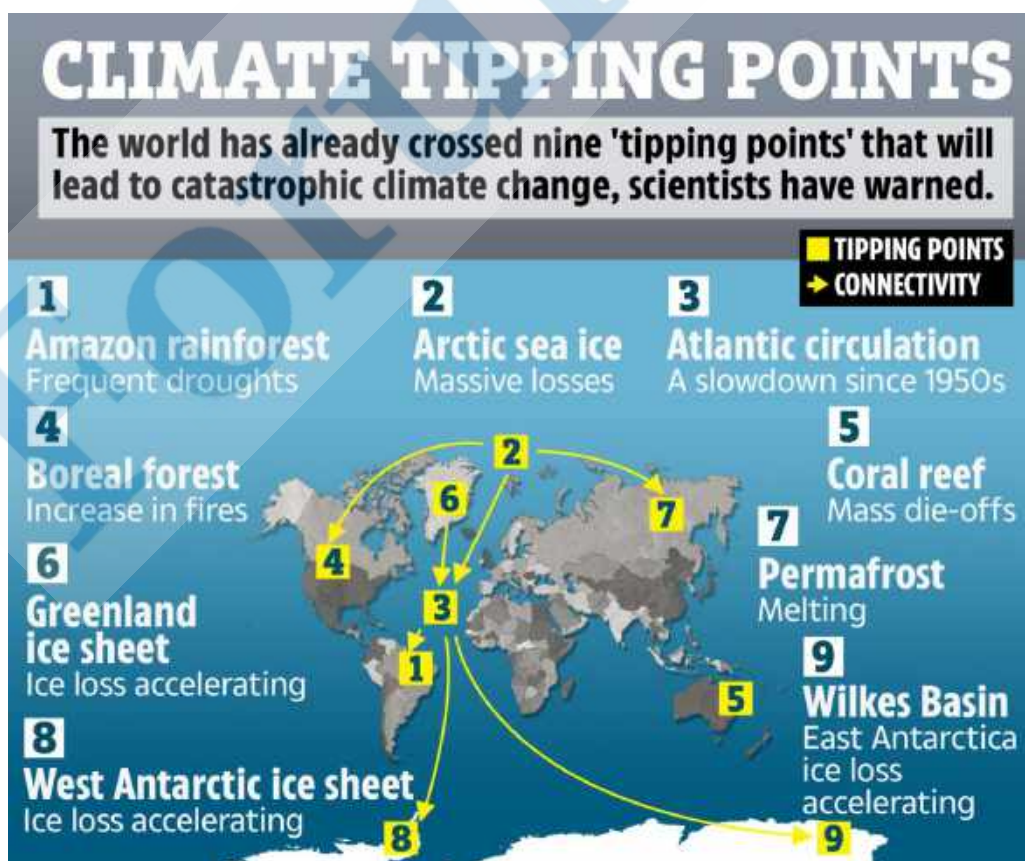
- a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- b) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

ANS: B

Explanation: The world could be heading toward tipping points in the climate system.

- In an interconnected climate system, passing one tipping point may trigger a cascade of irreversible changes.
- As the world continues to warm, some call for urgent global action to avert an "existential threat to civilization."
- We may be about to pass – or may already have passed – tipping points in the Earth’s climate, according to a group of leading scientists.

The scientist’s analyzed evidence on these nine components of our climate system – called “tipping points” because they are under growing threat of abrupt and irreversible changes.



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Q.33) Which of the following species is/are found in **National Chambal Sanctuary**?

1. Ghariales
2. Fresh water river dolphins
3. Smooth-coated otters

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 Chambal Sanctuary, that stretches over the Chambal River (that spreads to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan).

- The sanctuary was granted Protected Area Status in 1979, to revive the gharial population that was once subject to rampant poaching.
- This **river is home to freshwater river dolphins**.
- The river is home to a variety of birds as well, including **sandpipers and egrets and bar-headed geese**.
- The **red-naped ibis and Ruddy shelduck**, as well as painted storks that added a dash of colour to the stark landscape.
- The famed gharials, crocodiles and the critically endangered red-crowned roofed turtles.
- The **smooth-coated otters** reside in Chambal Sanctuary

Q.34) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

State butterfly	:	State
1. Tamil Yeoman	:	Tamil Nadu
2. Common Peacock	:	Uttarakhand
3. Blue Mormon	:	Maharashtra

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: Tamil Nadu became the fifth State to declare a State butterfly and Tamil Yeoman bagged the distinction.

Maharashtra (Blue Mormon), Kerala (Malabar Banded Peacock), Uttarakhand (Common Peacock) and Karnataka (Southern Bird-wing).

Q.35) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

National Park	:	River cuts through
1. Valley of flowers	:	Pushpavati River
2. Panna National Park	:	Ken River
3. Kaziranga National Park	:	Manas River

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: Pushpawati River flows through the Valley of Flowers in Chamoli district in Garhwal region of the Indian state of Uttarakhand.

- The forests of Panna National Park along with Ken Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining territorial divisions form a significant part of the catchment area of the 406 km (252 mi) Ken River which runs northeast for about 72 km (45 mi) through the park.
- Kaziranga is a vast stretch of tall elephant grass, marshland and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests crisscrossed by four main rivers — Brahmaputra, Diphlu, Mora Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri and has numerous small water bodies.

Q.36) As per the “**National Bio-fuel Policy 2018**”, which of following fuels used for transportation or stationary applications that qualify as bio-fuels?

1. Bio-ethanol
2. Bio-diesel
3. Drop – in fuels

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 scope of the National Bio-fuels Policy encompasses following categories of fuels as “Biofuels” which can be used as transportation fuel or in stationery applications:—

- **‘bioethanol’:** ethanol produced from biomass such as sugar containing materials, like sugar cane, sugar beet, sweet sorghum etc.; starch containing materials such as corn, cassava, rotten potatoes, algae etc.; and, cellulosic materials such as bagasse, wood waste, agricultural and forestry residues or other renewable resources like industrial waste;
- **‘biodiesel’:** a methyl or ethyl ester of fatty acids produced from non-edible vegetable oils, acid oil, used cooking oil or animal fat and bio-oil;
- **‘Advanced biofuels’:** Fuels which are (1) produced from lignocellulosic feedstocks (i.e. agricultural and forestry residues, e.g. rice & wheat straw/corn cobs & stover/bagasse, woody biomass), non-food crops (i.e. grasses, algae), or industrial waste and residue streams, (2) having low CO₂ emission or high GHG reduction and do not compete with food crops for land use. Fuels such as Second Generation (2G) Ethanol, Drop-in fuels, algae based 3G biofuels, bio-CNG, bio-methanol, Di Methyl Ether (DME) derived from bio-methanol, biohydrogen, drop in fuels with MSW as the source / feedstock material will qualify as “Advanced Biofuels”.
- **‘drop-in fuels’:** Any liquid fuel produced from Biomass, agri-residues, wastes such as Municipal Solid Wastes (MSW), Plastic wastes, Industrial wastes etc. which meets the Indian standards for MS, HSD and Jet fuel, in pure or blended form, for its subsequent utilization in vehicles without any modifications in the engine systems and can utilize existing petroleum distribution system.
- **‘bio-CNG’:** Purified form of bio-Gas whose composition & energy potential is similar to that of fossil based natural gas and is produced from agricultural residues, animal dung, food waste, and MSW and Sewage water.

Q.37) Recently, which of the following “**International Organization/Bank**” has announced that it would stop funding fossil fuel projects at the end of 2021?

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- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) European Investment Bank
- d) New Development Bank

ANS: C

Explanation: The European Investment Bank said that it would stop funding fossil fuel projects at the end of 2021, in a landmark decision.

- The ban on funding comes into effect a year later than originally proposed after lobbying by European Union member states.
- Under the new policy, energy projects applying for EIB funding will need to show they can produce one kilowatt hour of energy while emitting less than 250 grams of carbon dioxide, a move which bans traditional gas-burning power plants.
- Gas projects are still possible, but would have to be based on what the bank called “new technologies,” such as carbon capture and storage, combining heat and power generation or mixing in renewable gases with the fossil natural gas.
- The European Commission has only an observer role on the EIB board, but the powerful EU executive body has much sway and holds the power to cast a deciding vote at a deadlock between the bank's current 28 shareholders, the EU member states.
- There was no need for that as the bank said that members representing 90% of its capital had approved the new energy lending policy.
- The EIB, the biggest multilateral lender in the world, has ambitious goals on sustainable finance.

