

ForumIAS

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## Prelims Marathon

April, 2021

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

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## *International Relations*

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**Q.1)** Recently, which of the following country led a UN resolution to set up a separate convention on cybercrime?

- a) Israel
- b) Iran
- c) China
- d) Russia

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Russian proposal entitled “Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes” was recently put forth in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

- India voted in favour of a cybercrime resolution led by Russia in a committee of the United Nations General Assembly.
- The resolution seeks to set up new cyber norms considered as counter alternative to the US backed Budapest Accord.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.2)** The term “2010 Strategic Concept” is related to which of the following?

- a) NATO
- b) Warsaw Pact
- c) Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)
- d) START treaty

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Strategic Concepts lay down the Alliance’s core tasks and principles, its values, the evolving security environment and the Alliance’s strategic objectives for the next decade.

The 2010 Strategic Concept defines NATO’s cores tasks as: collective defense, crisis-management and cooperative security.

Source: Indian Express

**Q.3)** Which of the following agreement/agreements is/are signed by India and United States of America (USA)?

1. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA).
2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).
3. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Agreements signed by India and USA.

India had signed the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002 and the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016.

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The last one that remained was the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA). India objected to signing BECA earlier. But in October 2020 India signed the BECA with the USA.

FOUNDATIONAL AGREEMENTS		
<b>Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)</b>	<b>Communication Interoperability &amp; Security Memorandum Agreement (CISMOA)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Provide <b>logistic support, refuelling &amp; berthing facilities</b> for each other's warships &amp; aircraft on barter/equal-value exchange basis</li><li>➤ <b>Will not involve stationing of US troops on Indian soil. Nor will India extend support if US goes to war with "a friendly country"</b></li><li>➤ <b>Good for US forces re-balancing to Asia Pacific.</b> Indian forces rarely operate far away from their shores but access to <b>Djibouti &amp; Diego Garcia</b> could be useful</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Technology enabler to help transfer high-tech avionics, encrypted communication &amp; electronic systems</b> to India</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ US says <b>CISMOA will boost 'interoperability'</b> as well as ensure <b>secrecy of its C4ISR</b> (command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) systems</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>But fears that US will be able to track &amp; snoop on Indian warships/aircraft</b> equipped with such systems</li></ul>	
	<b>Basic Exchange &amp; Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ US says <b>BECA will help India with advanced satellite &amp; topographical data</b> for long-range navigation &amp; missile-targeting</li><li>➤ <b>But India, which has its own satellite imaging capabilities, unwilling for American digital sensors to be positioned on its soil</b></li></ul>

Source: The Hindu

**Q.4)** Which of the following treaty/treaties is/are related to European Union?

1. Treaty of Lisbon
2. Treaty of Nice
3. Treaty of Amsterdam

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The European Union is based on the rule of law. This means that every action taken by the EU is founded on treaties that have been approved voluntarily and democratically by all EU member countries. A treaty is a binding agreement between EU member countries. It sets out EU objectives, rules for EU institutions, how decisions are made and the relationship between the EU and its member countries. The main treaties are:

Treaty of Lisbon: Signed on 13 December 2007, to make the EU more democratic, more efficient and better able to address global problems, such as climate change, with one voice.

Treaty of Nice: Signed on 26 February 2001, to reform the institutions so that the EU could function efficiently after reaching 25 member countries.

Treaty of Amsterdam: Signed on 2 October 1997, to reform the EU institutions in preparation for the arrival of future member countries.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding BASIC group:

1. The member countries of the group consist of India, Brazil, South Korea and China.
2. The main objective of the group is to promote industrialization.

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: D**

**Explanation:** The BASIC group was formed as the result of an agreement signed by the four countries on November 28, 2009.

- They are a bloc of four large newly industrialized countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
- The main objective of the BASIC group is to have a broadly common position on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and raising the massive funds that are needed to fight climate change.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU):

1. The Eurasian Economic Union is an international organization for regional economic integration.
2. All Central Asian countries except Turkmenistan and Russia are member countries of Eurasian Economic Union.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Eurasian Economic Union is an international organization for regional economic integration. It has international legal personality and is established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union.

- The EAEU provides for free movement of goods, services, capital and labor, pursues coordinated, harmonized and single policy in the sectors determined by the Treaty and international agreements within the Union.
- The Member-States of the Eurasian Economic Union are the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation.
- The Union is being created to comprehensively upgrade, raise the competitiveness of and cooperation between the national economies, and to promote stable development in order to raise the living standards of the nations of the Member-States.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

1. OPEC is a permanent, Informal organization.
2. OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.

- OPEC is a permanent, intergovernmental organization.
- The current OPEC members are the following: Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, and the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. Ecuador, Indonesia and Qatar are former members.
- OPEC's objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

Source: OPEC

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities:

1. It is a multilateral agreement between the nuclear weapon states.
2. It is entered into force in 1971.

Which 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:** Both India and Pakistan have exchanged their list of nuclear installations under the bilateral agreement.

- The list was handed over in accordance with Article-II of the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India, signed on December 31, 1988, the Foreign Office (FO).
- The agreement was entered into force on January 27, 1991, provides, inter alia, that the two countries inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on the first of January of every calendar year.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.9)** The term "Protecting Power" is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Diplomatic relations
- b) Foreign exchange reserves
- c) Defense treaties
- d) Bilateral defense exercises

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Following the killing of Iranian military and intelligence commander Major General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad in a drone attack carried out by the United States, the Iranian government registered its protest with the Swiss Embassy in Tehran.

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- Switzerland represents the interests of the US in Iran. This is because the US itself does not have an embassy there. Iran's interests in the United States, on the other hand, are represented by the Pakistan Embassy in Washington.
- In an arrangement such as this, Switzerland is the "Protecting Power" of the United States' interests in Iran. The instrument of Protecting Powers is provided for under the 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations.
- "If diplomatic relations are broken off between two States, or if a mission is permanently or temporarily recalled... the sending State may entrust the protection of its interests and those of its nationals to a third State acceptable to the receiving State," the 1961 Vienna Convention states.
- And the 1963 Convention reiterates: "A sending State may with the prior consent of a receiving State, and at the request of a third State not represented in the receiving State, undertake the temporary protection of the interests of the third State and of its nationals."

Source: Indian Express

**Q.10)** Which of the following are the priority areas of regional cooperation within the framework of the East Asia Summit (EAS)?

1. Environment and energy
2. Pandemic diseases
3. Finance
4. Natural Disaster Management
5. Security

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The East Asia Summit is a unique Leaders-led forum of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity.

- It has evolved as a forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern and plays an important role in the regional architecture.
- Established in 2005, EAS allows the principal players in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss issues of common interest and concern, in an open and transparent manner, at the highest level.
- The membership of EAS consists of ten ASEAN Member States (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the USA.
- EAS is an initiative of ASEAN and is based on the premise of the centrality of ASEAN.
- There are six priority areas of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS. These are – Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, and ASEAN Connectivity.
- India endorses regional collaboration in all six priority areas.

Source: ForumIAS

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## *International Relations*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following are the founder members of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?

1. Bangladesh
2. India
3. Sri Lanka
4. Myanmar
5. Bhutan
6. Nepal
7. Thailand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 only
- b) 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 7 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

- This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.
- Initially, the economic bloc was formed with four Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).
- Following the inclusion of Myanmar on 22 December 1997 during a special Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, the Group was renamed 'BIMST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).
- With the admission of Nepal and Bhutan at the 6th Ministerial Meeting (February 2004, Thailand), the name of the grouping was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC).

Source: ForumIASfactly

**Q.2)** Which of the following country is recently re-joined the Commonwealth group?

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Syria
- c) Omen
- d) Maldives

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Maldives re-joined the Commonwealth, more than three years after the Indian Ocean island nation quit the association amid mounting criticism of its human rights record then.

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- In 2016, the Maldives pulled out of the Commonwealth terming “unjust” the grouping’s decision to penalise the country over former President Mohamed Nasheed’s controversial ouster in 2012.
- It followed the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)’s warning to Maldives of suspension from the bloc, voicing “deep disappointment” over the country’s lack of progress in resolving the political crisis during former President Abdulla Yameen’s presidency, whose authoritarian slant sparked concern domestically and internationally.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding the G-20:

1. It is an inter-governmental treaty between 19 member countries and European Union.
2. It was created after the collapse of Soviet Russia to promote economic growth among developing and developed countries.
3. It has members from every continent.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Group of Twenty, or the G20, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

- The G20 brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent.
- Collectively, G20 members represent around 80% of the world’s economic output, two-thirds of global population and three-quarters of international trade.
- Throughout the year, representatives from G20 countries gather to discuss financial and socioeconomic issues.
- Originated in 1999 at the level of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the G20 gathered for high-level discussions on macro-financial issues.
- In the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, the G20 was elevated to include the leaders of member countries.
- The first G20 Leaders’ Summit took place in Washington D.C. in November 2008.
- Consequently, the G20 agenda expanded beyond macro-financial issues, to include socio-economic and development issues.

Source: Indian Express

**Q.4)** Which of the following country is NOT part of QUAD?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In a significant development for the region, the Quadrilateral Strategic Dialogue (“the Quad”) between India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. held its first Minister-level meeting since it was revived in 2017.

- The group is seen as a regional counter-weight to China and has only met at the Joint or Assistant Secretary level since 2017.



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- Members of the Quad, barring Australia, are currently engaged in the annual Malabar exercises – military exercises that started between India and the U.S. in 1994 and became trilateral (with Japan) in 2015.
- India has not permitted Australia to participate in these exercises, concerned about what message it would send to China, which is wary of the exercise.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB):

1. It is the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.
2. The permanent secretariat of A-WEB is located at Seoul.
3. Election Commission of India hosted the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A- WEB) at Bengaluru.

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 Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) is the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.

- It is established on October 14, 2013 in Song-do, South Korea and the permanent secretariat is located at Seoul.
- Representatives from election bodies in over 50 countries will congregate in Bengaluru to share their electoral experience with programmes connected to the Fourth General Assembly of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB).
- Currently, the A-WEB has 115 members and 20 regional associations/ organizations as associate members.
- The members include 24 from Asia, 37 from Africa, 31 from America, 17 from Europe, and six from Oceania.
- The ECI will continue to remain on the executive board of the A-WEB for 2021–23 in its capacity as immediate former chair of the A-WEB.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.6)** Which of the following Multilateral Export-Control Regime is also called as London Club?

- a) Nuclear Suppliers Group
- b) MTCR
- c) Wassenaar arrangement
- d) Australia Group

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) first met in November 1975 in London, and is thus popularly referred to as the “London Club”. It is a Group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Source: The Hindu

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**Q.7)** Which of the following countries are Baltic nations?

1. Estonia
2. Latvia
3. Lithuania

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:** Baltic States, the northeastern region of Europe, includes the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea.

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu concluded his 5-day tour to the three Baltic nations Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in August 2019.
- The visit was aimed at strengthening the bilateral engagements with the three nations, besides giving the relationships a fresh impetus in the context of a changing global order.
- Besides considering the strategic interests, the focus of the visit was also on improving cooperation in the fields of security, especially countering terrorism.

Source: Oriental Black swan

**Q.8)** The term “hometown diplomacy” is a bilateral relation between India and which of the following country?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** On April 1, 2020, China and India usher in the important moment of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

- Looking back at the past 70 years, China-India relations have moved ahead despite wind and rain and gone through an extraordinary development path.
- In the 1950s, the leaders of the older generation of the two countries made the historical decision to establish diplomatic relations between China and India, and jointly advocated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.
- "Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai" (Indians and Chinese are brothers) resounded throughout our two countries.
- From the 1980s, the two sides agreed to solve the boundary question through peaceful and friendly consultation, established strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity, and achieved all-round development of bilateral relations.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF):

1. EEF was established in 2010 and forum conducts its meetings biannually.
  2. India pledged to extend \$ 10 billion line of credit to Russia’s far eastern region at 5<sup>th</sup> EEF.
- Which 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 Eastern Economic Forum was established by decree of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015 to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Unveiling the Russian edition of India's 'Look East, Act East' policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged on September 2019 to extend a \$1 billion Line of Credit to Russia's Far East region (RFE).

**Q.10)** The Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development (GFRID) is related to which of the following?

- a) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- b) The United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development (GFRID) brings together key decision makers, stakeholders and practitioners who are engaged in the field of remittances and migration for development.

- Since its first forum in 2007, IFAD has gathered over 1,000 participants from the public and private sector, and the civil society, to facilitate the creation of partnerships and the exchange of best practices in maximizing the impact of remittances to the benefit of migrants' communities of origin.
- In doing so, IFAD partners with key international financial institutions and other prominent organizations, such as the European Commission (2015) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2017).
- The forum is held biannually, in conjunction with the observance of the International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) on 16 June.

Source: UN IFAD

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## *International Relations & Organizations*

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**Q.1)** “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 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.

Source: ForumIAS

**Q.2)** “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
- 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.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.3)** “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.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.4)** “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.

Source: WTO

**Q.5)** “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.

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- 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.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.6)** The term "Industrial Security Annex (ISA)" is often seen in news is a bilateral arrangement between which of the following countries?

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

**ANS: C**

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

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

Source: ForumIASfactly

**Q.7)** The "Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)" is often seen in news is located in which of the country?

- a) India
- b) Thailand
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Maldives

**ANS: A**

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

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

Source: ForumIASfactly

**Q.8)** "Bishkek Declaration" is related to which of the following Organization?

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) UNCTAD
- c) Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- d) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

**ANS: C**

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

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

Source: ForumIASfactly

**Q.9)** The "Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN)" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- UN Security Council reforms.
- UN resolution on International Terrorists.
- World Bank Group
- International Solar Alliance

**ANS: A**

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

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

NOTE: In 2008 the General Assembly adopted Decision 62/557 "to commence intergovernmental negotiations (IGN) in informal plenary of the General Assembly".

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

Source: The Hindu

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding the "International Court of Justice (ICJ)":

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

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

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

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

Source: ICJ



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## Schemes

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding formation and promotion of Farmer Producers Organization (FPOs):

1. It is a central sector scheme aims to establish 10000 FPOs in five years.
2. It is implemented by District Rural Development Agency.

Which 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:** formation and promotion of Farmer Producers Organization (FPOs) is a Central Sector Scheme under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW).

- Its objective is to establish 10,000 FPOs in five years period from 2019-20 to 2023-24 to ensure economies of scale for farmers.
- It is implemented by- Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- Also, States can nominate their Implementing Agency in consultation with DAC&FW.

Source: PIB

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-dhan Yojana (PM-KMY):

1. It is an old age pension scheme to provide social security net to around 3 crore Small and Marginal old age farmers.
2. There is no age limit for farmers those who are opted for this scheme.

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:** It is an old age pension scheme to provide social security net to around 3 crore Small and Marginal old age farmers as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood.

- Small and Marginal Farmer (SMF) of age of 18- 40 years - a farmer who owns cultivable land up to 2 hectares as per land records of the concerned State/UT.
- Exclusions: SMFs covered under any other statutory social security schemes such as National Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation scheme, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi MaanDhan Yojana (PM-SYM) etc.

Source: PIB

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021**

**Q.3)** Which of the following schemes/missions are subsumed under KrishonnatiYojana?

1. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
2. Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM).
3. National e-Governance Plan (NeGP-A).

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** It is a Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme that has been implemented since 2016-17. It comprises of 11 schemes / missions:

- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)- to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector.
- National Food Security Mission (NFSM) including National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)- to increase production of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals, oilseeds and commercial crops through area expansion, restoring soil fertility and improving productivity.
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)- to promote sustainable agriculture practices focusing on integrated farming, appropriate soil health management and synergizing resource conservation technology.
- Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)- to strengthen ongoing programmes of states/local bodies to achieve food security, empowering farmers, strengthen programme planning, ICT usage etc.
- Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP)- to increase production of certified / quality seed, increase seed replacement rate (SRR) and upgrade the quality of farm saved seeds.
- Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)- to increase the reach of farm mechanization, promote 'Custom Hiring Centres' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost.
- Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine- to minimize loss to quality and yield of agricultural crops, shield agricultural bio-security, facilitate exports and promote good agricultural practices.
- Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census, Economics and Statistics- to undertake the agriculture census, study of the cost of cultivation of principal crops, to undertake research studies on agro-economic problems etc.
- Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (ISAC)- to provide financial assistance for improving the economic conditions of cooperatives, remove regional imbalances.
- Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM)- to develop and provide agricultural marketing infrastructure, promote innovative and latest technologies and integrate markets through a common online market platform.
- National e-Governance Plan (NeGP-A) - to improve access of farmers to information & services, making available timely and relevant information to the farmers for increasing their agriculture productivity.

Source: The Hindu

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021**

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):

1. It aims to promote holistic development of Horticulture sector (excluding bamboo & coconut).
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which was started from 2014-15 comprising of following sub-schemes and areas of operation –

- National Horticulture Mission: to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategies
- Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States: It is a technology mission which focuses on production of quality planting material, organic farming, efficient water management etc.
- Promote, develop and disseminate technologies and generate employment opportunities.
- National Horticulture Board is implementing various schemes under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in all States and UTs.
- Coconut Development Board is implementing various schemes under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in all Coconut growing states in the country.
- Central Institute for Horticulture, Nagaland for providing technical back stopping through capacity building and training of farmers and Field functionaries in the North Eastern Region.

It aims to promote holistic development of Horticulture sector (including bamboo & coconut).

Source: PIB

**Q.5)** Which of the following crops is/are part of National Food Security Mission?

1. Rice
2. Wheat
3. Commercial Crops

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which was launched in 2007.

- From the years 2018-19 and 2019-20, NMOOP and Seed Village Programme are now a part of NFSM.
- NFSM will have eight components viz. (i) NFSM- Rice; (ii) NFSM-Wheat; (iii) NFSM-Pulses; (iv) NFSM-Coarse Cereals (Maize, Barley), (v) NFSM-Sub Mission on Nutri Cereals; (vi) NFSM-Commercial Crops; (vii) NFSM-Oilseeds and Oilpalm; and (viii) NFSM-Seed Village Programme

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Source: PIB

**Q.6)** Participatory Guarantee System for India is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- MSMEs
- Solar energy
- Organic farming
- Energy efficiency

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Its aim is to promote domestic organic market growth and also to enable S&M farmers to have easy access to organic certification, a decentralized organic farming certification system called PGS-India is being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

- It is outside the framework of third-party system of certification (which is a prerequisite to enter export market of organic produce) and it is a group-certification system including farmers, traders and consumers (hence the name) and it is supported by PKVY scheme.
- PGS ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards. It is not applicable for off-farm activities like transport, storage etc.
- The certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement

Source: PIB

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding the “Atal BhujalYojana”:

- It is a Central Sector Scheme aims to improve ground water management through community participation in identified priority areas in seven States.
- It is funded by World Bank.
- It pays special attention to those areas where groundwater was very low.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**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 JalJeevan Mission, were big steps in proving the resolve to deliver water to every household in the country by 2024.

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021

- He said the JalJeevan 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.

Source: The Hindu

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

- a) It is an AADHAR Biometric Authentication based digital life certificates for Pensioners and facilitates online submission.
- b) It is a marriage incentive scheme for inter-caste marriage.
- c) It is a pension scheme for landless labour in rural areas.
- d) 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 JeevanPramaan 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.

Source: ForumIASfactly

**Q.9)** Which of the following states are covered under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution?

1. Assam
2. Manipur
3. Tripura
4. Arunachal Pradesh
5. Mizoram

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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- ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.
- 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.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.10)** 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 correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**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.

Source: The Hindu

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## *Schemes & Miscellaneous*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are beneficiaries of Kisan Credit Card?

1. Individual Farmers
2. Tenant Farmers
3. Joint Liability groups of Farmers

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** KCC aims to provide adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under single window. The beneficiaries are:

- All farmers' individuals/Joint borrowers who are owner cultivators.
- Tenant farmers, Oral lessees and Share Croppers etc.
- SHGs or Joint Liability Groups of farmers including tenant farmers, share croppers etc.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.2)** Project ARYA is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Space Technology
- c) Atomic Research
- d) Weather forecasting

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The GOI launched ARYA – “Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture” in 2015.

- It is implemented through Krishi Vigyan Kendra in one district from each State.
- KVKs will involve the Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes as Technology Partners.
- In one district, 200-300 rural youths will be identified for their skill development in entrepreneurial activities and establishment of related micro-enterprise units.
- At KVKs also one or two enterprise units will be established so that they serve as entrepreneurial training units for farmers.

Source: PIB

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP):

1. It accentuates the relevance and quality of higher agricultural education in selected Agricultural Universities.
2. It is funded by Asian Development Bank and Government of India in equal share.

Which 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 objectives of NAHEP are:

- Accentuate the relevance and quality of higher agricultural education in selected AUs
- Student and faculty development
- Improve learning outcomes, employability and entrepreneurship; and
- Enhancing institutional and system management effectiveness

It will be funded by the World Bank and the Indian Government on a 50:50 basis.

Source: PIB

**Q.4)** Which of the following pulses are grown under Accelerated Pulses Production Program?

1. Green Gram
2. Bengal Gram
3. Lentil
4. Chickpeas

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Accelerated Pulses Production Program aims to demonstrate plant nutrients and plant protection centric improved technologies and management practices in compact units of 1000 hectares each for five major pulse crops viz. Bengal gram, Black gram (Urdbean), Red gram (Arhar), Green gram (Moongbean), and Lentil (Masur)

- It is 100 % funding by Union Ministry of Agriculture and implemented under the NFSM-Pulses.
- It has been conceptualised to take up the active propagation of key technologies such as Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Department of Agriculture Cooperation and farmer welfare is implementing this programme through i) Commissioners/Directors of Agriculture of pulse producing states, and ii) Central Government Institutes: NCIPM of ICAR.

Source: PIB

**Q.5)** 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.
- 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.

Source: Economic Survey

**Q.6)** 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.

Source: The Hindu

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021**

**Q.7)** 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.

Source: NCERT

**Q.8)** 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.

Source: The Hindu

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021**

**Q.9)** Which of the following pair (s) is/are correctly matched?

- | Archaeological Site | : | State         |
|---------------------|---|---------------|
| 1. DaojaliHading    | : | 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.

DaojaliHading: The excavation site at DaojaliHading (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, ChopaniMando, and Koldihwa.
- Koldihwa in Belan valley has provided earliest evidence of rice cultivation.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.10)** 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 quo-warranto.

- 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.

Source: Laxmikanth

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## *Schemes & Miscellaneous*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding Fund of Funds for Startups:

1. It was set up by government with a corpus of 1,00,000 cr.
2. It is managed by SIDBI.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) has been setup with a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crores managed by SIDBI.

Government participates in the capital of SEBI registered Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs), known as daughter funds, who in turn invest in Indian startups through equity/equitylinked instruments.

Source: PIB

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS):

1. It is a Central Sector scheme to boost services exports across broad range of services.
2. A dedicated fund of Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed to be established to support initiatives for sectoral Action Plans of the Champion Sectors.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** It is a Central Sector, umbrella scheme of Department of Commerce for the period 2019-20 to 2023-24.

- 12 Champion services sectors have been identified to give focused attention on their promotion. Example: IT &ITeS, tourism, legal services, financial services etc.
- Ministries/Departments concerned with these sectors have been directed to finalize and implement the Action Plans for the identified Champion Services Sectors which in effect would be their sectoral schemes operating under the umbrella scheme CSSS. Example: nodal ministry for CSSS: IT &ITeS is Ministry of electronics and technology.
- The respective line Ministries/Departments will also finalize a monitoring mechanism to monitor implementation under the overall guidance of the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) under Cabinet Secretary.
- A dedicated fund of Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed to be established to support initiatives for sectoral Action Plans of the Champion Sectors.

Source: PIB

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021**

**Q.3)** NiryatBandhu Scheme is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Entrepreneurship
- b) Agriculture
- c) MSMEs
- d) Public Sector Banks

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Announced as part of Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14 in 2011 to focus on mentoring the first generation entrepreneurs in the field of international trade.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding Bharat Net Project:

- 1. It aims to provide a minimum bandwidth of 10 Mbps to each of the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats.
- 2. It is being implemented by a special purpose vehicle named Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. set up under Companies Act.
- 3. It is being funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

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:** It aims to provide a minimum bandwidth of 100 Mbps to each of the 2.5 lakh GPs.

- It will facilitate delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-banking, public internet access, G2C, B2B, P2P, B2C etc., weather, agricultural and other services to rural India.
- It is the new brand name of NOFN (National Optic Fibre Network) which is being implemented in three phases.
- First phase – Envisaged to provide one lakh gram panchayats with broadband connectivity by laying underground optic fibre cable lines with deadline of 31st December 2017, which was achieved.
- Second Phase – It will provide connectivity to all 2,50,000 Panchayats using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over powerlines, radio and satellite media to be completed by March 2019.
- Third Phase – It will be implemented from 2019 to 2023 during which state-of-the-art, future proof network, including fiber between districts and blocks, with ring topology would be created.
- It is being implemented by a special purpose vehicle named Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. set up under Companies Act.
- It is being funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Source: PIB

**Q.5)** Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana is implemented by which of the following?

- a) Department of Commerce
- b) Department of Rural Development
- c) Department of Finance
- d) Department of Posts

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**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** SampoornaBima Gram Yojana aims to provide affordable life insurance services to people living in rural areas of the country through the postal network.

