

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

May, 2021

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Science & Technology

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Polar Motion:

1. Melting of glacial ice and changes in stored underground fresh water can cause changes in Polar Motion.
2. It describes the movement of the Earth's rotation axis w.r.t the Earth surface

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Changes in how much fresh water is stored underground affects polar drift, too. Once this groundwater is pumped up to the surface for use as drinking water or for agriculture, it eventually flows into rivers and oceans, redistributing that water weight on Earth's surface.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a periodic rotation of the Earth's spin axis about a mean axis, somewhat like the wobble of a spinning top.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Gravity Recovery And Climate Experiment (GRACE) mission:

1. Mission included twin spacecrafts that flew around the Earth.
2. It was a joint mission between NASA & Roscosmos.
3. It provided key insights into where dry soils are contributing to drought around the world.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment, or GRACE, mission flew twin spacecraft in tandem around Earth to study key changes in the planet's waters, ice sheets and the solid Earth.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** it was joint mission under NASA & German Aerospace Center
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Among its innovations, GRACE has monitored the loss of ice mass from Earth's ice sheets, improved understanding of the processes responsible for sea level rise and ocean circulation, provided insights into where global groundwater resources may be shrinking or growing and where dry soils are contributing to drought, and monitored changes in the solid Earth

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Q.3) India is prone to earthquakes. In this respect, consider the statements below:

1. Epicentre is the point where energy is released during an earthquake.
2. National Center for Seismology (NCS), under ISRO, is the nodal agency for monitoring earthquake activity in India.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

• **Statement 1 is incorrect:**

- **Focus:** The point where the energy is released is called the focus of an earthquake. It is also called the Hypocentre.
- **Epicentre:** The energy waves travelling in different directions reach the surface. The point on the surface, nearest to the focus, is called the Epicentre.

• **Statement 2 is incorrect:** NCS works under Ministry of Earth Sciences

Q.4) Which of the following is/are correct properties of the new strain of virus classified as Variants of Concern (VoC)?

1. increase in transmissibility
2. less effective against antibodies generated due to infection or vaccination
3. An increased ability to cause severe/life-threatening disease

Answer using the codes given below

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. In many countries, including India the VOC, by virtue of increased transmissibility, has started off a new wave(s) of epidemic transmission.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Immune to antibodies generated by previous vaccination or infection: Most vaccines were made using antigens made from D614G variant. However, these vaccines show low efficacy on the South African, Brazil and UK variants. Hence, reinfection can occur in spite of immunity provided by earlier D614G infection or vaccination.

Statement 3 is correct. Virulence: It is the ability to cause severe/life-threatening disease. The UK variant has the worse virulence. The South Africa and Brazil variants do not seem to have higher virulence.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Pyrolysis**

1. It is a process of chemically decomposing materials at high temperatures
2. In this process the oxygen is used to attain high temperatures

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2

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- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation:

- **Pyrolysis** is a process of chemically decomposing organic materials at elevated temperatures in the absence of oxygen.
- The process typically occurs at temperatures above 430 °C (800 °F) and under pressure.
- It simultaneously involves the change of physical phase and chemical composition of organic material. Pyrolysis is an irreversible process.
- Pyrolysis is used to convert biomass into Synthesis Gas or Syngas and biochar

Read more: [Project Pyrasol](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Zoonotic diseases:

1. These are infectious diseases that are transmitted from animal to humans or vice-versa.
2. Some diseases begin as zoonoses but can later mutate to human-only strains
3. West Nile virus is an example of a zoonotic disease.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Zoonotic diseases are those which are transmitted to humans from animals. Anthro-zoonotic diseases are the one which are transmitted from humans to animals.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Some diseases like HIV do begin as zoonoses but can later mutate to human-only strain also.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** West Nile Virus (WNV) infection is a mosquito-borne zoonotic disease. The virus is transmitted among birds via the bite of infected mosquitoes and incidentally humans and other mammals also became infected.