Q.38) Recently, which of the following Lake is affected by “**avian botulism**” — a neuro-muscular illness caused by a toxin which is produced by a bacterial strain – led to mass mortality of birds?

- a) Kolleru Lake
- b) Chilika Lake
- c) Sambhar Lake
- d) Pulicat Lake

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, confirmed avian botulism — a neuro-muscular illness caused by a toxin which is produced by a bacterial strain — as the reason for mass mortality of birds, including migratory species from Northern Asia, at Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan.

- The laboratory tests conducted on the samples of carcasses collected from the lake confirmed the disease infecting the birds, the probability of which was earlier stated by veterinarians in the State.
- The illness, caused by a bacterium called Clostridium botulinum, affected the nervous system of birds, leading to flaccid paralysis in their legs and wings and neck touching the ground.
- More than 18,000 carcasses of birds have been removed from the lake and its catchment area so far, raising concern among environmentalists and ornithologists.
- The scientists at IVRI found the samples infested with maggots of third stage with a clear indication that the avian mortality had occurred over a period of time.

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding the “**1t.org**”:

1. It is a global initiative to grow, restore and conserve 1 trillion trees around the world.

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2. It is launched by World Bank.

Which 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: World Economic Forum, Davos has launched a global initiative to grow, restore and conserve 1 trillion trees around the world - in a bid to restore biodiversity and help fight climate change.

- The initiative aims to unite and promote reforestation efforts worldwide through fund mobilization and political support.
- The 1t.org project aims to unite governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and individuals in a "mass-scale nature restoration".
- 1t.org offers innovative technologies, which will serve to connect tens of thousands of small and large groups around the world that are engaged in tree planting and forest restoration.

Q.40) "Dachigam national park" is often seen in news is located in which of the following State/Union Territory?

- a) Pondicherry
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Jammu & Kashmir
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

ANS: C

Explanation: Dachigam National Park is located 22 km from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir.

- The name literally stands for 'ten villages', which could be in memory of the ten villages that were relocated in order to create the park.
- The Park is only 141 sq. kms. and roughly rectangular in shape, approximately 23.5km by 6km.
- It is best considered as two sections - Upper and Lower Dachigam.
- Lower Dachigam, in the west, comprises approximately a third of the total area and is the area most accessible to a visitor.
- Upper Dachigam in the east extends over the higher reaches and is a good day's trek from the nearest road head.
- Dachigam was initially established to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to Srinagar city.
- A protected area since 1910, it was declared as a national park in 1981.
- The park is best known as the home of the hangul, or Kashmir stag.

Q.41) With reference to the fundamental duty of Indian Constitution – “to protect and improve the natural environment involves which of the following?

- 1. Forests
- 2. Lakes
- 3. Wetlands
- 4. Rivers
- 5. Wildlife

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: In the Constitution of India it is clearly stated that it is the duty of the state to 'protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country' (Article 48A – added through 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976).

- **It imposes a duty on every citizen 'to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife'.**
- Reference to the environment has also been made in the Directive Principles of State Policy as well as the Fundamental Rights.
- The Department of Environment was established in India in 1980 to ensure a healthy environment for the country.
- This later became the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985.

Q.42) Arrange the following acts with respect to their year of enactments in chronological order?

1. The Easement Act
2. The Public Liability Insurance Act
3. The Merchant Shipping Act
4. The Atomic Energy Act

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: 1882 - The Easement Act allows private rights to use a resource that is, groundwater, by viewing it as an attachment to the land. It also states that all surface water belongs to the state and is a state property.

- 1970 - The Merchant Shipping Act aims to deal with waste arising from ships along the coastal areas within a specified radius.
- 1982 - The Atomic Energy Act deals with the radioactive waste.
- 1991 - The Public Liability Insurance Act and Rules and Amendment, 1992 was drawn up to provide for public liability insurance for the purpose of providing immediate relief to the persons affected by accident while handling any hazardous substance.

Q.43) The words "**Chlorpyrifos, quinalphos, profenofos and malathion**" are often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Fruit ripening agents
- b) Food preservatives
- c) Organic chemicals used in cosmetics
- d) Organophosphate pesticides

ANS: D

Explanation: A study of fruits and vegetables grown in the Nilgiris has found that some of the produce might be harbouring high levels of pesticide, beyond what is considered advisable.

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- While the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) prescribes a maximum residual level (MRL) for some of the organophosphate pesticides used, it does not prescribe it for some other pesticides used in the cultivation of fruit and vegetables.
- **It is known that organophosphate pesticides such as acephate, malathion, profenofos, chlorpyrifos and quinalphos are used in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables.**
- The study measured the levels of these pesticides in 659 samples of fresh fruit and vegetables collected during the agricultural season of 2018-2019.
- Samples of 18 varieties of fruit and vegetable were collected from four cities of the Nilgiris – Ooty, Gudalur, Kothagiri and Coonoor.
- Of these, the researchers did not detect pesticides in approximately 57% of the samples.
- Close to 34% had pesticides used below the MRLs and the remainder — about 8% — showed usage of pesticides above the MRLs.
- Among the varieties of vegetables and fruits studied, potato and carrot had the highest usage of these pesticides.

Q.44) The “**Nalabana Bird Sanctuary**” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Nalabana bird sanctuary is located on Nalabana Island in the Chilika lagoon area in Odisha.

- The Nalabana Bird Sanctuary is the core area of Chilika.
- The large Nalabana Island (Forest of Reeds) covering about 16 sq km was declared a bird sanctuary in 1987.
- Chilika Lake gets heavy inflow of water from rivers Bhargavi and Daya.
- Chilika Lake is Asia's largest and world's second-largest lagoon after the New Caledonian barrier reef in New Caledonia.

Q.45) The “**abohar wildlife sanctuary**” is seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Punjab
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Karnataka

ANS: A

Explanation: Threatened by untamed dogs and stray cattle, the blackbuck, **Punjab's State animal, is fighting for survival at the Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary in the Fazilka district.**

- Abohar is an open wildlife sanctuary, spreading across private land in 13 villages.
- The blackbuck was notified as State animal of Punjab in 1989, and its presence in the State is confined only to the Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary, with its unique habitat of semi-arid plains featuring agricultural fields, intermittent fallow-barren land, scattered sand dunes and mounds, and ridges.

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- In the sanctuary, where land is mainly owned by the local Bishnoi community, there were 3,273 blackbucks, according to the 2017 census conducted jointly by the Punjab Biodiversity Board (PBB) and the Forest and Wildlife Department, against 3,500 in 2011.

Q.46) With reference to the “**Environment Protection Act, 1986**”, the definition of “*Environment Pollutant*” includes which of the following?

1. Gaseous pollutants
2. Solid Pollutants
3. Liquid Pollutants

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: According to the “**Environment Protection Act, 1986**”, “Environmental pollutant” means **any solid or gaseous substance present in such concentration as may be, or tend to be, injurious to environment;**

Q.47) The term “**paraquat poisoning**” is in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Insecticide
- b) Pesticide
- c) Herbicide
- d) Fungicide

ANS: C

Explanation: The VIMSAR, a major public healthcare center for western Odisha and parts of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, has many deaths cases of farmers, since September 2017.

- The reason behind these deaths is the consumption of Paraquat — a herbicide used in agricultural fields.
- Paraquat is a toxic chemical that is widely used as an herbicide (plant killer), primarily for weed and grass control.

What are Pesticides?

- **Insecticides-** Chemical substances used to kill insects
- **Herbicides-** Chemical substances used to kill weeds
- **Fungicides-** Chemical substances used to kill fungus
- **Rodenticides-** Chemical substances used to kill Rodents

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding “**Wetlands International**”:

1. It is a global not-for-profit organization.
2. Luc Hoffmann Medal was presented by Wetlands International for Wetland Science and Conservation.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Wetlands International is the global not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands.

- Wetlands are the source of water that supports all forms of life.
- Despite our efforts to promote their importance, loss and damage to wetlands and their biodiversity continues.
- Our vision is a world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide.
- The Wetlands International Luc Hoffmann Medal for Wetland Science and Conservation is awarded every triennium to honor Dr Luc Hoffmann, one of the inspirational and far-sighted founders of Wetlands International.