- It will identify at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) in each of the revenue districts of the country and cover all households with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy.
- All villages under SansadAdarsh Gram Yojana would also be covered under the scheme to turn them into SampoornaBeema Gram.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.6)** Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Red soils” in India?

1. It is formed as a result of weathering of metamorphic and igneous rocks.
2. It is rich in nitrogen content but lacks potash, humus and phosphate content.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Red soil is formed as a result of weathering of metamorphic and igneous rocks.

- The red color of the soil comes from the high percentage of iron content.
- The soil's texture varies from being sandy to clayey, but it is mainly loamy.
- Red soil is rich in potash content but lacks phosphate, humus and nitrogen content.
- The red soil is found in regions such as Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, some parts of Karnataka and southeast Maharashtra.

Source: NCERT

**Q.7)** “Taptapani hot spring” is located in which of the following state?

- Chhattisgarh
- Andhra Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh
- Odisha

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Taptapani hot spring famous for a perennial hot spring of “Medicinal Sulfuric Water” which is located on the State Highways that connects Berhampur with Western Odisha.

Being surrounded by a cluster of hills and thick forests, the serenity of nature at Taptapani is added by wonderful sights of sun rise, sun set moon lit night, tribal dance and music, chirps of birds and sight of wild animals.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.8)** With reference to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The basic concept of NAM originated during Bandung conference.
2. The First NAM Summit Conference took place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1961.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Non-Aligned Movement was formed during the Cold War, largely on the initiative of then-Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, as an organization of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union, but sought to remain independent or neutral.

The basic concept for the group originated in 1955 during discussions that took place at the Asia-Africa Bandung Conference held in Indonesia.

The First NAM Summit Conference took place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.9)** With reference to the Panchayati Raj Institutions, arrange the following committee in chronological order of their formation:

1. Ashok Mehta Committee
2. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee
3. L.M. Singhvi Committee

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Committees related to Panchayati Raj Institutions:

- Balvantrai Mehta Committee, appointed in January 1957, submits its report on 24 November 1957.
- Ashok Mehta Committee on working of panchayats, appointed on 12 December 1977, submits its report on 21 August 1978.
- L.M. Singhvi Committee submits its report on 27 November 1986. It recommends constitutional status for panchayats.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.10)** 'Polavaram irrigation project' is recently in news, it is being constructed on which of the following river?

- a) Godavari
- b) Krishna
- c) Pennar
- d) Cauvery

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Polavaram Irrigation Project on River Godavari is a Multipurpose one conferring Irrigation benefits in the upland areas of Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna Districts.

Source: The Hindu

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## Revision

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding “SAFE PLUS” scheme:

1. It is launched by Ministry of MSME’s to provide interest free loans.
2. It has been especially introduced to provide emergency working capital against confirmed government orders.

Which 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:** To help support the efforts to address the COVID-19 emergency, SIDBI is supporting MSMEs manufacturing products or providing services related to fighting the Coronavirus with the launch of two schemes- the SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against coronavirus (SAFE scheme) and SAFE Plus.

- Under the schemes, loans are being extended at a low rate of interest of 5% within 48 hours.
- SAFE Plus has been especially introduced to provide emergency working capital against confirmed government orders, with the same rate of interest of 5%.

Source: ForumIASfactly

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding “Index of Industrial Production (IIP)”:

1. IIP is a composite indicator that measures changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.
2. The Base year of IIP is 2014-15.

Which 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 Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a composite indicator that measures changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.

- The index is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme. It is implemented six weeks after the reference month ends, i.e a lag of six weeks.
- The Base Year of the Index of Eight Core Industries has been revised from the year 2004-05 to 2011-12 from April, 2017.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.3)** “Arabithittu Wildlife Sanctuary” is located in which of the following state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Chhattisgarh



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**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Arabithittu Wildlife Sanctuary comprises of Arabithittu State Forest located in Hunsur Taluk of Mysore district of Karnataka State.

- It lies between latitudinal range 12° 17' 16" to 12° 20' 41" North and longitudinal range 76° 22' 43" to 76° 28' 51" East. Formerly this area was in Hunsur Territorial range.
- All the sides of the sanctuary are surrounded by private agricultural land except in the North east portion which belongs to the Defence Research Development Organisation of Ministry of Defence.
- Since the area is very small zonation is not done. Zone of influence outside the boundary is agricultural fields.
- The boundary of the sanctuary is consolidated by erecting chain link mesh by Defence Research Development Organisation of Ministry of Defence.
- Even then, the pressure for grazing land by the adjacent farmers is high. Nearby quarries in the private land have been banned from operation.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.4)** Which of the following is/are recommendations of "Sarkaria Commission"?

1. Permanent Inter-state council should be established under article 263.
2. Article 356 should be used very sparingly.
3. Residuary powers of taxation should be given to states.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In 1983, the Central government appointed a three-member Commission on Centre–state relations under the chairmanship of R S Sarkaria, a retired judge of the Supreme Court. The Commission made 247 recommendations to improve Centre–state relations. The important recommendations are mentioned below:

- A permanent Inter-State Council called the Inter-Governmental Council should be set up under Article 263.
- Article 356 (President's Rule) should be used very sparingly, in extreme cases as a last resort when all the available alternatives fail.
- The institution of All-India Services should be further strengthened and some more such services should be created.
- The residuary powers of taxation should continue to remain with the Parliament, while the other residuary powers should be placed in the Concurrent List.
- When the president withholds his assent to the state bills, the reasons should be communicated to the state government.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding "Zonal Councils":

1. They are established under States Reorganization Act, 1956.
2. Act divided the country into six zonal councils.
3. The Prime Minister is the chairman of the zonal councils.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956.

- The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.
- Each zonal council consists of the following members: (a) home minister of Central government. (b) Chief Ministers of all the States in the zone. (c) Two other ministers from each state in the zone. (d) Administrator of each union territory in the zone.
- The home minister of Central government is the common chairman of the five zonal councils.
- Each chief minister acts as a vice-chairman of the council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.6)** The famous “trial of Raja Nand Kumar” is related to which of the following Governor General?

- a) Robert Clive
- b) Lord Hastings
- c) Warren Hastings
- d) Lord Cornwallis

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The trial of Raja Nand Kumar is an example of how arbitrary and capricious the justice of administration was in British India.

- This trial is popularly known as the judicial murder of Raja Nand Kumar.
- This is a historically significant trial because later on this trial became a major ground for the impeachment of Governor General Warren Hastings and Chief Justice Impey of the Supreme Court of Calcutta, by the House of Commons, after they returned to England.

Source: Grover & Grover

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding “Cornwallis Code”:

1. Permanent settlement is the main subject of the Cornwallis Code.
2. New code is based on the principle of separation of powers.
3. A gradation of civil courts setup.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Lord Cornwallis, the British Governor General of India, introduced 48 regulations in 1793 which are generally known as the Cornwallis Code.

- This Code originated from a number of earlier regulations, viz, the orders and regulations introduced between 1772 and 1790, Hindu and Muslim laws, traditional institutions, the regulations of permanent settlement, and the British laws.

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- The aim of the Cornwallis Code was to introduce an institutional code of law and an administrative system suitable for British colonial state.
- On 1 May 1793, Cornwallis announced his Code. Permanent settlement is the main subject of the Cornwallis Code.
- Earlier, the District Collector was at the same time the tax administrator, judge and magistrate.
- Now, a judge is appointed for every district and by separating the judiciary from the administration, judicial and magisterial power is vested with the judge.
- A gradation of civil courts was set up.

Source: Grover & Grover

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding “5G”:

1. It is a wireless communication technology uses radio waves or radio frequency (RF) energy to transmit and receive data.
2. It will provide the capacity and bandwidth to accommodate technologies such as Internet of Things.

Which 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:** 5G is a wireless communication technology using radio waves or radio frequency (RF) energy to transmit and receive data.

- It is the next generation mobile networks technology after 4G LTE networks.
- 5G technologies will enter services gradually, beginning in 2019 and advance to a full range of services by 2024.
- 5G will provide the capacity and bandwidth as per the need of the user to accommodate technologies such as Internet of Things.
- It will provide Faster Data Speed, Ultra-low latency etc.

Source: ForumIASfactly

**Q.9)** “It is the point at which a country’s economy is most efficiently producing its various goods and services and, therefore, allocating its resources in the best way possible”- defines which of the following?

- a) Production Possibility Frontier
- b) Indifference Curve
- c) Supply Curve
- d) Demand Curve

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** An allocation of the scarce resource of the economy gives rise to a particular combination of different goods and services.

- Given the total amount of resources, it is possible to allocate the resources in many different ways and, thereby achieving different mixes of all possible goods and services.
- The collection of all possible combinations of the goods and services that can be produced from a given amount of resources and a given stock of technological knowledge is called the production possibility set/frontier of the economy.

Source: Ramesh Singh

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**Q.10)** Which of the following subsidies is/are covered under “Green Box of WTO”?

1. Public storage for food security.
2. Pest and disease control.
3. Government policies of Minimum Support Prices.

Choose the correct code from below given options:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The agricultural subsidies which cause minimal or no distortions to trade are put under the green box. They must not involve price support.

- This box basically includes all forms of government expenses, which are not targeted at a particular product, and all direct income support programmes to farmers, which are not related to current levels of production or prices.
- This is a very wide box and includes all government subsidies like—public storage for food security, pest and disease control, research and extension, and some direct payments to farmers that do not stimulate production like restructuring of agriculture, environmental protection, regional development, crop and income insurance, etc.

Source: Ramesh Singh

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## *Laws, Bills and Miscellaneous*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

1. It provides a framework for the functioning of the Legislative Assembly and the government of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.
2. It allows the Legislative Assembly to make Rules to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha on March 15, 2021.

- The Bill amends the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.
- The Act provides a framework for the functioning of the Legislative Assembly and the government of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.
- The Bill amends certain powers and responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly and the Lieutenant Governor.
- The Act allows the Legislative Assembly to make Rules to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly.
- The Bill provides that such Rules must be consistent with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.

Source: PRSINDIA

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

1. It increases the limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%.
2. It removes restrictions on ownership and control.

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 Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Rajya Sabha by the Minister of Corporate Affairs, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, on March 15, 2021. The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938.

- The Act provides the framework for functioning of insurance businesses and regulates the relationship between an insurer, its policyholders, its shareholders, and the regulator (the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).
- The Bill seeks to increase the maximum foreign investment allowed in an Indian insurance company.

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- The Act allows foreign investors to hold up to 49% of the capital in an Indian insurance company, which must be owned and controlled by an Indian entity.
- The Bill increases the limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%, and removes restrictions on ownership and control.
- However, such foreign investment may be subject to additional conditions as prescribed by the central government.

Source: PRSINDIA

**Q.3)** The “Labour” falls under which of the following list of 7<sup>th</sup> schedule?

- a) State list
- b) Concurrent list
- c) Union list
- d) Residuary list

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Labour falls under the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Therefore, both Parliament and state legislatures can make laws regulating labour.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.4)** 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.

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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	Birhore
	7	Konda Reddi		47	Bondo
	8	Kondasavara		48	Didayi
	9	Bondo Porja		49	Dongaria Khond
	10	Khond Porja		50	Juang
	11	Parengi Porja		51	Kharia
12	Tothi	52		Kutia Kondha	
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	13	Asur		53	Lanjia Saura
	14	Birhor	54	Lodha	
	15	Birjia	55	Mankirdia	
	16	Hill Kharia	56	Paudi Bhuiya	
	17	Korwa	57	Saura	
	18	Mal Paharia	Rajasthan	58	Saharia
	19	Parhaiya		59	Irular
	20	Sauria Paharia	Tamil Nadu	60	Kattunayakan
	21	Savara		61	Kota
Gujarat	22	Kolgha		62	Korumba
	23	Kathodi		63	Paniyan
	24	Kotwalia	64	Toda	
	25	Padhar	Tripura	65	Raing
26	Siddi	66		Buksa	
Karnataka	27	Jenu Kuruba	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttrakhand)	67	Raji
	28	Koraga		68	Birhor
Kerala	29	Cholanaikayan	West Bengal	69	Lodha
	30	Kadar		70	Totos
	31	Kattunayakan		Andaman & Nicobar island	71
	32	Koraga	72		Jarawa
	33	Kurumbas	73		Onge
34	Abujh Maria	74	Sentinelese		
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	35	Baiga	75	Shom Pen	
	36	Bharia			
	37	Birhor			
	38	Hill Korba			
	39	Kamar			
	40	Sahariya			

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).

Source: MOTA

**Q.5)** 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

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**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.

Source: PRSINDIA

**Q.6)** 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?

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

**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.

Source: PIB

**Q.7)** 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.



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- 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.

Source: PIB

**Q.8)** 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.
- 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.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.9)** 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.
- 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).

## Aid for growth

The Reserve Bank of India approved the transfer of ₹1.76 lakh crore from its reserves and dividend to the Central government in a bid to address the current fiscal situation. The amount includes the central bank's 2018-19 surplus, of ₹1.23 lakh crore, and ₹52,637 crore of excess provisions



Source: The Hindu

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**Q.10)** Which of the following species is/are found in National Chambal Sanctuary?

1. Gharials
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

Source: The Hindu

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## *Bills, Laws & Miscellaneous*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020:

1. It allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce beyond the physical premises of APMC markets.
2. State governments are allowed to levy market fee, cess or levy outside APMC areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Trade of farmers' produce: The Bill allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC Acts. Such trade can be conducted in an 'outside trade area', i.e., any place of production, collection, and aggregation of farmers' produce including: (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, and (v) cold storages.

- Electronic trading: The Bill permits the electronic trading of scheduled farmers' produce (agricultural produce regulated under any state APMC Act) in the specified trade area. An electronic trading and transaction platform may be set up to facilitate the direct and online buying and selling of such produce through electronic devices and internet. The following entities may establish and operate such platforms: (i) companies, partnership firms, or registered societies, having permanent account number under the Income Tax Act, 1961 or any other document notified by the central government, and (ii) a farmer producer organisation or agricultural cooperative society.
- Market fee abolished: The Bill prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for trade of farmers' produce conducted in an 'outside trade area'.

Source: PRSINDIA

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020:

1. The bill provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce.
2. The maximum period of an agreement will be is ten years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Farming agreement: The bill provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce. The minimum

period of an agreement will be one crop season, or one production cycle of livestock. The maximum period is five years, unless the production cycle is more than five years.

- Pricing of farming produce: The price of farming produce should be mentioned in the agreement. For prices subjected to variation, a guaranteed price for the produce and a clear reference for any additional amount above the guaranteed price must be specified in the agreement. Further, the process of price determination must be mentioned in the agreement.
- Dispute Settlement: A farming agreement must provide for a conciliation board as well as a conciliation process for settlement of disputes. The Board should have a fair and balanced representation of parties to the agreement. At first, all disputes must be referred to the board for resolution. If the dispute remains unresolved by the Board after thirty days, parties may approach the Sub-divisional Magistrate for resolution. Parties will have a right to appeal to an Appellate Authority (presided by collector or additional collector) against decisions of the Magistrate. Both the Magistrate and Appellate Authority will be required to dispose of a dispute within thirty days from the receipt of application. The Magistrate or the Appellate Authority may impose certain penalties on the party contravening the agreement. However, no action can be taken against the agricultural land of farmer for recovery of any dues.

Source: PRSINDIA

**Q.3)** The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 provides that the central government may regulate the supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances. Which of the following is/are comes under extraordinary circumstances?

1. War
2. Famine
3. Extraordinary price rise

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowers the central government to designate certain commodities (such as food items, fertilizers, and petroleum products) as essential commodities.

- The central government may regulate or prohibit the production, supply, distribution, trade, and commerce of such essential commodities.
- The Bill provides that the central government may regulate the supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances.
- These include: (i) war, (ii) famine, (iii) extraordinary price rise and (iv) natural calamity of grave nature.

Source: PRSINDIA

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**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020:

1. It regulates the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution by individuals, associations and companies.
2. Foreign contribution is the donation or transfer of any currency, security or article by a foreign source.

Which 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 Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha on September 20, 2020. The Bill amends the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

- The Act regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution by individuals, associations and companies. Foreign contribution is the donation or transfer of any currency, security or article (of beyond a specified value) by a foreign source.
- Under the Act, certain persons are prohibited to accept any foreign contribution. These include: election candidates, editor or publisher of a newspaper, judges, government servants, members of any legislature, and political parties, among others.
- The Bill adds public servants (as defined under the Indian Penal Code) to this list.
- Public servant includes any person who is in service or pays of the government, or remunerated by the government for the performance of any public duty.

Source: PRSINDIA

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding “Global Environment Outlook”:

1. It is a series of reports on the environment issued periodically by the World Economic Forum.
2. It is based on integrated environmental assessment (IEA) methodology.

Which 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:** Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is a series of reports on the environment issued periodically by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- The sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) provides a clear assessment of the current state of the environment, the challenges that we face and how well we have dealt with them, with due consideration given to gender, indigenous knowledge and cultural dimensions.
- The assessment lays the foundation for continued socio-environmental assessments across relevant scales, with a thematic as well as an integrated focus, enabling and informing societal transitions and the tracking of Sustainable Development Goal targets and goals as well as previously agreed internationally environmental goals.

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- Using the integrated environmental assessment (IEA) methodology, UNEP has produced five GEO reports thus far, and the first edition of regional assessments which have analyzed environmental state and trends at the global and regional scales, described plausible outlooks for various time frames and formulated policy options.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.6)** Which of the following is/are “pioneer species” of ecological succession?

1. Lichens
2. Fungi
3. Bacteria

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Ecological succession is a series of progressive changes in the species that make up a community over time.

- Primary succession occurs when new land is formed or bare rock is exposed, providing a habitat that can be colonized for the first time.
- What happens to this land during primary succession? First, weathering and other natural forces break down the substrate, rock, enough for the establishment of certain hearty plants and lichens with few soil requirements, known as pioneer species.
- Algae, fungi, bacteria, lichens colonize on the bare rocks and provide organic materials for further higher level of colonization, while the planktons i.e., phytoplankton's, zooplanktons provide base at the shallow water for further higher levels of succession in hydro sere.

Source: NCERT

**Q.7)** “Global Drylands Initiative” is launched by which of the following?

- a) UNEP
- b) Global Environment Facility
- c) World Bank
- d) IUCN

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Drylands are found in tropical and temperate latitudes and account for 41.3% of the global terrestrial area. They can be classified into four types - dry sub-humid, semi-arid, arid and hyper-arid lands - encompassing a variety of ecosystems.

- The goal of the Global Drylands Initiative is to restore, sustainably manage and protect dryland ecosystems for multiple environmental, economic and social benefits.
- The Initiative supports countries to adapt ecosystem management policy and practice to the unique conditions of the drylands and to the evolving challenges that the drylands face.
- Further, as the IUCN Focal Point to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Global Drylands Initiative leads IUCN's efforts to influence the global discourse on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management.

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- In this case, the Initiative supports countries to implement their commitments to the Convention by demonstrating good practices on the ground, influencing the science-policy interaction of the Convention itself and working with other stakeholders to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality.

Source: IUCN

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements with respect to “Effective Revenue Deficit” (ERD):

1. It is the difference between revenue deficit and grants for creation of capital assets.
2. It is suggested by the Rangarajan Committee on Public Expenditure.
3. The ERD target for 2020-21 has been set under 1% of GDP.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between revenue deficit and grants for creation of capital assets.

- The concept of effective revenue deficit has been suggested by the Rangarajan Committee on Public Expenditure.
- It is aimed to deduct the money used out of borrowing to finance capital expenditure.
- The concept has been introduced to ascertain the actual deficit in the revenue account after adjusting for expenditure of capital nature.
- Focusing on this will help in reducing the consumptive component of revenue deficit and create space for increased capital spending.
- Though the Budget documents have given targets for revenue deficit, the amendments to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2003 has proposed to substitute the definitions of “effective revenue deficit” and “revenue deficit” with those of “Central government debt” and “general government debt” respectively.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.9)** “It is an economic situation where people hoard financial capital instead of investing or spending it”- is related to which of the following?

- a) Multiplier effect
- b) Liquidity trap
- c) Thrift
- d) Fiscal trap

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** A liquidity trap is an economic situation where people hoard financial capital instead of investing or spending it.

As a result, the nation's central bank can't use expansionary monetary policy to boost economic growth. It often occurs when short-term interest rates are zero.

Source: Ramesh Singh



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**Q.10)** 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.

- 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.

Source: Laxmikanth

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## *Miscellaneous*

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**Q.1)** “Montreux Record” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Mangroves
- b) Coral Reefs
- c) Wetlands
- d) Estuaries

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Montreux Record is the principal tool under the Ramsar Convention, is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

- It highlights those sites where adverse changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference and which are therefore in need of priority conservation attention.
- It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

Source: Ramsar Convention

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements:

1. The Ganga Action Plan was launched by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
2. The National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) is chaired by Prime Minister.

Which 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 Ganga Action Plan was launched on 14th January 1986 with the main objective of pollution abatement, to improve water quality by interception, diversion and treatment of domestic sewage and toxic and industrial chemical wastes present, from identified grossly polluting units entering in to the river.

- After reviewing the effectiveness of the “Ganga Action Plan”, the Government announced the “Mission Clean Ganga” project on 31st December, 2009 with the objective that by 2020, no municipal sewage and industrial waste would be released in the river without treatment, with the total budget of around Rs.15,000 crore.
- The Government also established the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA), chaired by the Prime Minister, with the objective to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga, by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management.

Source: Shankar

**Q.3)** Which of the following are the components of fly ash?

1. Silicon dioxide
2. Calcium oxide
3. Arsenic
4. Plutonium
5. Strontium

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ash is produced whenever combustion of solid material takes place.

- Fly ash is one such residue which rises with the gases into the atmosphere.
- Fly ash is a very fine powder and tends to travel far in the air. The ash which does not rise is termed as bottom ash.
- Nearly 73% of India's total installed power generation capacity is thermal, of which 90% is coal-based generation, with diesel, wind, gas, and steam making up the rest.

Composition:

- Aluminum silicate (in large amounts)
- Silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>) and
- Calcium oxide (CaO).

Fly ash particles are oxide rich and consist of silica, alumina, oxides of iron, calcium, and magnesium and toxic heavy metals like lead, arsenic, cobalt, and copper.

Source: Shankar

**Q.4)** Which of the following pollutants are notified under "National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)"?

1. Sulphur Dioxide
2. Nitrogen Dioxide
3. Benzene
4. Ozone
5. Lead

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were notified in the year 1982, duly revised in 1994 based on health criteria and land uses.

The NAAQS have been revisited and revised in November 2009 for 12 pollutants, which include

- sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>),
- nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>),
- particulate matter having size less than 10 micron (PM<sub>10</sub>),
- particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron (PM<sub>2.5</sub>),
- ozone,
- lead,

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- carbon monoxide (CO),
- arsenic,
- nickel,
- benzene,
- ammonia, and
- benzopyrene.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding “Regulating Act, 1833”:

- 1 It made the Governor-General of Bengal as the Governor - General of India and vested in him military powers and civil powers.
2. The Governor-General of India was given exclusive legislative powers for the entire British India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Regulating Act, 1833 was the final step towards centralization in British India.

The features of this Act were as follows:

- It made the Governor-General of Bengal as the Governor - General of India and vested in him all civil and military powers. Thus, the act created, for the first time, Government of India having authority over the entire territorial area possessed by the British in India. Lord William Bentick was the first Governor-General of India.
- It deprived the Governor of Bombay and Madras of their legislative powers. The Governor-General of India was given exclusive legislative powers for the entire British India. The laws made under the previous acts were called as Regulations, while laws made under this act were called as Acts.
- It ended the activities of the East India Company as a commercial body, which became a purely administrative body. It provided that the Company’s territories in India were held by it ‘in trust for His Majesty, His heirs and successors’.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.6)** Which of the following words are found in the Objectives Resolution of 1946?

1. Sovereign
2. Justice
3. Equality
4. Integrity
5. Fraternity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** On December 13, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the historic 'Objectives Resolution' in the Assembly. It laid down the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitutional structure. It read:

- "This Constituent Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an Independent Sovereign Republic and to draw up for her future governance a Constitution".
- Where in shall be guaranteed and secured to all the people of India justice, social, economic and political; equality of status of opportunity, and before the law; freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action, subject to law and public morality; and
- Where by shall be maintained the integrity of the territory of the Republic and its sovereign rights on land, sea and air according to justice and the law of civilized nations.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.7)** Which of the following amendment process (s) is/are come (s) under Article 368?

1. Simple Majority.
2. Special majority of the Parliament.
3. Special majority of the Parliament and with the ratification by half of the total states.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Constitution of India is neither rigid nor flexible, but a synthesis of both. Article 368 provides for two types of amendments:

- Some provisions can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, i.e., a two-third majority of the members of each House present and voting, and a majority of the total membership of each House.
- Some other provisions can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and with the ratification by half of the total states.