Q.7) Brucellosis, recently seen in news, is caused by:

- a) Bacteria
- b) Fungi
- c) Parasite
- d) Virus

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Brucellosis is a bacterial disease caused by various Brucella species, which mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs. Humans generally acquire the disease through direct contact with infected animals, by eating or drinking contaminated animal products or by inhaling airborne agents

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Q.8) R21/Matrix M was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- It is a new earth like planet have the potential to support life
- It is a new vaccine showing promising results to contain Malaria
- It is a new robot that can solve all the matrix problems.
- It is a new formula that can be aimed to contain the Covid-19 infections

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Phase 2b clinical trials of R21/Matrix M (a new malaria vaccine) have shown the efficacy of 77%. It is a new version of RTS, S — another candidate against malaria. Experts believe that this new version could be a game-changer in curtailing the spread of malaria across the globe, especially during pandemic times.

Read more: [R21/Matrix M](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding to 5g Technology.

- 5G provide better energy efficiency of devices and stable of network connections compare to 4G
- 5G has higher latency when compared to 4G
- 5Gi Technology has developed by India to enhance rural coverage.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- 5G services will provide up to 1 Gbps (Gigabit per second) of download speed. It is 100 times higher than the existing network speed. The upload time will also increase drastically.
- The energy efficiency of devices and stability of network connections will improve further with the 5G technology.
- 5G services work across the low, medium and high-frequency spectrums. This will avoid any network congestions.
- 5G services will have ultra-low latency (time taken by a network to respond). Latency for is predicted to be below 10 milliseconds, and in best cases around 1 millisecond. Latency for 4G is around 20-30 milliseconds.

5Gi Technology

- 5Gi stands for** 5G Radio Interface Technology. It has been developed by the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology and the IIT-Hyderabad.
- Purpose:** 5Gi technology is primarily meant to enhance rural coverage. It facilitates much larger reach of the 5G towers and radio networks. Hence, it is a major breakthrough for bridging the rural-urban digital divide in 5G deployment.
- Approved by:** 5Gi standard has also been approved by the International Telecommunications Union.

Read more: [5G Technology](#)

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Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding antimatter:

1. It was created in equal amounts along with matter after the Big Bang
2. Anti-matter particles can be created in a lab

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Antimatter is the opposite of normal matter. More specifically, the sub-atomic particles of antimatter have properties opposite those of normal matter. For example, the electrical charge of antimatter particles is reversed.
 - The creation of antimatter happened along with matter after the Big Bang
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 2018, physicists at CERN, the massive underground particle research lab in Europe, revealed that they created an antimatter particle in the lab as a part of the ALPHA experiment.
 - The scientists created an atom of 'antihydrogen'

Q.11) Ayush-64 was recently seen in news. In this regard, consider the following statements:

1. It is an ayurvedic drug developed for the management of mild cases of COVID infection
2. The drug is based on a formulation of multiple herbs
3. Ingredients of the drug have anti-pyretic properties

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ayush-64 is an Ayurvedic drug developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the apex body for research in Ayurveda under the Ministry of Ayush
 - The drug was originally developed in 1980 for the management of Malaria.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ayush-64 is a polyherbal formulation i.e. use of more than one herb.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Drugs' ingredients showed notable antiviral, immune-modulator, and antipyretic properties.

Q.12) Consider the following statement on **Crew Mission**

1. It is a collaboration of NASA and European Space Agency
2. The mission aims to perform the manned mission to Mars in a decade.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2

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- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: US launched 4 astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of a collaboration between NASA and SpaceX under the Commercial Crew Program. The mission is called Crew-2 Mission.

The Crew missions aim to perform research operations in International Space Stations.

- Crew 1 Mission conducted microgravity studies at the ISS.
- Crew 2 Mission aims to conduct research on a series of Tissue Chips.

Read More: [Crew Mission](#)

Q.13) Mayflower 400 was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following is correctly describes it?