Q.49) “Buxa Tiger Reserve” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Odisha
- b) West Bengal
- c) Bihar
- d) Assam

ANS: B

Explanation: Adorning the northeastern corner of West Bengal, bordering Bhutan and Assam, Buxa Tiger Reserve was set up at on 16th February 1983 and was then, the 15th tiger reserve of the country.

- The forest constituting the Buxa Tiger Reserve is the largest in the Dooars - the alluvial floodplains of Northeast India.
- Spanning over a whopping 759 sq. km., this tiger reserve is irrigated by several rivers and their tributaries. It boasts of a diverse and breathtaking landscape.
- This reserve is home to 67 species of mammals, 36 species of reptiles and 230 species of unidentified avifauna and encompasses more than eight types of forests.
- The great diversity of mammals in this reserve makes it the second highest among all tiger reserves in India.

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding “National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)”:

1. It is a central sector scheme to support concrete adaptation activities which mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
2. NABARD is the National Implementing Entity (NIE).

Which 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 Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) is a Central Sector Scheme which was set up in the year 2015-16.

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- The overall aim of NAFCC is to support concrete adaptation activities which mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
- The activities under this scheme are implemented in a project mode. The projects related to adaptation in sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, water, forestry, tourism etc. are eligible for funding under NAFCC.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the National Implementing Entity (NIE).
- The States/UTs are required to prepare the project proposal in consultation with NIE i.e. NABARD.
- The project proposals are required to be approved by the State Steering Committee on Climate Change to be eligible for consideration under NAFCC.
- It is the discretion of the State Government to engage any organization to assist in project preparation, as per their requirement”.

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

ANS: B

Explanation:



Q.4) Arrange the following rivers from west to east:

1. Sarda River
2. Ramganga River
3. Rapti River
4. Gandak River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:



Q.5) Which of the following tribal groups are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)?

1. Great Andamanese
2. Jarwas
3. North Sentinelese
4. Shompens

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: D

Explanation: The five PVTGS residing in Andamans are Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.

Q.6) Arrange the following **hills of North-east India** from North to south:

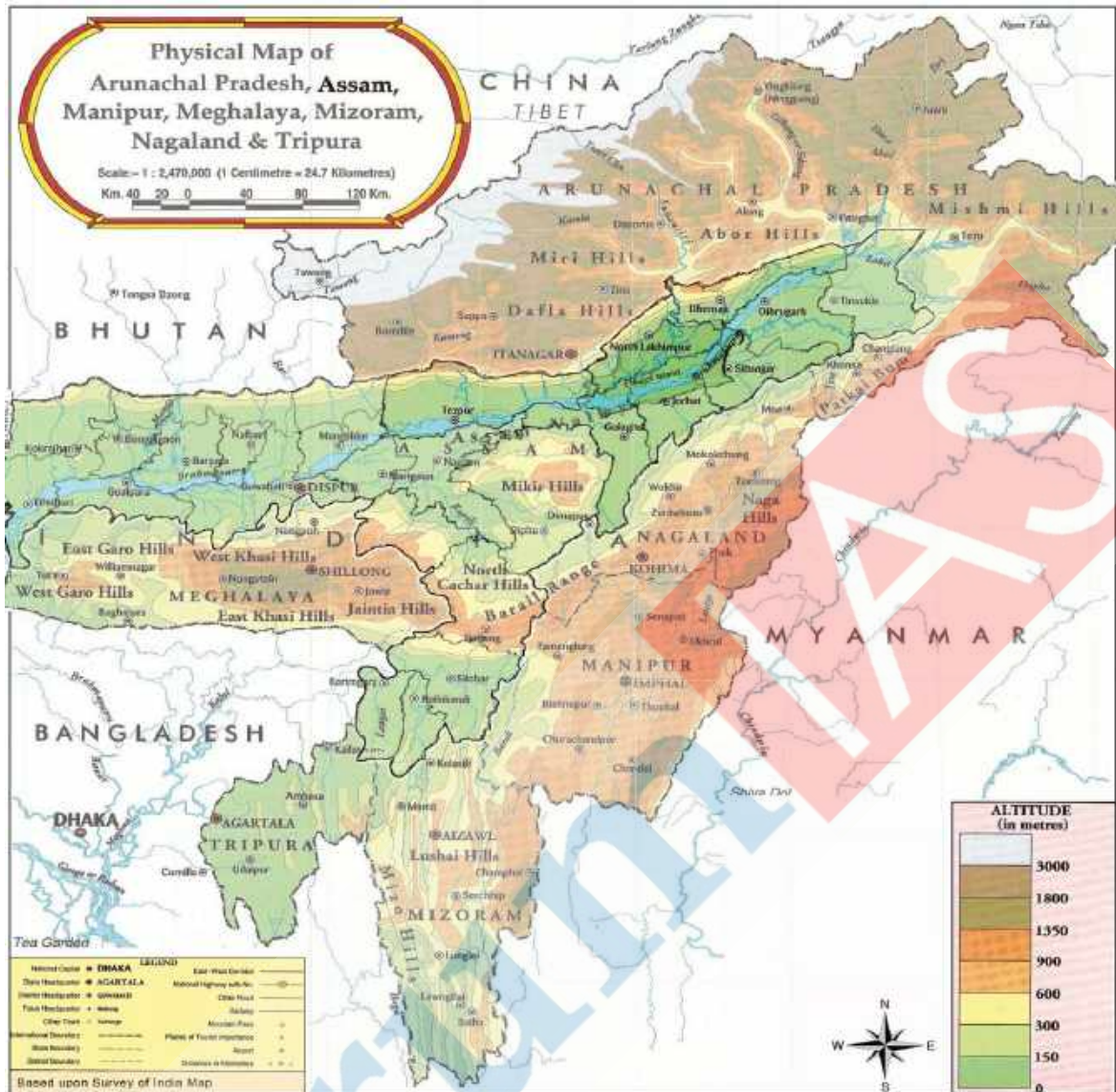
1. Patkai bum
2. Mishmi hills
3. Lushai hills
4. Mikir hills

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:



Q.7) Arrange the following Jain sites from south to north:

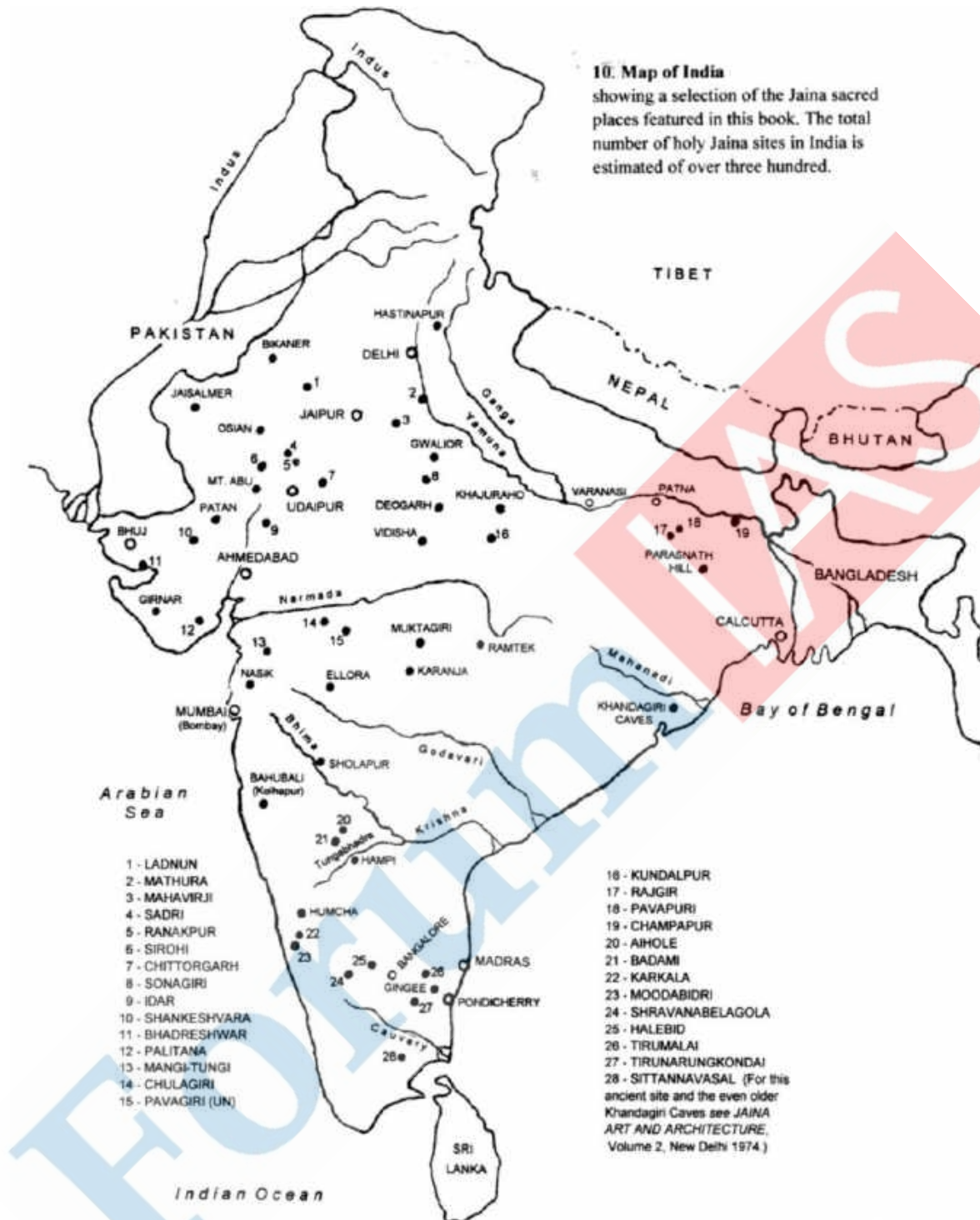
1. Karkala
2. Kolhapur
3. Kundalpur
4. Mahavirji