At the same time, some provisions of the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the Parliament in the manner of ordinary legislative process. Notably, these amendments do not come under Article 368.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.8)** Which of the following states in India follow the Inner Line Permit (ILP)?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Mizoram
3. Tripura
4. Manipur

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

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**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Inner Line Permit is a concept drawn by colonial rulers; the Inner Line separated the tribal-populated hill areas in the Northeast from the plains.

- To enter and stay for any period in these areas, Indian citizens from other areas need an Inner Line Permit (ILP).
- The Inner Line protects Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram, and Manipur was added lately.

Source: Indian Express

**Q.9)** Which of the following are the indicators of “**World Happiness Index**”?

1. GDP per capita
2. Social support
3. Environmental sustainability
4. Healthy life expectancy
5. Generosity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations released the World Happiness Report on 20th March, 2020.

- The World Happiness Report ranks 156 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.
- The rankings are based on polling (Gallup World Poll) which looks at six variables: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.
- The 2020 Report for the first time ranked cities around the world by their subjective well-being and looked into how the social, urban and natural environments combine to affect happiness.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.10)** Which of the following countries is/are part of “**East Asian Miracle 1993**”?

1. China
2. Japan
3. South Korea
4. Thailand
5. Philippines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Eight countries in East Asia—Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia—have become known as the “East Asian miracle” because of their economies’ dramatic growth.

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- In these eight countries real per capita GDP rose twice as fast as in any other regional grouping between 1965 and 1990.
- Even more impressive is their simultaneous significant reduction in poverty and income inequality.

Source: Ramesh Singh

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## *Organisations & Bodies*

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**Q.1)** “Lima Declaration” is related to which of the following organization?

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

- As of 1 April 2019, 170 States are Members of UNIDO. They regularly discuss and decide UNIDO’s guiding principles and policies in the sessions of the Policymaking Organs.
- The mission of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as described in the Lima Declaration adopted at the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in 2013, is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States.

Source: <https://www.unido.org/who-we-are/unido-brief>

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

- It is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- It is not part of United Nations Development Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.

- Our headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland, and we have offices in New York and Addis Ababa. UNCTAD is part of the UN Secretariat.
- We report to the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council but have our own membership, leadership, and budget. We are also part of the United Nations Development Group.

Source: <https://unctad.org/about>

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding United Nations (UN):

- All UN Member States are members of the General Assembly.
- States are admitted to membership by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.
- The Secretary-General of UN is appointed for a 9-year, non-renewable term.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only



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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The UN's Membership has grown from the original 51 Member States in 1945 to the current 193 Member States.

- All UN Member States are members of the General Assembly. States are admitted to membership by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.
- The Secretary-General is Chief Administrative Officer of the UN – and is also a symbol of the Organization's ideals and an advocate for all the world's peoples, especially the poor and vulnerable.
- The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a 5-year, renewable term.
- The current Secretary-General, and the 9th occupant of the post, is António Guterres of Portugal, who took office on 1 January 2017.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/>

**Q.4)** The call of “The World We Want” was raised by which of the following Organization?

- a) United Nations
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The World We Want - 75 photos curated from more than 50,000 images from over 130 countries in response to the Secretary-General's call to hear directly from the peoples of the world about their priorities for the future.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/exhibits/page/theworldwewant>

**Q.5)** Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust is a concessional financial support is related to which of the following Institution?

- a) World Bank
- b) Global Environmental Facility
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) World Economic Forum

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The IMF's various lending instruments are tailored to different types of balance of payments need as well as the specific circumstances of its diverse membership (see table).

All IMF members are eligible to access the Fund's resources in the General Resources Account (GRA) on non-concessional terms, but the IMF also provides concessional financial support (currently at zero interest rates through June 2021) through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT; see IMF Support for Low-Income Countries), which is better tailored to the diversity and needs of low-income countries.

Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/IMF-Lending>

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**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. Membership in IFAD is open to any state and specialized agencies of 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:** The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, was one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

- The conference was organized by the United Nations in response to the food crises of the early 1970s, when global food shortages were causing widespread famine and malnutrition, primarily in the Sahelian countries of Africa.
- IFAD has 177 Member States comprised of developing, middle and high-income countries from all regions of the world who are dedicated to eradicating poverty in rural areas.
- Membership in IFAD is open to any State that is a member of the United Nations, any of its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Source: <https://www.ifad.org/en/member-states>

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding World Bank:

1. All member countries of United Nations are members of World Bank.
2. Board of Governors are the ultimate policy makers of 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: B**

**Explanation:** The World Bank is like a cooperative, made up of 189 member countries.

- These member countries, or shareholders, are represented by a Board of Governors, who are the ultimate policymakers at the World Bank.
- Generally, the governors are member countries' ministers of finance or ministers of development.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/leadership>

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding “International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes” (ICSID):

1. It is the world’s leading institution devoted to international investment dispute settlement.
2. It was established in 1947 along with 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:** ICSID is the world's leading institution devoted to international investment dispute settlement.

- It has extensive experience in this field, having administered the majority of all international investment cases.
- States have agreed on ICSID as a forum for investor-State dispute settlement in most international investment treaties and in numerous investment laws and contracts.

ICSID was established in 1966 by the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (the ICSID Convention).

- The ICSID Convention is a multilateral treaty formulated by the Executive Directors of the World Bank to further the Bank's objective of promoting international investment.
- ICSID is an independent, depoliticized and effective dispute-settlement institution. Its availability to investors and States helps to promote international investment by providing confidence in the dispute resolution process.
- It is also available for state-state disputes under investment treaties and free trade agreements, and as an administrative registry.

Source: <https://icsid.worldbank.org/About/ICSID>

**Q.9)** "Uruguay Round" negotiation is related to which of the following?

- a) World Bank
- b) World Trade Organization
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Asian Development Bank

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO) calls for a single institutional framework encompassing the GATT, as modified by the Uruguay Round, all agreements and arrangements concluded under its auspices and the complete results of the Uruguay Round.

Source: [https://www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/legal\\_e/ursum\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/ursum_e.htm)

**Q.10)** United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters is located in which of the following Country?

- a) Switzerland
- b) Austria
- c) France
- d) Kenya

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) was founded in June 1972 as a result of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

- The UNEP is the coordinating body for the United Nations' environmental activities. It has played a significant role in identifying and analyzing global environmental problems, developing regional and international environmental programs and conventions, and promoting environmental science and information.
- Among its most important tasks is assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.

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- Since 1997, in response to the environmental requirements of Agenda 21, UNEP has also published its Global Environment Outlook (GEO), a comprehensive report on global state of the environment. Its headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya.

Source:

<http://www.environmentandsociety.org/tools/keywords/united-nations-environmental-programme-unep-established>



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## *Organization & Bodies – II*

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**Q.1)** “Multiphase Programmatic Approach” is an approach to achieve development objectives in stages is related to which of the following?

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Development Programme
- d) Global Environmental Facility

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) of World Bank allows countries the flexibility to implement an approach to achieve development objectives in stages when:

- the development challenge is complex;
- it would take a longer time to achieve the objectives;
- it would take a longer time to prepare one large project;
- the solution needs a broader and comprehensive approach;
- when a stop-and-go approach is not feasible.

Projects under an MPA program may be financed by Investment Project Financing; or Program-for-Results financing, or their combination.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services#MPA>

**Q.2)** Which of the following is/are the lending instrument of International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- 1. Programmes for results.
- 2. Extended Fund facility.
- 3. Rapid Credit Facility.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Three types of loans were created under the new Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) as part of this broader reform: the Extended Credit Facility, the Rapid Credit Facility and the Standby Credit Facility.

- The Extended Credit Facility (ECF) provides financial assistance to countries with protracted balance of payments problems. The ECF succeeds the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) as the Fund’s main tool for providing medium-term support LICs, with higher levels of access, more concessional financing terms, more flexible program design features, as well as streamlined and more focused conditionality.
- The Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) provides rapid financial assistance with limited conditionality to low-income countries (LICs) facing an urgent balance of payments need. The RCF streamlines the Fund’s emergency assistance, provides significantly higher levels of concessionality, can be used flexibly in a wide range of circumstances, and places greater emphasis on the country’s poverty reduction and growth objectives.

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- The Standby Credit Facility (SCF) provides financial assistance to low-income countries (LICs) with short-term balance of payments needs. It provides support under a wide range of circumstances, allows for high access, carries a low interest rate, can be used on a precautionary basis, and places emphasis on countries' poverty reduction and growth objectives.

Program-for-Results of World Bank links disbursement of funds directly to the delivery of defined results, helping countries improve the design and implementation of their own development programs and achieve lasting results by strengthening institutions and building capacity.

Source:

<https://www.imf.org/external/about/lending> & <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services>

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding “Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience”:

1. It was launched by United Nations Sustainable Development Group.
2. Under the plan, 50 billion dollars were raised for climate finance from 2021 to 2025.

Which 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 World Bank Group launched its Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience.

- Under the plan, the World Bank Group will ramp up direct adaptation climate finance to reach \$50 billion over FY21–25.
- This financing level—an average of \$10 billion a year—is more than double what was achieved during FY15-18.
- The World Bank Group will also pilot new approaches to increasing private finance for adaptation and resilience.

Source:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/01/15/world-bank-group-announces-50-billion-over-five-years-for-climate-adaptation-and-resilience>

**Q.4)** Which of the following is/are the instruments/methods of International Monetary Fund to raise money?

1. Quotas.
2. Bilateral Borrowing Agreements (BBAs).
3. New Arrangements to Borrow (NABs).

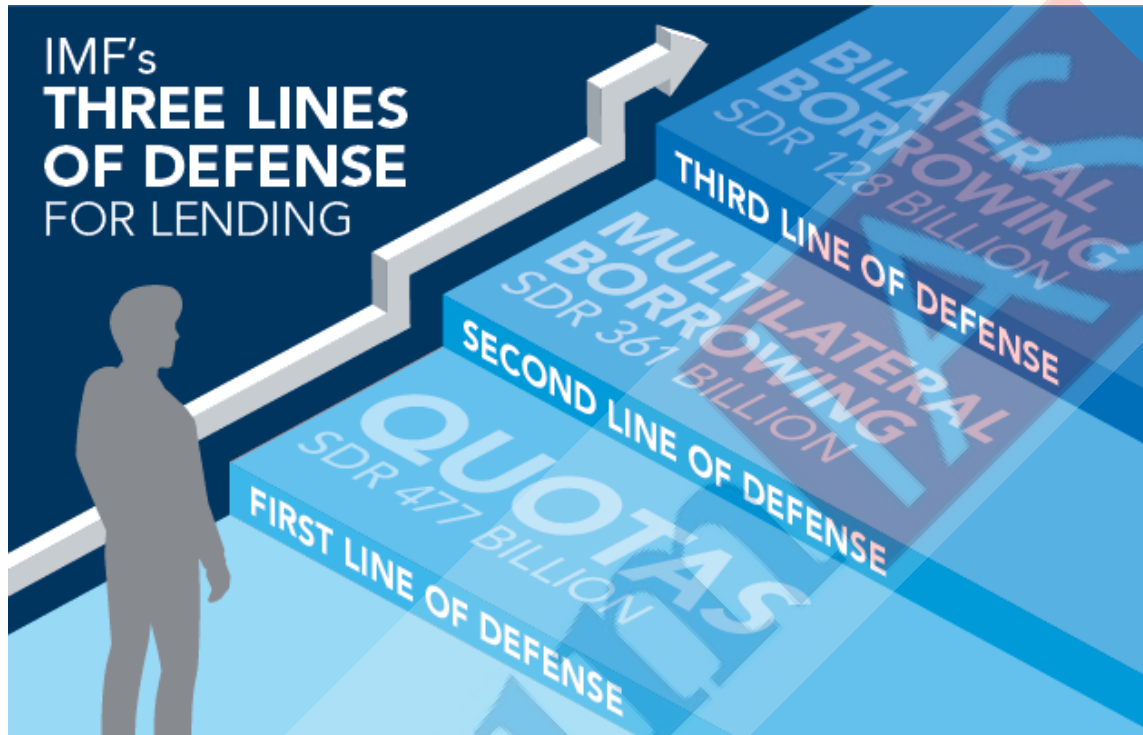
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Quotas are the IMF's main source of financing. Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy.

- The New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) constitutes a second line of defense to supplement IMF resources to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international monetary system.
- Bilateral Borrowing Agreements serve as a third line of defense after quotas and the NAB.



Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Where-the-IMF-Gets-Its-Money>

**Q.5)** Which of the following is headed by the Central Zoo Authority?

- Prime Minister
- Environment Minister
- Environment Secretary
- Animal Board of Wild life Chairman

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The CZA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- It was constituted in 1992 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It is chaired by the Environment Minister and has 10 members and a member-secretary.
- The main objective of the authority is to complement and strengthen the national effort in conservation of rich biodiversity.

Source: <http://www.cza.nic.in/>

**Q.6)** Under which of the following act the Animal Welfare Board of India was established?

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960
- National Green Tribunal Act (2010)
- Animal Welfare Act, 1980

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**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.

- Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (No. 59 of 1960), the Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.
- From ensuring that animal welfare laws in the country are diligently followed, to provide grants to Animal Welfare Organizations and advising the Government of India on animal welfare issues, the Board has been the face of the animal welfare movement in the country for the last 50 years.

Source: <http://www.awbi.in/about.html>

**Q.7)** “Infrastructure for Tomorrow” initiative is related to which of the following institution?

- a) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) World Bank
- d) New Development Bank

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Many of us have an in-built desire for a better quality of life. This means accessible physical, digital, commercial, medical, educational and other social infrastructure.

- AIIB, its members and clients, work together to finance infrastructure development—turning aspirations into reality.
- What our clients build and how and where their investments are built will evolve as infrastructure technologies advance and as people, the economy and the world change.
- The way people live, move and work and the way markets develop will shape the Infrastructure for Tomorrow (I4T).

I4T reflects AIIB's firm commitment to sustainability:

- Environmentally: Addresses ecological impacts like water and air quality, biodiversity, pollution and climate change.
- Financially and economically: Projects with sound return on investment that raise economic growth and increase productivity.
- Socially: Gives inclusive access, particularly to citizens excluded from access to infrastructure services.

Source:

<https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/who-we-are/infrastructure-for-tomorrow/overview/index.html>

**Q.8)** Which of the following is NOT a member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- a) India
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Pakistan
- d) Mongolia

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The SCO comprises eight member states, namely the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan;



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- The SCO counts four observer states, namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mongolia;
- The SCO has six dialogue partners, namely the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Republic of Turkey, and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Source: [http://eng.sectesco.org/about\\_sco/](http://eng.sectesco.org/about_sco/)

**Q.9)** With reference to the National Human Rights Commission, which of the following statements is/are NOT correct?

1. The chairperson of the commission should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.
  2. The chairperson and members are appointed by the Parliament.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and five members.

- The chairperson should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court and members should be a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of a high court and three persons (out of which at least one should be a woman) having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.
- The chairperson and members are appointed by the president on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Central home minister.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.10)** The Central Vigilance Commission was established under the recommendation of which of the following?

- a) Sarkaria Commission
- b) Punchi Commission
- c) Santhanam Committee
- d) Second ARC commission

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government. It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government. Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64).

Source: Laxmikanth

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## *Organization & Bodies - III*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following convention is formed to control of trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste and their disposal?

- a) Basel Convention
- b) Rotterdam Convention
- c) Stockholm Convention
- d) Vienna Convention

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland, in response to a public outcry following the discovery, in the 1980s, in Africa and other parts of the developing world of deposits of toxic wastes imported from abroad.

Source: Basel Convention

**Q.2)** MARPOL Convention is related to which of the following?

- a) Sustainable use of marine resources
- b) Development of renewable energy on sea shores
- c) Prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships
- d) All of the above

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.

- The MARPOL Convention was adopted on 2 November 1973 at IMO. The Protocol of 1978 was adopted in response to a spate of tanker accidents in 1976-1977.
- As the 1973 MARPOL Convention had not yet entered into force, the 1978 MARPOL Protocol absorbed the parent Convention. The combined instrument entered into force on 2 October 1983.
- In 1997, a Protocol was adopted to amend the Convention and a new Annex VI was added which entered into force on 19 May 2005. MARPOL has been updated by amendments through the years.
- The Convention includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships - both accidental pollution and that from routine operations - and currently includes six technical Annexes.

Source: Shankar

**Q.3)** Which of the following activities carried out by Wildlife Institute of India (WII)?

1. Training
2. Research
3. Publicity
4. Consultancy services

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Build up scientific knowledge on wildlife resources. Train personnel at various levels for conservation and management of wildlife.

- Carry out research relevant to management including the development of techniques appropriate to Indian conditions.
- Provide information and advice on specific wildlife management problems.
- Collaborate with international organizations on wildlife research, management and training.
- Develop as a regional centre of international importance on wildlife and natural resource conservation.
- Publicity and consultancy services

Source: Shankar

**Q.4)** Which of the following convention is related to Persistent Organic Pollutants?

- a) Basel convention
- b) Paris convention
- c) Stockholm convention
- d) Rotterdam convention

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment.

- Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and damages to the central and peripheral nervous systems.
- Given their long range transport, no one government acting alone can protect its citizens or its environment from POPs.
- In response to this global problem, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004, requires its parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment.

Source: Stockholm Convention

**Q.5).** Mangroves For the Future (MFF) was an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) IUCN
- b) World Bank
- c) UNEP
- d) GEF

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The devastation caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 laid bare the vital link between coastal ecosystems and human livelihoods.

- It was United States President Bill Clinton's vision that rebuilding in tsunami-hit areas should improve natural infrastructure and strengthen resilience against future natural disasters.

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- In response to this vision, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed Mangroves for the Future in 2006.
- Since then, MFF has grown to include eight institutional partners, plus a growing number of countries.

Source: IUCN

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding “National Green Tribunal”:

1. It was created for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
2. It is mandated to dispose the cases within six months of their respective appeals.

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 Preamble of the act provides for the establishment of a National Green Tribunal for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources, including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010).

NGT is mandated to dispose the cases within six months of their respective appeals.

Source: Shankar page no: 310

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding “National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP)”:

1. It was created by the provisions of the wildlife protection act, 1972.
2. The first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) was adopted in 1983.

Which 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 first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) was adopted in 1983, based upon the decision taken in the XV meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife held in 1982.

The plan had outlined the strategies and action points for wildlife conservation which are still relevant.

Source: Shankar page no: 313

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding “Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)”:

1. It was created under the provisions of the forest conservation act, 1980.
2. Resources realized from diverting forest resources to commercial purpose should be used for afforestation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** While according prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose, Central Government stipulates conditions that amounts shall be realised from the user agencies to undertake compensatory afforestation and such other activities related to conservation and development of forests, to mitigate impact of diversion of forest land.

Source: Shankar page no: 314

**Q.9)** Which of the following agency would take up the case against corruption under Whistle Blower Resolution?

- a) Central Vigilance Commission
- b) Central Bureau of Investigation
- c) National Human Rights commission
- d) Enforcement Directorate

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In 2004, the CVC has been designated as the agency to receive and act on complaints or disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office from whistle blowers under the “Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers’ Resolution” (PIDPI), which is popularly known as “Whistle Blowers” Resolution.

The Commission is also empowered as the only designated agency to take action against complainants making motivated or vexatious complaints.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.10)** With Reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Personnel.
2. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Later, it was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel and now it enjoys the status of an attached office.
- The Special Police Establishment (which looked into vigilance cases) setup in 1941 was also merged with the CBI.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Source: Laxmikanth

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## *Revision*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding national parks:

1. They are established by respective government in accordance with environment protection act, 1980.
  2. They enjoy a greater degree of protection than sanctuaries.
- Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Wild Life (Protection) Act (WPA) of 1972 provided for the declaration of National Parks by the State Government in addition to the declaration of wildlife sanctuaries.

- National Parks are declared in areas that are considered to be of adequate ecological, geomorphologic and natural significance although within the law, the difference in conservation value of a National Park from that of a sanctuary is not specified in the WPA 1972.
- National Parks enjoy a greater degree of protection than sanctuaries.
- Certain activities which are regulated in sanctuaries, such as grazing of livestock, are prohibited in National Parks.

Source: Shankar page no: 175

**Q.2)** The Chief Wild Life Warden may, on application, grant to any person a permit to enter or reside in a sanctuary/ National Park for which of the following purposes?

1. Investigation of wildlife
2. Scientific Research
3. Transaction of lawful business with any person residing in the sanctuary

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: D**

**Explanation:** The Chief Wild Life Warden may, on application, grant to any person a permit to enter or reside in a sanctuary/ National Park for all or any of the following purposes:

- investigation or study of wildlife and purposes ancillary or incidental thereto
- photography
- scientific research
- tourism
- transaction of lawful business with any person residing in the sanctuary

Source: Shankar Page no: 176

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**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding “conservation reserves”:

1. It was created under forest conservation act, 1980.
2. It is an area owned by the State Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape and habitat of fauna and flora.

Which 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 Amendment Act (Wildlife Protect Act, 1972) of 2003 provided for the creation of a new type of protected area called a Conservation Reserve.

- It is an area owned by the State Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape and habitat of fauna and flora.
- It is managed through a Conservation Reserve Management Committee
- The State Government may, after having consultations with the local communities, declare any area owned by the Government as conservation reserve.

Source: Shankar Page No: 177

**Q.4)** “Bhitarkanika National Park and Bhitarkanika Sanctuary” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary (Odisha) is one of India’s biggest estuarine crocodile habitats and a major coastal eco-system.

- It was declared as a National Park because of its ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological and zoological association and importance and for the purpose of protection in 1998.
- In August 2002, it was designated as the second Ramsar site (i.e. Wetland of International importance).

Source: The Hindu

**Q.5)** The Animal welfare board of India was established by which of the following act?

- a) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts 1960.
- b) Wildlife protection act, 1972.
- c) Environment protection act, 1980.
- d) Biological diversity act, 2002.

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.

- The Animal Welfare Board of India, the first of its kind to be established by any Government in the world, was set up in 1962, in accordance with Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts 1960.

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- Shrimati Rukmini Devi Arundale pioneered the setting up of the Board, with its Headquarters at Chennai. She guided the activities of the Board for nearly twenty years till her demise in 1986.

Source: Shankar page no: 321

**Q.6)** “Atapaka bird sanctuary” is identified as the world’s largest home for the spot-billed pelican is located in which of the following state?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The atapaka Bird Sanctuary, part of the Kolleru Lake (Andhra Pradesh), has been identified as the world’s largest home for the spot-billed pelican.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.7)** Consider the following provisions:

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Election of the President and its manner
3. Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament

Which of the provisions given above is/are amended by a special majority of Parliament?

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The majority of the provisions in the Constitution need to be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of each House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting.

- The expression ‘total membership’ means the total number of members comprising the House irrespective of fact whether there are vacancies or absentees.
- ‘Strictly speaking, the special majority is required only for voting at the third reading stage of the bill but by way of abundant caution the requirement for special majority has been provided for in the rules of the Houses in respect of all the effective stages of the bill’.

The provisions which can be amended by this way include:

- (i) Fundamental Rights;
- (ii) Directive Principles of State Policy; and
- (iii) All other provisions which are not covered by the first and third categories.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding procedure for the amendment of the Constitution:

1. An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated in either House of Parliament or the state legislature.
2. The bill cannot be introduced by a private member.

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: D**

**Explanation:** Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure.

- An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.
- The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the president.
- The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.
- Each House must pass the bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill.
- If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
- After duly passed by both the Houses of Parliament and ratified by the state legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the president for assent.
- The president must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament.
- After the president's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., a constitutional amendment act) and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.9)** Consider the following statement about President's Rule in India:

1. Article 356 and Article 365 mentions the grounds of proclamation of President's Rule in India.
2. The presidential proclamation imposing President's Rule is not subjected to judicial review.

Which 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 355 imposes a duty on the Centre to ensure that the government of every state is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

- It is this duty in the performance of which the Centre takes over the government of a state under Article 356 in case of failure of constitutional machinery in state.
- This is popularly known as 'President's Rule'. It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.
- The President's Rule can be proclaimed under Article 356 on two grounds —one mentioned in Article 356 itself and another in Article 365.

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- The 38th Amendment Act of 1975 made the satisfaction of the President in invoking Article 356 final and conclusive which could not be challenged in any court on any ground.
- But, this provision was subsequently deleted by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 implying that the satisfaction of the President is not beyond judicial review.
- In Bommai case (1994), the Supreme Court said that imposition of President's Rule in a state under Article 356 is subject to judicial review.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.10)** With reference to the executive powers of the President, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. All executive actions of the Government of India are formally taken in his name.
2. He appoints the comptroller and auditor general of India and determines his salary and tenure.

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 Indian President is the head of the state and he is also called the first citizen of India.