- a) It is a new type of flowering species that provide more honey.
- b) It is a new supercomputer that can perform high precision monsoon prediction
- c) It is the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) ship which is completely autonomous
- d) It is the new giant planet identified in the milky way

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Mayflower 400** is an unmanned and completely autonomous ship. It is powered by Artificial Intelligence and the Sun's energy via solar panels.
- **Purpose:** Main aim of this ship is to study marine pollution and analyze plastics in the water. It will also track the aquatic animals. The ship is set to sail on a transatlantic voyage.

Read more: [Mayflower 400](#)

Q.14) Burning of which of the following sources will produce Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)

1. wood
2. coal
3. natural gas

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)** belongs to one of the highly reactive gases known as oxides of nitrogen or nitrogen oxides (NO_x). Other nitrogen oxides include nitrous acid and nitric acid.
- **Formation:** NO_2 is formed when fossil fuels like coal, oil, gas and diesel are burned at high temperatures. It is also formed during the burning of wood and natural gases.

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Q.15) Natural gas is often seen in news. In this regard consider the statements below:

1. It contains high amounts of methane and small amounts of carbon dioxide & water vapor
2. Shale is a form of unconventional natural gas

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Natural gas is a fossil energy source that formed deep beneath the earth's surface. Natural gas contains many different compounds.
 - The largest component of natural gas is **methane** (CH₄).
 - Natural gas also contains smaller amounts of **natural gas liquids** (NGL, which are also hydrocarbon gas liquids), and **nonhydrocarbon gases**, such as carbon dioxide and water vapor.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In some places, natural gas moved into large cracks and spaces between layers of overlying rock. The natural gas found in these types of formations is sometimes called **conventional natural gas**.
 - In other places, natural gas occurs in the tiny pores (spaces) within some formations of shale, sandstone, and other types of sedimentary rock. This natural gas is referred to as **shale gas or tight gas**, and it is sometimes called **unconventional natural gas**.
 - Natural gas also occurs with deposits of crude oil, and this natural gas is called **associated natural gas**.
 - Natural gas deposits are found on land, and some are offshore and deep under the ocean floor. A type of natural gas found in coal deposits is called **coalbed methane**

Q.16) Consider the following regarding **Genetically Modified Mosquitoes (GMM)** released in US

1. These are Female Aedes aegypti mosquitoes
2. This is for the first time in the world a GMM has been released in wild

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently, Biotech firm Oxitec has released its Genetically Modified Mosquitoes(GMM) in Florida, USA.

- The researchers have bioengineered male Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. Further, the genetically engineered males carry a specific gene that prevents the female from producing essential protein for survival.
- As the gene passes to their offspring, it will kill the female descendant at the early larval stages.

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- This is the First time they have been released in US.
- Previously these GMM were released in Brazil, the Cayman Islands, Panama and Malaysia. Also, *A. aegypti* populations fell by at least 90% in those locations.

Read more: [Genetically Modified Mosquitoes](#)

Q.17) mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub has been in news recently. In this respect, consider the statements below:

1. It is an initiative by WHO to expand the capacity of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to produce COVID-19 vaccines
2. It will work on a hub & spoke model
3. Technology transfer hubs previously used for development of influenza vaccine production

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The World Health Organization has called for a technology-transfer hub on mRNA vaccines to increase their production in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC)
- **Statement 2 is correct:** WHO will facilitate the establishment of one (or more, as appropriate) technology transfer hub(s) that will use a **hub and spoke model** to transfer a comprehensive technology package and provide appropriate training to interested manufacturers in LMICs. This initiative will initially prioritize the mRNA-vaccine technology² but could expand to other technologies in the future
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Technology transfer hubs have been supported previously by WHO to enable the successful development and transfer of processes for adjuvant production (*an adjuvant is a drug or other substance, or a combination of substances, that is used to increase the efficacy or potency of certain drugs*) and for influenza vaccine production

Q.18) Mucormycosis was sometimes in news, is caused by:

- a) Bacteria
- b) Fungi
- c) Virus
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Mucormycosis (previously called zygomycosis) is also known as Black Fungus infection
- It is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes. These molds are present naturally in the environment.
- The infection can occur in almost any part of the body. However, the infection is not contagious. This means that it cannot transmit between people or between people and animals.