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation:



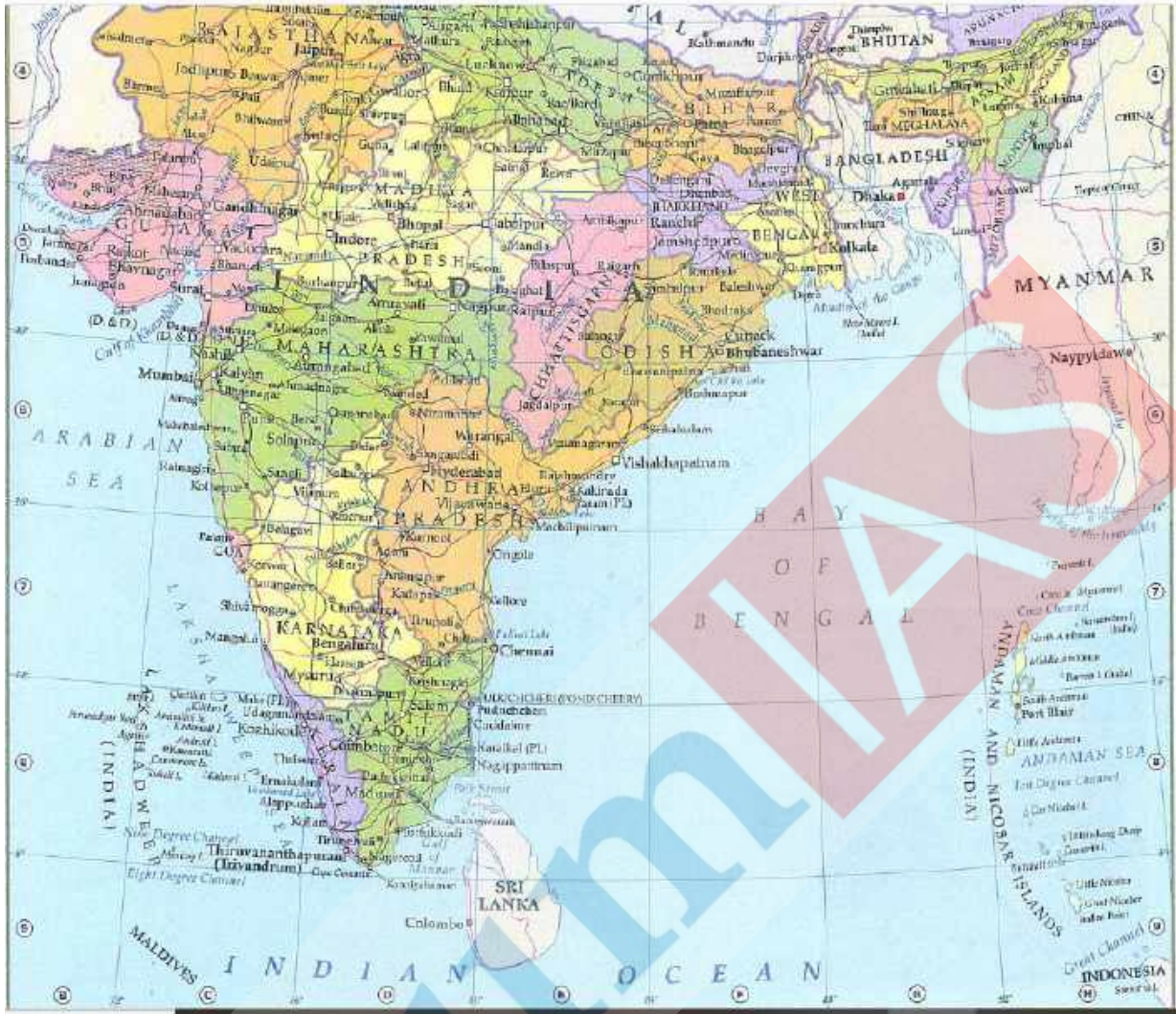
10. Map of India showing a selection of the Jain sacred places featured in this book. The total number of holy Jain sites in India is estimated of over three hundred.

Q.8) Which of the following city is farthest from the 80° Longitude?

- a) Kanpur
- b) Bhopal
- c) Warangal
- d) Chennai

ANS: B

Explanation:



Q.9) “National Highway 66” is often seen in news is goes through which of the following state?

1. Gujarat
2. Maharashtra
3. Rajasthan
4. Goa
5. Karnataka

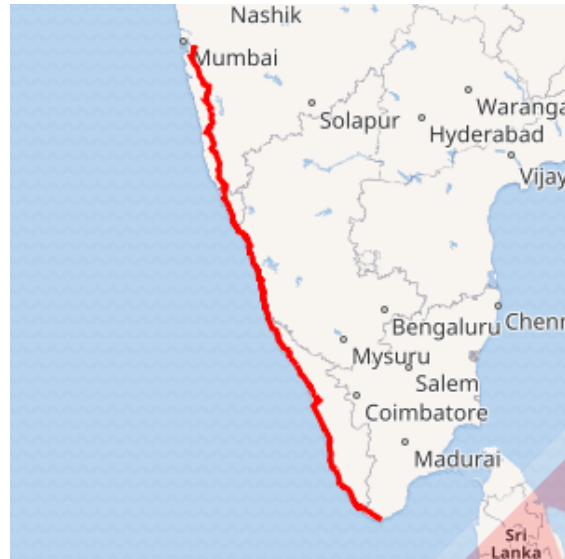
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: National Highway 66, commonly referred to as NH 66 (erstwhile NH-17 and a part of NH-47), is a busy National Highway that runs roughly north–south along the western coast of India, parallel to the Western Ghats.

It connects Panvel (a city south of Mumbai) to Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari), passing through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.



Q.10) Which of the following is/are **NOT** planetary wind (s)?

1. Westerlies
2. Polar Easterlies
3. Trade Winds
4. Chinook

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Planetary Winds: The winds blowing throughout the year from high pressure belts to low pressure belts in the same direction are called “planetary or prevailing winds”.

- Due to the effect of the rotation of the earth, the direction of the winds tends to deflect, instead of blowing directly from one pressure belt to another.
- These winds blow throughout the year and are controlled by the latitudinal pressure belts. They blow over vast area of continents and oceans.

The main planetary winds are:

- Trade Winds
- Westerlies
- Polar Easterlies

Q.11) Which of the following countries share maritime border with India in “**Andaman Sea**”?

1. Myanmar
2. Indonesia
3. Thailand
4. Malaysia

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

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ANS: A

Explanation: India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand and Indonesia in the Andaman Sea.