- He is a part of Union Executive, provisions of which are dealt with Article 52-78 including articles related to President (Article 52-62).
- All executive actions of the Government of India are formally taken in his name.
- The President appoints the comptroller and auditor general of India and he does not determine his salary and tenure.
- The salary and other conditions of service of the CAG are determined by the Parliament of India through "The Comptroller and Auditor-General (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971".

Source: Laxmikanth

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## *Modern History*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are the reasons for increased quest for and discovery of a sea route to India in 15<sup>th</sup> Century by European Nations?

1. Obsession of Prince Henry of Portugal to find India.
2. Red sea trade route was monopolised by Islamic rulers.
3. The art of ship building and navigation had great advances in Europe.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Historians have observed that the idea of finding an ocean route to India had become an obsession for Prince Henry of Portugal, who was nicknamed the 'Navigator'.

In 1453, Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks, due to which merchandise trade from India to the European markets came under Arab Muslim intermediaries. The Red Sea trade route was a state monopoly from which Islamic rulers earned tremendous revenues.

In 15<sup>th</sup> Century, Europe made great advances in the art of ship-building and navigation. Hence, there was eagerness all over Europe for adventurous sea voyages to reach the unknown corners of the East.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.2)** With reference to Europe in 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Treaty of Tordesillas is signed between?

- a) Portugal and Egypt
- b) Spain and Greece
- c) Spain and Portugal
- d) France and Portugal

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Under the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), the rulers of Portugal and Spain divided the non-Christian world between them by an imaginary line in the Atlantic, some 1,300 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands.

Under the treaty, Portugal could claim and occupy everything to the east of the line while Spain could claim everything to the west.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.3)** With reference to European powers in India, who among the following introduced Blue Water Policy?

- a) British
- b) Portuguese
- c) French
- d) Danish

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In 1505, the King of Portugal appointed a governor Francisco De Almeida in India for a three-year term and he was asked to consolidate the position of the Portuguese in India and to destroy Muslim trade by seizing Aden, Ormuz and Malacca.

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- Francisco de Almeida wanted that Portuguese should maintain supremacy on sea and confine their activities to purely commercial transactions and to realize his vision he implemented Blue water policy.
- The Blue Water Policy was the fortification of Indian Ocean, not for the security but for the establishment of Portuguese business in the Indian Ocean.
- The Blue water policy was reversed by Alfonso de Albuquerque.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.4)** With reference to the colonial powers in India, which colonial power was most affected by the War of Spanish Succession broke out in Europe?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** French position in India from starting days was badly affected with the outbreak of war between the Dutch and the French and when the War of Spanish Succession broke out in Europe.

Due to this they had to abandon their factories at Surat, Masulipatnam and Bantam in the early 18th century.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.5)** With reference to Colonial powers in India, arrange the following treaties in chronological order:

1. Treaty of Aix-La Chapelle
2. Treaty of peace of Paris
3. Treaty of Ryswick

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Treaty of Ryswick: In July 1697 the treaty brought to an end the Nine Years War, in which Louis XIV's France faced a grand coalition of England, the Dutch, and Spain.

- Louis agreed to return most of his territorial acquisitions or réunions made since Nijmegen, but retained the important fortress town of Strasbourg.
- The Dutch were allowed to garrison barrier fortresses in the Spanish Netherlands. In India Pondicherry was restored to French by Dutch.
- The treaty, negotiated with much difficulty, lasted only four years before the War of the Spanish Succession broke out.

Treaty of Aix-La Chapelle: It was signed between British and French in 1748 after first Carnatic war.

- Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle 1748 was negotiated largely by Britain and France, with the other powers following their lead, ending the War of the Austrian Succession (1740–48).
- The treaty was marked by the mutual restitution of conquests, including the fortress of Louisburg on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, to France; Madras in India, to England.

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Treaty of peace of Paris: The Treaty of Paris of 1763 ended the French and Indian War/Seven Years' War between Great Britain and France, as well as their respective allies.

- In the terms of the treaty, France gave up all its territories in mainland North America, effectively ending any foreign military threat to the British colonies there.
- In India Pondicherry, Karaikal and other French possessions were returned to the French on condition that they should not fortify them and it ended the third Carnatic war in 1763.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.6)** With reference to Mughal rule in India, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Battle	:	Emperor/ruler associated with
1. Battle of Karnal	:	Ahmed Shah
2. Battle of Plassey	:	Muhammad Shah
3. Battle of Buxar	:	Shah Alam II

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:** Battle of Karnal: It was held between Nadir Shah and Mughals (Emperor Muhammad Shah) in 1739 and mughals were defeated in the war and later Muhammad Shah was imprisoned and annexed areas west of the Indus into the Persian Empire.

Battle of Plassey: The battle was fought between the East India Company headed by Robert Clive and the Nawab of Bengal (Siraj-Ud-Daulah) and his French Troop in 1757. This battle is often termed as the 'decisive event' which became the source of ultimate rule of the British in India. Mughal emperor Alamgir-II was ruling the empire when the Battle of Plassey took place.

Battle of Buxar: It was a battle fought between the English Forces, and a joint army of the Nawab of Oudh, Nawab of Bengal, and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II in 1764. The battle was the result of misuse of trade privileges granted by the Nawab of Bengal and also the colonialist ambitions of East India Company.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.7)** With reference to Industrial development of India in 18<sup>th</sup> century, the term "Kunjali Maraikkars" is associated with?

- a) Naval chiefs
- b) Revenue collectors
- c) Merchant Bankers
- d) Trade supervisors

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Kunjali Marakkars were maritime merchants of Arab descent who supported the trade in the Indian Ocean who settled in the coastal regions of Kayalpattinam, Kilakarai, Thoothukudi, Nagore and Karaikal.

- With the emergence of the Portuguese in India, some Marakkars were forced to take up arms and enlist themselves in service of the Hindu king (the zamorin) of Calicut.
- The Marakkar naval chiefs of the Calicut were known as Kunjali Marakkars.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

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**Q.8)** Which of the following are the exports from Bengal to Europe in 18<sup>th</sup> Century?

- a) Saltpetre, gold and silk
- b) Cotton, silk and indigo
- c) Cotton, gold and coffee
- d) Silk, rubber and gold

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Bengal, the richest province of the Mughal Empire included present day Bangladesh, and its Nawab had authority over the region constituting present day states of Bihar and Odisha.

Exports from Bengal to Europe consisted of raw products such as saltpetre, rice, indigo, pepper, sugar, silk, cotton textiles, handicrafts, etc.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.9)** With reference to the treaty of Allahabad in 1765, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Allahabad and Benaras were surrendered to Shah Alam II by Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula.
- 2. Shah Alam – II was agreed to pay 50lakh to company as war indemnity.

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: D**

**Explanation:** Robert Clive concluded two important treaties at Allahabad in August 1765 - one with the Nawab of Awadh and the other with the Mughal Emperor, Shah Alam II.

- Under the treaty Nawab of Awadh Shuja-ud-Daula agreed to surrender Allahabad and Kara to Emperor Shah Alam II.
- Under the treaty Nawab of Awadh Shuja-ud-Daula agreed to pay Rs 50 lakh to the Company as war indemnity.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

**Q.10)** With reference to the policy of annexation by diplomacy and administrative mechanisms by British, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- |                    |   |                               |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Governor – General | : | Policy of annexation          |
| 1. Lord Hastings   | : | policy of ring fence          |
| 2. Lord Wellesley  | : | policy of subsidiary alliance |
| 3. Lord Dalhousie  | : | policy of doctrine of lapse   |

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:** Policy of Ring Fence: It is followed by Warren Hastings, under which aimed at creating buffer zones to defend the Company's frontiers. Broadly speaking, it was the policy of defence of their neighbours' frontiers for safeguarding their own territories. This policy of Warren Hastings was reflected in his war against the Marathas and Mysore.

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Policy of Subsidiary Alliance: It is followed by Lord Wellesley, under which the allying Indian state's ruler was compelled to accept the permanent stationing of a British force within his territory and to pay a subsidy for its maintenance.

- Also, the Indian ruler had to agree to the posting of a British resident in his court. Under the system, the Indian ruler could not employ any European in his service without the prior approval of the British.
- Nor could he negotiate with any other Indian ruler without consulting the governor-general. In return for all this, the British would defend the ruler from his enemies and adopt a policy of noninterference in the internal matters of the allied state.

Policy of Doctrine of Lapse: It is followed by Lord Dalhousie, under which the adopted son could be the heir to his foster father's private property, but not the state; it was for the paramount power (the British) to decide whether to bestow the state on the adopted son or to annex it.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

ForumIAS

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## *Modern History – II*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are causes of decline of Mughal Empire?

1. Shift of allegiance of zamindars to nobles from Empire.
2. Mutual rivalry, jealousy and contest of power among various groups during later mughal era.
3. Land scarcity due to rise in amirs and mansabs and their ranks.

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:** Two classes shared the power of the State with the emperor during the medieval period—the zamindars and the nobles. During the reign of Aurangzeb itself, there was a marked increase in the power and influence of the zamindars.

- The biggest fallout of this was that regional loyalties were encouraged. Many local zamindars helped the nobility, the other powerful class within the empire, to take advantage of the weakness of the empire and carve out independent kingdoms for themselves.
- Mutual rivalry, jealousy and contest for power among the various groups during the rule of the later Mughals, not only reduced the prestige of the emperor, but also contributed to the decline of the empire.
- The number of amirs and their ranks or mansabs had increased sharply over time; there was little land left to be distributed among them as jagirs.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 70 – 74.

**Q.2)** With reference to the socio – economic conditions on the eve of British conquest, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. There were no forced revenue collections from peasants.
2. India import goods on large scale to fulfill the needs of growing population.

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: D**

**Explanation:** Even though the agricultural produce supported the rest of the society, a peasant's own reward was miserably inadequate.

- They were forced to pay exorbitant amounts to the state, the zamindars, the jagirdars, and the revenue-farmers. But this worsened under British rule.
- On account of being self-sufficient in handicrafts and agricultural products, India did not import foreign goods on a large scale.
- On the other hand, its industrial and agricultural products were in good demand in foreign markets.



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- Hence its exports were more than its imports; trade was balanced by import of silver and gold. India was known as a sink of precious metals.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 80.

**Q.3)** The “black hole tragedy” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Alivardi Khan
- b) Siraj-ud-daula
- c) Mir Jafar
- d) Mir Kasim

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Siraj-ud-daula is believed to have imprisoned 146 English persons (black hole tragedy) who were lodged in a very tiny room due to which 123 of them died of suffocation.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 95.

**Q.4)** Which of the following states are accepted the Subsidiary Alliance of British?

1. The Peshwa
2. The Sindhia
3. The Holkars
4. The Bhonsle Raja of Berar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Indian princes who accepted the subsidiary system were: the Nizam of Hyderabad (September 1798 and 1800), the ruler of Mysore (1799), the ruler of Tanjore (October 1799), the Nawab of Awadh (November 1801), the Peshwa (December 1801), the Bhonsle Raja of Berar (December 1803), the Sindhia (February 1804), the Rajput states of Jodhpur, Jaipur, Macheri, Bundi and the ruler of Bharatpur (1818).

The Holkars were the last Maratha confederation to accept the Subsidiary Alliance in 1818.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 134.

**Q.5)** Which state was annexed by the British on the grounds of misgovernment?

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Baghat
- c) Awadh
- d) Punjab

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Lord Dalhousie directed Sleeman, the Resident in Awadh, to make a tour throughout the state and ascertain the actual situation by personal inspection.

- The resident submitted a report describing the anarchical condition in the state.
- He was succeeded as resident in 1854 by Outram who submitted a report supporting that of his predecessor.
- Lord Dalhousie annexed Awadh in 1856 after deposing Nawab Wajid Ali Shah on grounds of misgovernment.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 134.

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**Q.6)** The “Indian National Association” protested against the reduction of age limit in 1877 for candidates of the Indian Civil Service examination, was founded by?

- a) Sisir Kumar Ghosh
- b) Dadabhai Naoroji
- c) Surendranath Banerjea
- d) K.T. Telang

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Indian Association of Calcutta (also known as the Indian National Association) 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.

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

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 271.

**Q.7)** With reference to the political association in British India, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Organization	:	founded by
1. Poona Sarvajanik Sabha	:	Mahadeo Govind Ranade
2. Bombay Presidency Association	:	Badruddin Tyabji
3. Madras Mahajan Sabha	:	P Anandacharlu

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:** Poona Sarvajanik Sabha: It was founded in 1867 by Mahadeo Govind Ranade and others, with the object of serving as a bridge between the government and the people.

- Bombay Presidency Association: It was started by Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozshah Mehta and K.T. Telang in 1885.
- Madras Mahajan Sabha: It was founded in 1884 by M. Viraraghavachari, B. Subramaniya Aiyer and P. Anandacharlu.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 272.

**Q.8)** The “revolt of Moamarias” was associated with which of the following region?

- a) Madras
- b) Baluchistan
- c) Assam
- d) Pune

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Moamarias were low-caste peasants who followed the teachings of Aniruddhadeva (1553-1624), and their rise was similar to that of other low-caste groups in north India.

Their revolts weakened the Ahoms of Assam and opened the doors for others to attack the region, for instance, in 1792, the King of Darrang (Krishnanarayan), assisted by his band of burkandazes (the demobilised soldiers of the Muslim armies and zamindars) revolted.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 153.

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**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the “paika rebellion”:

1. Paikas are traditional foot soldiers of Odisha.
2. Cowrie currency was used by paikas to buy goods in Odisha was abolished by British.

Which 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 Paiks of Odisha were the traditional landed militia (‘foot soldiers’ literally) and enjoyed rent free land tenures for their military service and policing functions on a hereditary basis.

- Common masses were affected by the rise in prices of salt due to taxes imposed on it, abolition of cowrie currency and the requirement of payment of taxes in silver, etc.
- Cowrie shells, found abundantly in the Indian Ocean, were among the earliest forms of currency used in the world. In India, they were colloquially referred to as kaudi and were used in certain areas like Odisha even until the early 1800s.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 162 – 163.

**Q.10)** “Satya Prakash” – a weekly was started to promote widow remarriage by?

- a) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- b) Vishnu Shastri Pandit
- c) D.K. Karve
- d) Karsondas Mulji

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Karsandas Mulji, a contemporary of Dadabhai Naoroji, was one of the pioneer Indian social reformers working for the cause of women emancipation.

- In 1850s-60s, Mulji was a prominent member of the “Bombay intelligentsia” in conflict with the “merchant aristocracy” over social issues.
- Mulji’s place in Indian history as a reformer is due to the Maharaj libel case in 1862 which earned him the title of “a Reformer, a Martin Luther of the Banian Cast”.
- He started the Satya Prakash in Gujarati in 1852 to advocate widow remarriage.

Source: Spectrum Modern India page no, 218.

## *Environment & Ecology*

**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are the biotic components of Environment?

1. Symbionts
2. Radiation
3. Gravity

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 environment is not static. Both biotic and abiotic factors are in a flux and keep changing continuously.

Components of Environment	
Abiotic	Biotic
Energy	Green plants
Radiation	Non-green plants
Temperature & heat flow	Decomposers
Water	Parasites
Atmospheric gases and wind	Symbionts
Fire	Animals
Gravity	Man
Topography	
Soil	
Geologic substratum	

Source: Shankar

**Q.2)** In ecosystem, the organisms which are incapable of producing their own food are called as?

- a) Autotrophs
- b) Heterotrophs
- c) Saprotrophs
- d) Both A & B

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Consumers – Heterotrophs or phagotrophs (other nourishing): Consumers are incapable of producing their own food (photosynthesis). They depend on organic food derived from plants, animals or both.

Source: NCERT

**Q.3)** Ecosystems are capable of maintaining their state of equilibrium & they can regulate their own species structure and functional processes – is called as?

- a) Homeostasis
- b) Testacy
- c) Isostatic equilibrium
- d) Both B & C

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ecosystems are capable of maintaining their state of equilibrium. They can regulate their own species structure and functional processes. This capacity of ecosystem of self regulation is known as homeostasis.

Source: NCERT

**Q.4)** Which of the following is/are the examples of ecotone?

1. River Bank
2. Mangrove
3. Estuary

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:** Ecotone is a zone of junction between two or more diverse ecosystems. For e.g. the mangrove forests represent an ecotone between marine and terrestrial ecosystem. Other examples are – grassland, estuary and river bank.

Source: Shankar

**Q.5)** Which of the following plant/plants is/are “Predator plants”?

1. Pitcher plants
2. Sarracenia
3. Butterworts

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Carnivorous plants are usually categorized based on the way they catch the insects. There are wide varieties of common predator plants — pitcher plants, sundews, sarracenia, Venus fly trap and butterworts.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding “Tiger estimation”:

1. It is conducted for every four years by Central Zoo Authority.
2. It is technically supported by IUCN.

Which 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 All India Tiger Estimation done every four year once, it is

- Steered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority
- Technically supported by Wildlife Institute of India

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- Implemented by State Forest Departments and partners.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding “Climate Investment Funds (CIFs)”:

1. World Bank is the trustee of CIFs.
2. They were designed by developed and developing countries.

Which 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 Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) are implemented by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to bridge the financing and learning gap between international climate change agreements.

- They were designed by developed and developing countries. The World Bank is the Trustee of the CIFs.
- It includes a “sunset clause” to ensure that the Fund’s activities do not prejudice the outcome on the UNFCCC negotiations.

CIFs are two distinct funds

- Clean Technology Fund
- Strategic Climate Fund.

The CTF promotes scaled-up financing for demonstration, deployment and transfer of low carbon technologies with a significant potential for long-term greenhouse gas emissions savings.

Source: World Bank

**Q.8)** “Selective Catalytic Reduction” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Thermal power stations
- b) Bharat Stage - VI norms
- c) Solar Generators
- d) Land fillings

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) and Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) are being introduced with the roll-out of BS VI norms, which were not a part of BS IV.

- Real Driving Emission (RDE) will be introduced in India for the first time with the implementation of Bharat Stage VI emission norms.
- It will measure a vehicle’s emission in real-time conditions against laboratory conditions.
- Onboard Diagnostics (OD) has been made mandatory for all vehicles which will give the vehicle owner or repair technician access to the status of the various vehicle sub-systems.

Source: MOEFCC

**Q.9)** Which of the following is/are NOT the characteristics of “Petcoke”?

1. It is a by product of oil refinery process.
2. It is a high grade fuel with high calorific value.
3. Low ash with low sulphur content.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Petcoke is a by-product (carbonaceous solid) of the oil refinery process mainly "the bottom of the barrel."

It is characterized as a high grade fuel with high calorific value of more than 8,000 Kcal per kg, having low ash content and low volatile matter but high sulphur content, up to 7%.

Source: Indian Express

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding "uranium contamination in India":

1. The permissible limit according to the World Health Organization (WHO) is 50 microgram per litre.
2. There is limit maintained for uranium under Bureau of Indian Standards' Drinking Water Specifications.

Which 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 permissible limit according to the World Health Organization (WHO) is 30 microgram per litre.

- However, unlike the limits for arsenic and other toxic or heavy metals specified in the under Bureau of Indian Standards' Drinking Water Specifications, there is no limit maintained for uranium.
- Earlier, a report brought by Central Ground Water Board noted widespread uranium contamination in groundwater from aquifers across 16 states in India including Punjab, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, etc.

Uranium can cause serious ailments such as:

- If uranium-laced water, more than permissible level, is consumed for long, it can cause thyroid cancer, blood cancer, depression and other serious ailments.
- Some studies have also linked the excessive ingestion of uranium to chronic kidneys disease.

Source: Down to Earth

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## *Protected areas including parks*

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**Q.1)** “Tadoba Andhari National Park” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Notably Maharashtra's oldest and largest National Park, the "Tadoba National Park", also known as the "Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve" is one of India's project tiger reserves existing in India.

- It lies in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state and is approximately 150 km from Nagpur city.
- The total area of the tiger reserve is 1,727 Sq.km, which includes the Tadoba National Park, created in the year 1955.
- The Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary was formed in the year 1986 and was amalgamated with the park in 1995 to establish the present Tadoba Andheri Tiger Reserve.
- The word 'Tadoba' is derived from the name of God "Tadoba" or "Taru," which is praised by local tribal people of this region and "Andhari" is derived from the name of Andhari river that flows in this area.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/heres-how-national-parks-are-doing-after-the-pandemic-induced-hiatus/article33511629.ece>

**Q.2)** Which of the following is NOT located in Madhya Pradesh?

- a) Ranthambore National Park
- b) Kanha National Park
- c) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- d) Both A & B

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ranthambore National Park is one of the biggest and most renowned national parks in Northern India.

- The park is located in the Sawai Madhopur district of southeastern Rajasthan, which is about 130 km from Jaipur.
- Once considered as one of the famous and former hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur, today the Ranthambore National Park terrain is a major wildlife tourist attraction that has drawn the attention of many wildlife photographers and lovers.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/heres-how-national-parks-are-doing-after-the-pandemic-induced-hiatus/article33511629.ece>

**Q.3)** “It had lost all its tigers to poaching by 2009 and it is only in the last decade through a careful process of relocation from other tiger reserves and natural breeding that the tiger population has climbed back to about 50” – describes which of the following tiger reserves?

- a) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- b) Simlipal Tiger Reserve
- c) Panna Tiger Reserve



d) Satkosai Tiger Reserve

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Panna Tiger Reserve had lost all its tigers to poaching by 2009 and it is only in the last decade through a careful process of relocation from other tiger reserves and natural breeding that the tiger population has climbed back to about 50.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/travel/tracking-tigers-at-panna-national-park-madhya-pradesh/article33793138.ece>

**Q.4)** “Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Meghalaya

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Many wildlife habitats in the Northeast are understaffed, without trained manpower and proper infrastructure, the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) report of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has said.

- The MEE has marked Meghalaya for fairly good management practices while the evaluated wildlife sanctuaries in Assam were found to have “extremely poor” infrastructure, thus adversely affecting their management.
- The best managed among the 16 evaluated protected areas in the region was found to be Meghalaya’s Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary because of the continuity of a management plan since 2001 “irrespective of who’s posted”.
- The report largely attributed the significant reduction in biotic interference in the sanctuary to community support.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/many-northeast-wildlife-habitats-understaffed-says-report/article33708546.ece>

**Q.5)** “Keibul Lamjao National Park” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Manipur
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Tripura
- d) Mizoram

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The only floating national park of its kind in the world, Keibul Lamjao National Park is a singular wetland ecosystem located on the Loktak Lake.

Home to brow-antlered deer or sangai, the state animal of Manipur.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/many-northeast-wildlife-habitats-understaffed-says-report/article33708546.ece>

**Q.6)** “Papikonda National Park (PNP)” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following state?

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

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**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Papikonda National Park (PNP), with a dominant area covered with moist deciduous forest, has become home for the leopard cat (*Prinailurus bengalensis*) in the Eastern Ghats.

- The 1,012.86 sq km national park is on both sides of river Godavari in the northern Eastern Ghats.
- Of the 13 protected forests in Andhra Pradesh, the leopard cat has been sighted only in the PNP.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/papikonda-national-park-becomes-home-for-leopard-cats/article26981103.ece>

**Q.7)** Which of the following is NOT located in Western Ghats?

- Bhadra Tiger Reserve
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- Biligiri Ranganatha (BRT) Tiger Reserve
- Sunabeda Tiger Reserve

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In Western the Ghats, over 100 leopard cats have been sighted in the four reserves — Bhadra Tiger Reserve, BRT Tiger Reserve, Nagarhole and Bandipur reserves. Sunabeda Tiger Reserve is located in Odisha.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/papikonda-national-park-becomes-home-for-leopard-cats/article26981103.ece>

**Q.8)** The “Nandankanan Zoological Park” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- Andhra Pradesh
- Kerala
- Pondicherry
- Odisha

**ANS: D**

**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.
- 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.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding the “Wildlife Protection Act, 1972”:

1. It has five schedules which give varying degrees of protection.
2. Cheetah falls in Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**ANS: D**

**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 cheetah falls in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.10)** Which of the following place is known for “Salt water crocodile”?

- a) Gulf of Mannar
- b) Bhitarkanika
- c) Chilika Lake
- d) Kolleru Lake

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Crocodiles are ambush hunters and apex predator of river systems of the India.

- There are three crocodylians 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 crocodylians family and largest of all living reptiles in the world.
- 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 separates 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.

Source: The Hindu

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## *Biodiversity & Conservation*

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**Q.1)** “Peoples’ Biodiversity Register (PBR)” is often seen in news is associated with which of the following?

- a) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- b) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- c) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- d) Forest Rights Act, 2006

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The path breaking Biological Diversity Act, 2002 not only supports the conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources, it also promotes an equitable sharing of benefits that come from their use.

- This one law has the potential to revolutionise the rights of communities over the natural resources they live with.
- The BDA has made it mandatory for every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas to constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) within their area of jurisdiction.
- Once constituted, the BMC must prepare a Peoples’ Biodiversity Register (PBR) in consultation with local people.
- A PBR comprehensively documents traditional knowledge of local biological resources.
- The BMC is the custodian of these resources, and any industry that extracts biological resources from these areas has to share part of its revenue with the local community.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/the-peoples-biodiversity-register-meant-to-empower-local-communities-is-leaving-them-out/article32869691>.