- Further, on 23-12-1986, there has been an agreement between the Myanmar and India on the Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary in the Andaman Sea, in the Coco Channel and in the Bay of Bengal.
- This established Burma-India Maritime Border in North Andaman Sea.

Thus the countries that share maritime border with India in Andaman Sea are:

- Indonesia
- Thailand
- Myanmar

Q.12) Which of the following country is **NOT** sharing border with South China Sea?

- a) Japan
- b) Thailand
- c) Indonesia
- d) Cambodia

ANS: A

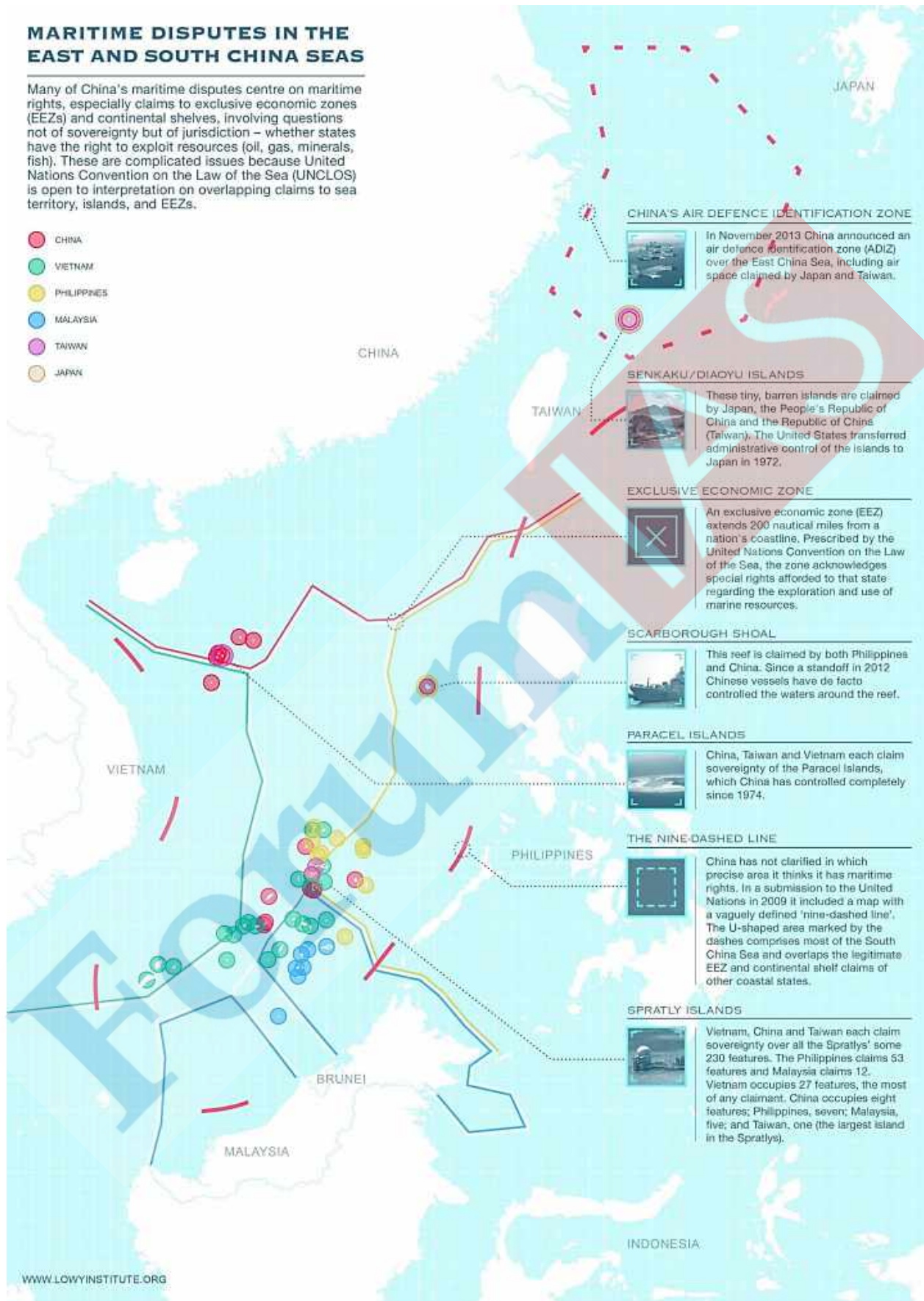
Explanation: Geographically, the South China Sea plays a significant role in the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific.

- The South China Sea is bordered by Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Their recent economic growth has contributed to a large portion of the world's commercial merchant shipping passing through these waters.
- Japan and South Korea rely heavily on the South China Sea for their supply of fuels and raw materials and as an export route, although the availability of diversionary sea lanes bypassing the South China Sea provides non-littoral states with some flexibility in this regard.
- The South China Sea also contains rich, though unregulated and over-exploited fishing grounds and is reported to hold significant reserves of undiscovered oil and gas, which is an aggravating factor in maritime and territorial disputes.
- The major island and reef formations in the South China Sea are the Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, Pratas, the Natuna Islands and Scarborough Shoal.

MARITIME DISPUTES IN THE EAST AND SOUTH CHINA SEAS

Many of China's maritime disputes centre on maritime rights, especially claims to exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and continental shelves, involving questions not of sovereignty but of jurisdiction – whether states have the right to exploit resources (oil, gas, minerals, fish). These are complicated issues because United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is open to interpretation on overlapping claims to sea territory, islands, and EEZs.

- CHINA
- VIETNAM
- PHILIPPINES
- MALAYSIA
- TAIWAN
- JAPAN



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Q.13) With reference to the “**Periplus of Erythraean Sea**” – in present day which of the following sea represent Erythraean Sea?

- a) Arabian Sea
- b) Red Sea
- c) Caspian Sea
- d) Black Sea

ANS: B

Explanation: Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, composed by an anonymous Greek sailor (c. first century CE).

“Periplus” is a Greek word meaning sailing around and “Erythraean” was the Greek name for the Red Sea.

Q.14) Which of the following countries shares border with “**Persian Gulf**”?

1. Yemen
2. Oman
3. Iran
4. Kuwait
5. Bahrain

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Persian Gulf is an arm of the Arabian Sea between the mountainous coast of southwestern Iran and the rather flat coast of Arabian Peninsula.

- The gulf is approximately 1000 km long and 200 to 300 km wide, with an area of about 250,000 km².
- The inland sea is connected to the Gulf of Oman in the east by the Strait of Hormuz.
- Eight countries border the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman (Musandam exclave) and Iran.



Q.15) The “Aral Sea” is often seen in news due to its shrinking size is located in which of the following countries?

- a) Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan
- b) Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- c) Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- d) Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

ANS: D

Explanation:



Q.16) Arrange the following ancient sites in north to south direction:

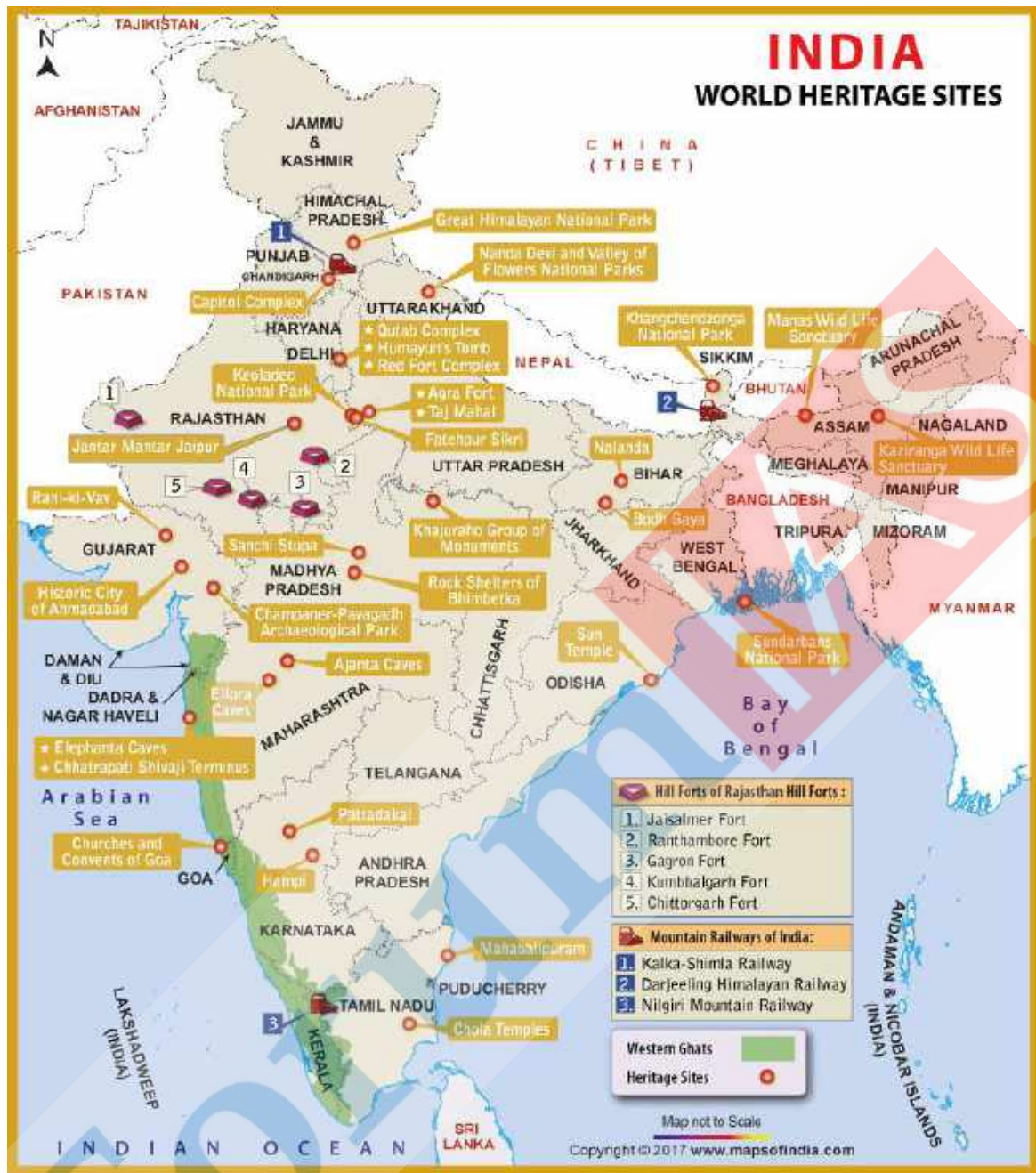
1. Bhimbetka rock shelters
2. Sanchi stupa
3. Ellora caves
4. Ajanta caves

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation:



Q.17) The famous “**udayagiri and khandagiri caves**” are located in which of the following state?

- Madhya Pradesh
- Odisha
- Uttar Pradesh
- Chhattisgarh

ANS: B

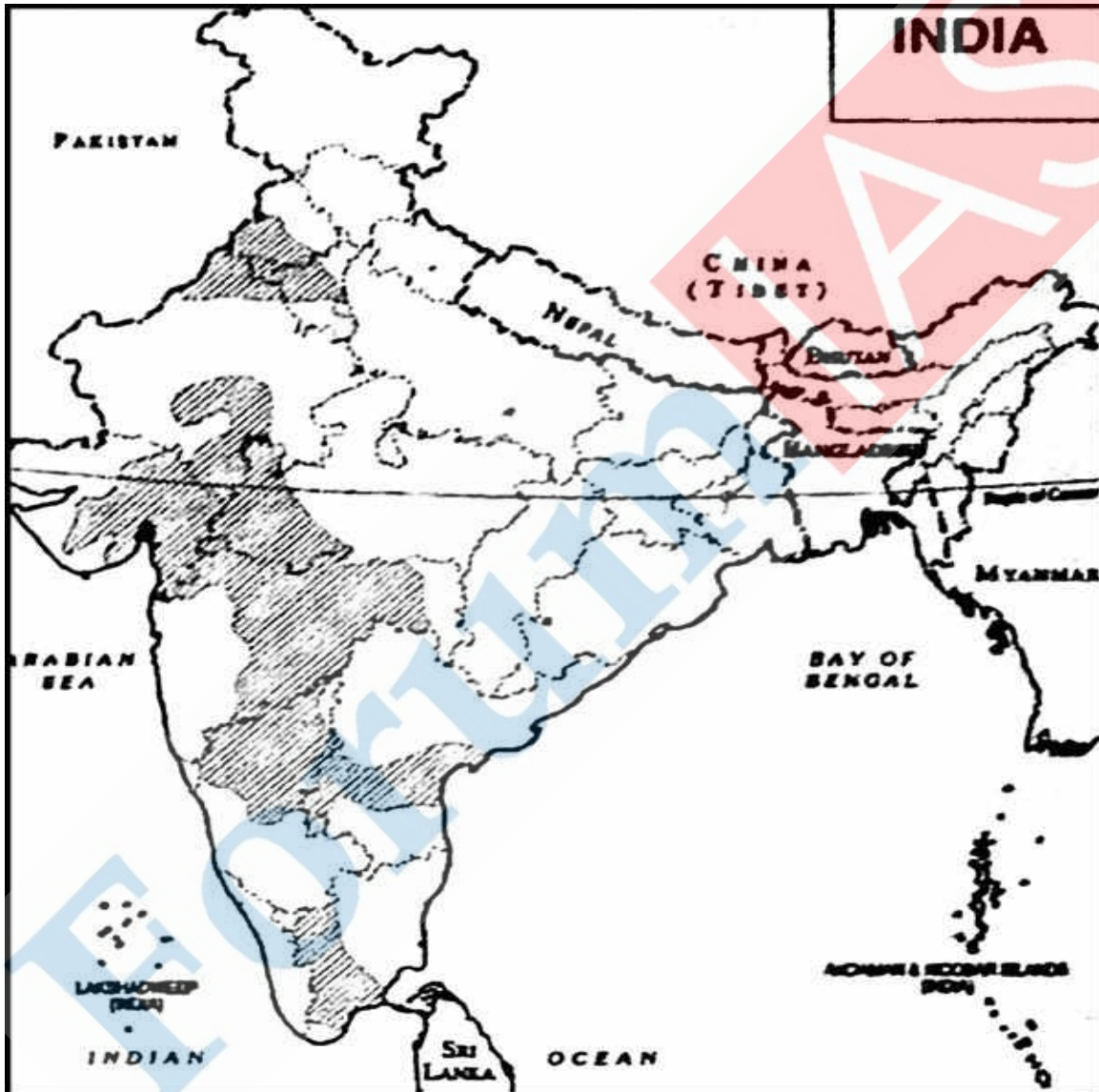
Explanation: Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves are partly natural and partly artificial caves of archaeological, historical and religious importance near the city of Bhubaneswar in Khordha district of Orissa.

- The caves are situated on two hills Udayagiri and Khandagiri, mentioned as Kumari Parvat in Hathigumpha Inscription and face each other across the road.

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- They have a number of finely and ornately carved caves. It is believed that most of these caves were carved out of huge residential blocks for the Jain monks, during the reign of King Kharavela.
- Udayagiri meaning Sunrise Hill, has 18 caves while Khandagiri has 15 caves.
- The caves of Udayagiri and Khandagiri, called Lena in the inscriptions, were dug out mostly during the reign of Kharavela for the abode of Jaina ascetics.
- The most important of this group is Ranigumpha in Udayagiri which is a double storeyed monastery.