**Q.2)** “Raikas” – The Nomadic Pastoralists is associated with which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Tamil Nadu

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Raika tribes are a nomadic people, occupying the western districts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, including the Thar Desert.

- One estimate put their number at about 500,000, though Raikas many are abandoning the pastoralist way of life in the face of social, economic and legal pressures.
- They are known for their Arabian camels, or dromedaries, but many Raika families raise sheep and goats.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/the-peoples-biodiversity-register-meant-to-empower-local-communities-is-leaving-them-out/article32869691>

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**Q.3)** “The Global Biodiversity Outlook” is published by which of the following?

- a) IUCN
- b) UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- c) Global Environmental Facility
- d) World Bank

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties called for the preparation of a periodic report on biological diversity: the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO).

- It suggested that the GBO should provide a summary of the status of biological diversity and an analysis of the steps being taken by the global community to ensure that biodiversity is conserved and used sustainably, and that benefits arising from the use of genetic resources are shared equitably. Five editions of the report have been prepared.
- The Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 (GBO-5), published by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), offers an authoritative overview of the state of nature.
- It is a final report card on progress against the 20 global biodiversity targets agreed in 2010 with a 2020 deadline, and offers lessons learned and best practices for getting on track.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/pathways-to-diversity-the-hindu-editorial-on-un-biodiversity-summit/article32754839.ece> & <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/>

**Q.4)** “Sundaland” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Island archipelago of Pacific Ocean
- b) Coral Reef Islands
- c) Biodiversity Hotspot
- d) Newly discovered Island of Antarctica

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Sundaland covers a small portion of southern Thailand (provinces of Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat); nearly all of Malaysia (nearly all of Peninsular Malaysia and the East Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah in northern Borneo); Singapore at the tip of the Malay Peninsula; all of Brunei Darussalam; and all of the western half of the megadiversity country of Indonesia, including Kalimantan (the Indonesian portion of Borneo, Sumatra, Java, and Bali).

- The Nicobar Islands, which are under Indian jurisdiction, are also included. Sundaland is bordered by three hotspots.
- The boundary between the Sundaland Hotspot and the Indo-Burma Hotspot to the northwest is here taken as the Kangar-Pattani Line, which crosses the Thailand-Malaysia border.
- Wallacea lies immediately to the east of the Sundaland Hotspot, separated by the famous Wallace's Line, while the 7,100 islands of the Philippines Hotspot lie immediately to the northeast.

Source: <http://bsienvis.nic.in/files/Biodiversity%20Hotspots%20in%20India.pdf>

**Q.5)** Globally KBAs are designated based on 11 criteria defined under five broad categories. Which of the following is/are the category/categories?

1. Threatened biodiversity
2. Ecological Integrity
3. Environment Impact Assessment

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) is an umbrella term commonly used to include areas that contribute to the global persistence of biodiversity, including vital habitat for threatened plant and animal species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

- Globally KBAs are designated based on 11 criteria defined under five broad categories of threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability.
- The criteria for designating a site as KBA have been described in the document "The Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (2016)" by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Source: [http://www.wiienviis.nic.in/Database/Key\\_Biodiversity\\_Areas\\_8647.aspx](http://www.wiienviis.nic.in/Database/Key_Biodiversity_Areas_8647.aspx)

**Q.6)** "Ramsar Convention" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Wetland Conservation
- b) Climate Change
- c) Ocean Acidification
- d) Marine Pollution

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

Source: [http://www.wiienviis.nic.in/Database/ramsar\\_wetland\\_sites\\_8224.aspx](http://www.wiienviis.nic.in/Database/ramsar_wetland_sites_8224.aspx)

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

1. It is the world's oldest global environmental organization to promote nature conservation and the ecologically sustainable use of natural resources.
2. Every year, IUCN convenes the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set the global conservation agenda.

Which 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 IUCN is the world's oldest global environmental organization (both government and civil society organizations) to promote nature conservation and the ecologically sustainable use of natural resources.

- Every four years, IUCN convenes the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set the global conservation agenda.
- The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, founded in 1964, is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species.

Source: The Hindu

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**Q.8)** Which of the following is/are declared by state as protected areas for their adequate ecological, geo-morphological and natural significance?

1. National Parks
2. Wetlands
3. Estuaries

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 Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972 provided for the declaration of certain areas by the State Government as wildlife sanctuaries if the area was thought to be of adequate ecological, geo-morphological and natural significance.

The Wild Life (Protection) Act (WPA) of 1972 provided for the declaration of National Parks by the State Government in addition to the declaration of wildlife sanctuaries.

Source: Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding “Conservation Reserves”:

1. It is bought by amendment to Wild life protection act in 2003.
2. It is an area owned by the Central Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape and habitat of fauna and flora.

Which 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:** Conservation Reserve and Community Reserves are the outcome of Amendments to the Wild life protection act in 2003.

- The Amendment Act of 2003 provided for the creation of a new type of protected area called a Conservation Reserve.
- It is an area owned by the State Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape and habitat of fauna and flora.
- It is managed through a Conservation Reserve Management Committee.

Source: Shankar

**Q.10)** “Appiko movement” is started in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Sikkim
- c) Karnataka
- d) Odisha

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The famous Chipko Andolan (Hug the Trees Movement) of Uttarakhand in the Himalayas inspired the villagers of the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka Province in southern India to launch a similar movement to save their forests.

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- In September 1983, men, women and children of Salkani "hugged the trees" in Kalase forest. (The local term for "hugging" in Kannada is appiko.)
  - Appiko Andolan gave birth to a new awareness all over southern India.
- Source: NCERT

ForumIAS



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## *Environmental Legislations*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

1. It authorizes the central government to protect and improve environmental quality.
2. It lays down standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from various sources.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 authorizes the central government to protect and improve environmental quality, control and reduce pollution from all sources, and prohibit or restrict the setting and /or operation of any industrial facility on environmental grounds.

- The Environment (Protection) Act was enacted in 1986 with the objective of providing for the protection and improvement of the environment.
- It empowers the Central Government to establish authorities charged with the mandate of preventing environmental pollution in all its forms and to tackle specific environmental problems that are peculiar to different parts of the country. The Act was last amended in 1991.
- The Environment (Protection) Rules lay down procedures for setting standards of emission or discharge of environmental pollutants.
- The objective of Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 is to control the generation, collection, treatment, import, storage, and handling of hazardous waste.
- The Manufacture, Storage, and Import of Hazardous Rules define the terms used in this context, and sets up an authority to inspect, once a year, the industrial activity connected with hazardous chemicals and isolated storage facilities.

Source: <https://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/environment-1/forests/general-environmental-acts>

**Q.2)** “Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits” is associated with which of the following act?

- a) Biological Diversity Act 2002
- b) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- c) Public Liability Insurance Act and Rules 1991
- d) Forest Rights Act, 2006

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules provide for the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with it.

Source: <https://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/environment-1/forests/general-environmental-acts>

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**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding National Green Tribunal Act, 2010:

1. It was enacted for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests.
  2. The Tribunal bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- Which 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:** Under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multidisciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.

Source: <https://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/environment-1/forests/general-environmental-acts>

**Q.4)** Which of the following article/articles of Indian constitution deals with conservation of the forests?

1. Article 48A
2. Article 51A
3. Article 19

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** When the Constitution of India was adopted in 1950, the framers were not aware that in future the issues related to forest conservation may arise.

- This was realized later as the Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976 was made and Article 48A was added to the part of Directive Principles of State Policy and Article 51A as a fundamental duty of every citizen of India.
- As per Article 48A, the state shall make laws to protect and improve the environment to safeguard the forests of our country.
- According to Article 51A (g), it is the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including the forests of our country.

Source: <https://blog.ipleaders.in/need-know-forest-conservation-act-1980/>

**Q.5)** The Central Pollution Control Board was established according to which of the following act?

- a) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- b) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

d) National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), statutory organization, was constituted in September, 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Source: <https://cpcb.nic.in/Introduction/>

**Q.6)** Which of the following rights are covered under Forest Rights Act, 2006?

1. Title Rights
2. Use Rights
3. Relief & Development Rights
4. Forest Management Rights

Select the correct answer using the codes 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:** The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.

The forest management policies, including the Acts, Rules and Forest Policies of Participatory Forest Management policies in both colonial and post-colonial India, did not, till the enactment of this Act, recognize the symbiotic relationship of the STs with the forests, reflected in their dependence on the forest as well as in their traditional wisdom regarding conservation of the forests.

The act identifies four types of rights:

- Title rights
- Use rights
- Relief and development rights
- Forest management rights

Source: <https://tribal.nic.in/fra.aspx>.

**Q.7)** Which of the following is/are objectives of “Wild Life Protection Act, 1972”?

1. Protection and management of wildlife habitats
2. Establishment of protected areas
3. Prohibition of taxidermy
4. Regulation and control of trade in parts and products derived from wildlife

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** India has been implementing various laws to save the wildlife and the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 is one of them. THE OBJECTIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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- Prohibition of hunting
- Protection and management of wildlife habitats
- Establishment of protected areas
- Regulation and control of trade in parts and products derived from wildlife
- Management of zoos
- WLPA is also against taxidermy, which is the preservation of a dead wild animal as a trophy, or in the form of rugs, preserved skins, antlers, horns, eggs, teeth, and nails.

Source: Indian Express

**Q.8)** Which of the following statements is/are correct about “BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscape”?

1. It is a multilateral fund supported by donor governments.
2. It promotes reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector, from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+).

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:** The BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) is a multilateral fund, supported by donor governments and managed by the World Bank.

It promotes reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector, from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+), and from sustainable agriculture, as well as smarter land-use planning, policies and practices.

Source: UNCCD

**Q.9)** Which of the following Acts have been enacted by India for “conservation of the coastal and marine environment”?

1. Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
2. Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
3. National Biodiversity Act, 2002.

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 Marine Protected Area Network is a tool for managing natural marine resources for biodiversity conservation and for the well-being of people dependent on the resources.

The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, National Biodiversity Act, 2002 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been enacted by India for conservation of the coastal and marine environment along with the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, which also provides for establishment of wildlife protected areas (PAs) by state governments.

Source: Indian Express

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**Q.10)** The “Clean Seas Campaign” is often seen in news is launched by which of the following?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) UNEP

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** UN Environment (UNEP) launched Clean Seas (#CleanSeas on social media) in February 2017, with the aim of engaging governments, the general public and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic pollution.

- Over the next five years, we will address the root-cause of marine litter by targeting the production and consumption of non-recoverable and single-use plastic.
- To do this effectively, we need citizens to be aware, engaged and active in addressing the problem in their daily lives and beyond.

Source: UNEP

## *Revision*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following schedule of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 related to animals that can be hunted?

- a) Schedule II
- b) Schedule III
- c) Schedule IV
- d) Schedule V

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** schedule V contains animals that can be hunted. Examples of Schedule V species are mice, rat, common crow, fruit bats, etc.

Source: [http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/ScheduleSpeciesDatabase\\_7969.asp](http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/ScheduleSpeciesDatabase_7969.asp)

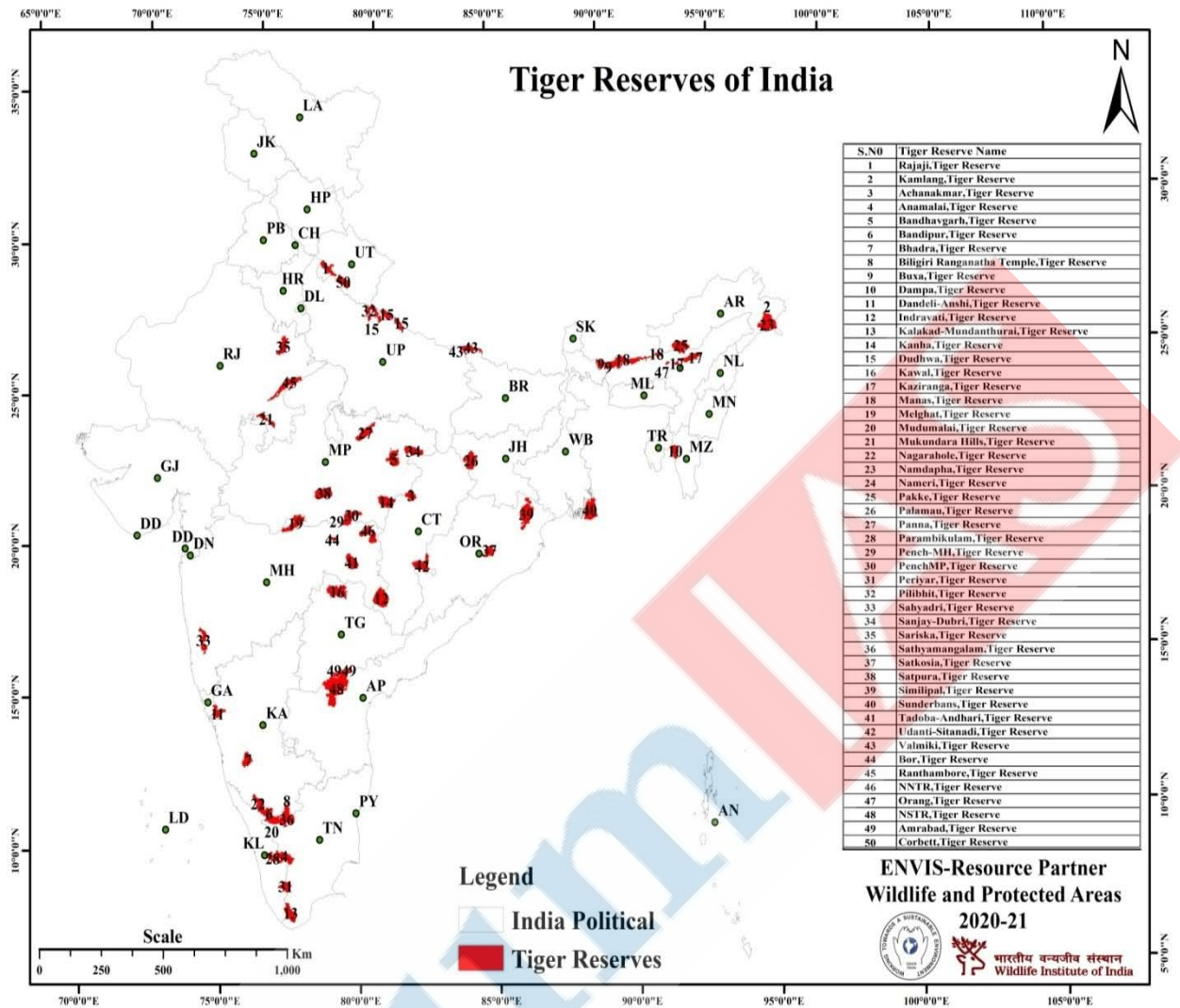
**Q.2)** Which of the following tiger reserve is Southern most?

- a) Periyar Tiger Reserve
- b) Kalakad – Muduntharai Tiger Reserve
- c) Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- d) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

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Source:

[http://wiienvs.nic.in/Database/trd\\_8222.aspx#Map showing Tiger Reserves in India](http://wiienvs.nic.in/Database/trd_8222.aspx#Map%20showing%20Tiger%20Reserves%20in%20India)

**Q.3)** The “Jambudweep” – is an Important Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Area is located in which of the following state?

- Kerala
- West Bengal
- Gujarat
- Andhra Pradesh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Jambudweep is a small island that is partly covered with thick mangroves. This mangrove island can be approached from Bakhali or Frazarganj, in District 24 Parganas.

- The climate is humid, like that of the mainland, and the island experiences a similar pattern of tidal influence. The entire Island is under the control of the forest department and is devoid of human habitations.
- The island harbors 7 species of mangrove and 12 mangrove-associated species, along with other terrestrial vegetation. Although there are no reports of turtle nesting, turtle sightings have been reported.

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- Being located in the Ganges fan, the site has been turbated by fishermen for commercially important fishes. Similarly sightings of porpoises and River Dolphins have also been reported often from around this site.
- The island and its vegetation provide a roost for a large number of seabird species. Fishing and fisheries-related activities are the main economic activities.
- The West Bengal Forest Department established a mangrove nursery and undertook extensive mangrove plantation in and around this island.

Source: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/ebsaws-2015-02/other/ebsaws-2015-02-india-submission1-en.pdf>

**Q.4)** Which of the following is located in Arunachal Pradesh?

1. Nameri National Park
2. Namdapha National Park
3. Mouling National Park

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

State	National Park	Year	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )
Arunachal Pradesh	Mouling	1986	483
	Namdapha	1983	1807.82
Assam	Dibru-Saikhowa	1999	340
	Kaziranga	1974	858.98
	Manas	1990	500
	Nameri	1998	200
	Rajiv Gandhi (Orang)	1999	78.81

Source: [http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/npa\\_8231.aspx](http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/npa_8231.aspx)

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding Dugong:

1. It is the only herbivorous mammal that is strictly marine and the only member of the Order Sirenia found in India.
2. It is also called as sea cow.

Which 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:** Dugong (Dugong dugon) is the only herbivorous mammal that is strictly marine and the only member of the Order Sirenia found in India.

- Dugongs are restricted to coastal shallow marine habitats and grazes on the sea grass meadows in coastal waters and are therefore called as “Sea Cows”.
- In India, it is one of the most seriously endangered species of large mammals.
- Dugongs are vulnerable to anthropogenic pressures as they are solely dependent on sea grasses in coastal areas, which now have been seriously damaged by mining, trawling etc.



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- Dugongs have also been hunted for their meat, oil, hides, bones and teeth.

Source:

[http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/SRP\\_8555.aspx#4](http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/SRP_8555.aspx#4). Dugong (click on name to go top)

**Q.6)** Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary & Tiger reserve often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- Mizoram
- Tripura
- Nagaland
- Arunachal Pradesh

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary and Pakke Tiger Reserve falls in the East Kameng district.

- Its Southern border merges with the inner line, State borderline between Assam and Arunachal.
- The tract of the protected area falls within the land area of Pakke river and Kameng river.
- It has an area of 861.95 Sq.Km with geographical variations of terai and rugged siwalik ranges.
- After a drive of about 3 hrs. from Itanagar through NH52 one reaches to a point known as CHHAIBARI and the take a right turn, passing through the plains, tea gardens and newly devastated forest vegetation of Assam covering a distance of 28 Km comes Seijusa in Arunachal.

Source: [http://arunachalforests.gov.in/pakke\\_wildlife\\_sanctuary.html](http://arunachalforests.gov.in/pakke_wildlife_sanctuary.html)

**Q.7)** Arrange the following acts of environment and biodiversity conservation in chronological order:

- Seeds Act.
- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.
- Forest (Conservation) Act.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 - 2 - 3
- 2 - 1 - 3
- 1 - 3 - 2
- 2 - 3 - 1

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Important acts related to environment and biodiversity conservation in India are:

- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
- Customs Act, 1962.
- Seeds Act, 1966.
- The Patents Act, 1970.
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Source: ENVIS

**Q.8)** Which of the following plant (s) is/are desert growing?

1. Cactus
2. Euphorbias
3. Sagebrush

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 desert flora is drought resistance such as cactus, euphorbias, sagebrush.

Fauna: Reptiles, Small Mammals and birds.

Source: NCERT

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding energy flow in ecosystem:

1. Energy always flows from lower to higher trophic level.
2. It never flows in the reverse direction.

Which 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:** Trophic level interaction deals with how the members of an ecosystem are connected based on nutritional needs.

- Energy flows through the trophic levels: from producers to subsequent trophic levels.
- This energy always flows from lower (producer) to higher (herbivore, carnivore etc.) trophic level.
- It never flows in the reverse direction that is from carnivores to herbivores to producers.

Source: NCERT

**Q.10)** Which of the following ways carbon is added to atmosphere in carbon biogeochemical cycle?

1. Respiration
2. Decomposition
3. Photosynthesis

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:** Carbon is present in the atmosphere, mainly in the form of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Carbon cycle involves a continuous exchange of carbon between the atmosphere and organisms.

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- Carbon from the atmosphere moves to green plants by the process of photosynthesis, and then to animals.
- By process of respiration and decomposition of dead organic matter it returns back to atmosphere. It is usually a short term cycle.

Source: NCERT

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## *Environmental Organizations*

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**Q.1)** CPCB has an automatic monitoring station at ITO Intersection in New Delhi. Which of the following is/are monitored at this station?

1. Resirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM)
2. Carbon Dioxide
3. Benzene

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** CPCB has an automatic monitoring station at ITO Intersection in New Delhi.

- At this station Resirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) are being monitored regularly.
- This information on Air Quality at ITO is updated every week.

Source: <https://cpcb.nic.in/Introduction/>

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI):

1. It was founded by Indira Gandhi.
2. It acts as a knowledge center to cultivate action-oriented research in areas of climate change, environment, energy, and sustainable development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Founded in 1974 by Mr Darbari S Seth & Dr R K Pachauri, TERI began as a knowledge center to cultivate action-oriented research in areas of climate change, environment, energy, and sustainable development.

- Over the last 40 years, the organization has worked with the government to create policies for energy conservation.
- On the other hand, it has worked at the grassroots, developing energy efficiency solutions for India's small and medium businesses.
- TERI has also worked intensively towards developing lighting and cooking solutions that have impacted over 4.5 million people in India and Africa.
- It has pioneered the use of biotechnology in the petroleum and agriculture sectors in India.
- It is globally distinguished for hosting the World Sustainable Development Conference, one of the largest international summits dedicated to accelerating the pursuit of sustainable development.

Source: <https://www.teriin.org/history>

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**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding Forest Survey of India (FSI):

1. It was established after enacting the Forest Act, 1927.
2. It is a premier national organization under Ministry of Agriculture.

Which 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:** Forest Survey of India (FSI), is a premier national organization under the union Ministry of Environment and Forests, responsible for assessment and monitoring of the forest resources of the country regularly.

- In addition, it is also engaged in providing the services of training, research and extension.
- Established on June 1 - 1981, the Forest Survey of India succeeded the "Preinvestment Survey of Forest Resources" (PISFR), a project initiated in 1965 by Government of India with the sponsorship of FAO and UNDP.
- The main objective of PISFR was to ascertain the availability of raw material for establishment of wood based industries in selected areas of the country.
- In its report in 1976, the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) recommended for the creation of a National Forest Survey Organization for a regular, periodic and comprehensive forest resources survey of the country leading to creation of FSI.
- After a critical review of activities undertaken by FSI, Government of India redefined the mandate of FSI in 1986 in order to make it more relevant to the rapidly changing needs and aspirations of the country.

Source: <https://fsi.nic.in/brief-history>

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA):

1. It was established in 2003 by the Central Government to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002).
2. Its headquarters is located in Chennai.

Which 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 Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 by the Central Government to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002).

- The NBA is a statutory body and that performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for Government of India on issue of Conservation, sustainable use of biological resource and fair equitable sharing of benefits of use.
- The NBA with its Headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India delivers its mandate through a structure that comprises of the Authority, secretariat, SBBs, BMCs and Expert Committees.
- Since its establishment, NBA has supported creation of SBBs in 28 States, facilitated establishment of around 2, 05,794 BMCs, and advised notification.

Source: <http://nbaindia.org/content/16/14/1/introduction.html>

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**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

1. It has been constituted under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
2. It is headed by Prime Minister of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has been constituted under section 38 L (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- Further, as per the section 38 L, sub section 2 of the said Act, the authority consists of the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Chairperson), the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Vice-Chairperson), three members of Parliament, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and other members.
- The authority derives its power from section 38 O (1) of WIPA, 1972 and functions under the guidance of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and members.

Source: <https://ntca.gov.in/about-us/#ministers>

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA):

1. It was constituted under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
2. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) acted as implementation arm of NGRBA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.

- It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.
- NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council) vide notification no. S.O. 3187(E) dated 7th October 2016 under EPA 1986. >> (Amendment) Order, 2nd September 2019

Source: [https://nmcg.nic.in/about\\_nmcg.aspx](https://nmcg.nic.in/about_nmcg.aspx)

**Q.7)** Consider the following statements regarding Animal Welfare Board of India:

1. It was established at the time of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
2. It was established through executive resolution.

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

- a) 1 only

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.

- Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (No. 59 of 1960), the Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.
- From ensuring that animal welfare laws in the country are diligently followed, to provide grants to Animal Welfare Organizations and advising the Government of India on animal welfare issues, the Board has been the face of the animal welfare movement in the country for the last 50 years.
- The Board consists of 28 Members. The term of office of Members is for a period of 3 years.

Source: <http://www.awbi.in/about.html>

**Q.8)** “Central Zoo Authority” was established under which of the following Act?

- a) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- b) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- c) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- d) National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Central Zoo Authority has been constituted under the section 38A of Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.

- The Authority consists of a Chairman, ten members and a Member Secretary.
- The main objective of the authority is to complement the national effort in conservation of wild life.

Source: <http://cza.nic.in/page/en/introduction>

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements regarding India Biodiversity Awards:

1. It was launched in 2012 to recognize excellence in biodiversity governance across the country.
2. It was launched by Ministry of Environment with the help of World Bank.