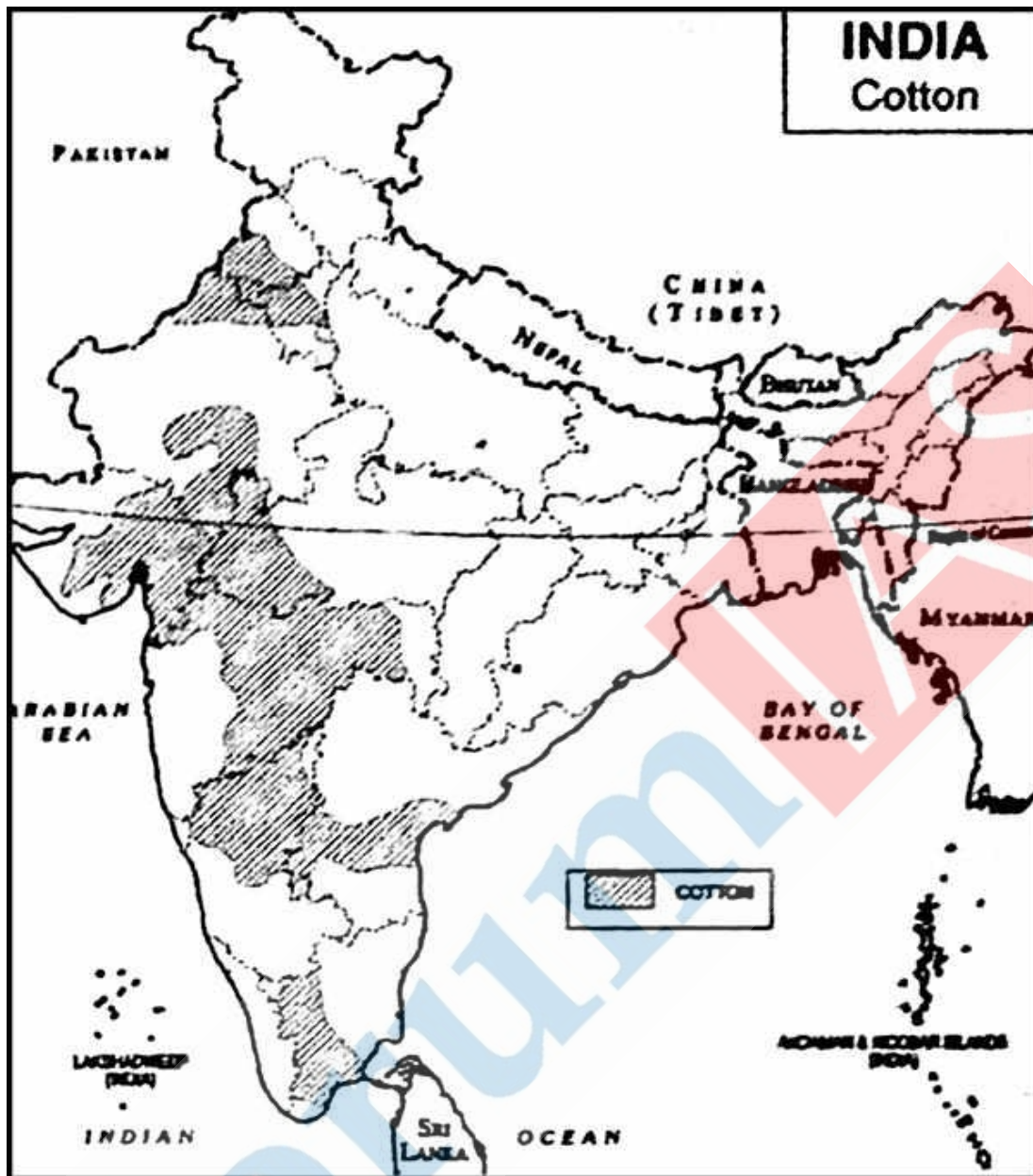
Q.18) The shaded areas of following map represent which of the following crop?



- a) Ground nut
- b) Sugar cane
- c) Cotton
- d) Rice

ANS: C

Explanation:



Q.19) Which of the following protected areas are both “biosphere reserves, tiger reserves and national parks”?

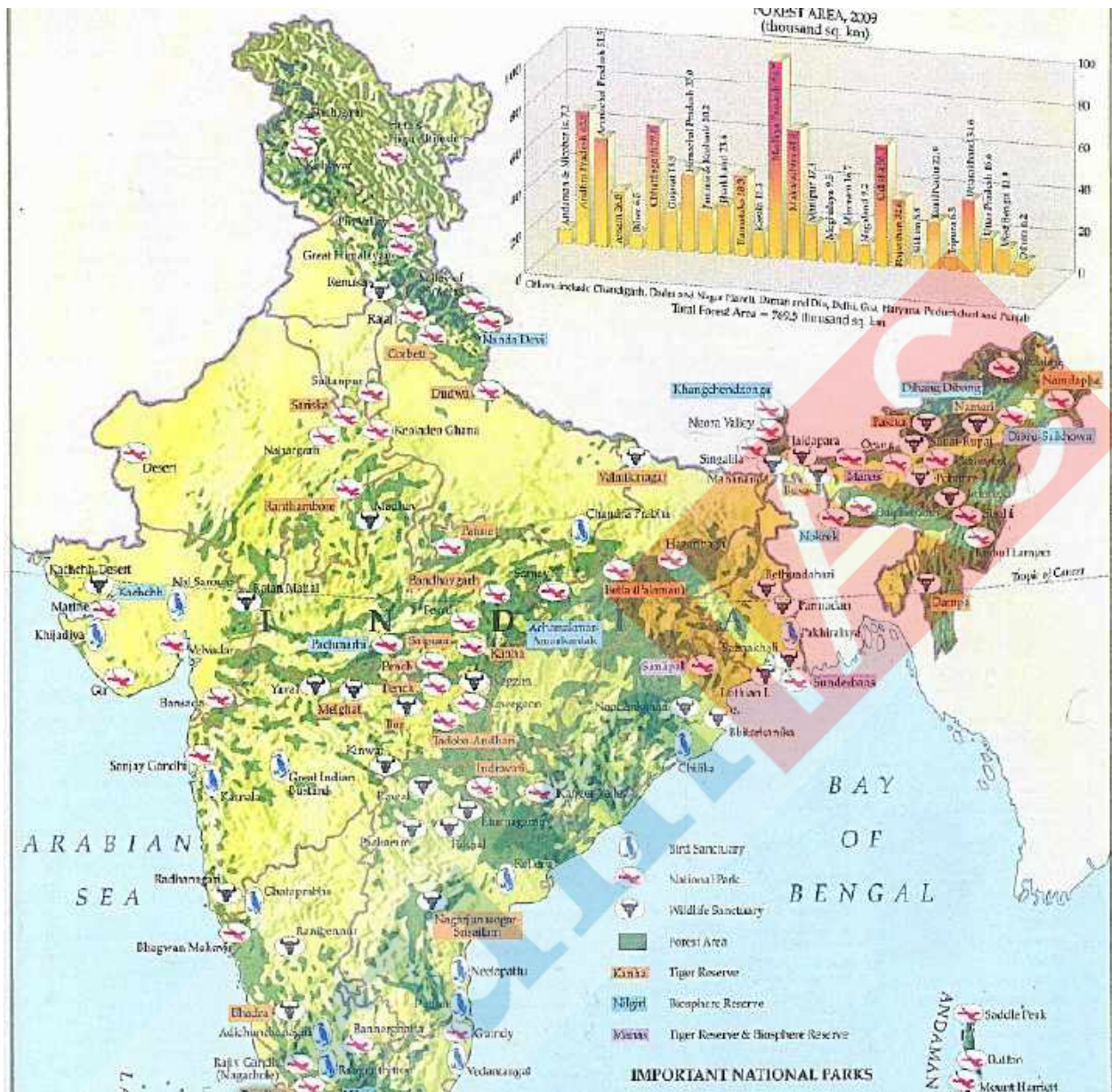
1. Manas
2. Sunderbans
3. Simlipal
4. Achanakmar – Amarkantak
5. Nanda Devi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation:



Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding “Khasi Hills”:

1. These are located in Manipur.
2. This area receives maximum rainfall from the southwest monsoon.
3. These hills are part of Great Himalayas.

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Shillong Plateau, highland region in eastern Meghalaya state, northeastern India.

- It is a rolling tableland and the highest portion of the hill mass that comprises most of Meghalaya.

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- The plateau's western, northern, and southern escarpments are called the Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia hills, respectively.
- The Shillong Plateau is an outlier of the plateau of peninsular India and is composed primarily of ancient rocks.
- It contains reserves of coal and iron ore, and limestone is quarried.
- The highest point is Shillong Peak, at 6,433 feet (1,961 metres) located 3 miles (5 km) south of the city of Shillong.
- Khasi Hills is perhaps best known for Sohra (Cherrapunjee), geographically famous for being the wettest place on earth and also Shillong, one of the most beautiful hill stations in India.
- In fact the entire Khasi Hills region that forms the central part of Meghalaya is richly endowed with natural beauty.
- Everywhere you go, you will never cease to be mystified by the spectacular charm the state offers.
- So, Khasi hills are the part of plateau not the Himalayas. And they receive the rainfall from the southwest monsoon.

Reports & commissions

Q.1) Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

Personality	:	Associated with
1. William Carey	:	Serampore mission
2. Jonathan Duncan	:	Sanskrit college at Benaras
3. James mill	:	Supported Orentialists

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: Serampore Mission: William Carey founded Baptist Missionary Society in Britain, the first of its kind in that country in 1793.

- His mission was to preach the Gospel and convert believers to Christianity.
- Carey established a charity school first for the poor native boys in Madnbutty (North Bengal) as soon as he was able to settle there in 1794.
- At the far end of the 18th Century, the Baptist Missionary Society of England, sent four other missionaries, Marshman, Ward, Bransdon and Grant to join Carey, Fountain and Thomas in Bengal.
- They arrived here on the 13th of October, 1799. As they had no license to enter British East India Company's territory, the new missionaries took shelter in the tiny settlement of Denmark, Serampore, which was on the western bank of the river Hooghly, 20 Km. north of Calcutta.
- The Danish Governor, Colonel Bie, took them under his protection and permitted them gladly to settle there for their missionary work.
- Carey joined the new missionaries in Serampore. He arrived there on the 10th of January, 1800 and on the same day founded Serampore Mission.

Jonathan Duncan: In 1791 the efforts of Jonathan Duncan, the British resident at Benares, bore fruit and a Sanskrit College was opened at Benares for the "cultivation of the laws, literature and religion of Hndus".

James Mill: From the early nineteenth century many British officials began to criticize the Orientalist vision of learning. James Mill was one of those who attacked the Orientalists.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the "**Indian Universities Act, 1904**":

1. It lay down that the number of fellows of a university shall not be less than fifty nor more than a hundred.
2. The government approval was not necessary for grant of affiliation of colleges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The main objective of the Act was to improve the condition of education in India and upgrade the system to a better level.

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- Universities were given the right of teaching along with the right of conducting examination. In short, their scope was enlarged.
- Universities had the right to make provision for promotion of study and research, to appoint university professors and lecturers, set up university laboratories and libraries and undertake direct instruction of students.
- The Indian Universities Act, 1904 laid down that the number of Fellows of a university shall not be less than fifty or more than a hundred and a Fellow should normally hold office for a period of six years instead of for life.
- Upto this moment, the number of the seats in the Senate of the Universities was not fixed and the Government used to make life-long nominations. According to the Indian Universities Act, 1904, the number was fixed. The minimum number was fifty and the maximum number was hundred. Their term was determined for five years.
- The Indian Universities Act, 1904 introduced the principle of election in the constitution of the Senate. According to this Act, 20 fellows are to be elected in the Universities of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay and 15 in other Universities.
- The Indian Universities Act, 1904 gave statutory recognition to Syndicates and made provision for the adequate representation of university teachers in the university Senate.
- The Governor General was now empowered to decide a University's territorial limits and also affiliation between the universities and colleges.
- However, for better education and research a grant of Rs. 5 Lakh per year for 5 years was also accepted.

Q.3) Which of the following pair (s) is/are **NOT** correctly matched?

News paper/Publication	:	Associated person
1. The Bengal Gazette	:	James Augustus Hickey
2. Mirat – ul – Akbar	:	Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
3. Native Opinion	:	Gandhiji

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The **James Augustus hickey** was published the first newspaper in India entitled **the Bengal Gazatte**.

- The **Mirat – Ul - Akbar** was published by **Raja Ram Mohan Roy**.
- **Vishvanath Narayan Mandlik**, C.S.I. (The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India) (8 March 1833 – 9 May 1899) was an eminent Bombay citizen, lawyer, author and a legal expert on Hindu law.
- 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.4) The “**SolveDifferent**” campaign was launched by which of the following Institution?

- World Economic Forum
- United Nations Environment Programme
- European Union
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

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ANS: B

Explanation: For all the progress inspired by the Global Goals one barrier impedes them all: the choice we make in our everyday lives continues to fuel consumption and production habits that are increasingly extending beyond the limits of our planet.

Our (UNEP) #SolveDifferent campaign focuses on an informative and emotive approach to communicating the environmental cost of key consumption and production models.

Q.5) Which of the following initiatives are launched by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)?

1. Global Dry-land Initiative
2. Global Island Partnership
3. Global Mountain Initiative
4. Global Mangrove Management Initiative
5. Mangroves for the Future

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Global Ecosystem Management Programme is involved in several initiatives that cut across its various programmes. They include;

- **The Global Drylands Initiative (GDI):** The Initiative strengthens natural resource governance in drylands through strengthening of resource rights, establishment of institutional mechanisms for ecosystem management, and development of enabling conditions for policy implementation and revision.
- **Global Island Partnership (GLISPA):** The scope of IUCN's Islands Initiative is those islands, whether large or small, whose conservation and ecosystem management challenges are substantially shaped by "island" characteristics, including high levels of species diversity and endemism, openness of coastal ecosystems to land-based impacts, competition by people for limited resources including land and fresh water, and vulnerability to external forces, both natural and human-induced. GLISPA has been in existence for about 10 years now.
- **Global Mountain Initiative:** This is an evolving young initiative, which has been in existence for about a year now. Mountain areas cover 24% of the Earth's land surface, are home to 12% of the global population, provide vital goods and services - particularly freshwater - to at least half of humanity, are key centres of biological and cultural diversity, and influence climates at many scales.
- **Global Mangrove Management Initiative:** This is an evolving young initiative, which has been in existence for about a year now. Mangroves are continuously under threat from overharvesting, degradation and land reclamation. Yet we continue to cut them down unaware at times of the role these trees are playing within the coastal ecosystem.
- **Mangroves for the Future (MFF):** This is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development.

Q.6) Which of the following indicators used by Global Hunger Index for ranking countries?

1. Undernourishment
2. Child wasting

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3. Child stunting
4. Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The 14th Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019 was released recently and it had ranked India a lowly 102 among the 117 countries it had mapped.

- The GHI has been brought out almost every year by Welthungerhilfe (lately in partnerships with Concern Worldwide) since 2000.
- A low score gets a country a higher ranking which implies a better performance.
- The reason for mapping hunger is to ensure that the world achieves –Zero Hunger by 2030 - one of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Four indicators of GHI –

- Undernourishment (which reflects inadequate food availability)
- Child Wasting (which reflects acute under nutrition)
- Child Stunting (which reflects chronic under nutrition)
- Child Mortality (which reflects both inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environment)

Q.7) The “**Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index**” – is released by which of the following?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) United Nations World Tourism organization
- c) OECD
- d) World Bank

ANS: A

Explanation: The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) is produced by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

- It measures the factors and policies that make a country a viable place to invest within the Travel and Tourism sector.
- India has secured 34th place in the Index.

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

- a) Green corridors
- b) Public participation
- c) Organic farming
- d) Electoral reforms

ANS: B

Explanation: Nagpur Resolution is a holistic approach for empowering citizens adopted during regional conference organized by DARPG in Nagpur.

- The conference was organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra.
- The resolution aims to empower the citizens by policy interventions for better service delivery through timely updating of citizens charters, implementation of enactments and benchmarking standards for continuous improvement.

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- It also aims to ensure timely publication of Good Governance Index to identify the quality of governance in 10 sectors especially those pertaining to welfare and infrastructure at the Union, State and District levels.

Q.9) The “**Spandana initiative**” is often seen in news is related to which of the following state?

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

ANS: It is an initiative of Andhra Pradesh Government to make police stations more approachable for the public, especially women.

- Spandana (means response) centers have been established within the premises of all District Collector offices and police stations.
- These centers mostly have a female receptionist and other staff members who are trained, briefed and sensitized in handling women victims and complainants.
- Spandana centres spread across the district, and each have video conferencing facility, it is easier and cheaper for people to lodge complaints.

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding basholi paintings:

1. It is a reputed school of large wall paintings known for its vivid, evocative colors, bold lines, and deep-set facial patterns.
 2. It is highly developed in southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Which 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: Basholi painting is a reputed school of miniature paintings known for its vivid, evocative colors, bold lines, and deep-set facial patterns.

- This style of painting saw its best years in the 17-18th century.
- Basholi (Basoli) is a town in Kathua district in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, India.
- It was founded by Raja Bhupat Pal in the 16th century.
- Basholi paintings are considered as the first school of Pahari paintings, many of which have evolved into the much more detailed and widespread style of Kangra painting school.
- The Basholi paintings had obscure beginnings, although Raja Bhupat Pal is widely credited as its founder.