Which of 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:** India is one of the mega-diverse countries in the world and home to nearly eight percent of the world’s total recorded species of plants and animals.

- Across the country, people, communities and governments have played an outstanding and innovative role in conserving India’s rich heritage.
- Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in association with UNDP India, therefore, started the India Biodiversity Awards in 2012, to recognise excellence in biodiversity governance across the country.

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- The first round of Awards was launched in 2012 during India's Presidency of the Eleventh Meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The award selection process is conducted in partnership with the National Biodiversity Authority of India.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.10)** Which of the following institution (s) is/are collaborated to establish UN – REDD programme?

1. UNEP
2. IUCN
3. GEF

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: A**

**Explanation:** Three UN Agencies – United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – have collaborated in the establishment of the UN-REDD programme, a multi-donor trust fund that allows donors to pool resources and provide funding with the aim of significantly reducing global emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Source: Shankar



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## *Environmental Organizations*

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**Q.1)** Consider the following statements regarding “The Indian Network on Climate Change Assessment (INCCA)”:

1. It was launched at CoP – 21 of UNFCCC in 2019.
2. It was launched to assist the developing countries who are willing to join International Solar Alliance (ISA).

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 Network on Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) was launched in October 2009 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) in an effort to promote domestic research on climate change, and build on the country’s climate change expertise.

- INCCA is a network-based programme of the MoEF, which consists of over 120 institutions and over 250 scientists country wide is aimed at bringing in more science-based policy-making, based on measurements, monitoring and modeling.
- Reports prepared by the INCCA will form a part of India’s National Communication (Nat Com) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Source: Shankar

**Q.2)** Indian government created National Communications (NATCOM) to implement the provisions of which of the following?

- a) UNFCCC
- b) UNCBD
- c) Aichi targets
- d) Kyoto protocol

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In pursuance of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, India’s Initial National Communication (NATCOM) to the UNFCCC has been initiated in 2002 funded by the Global Environment Facility under its enabling activities programme through the United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi.

Source: Shankar

**Q.3)** “Emission Trading and Clean Development Mechanism” are often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) UNCCD
- b) Kyoto Protocol
- c) UNDP
- d) GEF

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**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Kyoto Protocol is made up of essential architecture that has been built and shaped over almost two decades of experience, hard work and political will. The beating heart of KP is made up of:

1. Reporting and verification procedures;
2. Flexible market-based mechanisms, which in turn have their own governance procedures; and
3. A compliance system.

The Kyoto Flexible Market Protocol mechanisms:

- Joint Implementation (JI)
- The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- Emission Trading

Source: Shankar

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding “Global Environment Facility (GEF)”:

1. It was established to provide funding to protect the global environment.
2. It was established by World Bank in consultation with UNFCCC and UNCBD.

Which 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 GEF was established in 1991 by the World Bank in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to provide funding to protect the global environment.

Source: GEF

**Q.5)** Which of the following famous organization logo is a Giant Panda?

- a) World Wildlife Fund or World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- b) International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The inspiration came from Chi-Chi: a giant panda that had arrived at the London Zoo in the year 1961, when WWF was being created. Aware of the need for a strong, recognizable symbol that would overcome all language barriers, WWF’s founders agreed that the big, furry animal with her appealing, black-patched eyes would make an excellent logo.

Source: Shankar

**Q.6)** Which of the following are the focal areas of Global Environment Facility (GEF) for climate finance?

1. Biological diversity
2. Climate change
3. Ozone layer depletion
4. Land degradation
5. Desertification

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The GEF's governance, operational, financial and administrative oversight procedures are set out in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, which was adopted in 1994 and subsequently amended in 2002 (GEF Instrument). The GEF now has six focal areas:

- biological diversity;
- climate change;
- international waters;
- land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation;
- ozone layer depletion; and
- persistent organic pollutants.

Source: GEF

**Q.7)** MARPOL Convention is related to which of the following?

- a) Sustainable use of marine resources
- b) Development of renewable energy on sea shores
- c) Prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships
- d) Ozone pollution & depletion

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.

- The MARPOL Convention was adopted on 2 November 1973 at IMO. The Protocol of 1978 was adopted in response to a spate of tanker accidents in 1976-1977.
- As the 1973 MARPOL Convention had not yet entered into force, the 1978 MARPOL Protocol absorbed the parent Convention. The combined instrument entered into force on 2 October 1983.
- In 1997, a Protocol was adopted to amend the Convention and a new Annex VI was added which entered into force on 19 May 2005. MARPOL has been updated by amendments through the years.
- The Convention includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships - both accidental pollution and that from routine operations - and currently includes six technical Annexes.

Source: Shankar

**Q.8)** Which of the following activities carried out by Wildlife Institute of India (WII)?

1. Training
2. Research
3. Employment
4. Consultancy services

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Build up scientific knowledge on wildlife resources. Train personnel at various levels for conservation and management of wildlife.

- Carry out research relevant to management including the development of techniques appropriate to Indian conditions.
- Provide information and advice on specific wildlife management problems.
- Collaborate with international organizations on wildlife research, management and training.
- Develop as a regional centre of international importance on wildlife and natural resource conservation.
- Publicity and consultancy services

Source: Shankar

**Q.9)** Which of the following convention is related to Persistent Organic Pollutants?

- a) Basel convention
- b) Paris convention
- c) Stockholm convention
- d) Rotterdam convention

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment.

- Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and damages to the central and peripheral nervous systems.
- Given their long range transport, no one government acting alone can protect its citizens or its environment from POPs.
- In response to this global problem, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004, requires its parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment.

Source: Stockholm Convention

**Q.10)** Which state in India deployed artificial reefs to protect the Islands?

- a) Odisha
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Sinking islands may become a reality with sea level rise and climate change in decades to come.

- Tamil Nadu has hit upon a novel idea to protect such islands on its coast – deployment of artificial reefs near vulnerable islands.
- Artificial reefs, made of concrete, have been found to be capable of preventing further erosion of ecologically sensitive islands and also regenerate coral biodiversity in the Gulf of Mannar region.

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- Vaan is one of the 21 islands in the Gulf of Mannar, which was declared marine biodiversity park in 1986.
- Indiscriminate mining of coral and use of destructive fishing practices in the past few decades have fully submerged two of the islands while Vaan was on the verge of submergence when the project began in 2015.
- Its area had been reduced from 16 hectares in 1986 to 2 hectares in 2014.

Source: The Hindu

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## *Climate Change*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following is/are the sources of methane?

1. Wetlands
2. Livestock
3. Wildfires

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:** Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is emitted by natural sources such as wetlands, as well as human activities such as leakage from natural gas systems and the raising of livestock. Smaller sources include termites, oceans, sediments, volcanoes, and wildfires.

Source: Shankar

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding “fluorinated gases”:

1. They have low global warming potentials (GWPs) relative to other greenhouse gases.
2. They are the most potent and longest lasting type of greenhouse gases emitted by human activities.

Which 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:** Fluorinated gases are emitted through a variety of industrial processes such as aluminum and semiconductor manufacturing & Substitution for Ozone-Depleting Substances.

- Many fluorinated gases have very high global warming potentials (GWPs) relative to other greenhouse gases. Fluorinated gases are well-mixed in the atmosphere, spreading around the world after they're emitted.
- Fluorinated gases are removed from the atmosphere only when they are destroyed by sunlight in the far upper atmosphere. In general, fluorinated gases are the most potent and longest lasting type of greenhouse gases emitted by human activities.

Source: Shankar

**Q.3)** Which of the following statement is NOT correct about black carbon?

- a) It warms the Earth by absorbing heat in the atmosphere and by reducing albedo.
- b) It disrupts cloudiness and monsoon rainfall and accelerates melting of mountain glaciers such as the Hindu Kush-Himalayan glaciers.
- c) Black carbon stays in the atmosphere for years.
- d) It is a form of particulate air pollutant, produced from incomplete combustion.

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**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Black carbon (BC) is a solid particle or aerosol, (though not a gas) contributes to warming of the atmosphere.

- Black carbon, commonly known as soot, is a form of particulate air pollutant, produced from incomplete combustion.
- It consists of pure carbon in several linked forms. Black carbon stays in the atmosphere for only several days to weeks.
- Thus the effects of BC on the atmospheric warming and glacier retreat disappear within months of reducing emissions.

Source: Shankar

**Q.4)** Arrange the following green house gases according to their global warming potential (GWP) in descending order:

1. Methane
2. Carbon Dioxide
3. Nitrous Oxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**

**GWP & Lifetime of Green House Gases:**

S. No	GAS	GWP (100-year)	LIFETIME (years)
1	Carbon di oxide	1	100
2	Methane	21	12
3	Nitrous oxide	310	120
4	Hydro fluoro carbons (HFCs)	140-11,700	1-270
5	Perfluoro carbons (PFCs)	6,500-9,200	800-50,000
6	Sulfur hexafluoride (SF <sub>6</sub> )	23,900	3,200

**Q.5)** “Coastal waters are also affected by excess nutrient inputs, mostly nitrogen, from agriculture, fertilizers and sewage” – describes which of the following?

- a) Eutrophication
- b) Bio-magnification
- c) Bio-accumulation
- d) Ocean Acidification

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Coastal waters are also affected by excess nutrient inputs, mostly nitrogen, from agriculture, fertilizers and sewage.

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The resulting eutrophication leads to large plankton blooms, and when these blooms collapse and sink to the sea bed the subsequent respiration of bacteria decomposing the algae leads to a decrease in sea water oxygen and an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> (a decline in pH).

Source: Shankar

**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding “upwelling zones”:

1. Surface Coastal regions periodically experience upwelling events where deeper ocean water circulates onto continental shelves and near-shore areas.
2. This exposes the productive upper ocean ecosystems to colder water containing more nutrients & more carbon dioxide.

Which 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:** UPWELLING: Surface Coastal regions periodically experience upwelling events where deeper ocean water circulates onto continental shelves and near-shore areas.

- This exposes the productive upper ocean ecosystems to colder water containing more nutrients & more CO<sub>2</sub>.
- As ocean acidification makes the upper oversaturated layer of sea water shallower each year, these natural upwelling events will more often cause under-saturated water to well up and flow to the shore.
- Coastal marine organisms that form shells are unaccustomed to such events, and periodic exposures to these significantly different conditions may affect these communities.

Source: Shankar

**Q.7)** “Saturation Horizon” mechanism is related to which of the following?

- a) Ocean acidification
- b) Conservation of Agriculture
- c) Carbon Storage
- d) Shifting of Monsoon

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Deep, cold ocean waters are naturally under saturated with carbonate ions causing the shells of most calcifying organisms to dissolve.

- Surface waters are over saturated with carbonate ions and do not readily dissolve shells of calcifying organisms.
- The saturation horizon is the level below which calcium carbonate minerals undergo dissolution.
- Those organisms that can survive below the saturation horizon do so due to special mechanisms to protect their calcium carbonate from dissolving.
- As ocean acidification causes this horizon to rise vertically in the water column so more and more calcifying organisms will be exposed to under saturated water and thus vulnerable to dissolution of their shells and skeletons.
- The saturation horizon of calcite occurs at a greater ocean depth than that for aragonite, but both horizons have moved closer to the surface presently when compared to the 1800s.

Source: Shankar



**Q.8)** Consider the following statements regarding “Ozone”:

1. It is a natural gas.
2. It is found in the stratosphere and troposphere.

Which 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:** Ozone is a natural gas; it is an allotrope of oxygen consisting of three atoms of oxygen bound together in a non-linear fashion. The chemical symbol of ozone is O<sub>3</sub>.

- It is found in two different layers of the atmosphere. Ozone in the troposphere is “bad” because it dirties the air and helps to form smog, which is not good to breathe.
- Ozone in the stratosphere is “good” because it protects life on Earth by absorbing some of the sun’s harmful Ultra Violet (UV) rays.
- The ozone layer is very important because the configuration of the ozone molecule and its chemical properties are such that ozone efficiently absorbs ultraviolet light, thus acting like a sun-screen.

Source: Shankar

**Q.9)** Chloro-flouro-carbons (CFCs) are used in which of the following?

1. Refrigerators
2. Foaming agents
3. Aerosol sprays

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:** CFCs molecules are made up of chlorine, fluorine and carbon. They are used as refrigerants, propellants in aerosol sprays, foaming agents in plastic manufacturing, fire extinguishing agents, solvents for cleaning electronic and metallic components, for freezing foods etc.

Two-thirds of CFC is used as refrigerants while one-third is used as blowing agents in foam insulation products.

Source: Shankar

**Q.10)** “The Umheher technique” is related to which of the following?

- a) Ozone measurement
- b) Soil health measurement
- c) Surface flow measurement
- d) Landslide measurement

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Umheher technique is the most common measure of total ozone abundance is the Dobson unit (named after the pioneering atmospheric physical Gordon Dobson) which is the thickness of the ozone column (compressed at Standard Temperature

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and Pressure (STP) in milli-centimeters. At STP one Dobson unit is equal to  $2.69 \times 10^{20}$  molecules per square meter.

Source: Shankar

ForumIAS

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## *Environment Impact Assessment*

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**Q.1)** “It defined as the study to predict the effect of a proposed activity/project on the environment” – describes which of the following?

- Carrying capacity
- Carbon storage
- Food chain
- Environment Impact Assessment

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Environment Impact Assessment or EIA can be defined as the study to predict the effect of a proposed activity/project on the environment.

A decision making tool, EIA compares various alternatives for a project and seeks to identify the one which represents the best combination of economic and environmental costs and benefits.

Source: <https://www.cseindia.org/understanding-eia-383>

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding “Environment Impact Assessment”:

- It was first introduced in Scandinavian countries.
- In India it was started by Department of Science and Technology with direction of planning commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** EIA as a mandatory regulatory procedure originated in the early 1970s, with the implementation of the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) 1969 in the US.

- A large part of the initial development took place in a few high-income countries, like Canada, Australia, and New Zealand (1973-74).
- However, there were some developing countries as well, which introduced EIA relatively early - Columbia (1974), Philippines (1978).
- The Indian experience with Environmental Impact Assessment began over 20 years back.
- It started in 1976-77 when the Planning Commission asked the Department of Science and Technology to examine the river-valley projects from an environmental angle.
- This was subsequently extended to cover those projects, which required the approval of the Public Investment Board.
- Till 1994, environmental clearance from the Central Government was an administrative decision and lacked legislative support.

Source: <https://www.cseindia.org/understanding-eia-383>

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**Q.3)** Which of the following act gives mandatory powers to assess a project/initiative under Environment Impact Assessment?

- a) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- b) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- c) Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986
- d) Forest Rights Act, 2006

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** On 27 January 1994, the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF), Government of India, under the Environmental (Protection) Act 1986, promulgated an EIA notification making Environmental Clearance (EC) mandatory for expansion or modernization of any activity or for setting up new projects listed in Schedule 1 of the notification.

Since then there have been 12 amendments made in the EIA notification of 1994.

Source: <https://www.cseindia.org/understanding-eia-383>

**Q.4)** “It refers to systematic analysis of the environmental effects of development policies, plans, programmes and other proposed strategic actions” – describes which of the following?

- a) Environment Impact Assessment
- b) Social Impact Assessment
- c) Strategic Environment Assessment
- d) Health Impact Assessment

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) refers to systematic analysis of the environmental effects of development policies, plans, programmes and other proposed strategic actions.

- This process extends the aims and principles of EIA upstream in the decision-making process, beyond the project level and when major alternatives are still open.
- SEA represents a proactive approach to integrating environmental considerations into the higher levels of decision-making.

Source: <https://www.cseindia.org/understanding-eia-383>

**Q.5)** Which of the following are the stages of part of Environment Impact Assessment cycle?

- 1. Screening
- 2. Scooping
- 3. Public Hearing
- 4. Appraisal
- 5. Termination

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 2006 has decentralized the environmental clearance projects by categorizing the developmental projects in two categories, i.e., Category A (national level appraisal) and Category B (state level appraisal).

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- Category A projects are appraised at national level by Impact Assessment Agency (IAA) and the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and Category B projects are appraised at state level.
- State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) are constituted to provide clearance to Category B process.

After 2006 Amendment the EIA cycle comprises of four stages:

- Screening
- Scoping
- Public hearing
- Appraisal

Source: <https://www.cseindia.org/understanding-eia-383>

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

1. They are microscopic plant organisms that live in both salty and fresh aquatic environments.
  2. Their total biomass is greater than plants on land.
- Which 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:** Derived from the Greek words phyto (plant) and plankton (made to wander or drift), phytoplankton are microscopic plant organisms that live in aquatic environments, both salty and fresh.

- Some phytoplanktons are bacteria, some are protists, and most are single-celled plants. Among the common kinds are cyanobacteria, silica-encased diatoms, dinoflagellates, green algae, and chalk-coated coccolithophores.
- Phytoplankton produce more than 60% of oxygen produced from all plants.
- Like land plants, all phytoplankton have chlorophyll to capture sunlight, and they use photosynthesis to turn it into chemical energy.
- They consume carbon dioxide, and release oxygen. All phytoplankton photosynthesize, but some get additional energy by consuming other organisms.
- These micro-algae are present throughout the lighted regions of all the seas and oceans including the Polar Regions.
- Their total biomass is many times greater than that of the total plants on land and they serve as the “pasture grounds” in the aquatic environment.

Source: Shankar

**Q.7)** Arrange the following in chronological order:

1. Environment Protection Act.
2. Wildlife Protection Act.
3. Project Tiger.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The adoption of a National Policy for Wildlife Conservation in 1970 and the enactment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act in 1972 lead to a significant growth in the protected areas network.

- From 5 national parks and 60 sanctuaries to a network of 669 Protected Areas with geographical area of the country, 4.92%.
- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched in April 1973 by the Government of India during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure.
- Environmental (Protection) Act 1986.

Source: Envis

**Q.8)** Which of the following is/are declared by state as protected areas for their adequate ecological, geo-morphological and natural significance?

1. National Parks
2. Biosphere reserves
3. Bird reserves

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 Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972 provided for the declaration of certain areas by the State Government as wildlife sanctuaries if the area was thought to be of adequate ecological, geo-morphological and natural significance.

The Wild Life (Protection) Act (WPA) of 1972 provided for the declaration of National Parks by the State Government in addition to the declaration of wildlife sanctuaries.

Source: Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

**Q.9)** Consider the following statements:

1. Slender loris (primate) found in the tropical rainforests of Southern India only.
2. The Indian star tortoise found only in scrub forests of India.

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:** Slender loris (primate) found only in the tropical rainforests of Southern India and Sri Lanka.

The Indian star tortoise found in scrub forests of India and Sri Lanka.

Source: WWF

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements regarding project elephant:

1. It was launched in 1992.
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme to assist states having free ranging populations of wild elephants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Project Elephant was launched in February, 1992 as centrally sponsored scheme to assist states having free ranging populations of wild elephants and to ensure long term survival of identified viable populations of elephants in their natural habitats.

- The Project is being mainly implemented in 13 States / UTs , viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- Small support is also being given to Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- States are being given financial as well as technical assistance in achieving the objectives of the Project.
- Help is also provided to other states with small populations of elephants for the purpose of census, training of field staff and mitigation of human–elephant conflict.

Source: Shankar

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## *Conservation Efforts (Environment)*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following International conventions/treaties is/are signed by India?

1. Ramsar Convention, 1971
2. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
3. Convention on Migratory Species, 1979

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** India is a member of all major international conservation treaties related to habitat, species and environment (like Ramsar Convention, 1971; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973; Convention on Migratory Species, 1979; Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992, among others).

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/forests/wildlife-conservation-in-india-are-we-really-serious--51505>

**Q.2)** Buxa tiger reserve is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Bihar
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Once famous for dolomite mining, Buxa was declared a tiger reserve in 1983 and got the status of National park in 1992.

- Located in the Assam-Bhutan border, Buxa has an area of 745 sq km, the largest forest in North Bengal.
- The park holds the maximum number of elephant, Indian bison, leopard, many species of deer and many smaller mammals, innumerable species of birds and reptiles.
- Buxa is rich with biodiversity and has a great collection of rare orchids and medicinal plants.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.3)** In which of the following states/union territories is/are snow leopard found?

1. Jammu & Kashmir
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Uttar Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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



**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Snow leopard is the icon of high mountains of Asia.

- In India, they inhabit the higher Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan landscape in an altitudinal range between approximately 3,000 m to 5,400 m above MSL, spanning c. 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the five states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- This area contributes to about 5% of the global snow leopard range.
- Long term research and conservation efforts in India have made it one of the best researched snow leopard range countries in the world.

Source: <http://164.100.117.97/WriteReadData/userfiles/SPAI.pdf>

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding Great Indian Bustard (GIB):

1. It is found in Rajasthan and Gujarat only.
2. WWF-India, is undertaking initiatives towards conservation of GIB in and around Desert National Park.

Which 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:** Historically, the great Indian bustard was distributed throughout Western India, spanning 11 states, as well as parts of Pakistan.

- Its stronghold was once the Thar Desert in the north-west and the Deccan plateau of the peninsula.
- Today, its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small population occurs in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- WWF-India has provided inputs in developing the 'Guidelines for the State Action Plan for Resident Bustard Recovery Programme'.
- It has played an important role in raising awareness about the declining populations and highlighting the importance of implementing a focused bustard conservation programme at the national level.
- WWF-India, is undertaking initiatives towards conservation of GIB in and around Desert National Park.

Source:

[https://www.wwfindia.org/about\\_wwf/priority\\_species/threatened\\_species/great\\_indian\\_bustard/](https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/priority_species/threatened_species/great_indian_bustard/)

**Q.5)** Consider the following statements regarding Sangai Deer:

1. It is found in Keibul Lamjao National Park only.
2. It is a state animal of Manipur.

Which 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 brow-antlered deer is found in Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur. It is largely seen over the floating biomass, locally called “phumdi” in the South Eastern part of Loktak Lake inside the park.

- The park covers an area of 40 km<sup>2</sup> and the home range of the deer in the park is confined to 15–20 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Phumdi is the most important and unique part of Sangai’s habitat. It is the floating mass of entangled vegetation formed by the accumulation of organic debris and biomass with soil.
- The sangai is an endemic and endangered subspecies of brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur, India. It is also the state animal of Manipur.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/manipurs-sangai-deer-needs-a-new-home/article9973347.ece>

**Q.6)** “Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary” is part of crocodile conservation project is located in which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Odisha

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Project Crocodile was introduced in 1975. The primary focus was on breeding and rearing in captivity.

- The initiative was taken by the Government of India in association with the Food and Agriculture Organization and United Nations Development Fund.
- Due to the implementation of this project, there is an increase in the population of crocodiles, which has saved them from extinction.
- The protected areas include National Chambal Sanctuary and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in the Upper Gangetic plain in Uttar Pradesh, India and covers an area of 400.6 km<sup>2</sup> in the Terai of the Bahraich district.

Source: <https://blog.ipleaders.in/top-5-conservation-projects-wildlife-india/>

**Q.7)** Which of the following initiatives are covered under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)?

1. Perform Achieve and Trade
2. Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency
3. Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEP)
4. Framework for Energy Efficient Economic Development (FEEED)

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 National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE), which seeks to strengthen the market for energy efficiency by creating conducive regulatory and policy regime.

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- NMEEE has been envisaged to foster innovative and sustainable business models to the energy efficiency sector.
- The NMEEE seeks to create and sustain markets for energy efficiency in the entire country which will benefit the country and the consumers”.

Four New Initiatives to Enhance Energy Efficiency:

- Perform Achieve and Trade
- Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency
- Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEP)
- Framework for Energy Efficient Economic Development (FEEED)

Source: Shankar

**Q.8)** “Global Animal Protection Index” is released by which of the following institute?

- WEF
- GEF
- World Animal Protection
- UNDP

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** India is one of the better-performing countries in the global Animal Protection Index 2020, created by international animal welfare charity, World Animal Protection.

- The Animal Protection Index (API) aims to showcase where countries are doing well, and where they fall short on animal welfare policy and legislation, so they can take steps to improve.
- The index ranks countries from A (being the highest score) to G (being the weakest score) according to their policy and legislation.
- India has attained a C ranking in the index, along with countries like New Zealand, Mexico, France, and Spain.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.9)** Which of the following is/are principle agents of Acid rain?

1. Sulfuric Acid
2. Carbon dioxide
3. Nitric Acid

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The term ‘acid rain’ refers to the deposition of wet or dry acidic materials from the atmosphere on the earth’s surface.

- Although most conspicuously associated with rainfall, the pollutants may fall on the earth’s surface either in the form of snow, sleet, hail or fog or in the dry form of gases or particulate matter.
- Sulphuric acid and nitric acid is considered as the principal agents responsible for acid rain. But the major culprits are human beings.
- Smokes emitted from the industries are the major source of sulphur dioxide whereas smokes emitted from the motor vehicle is the major source of nitrogen oxide.
- These emissions mixed with atmospheric moisture from the sulphuric acid and nitric acids which, sooner or later precipitate on earth in various form.

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Source: NCERT

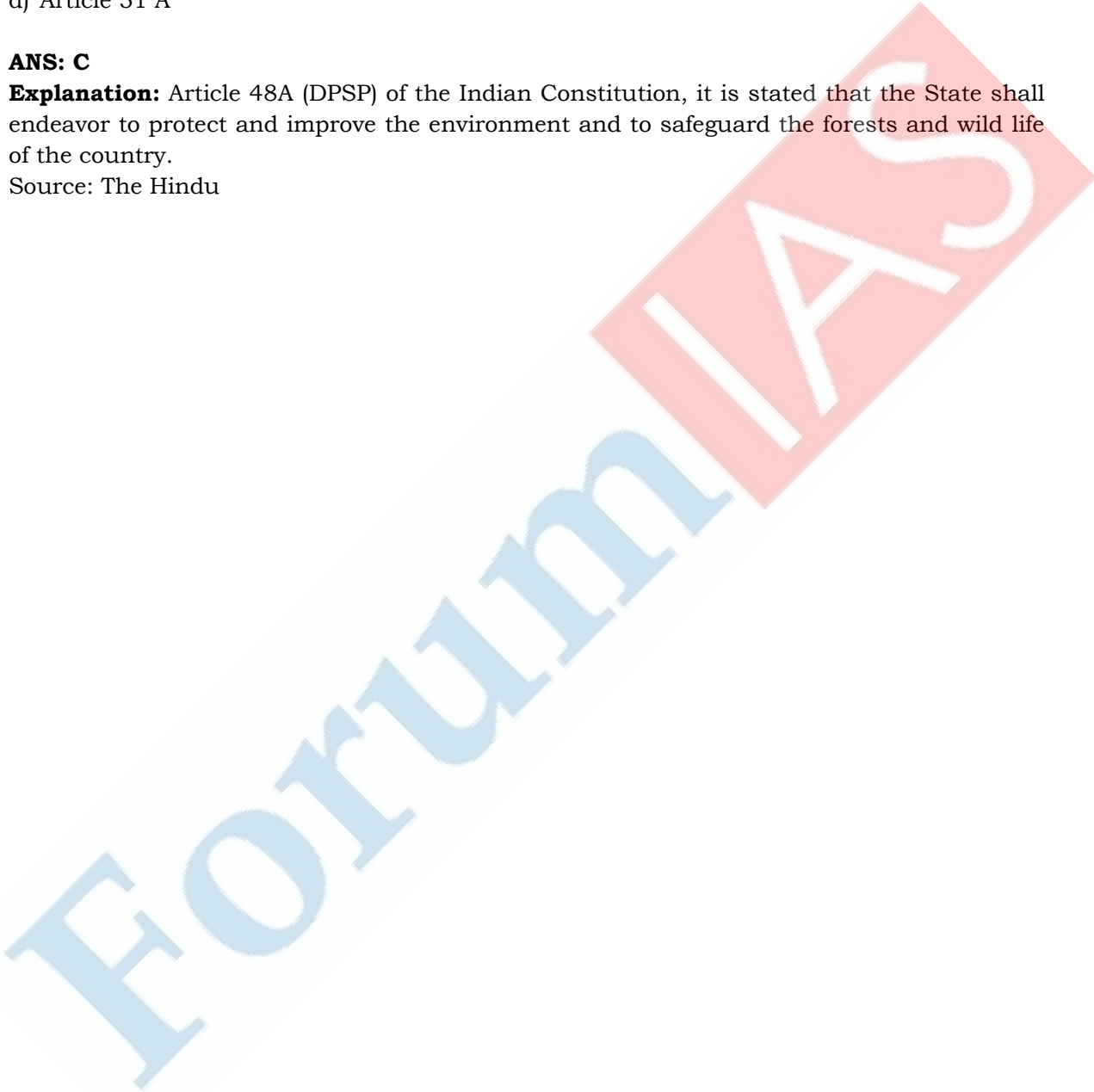
**Q.10)** Which Article of Indian Constitution states that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country?

- a) Article 42 A
- b) Article 45 A
- c) Article 48 A
- d) Article 51 A

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Article 48A (DPSP) of the Indian Constitution, it is stated that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country.

Source: The Hindu



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## *Environment*

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**Q.1)** Which of the following subspecies of tiger is/are NOT extinct?

1. Sumatran
2. Bali
3. Javan

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 scientific name for the tiger is *Panthera tigris*.

- There are eight subspecies of tiger: among the eight, at present five subspecies are present in the wild.
- They are - Bengal, South China, Indochinese, Sumatran, and Siberian.
- Three subspecies of tiger—Caspian, Bali, and Javan—are extinct.

Source: Shankar page no: 187

**Q.2)** “Pugmark Census Technique” is used to estimate the population of which of the following specie?

- a) Tiger
- b) Great Indian Bustard
- c) Elephants
- d) Indian Hangul

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The process of estimating the number of tigers in a given area is called ‘Tiger census.’

- This exercise provides us with an estimate of tiger number, density and change in tiger indices - a measure of tiger occupancy in a given area.
- It is conducted at regular intervals to know the current tiger populations and population trends.
- Besides estimating the number of tigers the method also helps to gather information on the density of the tiger populations and associated prey.
- The most commonly used technique in the past was ‘Pugmark Census Technique’.
- In this method the imprints of the pugmark of the tiger were recorded and used as a basis for identification of individuals.
- Now it is largely used as one of the indices of tiger occurrence and relative abundance.

Source: Shankar page no: 188

**Q.3)** “Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve” is the largest tiger reserve in India is located in which of the following state (s)?

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

d) Tamil Nadu

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Nagarjunsagar-Srisaïlam Tiger Reserve is the largest tiger reserve in India.

- The reserve spreads over five districts, Kurnool District, Prakasam District, Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh and Nalgonda District and Mahbubnagar district of Telangana state.
- The total area of the tiger reserve is 3,728 km<sup>2</sup>.

Source: ENVIS

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements regarding "Green Climate fund":

1. It was established at CoP – 21 of UNFCCC.
2. It funds both developed and developing countries green projects.

Which 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:** At COP 16, Parties established a Green Climate Fund (GCF) as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention under Article 11.

The GCF will support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing country Parties. The Fund will be governed by the GCF Board.

Source: Shankar page no: 255

**Q.5)** The Loess Plateau – climate smart agriculture is worldwide famous for its success. In which of the following country it was implemented?

- a) Vietnam
- b) Taiwan
- c) China
- d) Tunisia

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Climate-smart agriculture gives attention to landscape approaches, for example, integrated planning of land, agriculture, forests, fisheries and water to ensure synergies are captured.

- These can be further strengthened by adding better weather forecasting, more resilient food crops and risk insurance to cover losses when the vagaries of weather strike.
- If yields increase through such practices and become more stable, it results in improved farm incomes. A more stable income helps enhance the adaptive capacity of farmers.
- A good number of countries are now showing that it can be done.
- China has been a leader in this, with programs such as the Loess Plateau now internationally famous.

Source: Shankar page no: 263

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**Q.6)** Consider the following statements regarding IPCC:

1. It does not conduct any research nor does it monitor climate related data or parameters.
2. Review is an essential part of the IPCC process, to ensure an objective and complete assessment of current information

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The IPCC is a scientific body. It reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of climate change.

- It does not conduct any research nor does it monitor climate related data or parameters.
- Thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC on a voluntary basis.
- Review is an essential part of the IPCC process, to ensure an objective and complete assessment of current information.

Source: Shankar page no: 263

**Q.7)** National Green House Gas Inventories Programme (NGGIP) was established by which of the following institution?

- a) World Bank
- b) UNEP
- c) IPCC
- d) GEF

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The IPCC established the national green house gas Inventories Programme (NGGIP) to provide methods for estimating national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions to, and removals from, the atmosphere.

The guidance produced by the NGGIP is used by countries that are Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to estimate the emissions and removals that they report to the UNFCCC.

Source: Shankar page no: 264

**Q.8)** “Global Stocktake” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) UNFCCC
- b) WTO
- c) World Bank
- d) UNCTAD

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** GST refers to proposed five-yearly-review of the impact of climate change action undertaken by countries.

- Under the Paris Agreement, each country has to present a climate action plan every five years.
- Under the Paris Agreement, the first global stocktake will happen in 2023.
- It will help world to determine whether it needs to do more and how much more.

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Source: Shankar page no: 259

**Q.9)** “FAME India scheme” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Street lights
- b) Smart agriculture
- c) Smart fans
- d) Electric & Hybrid vehicles

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles (FAME India) scheme rolled out in april, 2015 by Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

- The scheme will help promote use of electric and hybrid vehicles, and initially, a subsidy of 30% will be provided to the buyers.
- Phased replacement of fossil fuel-based vehicles with those based on latest technologies will lead to a net saving of Rs 14,000 crore.
- The scheme is proposed to be implemented over six years, till 2020, which looks at sales of electric and hybrid vehicles up to 60-70 lakh units per year.

**Q.10)** Which of the following pollutants are notified under “National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)”?

1. Sulphur Dioxide
2. Nitrogen Dioxide
3. Arsenic
4. Nickel
5. Carbon Monoxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were notified in the year 1982, duly revised in 1994 based on health criteria and land uses.

The NAAQS have been revisited and revised in November 2009 for 12 pollutants, which include

- sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>),
- nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>),
- particulate matter having size less than 10 micron (PM<sub>10</sub>),
- particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron (PM<sub>2.5</sub>),
- ozone,
- lead,
- carbon monoxide (CO),
- arsenic,
- nickel,
- benzene,
- ammonia, and
- benzopyrene.

Source: The Hindu



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## *Revision*

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**Q.1)** “Dobson Unit” is the measurement unit for which of the following?

- a) Ozone concentration
- b) Solar concentration
- c) Lake purity
- d) Warming potential measurement

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Dobson Unit is the most common unit for measuring ozone concentration. One Dobson Unit is the number of molecules of ozone that would be required to create a layer of pure ozone 0.01 millimeters thick at a temperature of 0 degrees Celsius and a pressure of 1 atmosphere.

Source: NOAA

**Q.2)** Consider the following statements regarding “Petersburg Dialogue”:

1. It was started in 2010 by Russia.
2. It is an informal annual meeting to have constructive exchanges on the issues of international climate actions.

Which 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:** Petersburg Dialogue was launched in 2010 by Germany after failed climate negotiations at the 2009 Copenhagen Summit.

- It is an informal annual meeting of the high-level ministers and representatives of various countries that enables them to have constructive exchanges on the issues of international climate actions.
- The co-chair of the Climate Dialogue is the country presiding over the next conference of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Source: The Hindu

**Q.3)** The term “Southern Annular Mode” is often seen on news is associated with which of the following?

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) Antarctic Oscillation
- c) Pacific Gyres
- d) Temperate cyclones

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Southern Annular Mode (SAM), also known as the Antarctic Oscillation (AAO), refers to the (non-seasonal) north-south movement of the strong westerly winds that blow almost continuously in the mid- to high latitudes of the southern hemisphere.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021**

**Q.4)** “Agasthyavanam biological Park” is recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Agasthyavanam was established in 1997, Agasthyavanam Biological Park is a wildlife sanctuary in Kerala.

- The park is located near Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala.
- Agasthyavanam Biological Park is spread over an area of 23 sq. km., of which 17.5 sq. km. of the park has been dedicated for natural regeneration to develop into a dense forest.
- It is contiguous to Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary and Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The rest area of the park is left for systematic conservation programs.
- The park has been named after the Agasthyamalai Agasthyakoodam Peak, which can be seen at a distance from the park.
- Forest Department is procuring forest produce collected by the tribes people of the Agasthyavanam Biological Park (ABP) and surrounding forest ranges to be sold to commercial establishments and various collectives to deal with the lockdown necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic

Source: The Hindu

**Q.5)** The “Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)” is sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) UNEP Finance Initiative
- b) Global Environment Facility
- c) World Bank Climate Financing Unit
- d) AIIB

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) was created in 2015 by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) to develop consistent climate-related financial risk disclosures for use by companies, banks, and investors in providing information to stakeholders.

- Increasing the amount of reliable information on financial institutions’ exposure to climate-related risks and opportunities will strengthen the stability of the financial system, contribute to greater understanding of climate risks and facilitate financing the transition to a more stable and sustainable economy.
- Following the publication of the final recommendations by FSB’s TCFD in June 2017, UNEP FI began a series of ‘TCFD Pilot Projects’ for banks, investors, and insurers. Participants in these pilots have worked to pioneer practical approaches for the assessment and disclosure of climate risks and opportunities.

Source: World Bank

**Q.6)** Recently researchers have found a dragon tree species for the first time in which of the following state?

- a) Odisha
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Mizoram

d) Assam

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Assam has added to India's botanical wealth a plant that yields dragon's blood — a bright red resin used since ancient times as medicine, body oil, varnish, incense and dye.

- A trio of researchers led by Assam forest officials has discovered *Dracaena cambodiana*, a dragon tree species in the Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong.
- This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India.
- *Dracaena cambodiana* is an important medicinal plant as well as an ornamental tree.
- It is a major source of dragon's blood, a precious traditional medicine in China.

Several antifungal and antibacterial compounds, antioxidants, flavonoids, etc., have been extracted from various parts of the plant.

Source: The Hindu

**Q.7)** Which of the following are the key dimensions of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)?

1. Water efficiency
2. Improved farm practices
3. Access to information
4. Agriculture insurance

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The NMSA has identified 10 key dimensions for adaptation and mitigation:

- Improved Crop Seeds, Livestock and Fish Culture
- Water Efficiency
- Pest Management
- Improved Farm Practices
- Nutrient Management
- Agricultural Insurance
- Credit Support
- Markets
- Access to Information
- Livelihood Diversification

Source: Shankar page no: 239

**Q.8)** The grey slender loris is often seen in news is a?

- a) Sea mammal
- b) Butterfly species
- c) Primate
- d) Insect

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The gray slender loris (primate) is found in India and Sri Lanka. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests and subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests. It is threatened by habitat loss.

Source: Shankar page no: 220

**Q.9)** Which of the following institutions are involved in monitoring the ozone layer?

1. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
2. World Weather Watch (WWW)
3. Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

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: D**

**Explanation:** Some organizations that help in monitoring the atmosphere and form a network of information's communication about the atmosphere, including ozone layer monitoring are:

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- World Weather Watch (WWW)
- Integrated Global Ocean Services Systems (IGOSS)
- Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

Source: Shankar page no: 217

**Q.10)** "Nameri tiger reserve" is located in which of the following state?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Assam
- c) Mizoram
- d) Uttarakhand

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Nameri Tiger Reserve (declared in 1999-2000) is located in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur district of the state of Assam.

- It is on the interstate border with Arunachal Pradesh. The Pakke Tiger Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh adjoins it on its north-eastern point.
- The river Jia-Bhareli (a tributary of Brahmaputra River) with its tributaries, the Nameri, Upper Dikorai and Bor Dikorai flow through the Reserve.
- Besides Tiger, the reserve is also home to the sambar, barking deer, wild boar and bison.

Source: The Hindu

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## *Environment Pollution & Issues*

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**Q,1)** “State of Global Air” is recently in news is released by?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Health Effects Institute
- c) UNEP
- d) World Bank

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Long-term exposure to outdoor and household air pollution contributed to over 1.67 million annual deaths from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases and neonatal diseases in India in 2019, according to the State of Global Air 2020 by the U.S.-based Health Effects Institute.

Overall, air pollution was now the largest risk factor for death among all health risks, the report noted.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/air-pollution-now-biggest-health-risk-in-india-says-report/article32912916.ece>

**Q,2)** Consider the following statements:

1. According to IQAir, New Delhi was the world’s most polluted capital in 2020.
2. Report is based on the calculation of PM 2.5.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** New Delhi was the world’s most polluted capital for the third straight year in 2020, according to IQAir, a Swiss group that measures air quality levels based on the concentration of lung-damaging airborne particles known as PM2.5.

- India was home to 35 of the world’s 50 most polluted cities, according to IQAir’s 2020 World Air Quality Report, which gathered data for 106 countries.
- The findings were based on the country’s annual average of particulate matter PM2.5, airborne particles with less than 2.5 microns in diameter.
- Prolonged exposure to PM2.5 can lead to deadly diseases, including cancer and cardiac problems.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/new-delhi-is-worlds-most-polluted-capital-for-third-straight-year-iqair-study-7230892/>

**Q,3)** Consider the following statements regarding particulate matter:

1. PM2.5 and PM10 are mixture of solid and liquid particles generally having diameters of or less than 2.5 and 10 micrometers.
2. The common chemical composition of particulate matter includes nitrates, sulfates, ammonium, and also metals and biological components.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> are mixture of solid and liquid particles generally having diameters of or less than 2.5 and 10 micrometers— smaller than the diameter of a single strand of average human hair, which is about 70 micrometers.

- The 24 hour exposure limit of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in India is 60 micrograms per cubic meter air (ug/m<sup>3</sup>), while that of PM<sub>10</sub> is 100 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.
- At the three highly polluted areas in Delhi between 12PM Thursday and Friday, the levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> had reached 500 ug/m<sup>3</sup> or close to it.
- These particulates are emitted from various sources and can be inhaled, causing serious health problems.
- Their physical and chemical characteristics vary by location, and common chemical composition includes nitrates, sulfates, ammonium, and also metals and biological components.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-as-pollution-peaks-in-delhi-a-look-at-pollutants-you-should-be-worried-of-6853273/>

**Q,4)** Which of the following is/are common source/sources of Particulate Matter?

1. Combustion of petrol & diesel engines
2. Combustion of solid fuel for energy production
3. Erosion of pavement by road traffic

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Combustion of diesel and petrol in engines, combustion of solid fuel for energy production, construction and industrial activities, and erosion of pavement by road traffic are some of the primary sources of PM, but they are also formed in the atmosphere through chemical reaction of gaseous pollutants.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-as-pollution-peaks-in-delhi-a-look-at-pollutants-you-should-be-worried-of-6853273/>

**Q,5)** Consider the following statements regarding Ammonia:

1. It occurs naturally in air, soil and water, and is used as an agricultural fertilizer and in cleaning products.
2. Short-term inhalation of high levels of ammonia can cause irritation and serious burns in the mouth, lungs and eyes.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) is another gaseous pollutant that is monitored, whose 24-hour exposure limit is 400 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

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- The average 24-hour range of NH<sub>3</sub> as of 1pm on Friday at the three highly polluted areas in Delhi was between 9 and 28 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, as per CPCB data.
- The EPA states that ammonia occurs naturally in air, soil and water, and is used as an agricultural fertiliser and in cleaning products.
- Short-term inhalation of high levels of ammonia can cause irritation and serious burns in the mouth, lungs and eyes.
- Chronic exposure to airborne ammonia can increase the risk of respiratory problems, including impaired lung function.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-as-pollution-peaks-in-delhi-a-look-at-pollutants-you-should-be-worried-of-6853273/>

**Q,6)** Consider the following statements regarding Sulfur Dioxide:

1. China is the largest emitter of Sulfur dioxide pollution.
2. Largest source of SO<sub>2</sub> in atmosphere is burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter emitted from combustion of fossil fuels have, historically, been the main components of air pollution in many parts of the world.

- A Greenpeace report from 2019 had found that India was the largest emitter of SO<sub>2</sub> in the world due to burning of coal.
- The EPA states that largest source of SO<sub>2</sub> in atmosphere is burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities.
- Short-term exposure to SO<sub>2</sub> can harm respiratory system, making breathing more difficult.
- SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the air can also lead to formation of other sulphur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), which can react with other compounds in the atmosphere and form particulate matter.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-as-pollution-peaks-in-delhi-a-look-at-pollutants-you-should-be-worried-of-6853273/>

**Q,7)** Which of the following is/are the applications of fly ash?

1. Fly ash bricks are light in weight and offer high strength and durability.
2. It can be used in reclamation of wastelands.
3. It can increase the crop yield and it also enhances water holding capacity of the land.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Cement can be replaced by fly ash up to 35%, thus reducing the cost of construction, making roads, etc.

- Fly ash bricks are light in weight and offer high strength and durability.

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- Fly ash is a better fill material for road embankments and in concrete roads.
- Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands.
- Abandoned mines can be filled up with fly ash.
- Fly ash can increase the crop yield and it also enhances water holding capacity of the land.

Source: Shankar page no: 58

**Q,8)** Consider the following statements regarding “National Air Quality Index”:

1. It was launched in April, 2019 starting with 14 cities to disseminate air quality information.

2. Carbon monoxide and Particulate Matter 2.5 are part of National Air Quality Index.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** National Air Quality Index was launched by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 14 cities to disseminate air quality information.

- The AQI has six categories of air quality, viz Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe with distinct colour scheme.
- Each of these categories is associated with likely health impacts.
- AQI considers eight pollutants (PM10, PM 2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3 and Pb) for which (up to 24-hourly averaging period) National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.

Source: Shankar page no: 61

**Q,9)** The terms “Biological Oxygen Demand, Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Chemical Oxygen Demand” are related to which of the following?

- a) Green House Gases
- b) Water Pollution
- c) Air Pollution
- d) Soil Pollution

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The higher amounts of waste increases the rates of decomposition and O<sub>2</sub> consumption, thereby decreases the DO content of water.

- The demand for O<sub>2</sub> is directly related to increasing input of organic wastes and is expressed as biological oxygen demand (BOD) of water.
- Water pollution by organic wastes is measured in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).
- BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water. It is expressed in milligrams of oxygen per litre of water.
- The higher value of BOD indicates low DO content of water. Since BOD is limited to biodegradable materials only. Therefore, it is not a reliable method of measuring pollution load in water.
- Chemical oxygen demand (COD) is a slightly better mode used to measure pollution load in water.



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- It is the measure of oxygen equivalent of the requirement of oxidation of total organic matter (i.e. biodegradable and non-biodegradable) present in water.

Source: Shankar page no: 63

**Q,10)** “The methaemoglobinemia” symptoms are due to which of the following?

- Fluorides
- Cadmium
- Lead
- Nitrate

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Excess nitrate in drinking water reacts with hemoglobin to form non-functional methaemoglobin, and impairs oxygen transport. This condition is called methaemoglobinemia or blue baby syndrome.

Source: Shankar page no: 64

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## *International Environmental Conventions*

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**Q,1)** “The Ban Amendment” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Rotterdam Convention
- b) Basel Convention
- c) Paris Convention
- d) Stockholm Convention

**ANS: B**

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

- Croatia became the 97th country to ratify the ban, which was adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention in 1995, to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes, according to Basel Action Network (BAN).
- BAN is a United States-based charity organisation and is one among the organisations and countries, which created the Basel Ban Amendment — hailed as a landmark agreement for global environmental justice.
- The Ban Amendment had been stalled for all these years due to uncertainty over how to interpret the Convention.
- It will become a new Article in the Convention and will enter into force in the 97 countries after 90 days.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/waste/basel-ban-amendment-becomes-law-66651>

**Q,2)** Which of the following waste/wastes is/are prohibited under Basel Convention?

- 1. Toxic factory waste
- 2. Old computers waste
- 3. Obsolete ships

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Ban Amendment, adopted in 1994, effectively bans, as of 1 January, 1998, all forms of hazardous waste exports from the 29 wealthiest countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD countries.

- But the Ban Amendment had been stalled for all these years due to uncertainty over how to interpret the Convention.
- The Ban Amendment ensures that developing countries are not convenient dumping grounds for toxic factory waste, obsolete ships containing asbestos or old computers coming from affluent countries.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/indepth/basel-final-day-rich-nations-cant-dump-toxic-waste-on-poor-nations--34313>

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021**

**Q,3)** Which of the following protocol/protocols is/are comes under Convention on Biological Diversity?

1. Kyoto protocol
2. Cartagena protocol
3. Nagoya protocol

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Convention on Biological Diversity Protocols is:

- The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
- The Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety
- The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety

Source: <https://www.cbd.int/convention/protocols/>

**Q,4)** “Espoo Convention” is recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Environmental Impact Assessment
- b) Global Warming
- c) Ocean Acidification
- d) Migratory species

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Delhi high court has extended the period of public consultation on the draft of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification 2020, released by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, until August 11, 2020.

- The extension reiterates the established principles of public participation in environmental governance.
- The EIA Notification 2020, which will supersede 2006 notification, has come under severe criticism from environmentalists who have demanded its early withdrawal.
- Indeed, the draft notification’s regression and dilution of environmental criteria conflict with the established principles of international law.
- The public participation and modalities in EIA have been elaborated at the International level in the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context (“Espoo Convention”).

Source: <https://thewire.in/environment/draft-environment-impact-assessment-notification-international-law>

**Q,5)** Consider the following statements regarding Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):

1. It places full responsibility on producer Party for managing wildlife trade sustainably and preventing illegal trade.
2. It contains five lists of species with respect to degree of trade & protection.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Concerned about the overexploitation of many vulnerable species as a result of unregulated international trade, governments adopted the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

- The treaty entered into force in 1975 and now has 183 Parties. The Convention places a joint responsibility on producer and consumer Parties for managing wildlife trade sustainably and preventing illegal trade.
- CITES regulates international trade in over 36,000 species of plants and animals, including their products and derivatives, ensuring their survival in the wild with benefits for the livelihoods of local people and the global environment.
- The animals and plants protected by CITES are known as CITES-listed species because they are included on three lists approved by the Parties called CITES Appendices.
- CITES protects these species from being excessively traded and exploited illegally and unsustainably in the wild as their extinction would have irreversible ecological consequences and negative economic and social effects.
- The CITES permit system seeks to ensure that international trade in listed species is sustainable, legal and traceable.

Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php>

**Q,6)** Which of the following is/are migratory animal/animals found in India?

1. Asian Elephant
2. Great Indian Bustard
3. Bengal florican
4. Smooth hammerhead shark

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** With new additions to the wildlife list put out by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), scientists say that the total number of migratory fauna from India comes to 457 species. Birds comprise 83% (380 species) of this figure.

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) had for the first time compiled the list of migratory species of India under the CMS before the Conference of Parties (COP 13) held in Gujarat recently.
- It had put the number at 451. Six species were added later. They are the Asian elephant, great Indian bustard, Bengal florican, oceanic white-tip shark, urial and smooth hammerhead shark.
- “We had compiled a list of the 451 species of migratory animals found in India. With the addition of new species to the CMS Appendices, the number is now 457,” said Kailash Chandra, ZSI director.
- Globally, more than 650 species are listed under the CMS appendices and India, with over 450 species, plays a very important role in their conservation.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-is-host-to-457-migratory-fauna-shows-latest-cms-list/article30958132.ece>

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**Q,7)** “Minamata Convention” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Cadmium
- b) Nitrate
- c) Mercury
- d) Arsenic

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Union cabinet approved on February 2018, a proposal for ratification of the Minamata Convention, a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects of mercury.

- After joining the Convention, it will now be easier for India to get technological or financial assistance to address issues related to mercury.
- “The approval entails ratification of the Minamata Convention on mercury along with flexibility for continued use of mercury-based products and processes involving mercury compound up to 2025,” an official statement said.
- The government stressed that the convention will “urge enterprises to move to mercury-free alternatives in products and non-mercury technologies in manufacturing processes” and will “drive research and development, and promote innovation”.
- “The convention will be implemented in the context of sustainable development with the objective to protect human health and environment from the anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds,” the statement added.
- Till now, the convention has 88 ratifications and 144 signatories including India, which signed it on 30 September 2014. India had actively participated in the negotiating process, making significant contributions in finalizing the treaty text but had not ratified it till now.
- India’s neighbors – Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan – are also signatories to the convention. But only Sri Lanka has ratified it.
- In October 2013, at a conference in Kumamoto (Japan), the convention was formally adopted. The major highlights of the convention include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, the phase-out and phase-down of mercury use in a number of products and processes.
- It also addresses interim storage of mercury and its disposal once it becomes waste, and sites contaminated by mercury as well as health issues.
- Mercury is considered by experts to be one of the most toxic metals known.
- Once released into the environment, mercury bio-accumulates and bio-magnifies in the food chain, and easily enters the human body and impacts the nervous system.
- The treaty aims at protecting human health and the environment from its adverse effects.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Union-cabinet-approves-ratification-of-Minamata-Convention.html>

**Q,8)** “Waterfowl Habitat” is related to which of the following?

- a) Ramsar Convention
- b) Washington Convention
- c) Bonn Convention
- d) World Heritage Convention

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971.

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Source: <https://biodiversitya-z.org/content/convention-on-wetlands-of-international-importance-especially-as-waterfowl-habitat-ramsar-convention>

**Q,9)** Which of the following is/are outcome of earth summit?

1. Agenda 21.
2. Forest principles.
3. Nagoya protocol.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21
- Forest Principles

Source: Shankar page no: 325

**Q,10)** Which of the following are priority areas of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)?

1. Biodiversity
2. Climate change
3. Sustainable energy
4. Ocean acidification
5. Agriculture conservation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** IUCN was founded in October 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (or IUPN) following an international conference in Fontainebleau, France.

The organization changed its name to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1956 with the acronym IUCN (or UICN) with its head quarters in Gland, Switzerland.

Priority Areas of IUCN:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Sustainable energy
- Human well-being
- Green economy

Source: Shankar page no: 335

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## *National Institutions & Environmental Organizations*

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**Q,1)** Consider the following statements regarding Botanical Survey of India:

1. It was established after the Non Cooperation Movement.
2. It was established with the objectives of exploring the plant resources of the country and identifying plant species with economic virtue.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was established in 1890 with the objectives of exploring the plant resources of the country and identifying plant species with economic virtue.

- In 1954, the Government reorganized the BSI with the objectives of (1) undertaking intensive floristic surveys and collecting accurate and detailed information on the occurrence, distribution, ecology and economic utility of plants in the country;
- (2) collecting, identifying and distributing materials that may be of use to educational and research institutions;
- and (3) acting as the custodian of authentic collections in well planned herbaria and documenting plant resources in the form of local, district, state and national flora.

Source: <https://bsi.gov.in/page/en/brief-history#>

**Q,2)** Consider the following statements regarding Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE):

- 1 It as an umbrella organization for taking care of forestry research, education and extension needs of the country.
2. It is an autonomous Council under the then Ministry of Environment and Forests and registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The journey of ICFRE was initiated way back towards the end of the nineteenth century with the advent of scientific forestry in India and the establishment of the Forest School in Dehradun in 1878.

- It was on 5th June 1906 subsequently that the Imperial Forest Research Institute was founded by Government of India for taking forward forestry research in the country.
- In 1986 the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education or ICFRE was formed as an umbrella organisation for taking care of forestry research, education and extension needs of the country.

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- Finally on 1st June 1991, the ICFRE was declared an autonomous Council under the then Ministry of Environment and Forests and registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- Presently, ICFRE with its Headquarters at Dehradun is an apex body in the national forestry research system that promotes and undertakes need based forestry research extension.

Source: <https://www.icfre.org/history>

**Q,3)** Which of the following famous personality is one of the founders of Bombay Natural History of Science (BNHS)?

- a) Atmaram Pandurang
- b) Subhash Chandra Bose
- c) Gopala Krishna goakhle
- d) Rukminidevi arundale

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In 1883, eight nature-loving residents of Bombay decided to exchange notes and exhibit interesting specimens of natural history.

They came together at Bombay's Victoria and Albert Museum on September 15 and constituted the Bombay Natural History Society. Of them, two were Indians.

### THE FOUNDERS

In 1883, eight nature-loving residents of Bombay decided to exchange notes and exhibit interesting specimens of natural history. They came together at Bombay's Victoria and Albert Museum on September 15 and constituted the Bombay Natural History Society. Of them, two were Indians.

Dr. D. MacDonald

Mr. E. H. Aitken

Col. C Swinhoe

Mr. J. C. Anderson

Mr. J Johnston

Dr. Atmaram Pandurang

Dr. GA Maconochie

Dr. Sakharam Arjun

Source: <https://www.bnhs.org/who-we-are>

**Q,4)** Consider the following statements regarding Zoological Survey of India:

1. It was established at the time period of Lord Curzon.
2. It was established to promote survey, exploration and research leading to the advancement in our knowledge of various aspects of exceptionally rich life.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) was established on 1st July, 1916 to promote survey, exploration and research leading to the advancement in our knowledge of various aspects of exceptionally rich life of the erstwhile British Indian Empire.

- The survey has its genesis in the establishment of the Zoological Section of the Indian Museum at Calcutta in 1875.



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- By gradually strengthening its staff and expanding its research program, the Survey has met the challenge of the past and is on its way to meet the demands of the future. It has maintained its primary objectives unchanged from its inception...
- Initially, the Survey acquired the Zoological collections of more than a century old from former Museum (1814 -1875) of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and Zoological Section of the Indian Museum (1875-1916) in Calcutta.
- With the increasing interest in the life sciences and with the advent of country's Five Year Plans, the expansion programme of the survey was initiated.
- The Survey has established so far 16 Regional and Field Stations, and has developed into a major National Institution.
- It functions as the guardian of the National Zoological Collections, containing over a million identified specimens from all animal groups ranging from Protozoa to Mammals.
- Extensive and intensive field explorations are undertaken by the Survey in different parts of the country for the studies of fauna, systematic zoology, animal ecology, wildlife and zoogeography, animal behavior, animal population and also marine fauna and the results of the explorations and research are published in its own journals as well as National and International periodicals of repute regularly.

Source: <https://zsi.gov.in/App/Introduction.aspx?nr=n>

**Q,5)** Consider the following statements regarding “Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986”:

1. The genesis of the Act lies in Article 48A and Article 51A (g) of the Indian Constitution.
2. It has relaxed the rule of “Locus Standi” and a common citizen can approach the Court with respect to environment protection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** As compared to all other previous laws on environment protection, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is a more effective and bold measure to fight the problem of pollution.

- The genesis of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, thus, is in Article 48A (Directive Principles of State Policy) and Article 51A (g) (Fundamental Duties) of the Indian Constitution.
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has relaxed the rule of “Locus Standi” and because of such relaxation even a common citizen can approach the Court provided he has given a notice of sixty days of the alleged offence and his intention to make a complaint to the Central Government or any other competent authority.

Source: Shankar page no: 298

**Q,6)** “The state shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forest and wildlife of the country” is describes which of the following article of Indian constitution?

- a) Article 39A
- b) Article 44
- c) Article 48A
- d) Article 51A (G)

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**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The provisions for environmental protection in the constitution were made within four years of Stockholm Conference, in 1976, through the 42nd amendment as follows:

- Article-48-A of the constitution provides: "The state shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forest and wildlife of the country."
- Article 51-A (g) Provides: It shall be duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures."

Source: Shankar page no: 297

**Q,7)** Consider the following statements regarding "National Green Tribunal":

1. It was created for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
2. It is mandated to dispose the cases within six months of their respective appeals.

Which 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 Preamble of the act provides for the establishment of a National Green Tribunal for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources, including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010).

NGT is mandated to dispose the cases within six months of their respective appeals.

Source: Shankar page no: 310

**Q,8)** Consider the following statements regarding "National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP)":

1. It was created by the provisions of the wildlife protection act, 1972.
2. The first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) was adopted in 1983.

Which 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 first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) was adopted in 1983, based upon the decision taken in the XV meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife held in 1982. The plan had outlined the strategies and action points for wildlife conservation which are still relevant.

Source: Shankar page no: 313

**Q,9)** Consider the following statements regarding "Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)":

1. It was created under the provisions of the forest conservation act, 1980.

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2. Resources realized from diverting forest resources to commercial purpose should be used for afforestation.

Which 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:** While according prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose, Central Government stipulates conditions that amounts shall be realised from the user agencies to undertake compensatory afforestation and such other activities related to conservation and development of forests, to mitigate impact of diversion of forest land.

Source: Shankar page no: 314

**Q,10)** “Cartagena Protocol” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Sustainable agriculture
- b) Renewable energy
- c) Bio-safety
- d) Ozone layer protection

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety is an additional agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- The Protocol establishes procedures for regulating the import and export of LMOs from one country to another.
- The Protocol also requires Parties to ensure that LMOs being shipped from one country to another are handled, packaged and transported in a safe manner.

Source: Shankar page no: 327

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## *Prehistoric India & Indus Valley Civilization*

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**Q,1)** Who among the following has discovered what was probably the first Paleolithic tool discovered in India — the Pallavaram hand-axe?

- a) Robert Bruce Foote
- b) Max Muller
- c) Alexander Cunningham
- d) James Princep

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The history and identity of human settlements in India go back to prehistoric times.

- The credit for doing an early extensive study of Indian pre-history go to Robert Bruce Foote, who discovered what was probably the first Paleolithic tool discovered in India — the Pallavaram hand-axe.
- Later, he discovered a large number of pre-historic sites in South India.

Source: Tamil Nadu Old NCERT

**Q,2)** Microlithic tools are mainly associated with which of the following cultural period?

- a) Paleolithic
- b) Mesolithic
- c) Neolithic
- d) Chalcolithic

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The characteristic tools of this age were microliths (miniature stone tools usually made of crypto-crystalline silica, chalcedony, or chert, both of geometrical and non-geometrical shapes).

They were not only used as tools in themselves but also to make composite tools, spearheads, arrowheads, and sickles after hafting them on wooden or bone handles.

Source: Tamil Nadu Old NCERT

**Q,3)** “Maski, Brahmagiri, Piklihal and Budihal” sites are mainly associated with which of the following?

- a) New Stone Age
- b) Copper Age
- c) Bronze Age
- d) Iron Age

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In northern India, the Neolithic age emerged around c.8000–6000 BCE.

- At some places in south and eastern India, it is as late as 1000 BCE.
- Its significance in pre-history can be gauged by the fact that V. Gordon Childe termed the Neolithic phase as Neolithic Revolution.
- Maski, Brahmagiri, Piklihal (proof of cattle herding), Budihal (community food preparation and feasting), and Tekkalakota in Karnataka are the important sites of Neolithic age.

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Source: Tamil Nadu Old NCERT

**Q,4)** Consider the following statements regarding Harappan Civilization:

1. Harappans diet consists of vegetarian items only.
2. Harappan writing was boustrophedon.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Harappans relished non-vegetarian food. Fish-eating was common. Milk and curd was also consumed.

- The Harappan societies of Sindh and Punjab largely consumed wheat and barley while those of Rangpur and Surkotda consumed rice and millets.
- The Harappan script was pictographic and logosyllabic (each symbol stood for a word/syllable).
- Harappan writing was boustrophedon, that is to say, right to left and left to right in alternate lines. The Harappan script has not been deciphered so far.

Source: Tamil Nadu Old NCERT

**Q,5)** Consider the following pair of craft material and Harappan site:

Site	Material
1. Rajasthan	: Copper
2. Shortughai	: Lapis lazuli
3. Balakot	: Shell

Which of the pair above given is/are correctly matched?

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Craft production was an important part of the Harappan economy. Bead and ornament making, shell bangle making and metalworking were the major crafts.

- They made beads and ornaments out of carnelian, jasper, crystal, and steatite, metals like copper, bronze and gold and shell, faience and terracotta or burnt clay.
- The beads were made in innumerable designs and decorations. They were exported to Mesopotamia and the evidence for such exported artefacts has been found from the excavations in Mesopotamian sites.
- Certain Harappan sites specialized in the production of certain craft materials. The following table presents the major centres of craft production.

Material	Site or Source
Shell	Nageshwar and Balakot
Lapis lazuli	Shortughai
Carnelian	Lothal
Steatite	South Rajasthan
Copper	Rajasthan and Oman

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

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**Q.6)** The term 'Zebu' is sometimes seen while studying Indus Valley Civilization is used for?

- a) Cattles
- b) Shell Bangle making Factories
- c) Weight measuring tools
- d) Burnt Bricks

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Pastoralism was also practised by the Harappans. They domesticated sheep, goat and fowl.

- They had knowledge of various other animals including buffalo, pig and elephant. But horse was not known to them.
- The Harappan cattle are called Zebu. It is a large breed, often represented in their seals.
- They also ate fish and birds. Evidence of boar, deer and gharial has been found at the Harappan sites.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q.7)** Consider the following pairs:

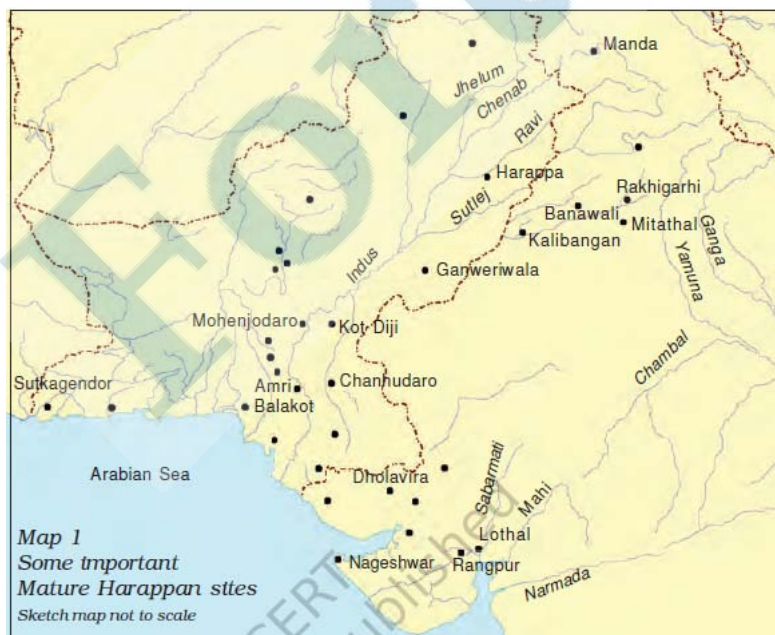
River	Harappan Site
1. Indus	Harappa
2. Sabarmati	Lothal
3. Ravi	Rakhigarhi

Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The map below shows the location of major harappan sites with respective rivers.



Source: Themes in Indian History-1 page 2

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**Q,8)** The only well known Hominin, the fossil of immediate ancestor of Homo sapiens is found at which of the following location?

- a) Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh
- b) Hunsgi Valley, Karnataka
- c) Pallavaram near Chennai
- d) Hathnora, Madhya Pradesh

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Unlike Africa, evidence of hominin [immediate ancestor of Homo sapiens] fossil is rare in India.

- There is a report of a fossil fragment discovered by Robert Bruce Foote from Athirampakkam.
- Its whereabouts are not known now. The only well-known hominin fossil of India was found at Hathnora near Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh.
- The cranium is named Narmada human. A partly preserved hominid skull cap was found in a basal conglomerate deposit in 1982.
- It is considered to represent the Archaic Homo sapiens. It is the only existing fossil find of human ancestors in India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q,9)** Which of the following Neolithic site is located in North-eastern India?

- a) Mehrgarh
- b) Palavoy
- c) Daojali Hading
- d) Ganweriwala

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In north-eastern India, Neolithic culture appears at to a very late period. The Neolithic cultures of north-eastern India generally date from 2500-1500 BCE or even later.

- Shouldered axes and splayed celts have been found at the sites in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. Daojali Hading and Sarutaru are the Neolithic sites in the Assam region.
- This region bears evidence for shifting cultivation. Cultivation of yams and taro, building stone and wooden memorials for the dead, and the presence of Austro-Asiatic languages are the marked features of this region, which shows cultural similarities with South-east Asia.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q,10).** Consider the following statements regarding Ochre Coloured Pottery Ware Culture:

1. It dates to Chalcolithic period.
  2. Ochre colour comes when the pottery is touched.
- Which 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:** Ochre Coloured Pottery Ware culture is found in northern India dating to the Chalcolithic period.

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- The OCP pottery has red slip and appears ochre in colour (the ochre colour comes off when the pottery is touched) and hence, it is called Ochre Coloured Pottery.
- It has black painted designs. The OCP comes in the form of jars, storage jars, bowls, and basins.
- The OCP culture dates to 2600- 1200 BCE and is found in the Indo- Gangetic plain and may have had some associations with early Vedic culture.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

ForumIAS



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## *Early & Later Vedic Civilization*

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**Q,1)** Central Asia is the homeland of the Aryans – is propounded by which of the following?

- a) Sir William Jones
- b) Max Muller
- c) Dr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- d) Swami Dayanand Saraswati

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Central Asia is the homeland of the Aryans – was propounded by Max Mueller.

- With the comparative study of the Avesta (Iranian text) and the Vedas, one finds striking linguistic relationship between them of not just words but of concepts too.
- The interchangeability between 'h' and 's' and incredible consistency in this change as hepta hindu (sapta sindhu), Ahura (asura), haoma (soma), daha (dasa) further substantiate the claim.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

**Q,2)** Consider the following statements regarding Rig Veda:

1. It has been included by the UNESCO in the list of literature signifying World Human Heritage.

2. Ayurveda is the upveda of Rig Veda.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Rig Veda is a collection of 1,028 hymns, divided into 10 Mandals (books).

- They are the earliest compositions and hence, they depict the life of the Early Vedic people in India.
- Recently, the Rig Veda has been included by the UNESCO in the list of literature signifying World Human Heritage.
- The priests related to the Rig Veda are Kotri or Motri, and the Upveda of the Rig Veda is the Ayurveda.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

**Q,3)** Consider the following statements regarding Sama Veda:

1. It is the collection of verses mostly taken from the Rig Veda, but arranged in a poetic form to facilitate singing.

2. It is a collection of 1,810 melodies, and also contains the famous Dhrupada raga, later sung by Tansen.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

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**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Sama Veda is the collection of verses mostly taken from the Rig Veda, but arranged in a poetic form to facilitate singing.

- It is a collection of 1,810 melodies, and also contains the famous Dhrupada raga, later sung by Tansen.
- The Upveda of the Sama Veda is the (Gandharva Veda). Recensions (Shakhas) of the Sama Veda are Kauthuma, Jaiminiya (Talavakara), and Ranayaniya.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

**Q,4)** Which of the following dwell on the “Atman and Brahman”, and focus a lot on the philosophy about life, universe, self, body, sacrifice, etc.?

- a) Rig Veda
- b) Upanishads
- c) Aranyakas
- d) Brahmanas

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The literal meaning of Upanishad is to sit near someone. There are 108 Upanishads, of which 13 are the most prominent.

- The Upanishads dwell on the Atman and Brahman, and focus a lot on the philosophy about life, universe, self, body, sacrifice, etc.
- They emphasize that the knowledge of the self or atman should be acquired and that the relation of the atman with the Brahman should be properly understood.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

**Q,5)** Consider the following pairs:

<b>Text</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
1. Samhita	Main collection of hymns
2. Brahmanas	Forest books
3. Upanishads	Philosophical enquiries

Which of the pairs 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: C**

**Explanation:** The main collections of Vedic hymns are called samhitas. The Rig Vedicsamhita is the earliest text. The Rig Veda is dated to between 1500 and 1000 BCE. The Rig Veda contains 10 books.

- Samhitas are ritualistic texts, and they explain the social and religious importance of rituals. Each samhita has added texts called brahmanas, which have commentaries on the hymns and rituals.
- Each brahmana has an aranyaka (forest text) and an upanishad. The aranyakas contain mystical ritual instructions to be undertaken in secret by the sages who live in the forests. Upanishads deal with philosophical enquiries.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

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**Q,6)** Which of the following text is contemporary to Vedas?

- a) Zend Avesta
- b) Pyramid texts
- c) Sumerian Literature
- d) Quran

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Zend Avesta is a Persian/Iranian text of Zoroastrianism. This book speaks about the lands and gods of the people speaking the Indo-Iranian languages.

- It has references to the regions of northern and north-western parts of India. It has terms which show linguistic similarity with the Vedas.
- This text is indirect evidence that the early home of the Aryans was outside the Indian subcontinent.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q,7)** The 'urn' burial system is evident at which of the following site?

- a) Koldhihwa
- b) Mehrgarh
- c) Adichanallur
- d) Lothal

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The burial system followed by the people of Neolithic period continued into the Megalithic period.

- A circular tomb using big stone slabs built upon the place of burial is known as a megalith. Such megaliths have been found in many parts of Tamil Nadu.
- The urn burial system was another type of practice and is evidenced in Adichanallur (present Thoothukudi district). Black-ware is peculiar to burial sites in Tamil Nadu.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q,8).** The term 'Gavishthi' used in Rig veda is related to which of the following?

- a) Cows
- b) War
- c) Wheat
- d) Land

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Cattle rearing were an important economic activity for the Aryans, although they practiced agriculture. Cattle were considered wealth.

- The term for war in the Rig Veda was gavishthi which means search for cows (which is the contemporary term (goshti) for factions as well).
- The donations to the priests were mainly cows and women slaves but not land, which reveals the importance of pastoralism. There was no private property in land.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q,9)** Consider the following pairs:

1. Senani - chief of the army
2. Bali – war
3. Purohita - governor

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 only

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The polity of the Rig Vedic period was that of a tribal society. The chief of the tribe was the main political head and he was called rajan.

- The purohita or priest offered advice to the king. Vedic priests advised the kings, inspired them and praised their deeds. In turn they received rewards for their services.
- Senani was the chief of army.
- There is no evidence of tax collecting officers. Perhaps people made voluntary contribution called bali to the king. Some scholars say that bali was an imposed tax, and not voluntary.
- There is no reference to the administration of justice.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.

**Q,10)** In which of the following text, kshatriyas are placed higher than brahamans?

- a) Panchavimsan Brahamana
- b) Satapatha Brahamana
- c) Manduka Upanishad
- d) Raghuvamsa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In later Vedic phase, striking changes took place in the Varna System. There was an increase in the privileges of the two higher classes, the Brahmanas and the Kshatriyas at the cost of the Vaisyas and Sudras.

- In the Panchavimsa Brahmna, the Kshatriya is placed first, higher than the Brahmana but in the Satapatha Brahmna, the Brahmana is placed higher than Kshatriya.
- In later Vedic society the importance of the purohita (priest) is stressed, as mentioned in the Vedic texts.
- The Kshatriyas challenged Brahmanical supremacy and their exclusive privilege of entering the asramas, a regulated four stage life namely brahmacharya, grihasta, vanaprastha and sanyasa.
- The outcome of this was the birth of Jainism, Buddhism and Ajivakam.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class 11.