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- Treatment of this infection is possible with prescription antifungal medicine. If not detected early, the infection can be fatal. It can also lead to loss of vision or jaw in others.

Q.19) Which of the following is/are a Greenhouse Gas?

1. Nitrogen Trifluoride
2. Water Vapour
3. Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation All of the above are Greenhouse Gases

- Many greenhouse gases occur naturally in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, and nitrous oxide, while others are synthetic. Those that are man-made include the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), as well as Sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆)

Q.20) Kabasura Kudineer is often seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is a traditional medicine used for managing common respiratory health.
- b) It is a new plant species discovered in western ghats
- c) It is a new butterfly species discovered in North Eastern India
- d) It is a traditional water storage practice followed by South Indian kingdoms

Correct Answer: A

- Kabasura Kudineer is a traditional formulation used by Siddha practitioners for managing common respiratory health.
- It is a herbal mixture of various ingredients or elements. It comprises of dry ingredients of ginger, pippali, clove, kadukkai, ajwain and many other herbs.
- Kabasura Kudineer has been found to be useful in the treatment of asymptomatic, mild, and moderate COVID-19 infection cases.
- Recently, AYUSH Ministry launched a massive nationwide campaign to distribute Kabasura Kudineer

Q.21) Which of the following cause methane emission in atmosphere?

1. Oil and gas extraction
2. Coal mining
3. Rice cultivation
4. Digestive processes of termites

Select your answer from the codes given below:

- a. 1,2 and 3
- b. 2 and 3
- c. 1 and 3
- d. All of the above

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Source of Methane Emissions:

Natural Sources: emissions from wetlands and oceans, and from the digestive processes of termites.

Anthropogenic Sources:

- **More than half of** global methane emissions stem from human activities in three sectors: fossil fuels (35%), waste (20%) and agriculture (40%).
- **Fossil fuel sector:** Oil and gas extraction, processing and distribution account for 23%. Coal mining alone accounts for 12% of emissions.
- **Waste sector:** Landfills and wastewater make up about 20% of global anthropogenic emissions.
- **Agricultural sector:** Livestock emissions from manure and fermentation represent roughly 32%. Further, rice cultivation accounts for 8% of global anthropogenic emissions.

Q.22) 2-DG, sometimes seen in news, is related to:

- a) Asteroid impact avoidance
- b) Medical Oxygen storage
- c) COVID drug development
- d) Vaccine hesitancy

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed an anti-COVID drug named 2-deoxy-D-glucose(2-DG). 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) is an anti-Covid oral drug. It has been developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of DRDO in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL)
- The drug helps in the faster recovery of hospitalised patients. Further, it also reduces supplemental oxygen dependence.
- A higher proportion of patients treated with 2-DG also showed RT-PCR negative conversion in Covid-19 patients.

Q.23) Bennu is often seen in news. In this respect, consider the following statements:

1. It has been classified as a Near Earth Object
2. It is believed to be originated in the main Asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter
3. OSIRIS-Rex is the first mission to land on an asteroid

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Yes. Bennu is a Near Earth Object. Near-Earth Objects (NEOs) are comets and asteroids that have been nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits that allow them to enter the Earth's neighborhood.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bennu likely broke off from a much larger carbon-rich asteroid about 700 million to 2 billion years ago. It likely formed in the Main Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter, and has drifted much closer to Earth since then.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** NASA's NEAR was the first spacecraft to orbit an asteroid and also was the first to land on one.

Read more: [Asteroid Bennu](#)

Q.24) Which of the following is a short-lived climate pollutant?

1. Black carbon
2. Methane
3. Tropospheric Ozone

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Short-lived climate pollutants** are climate pollutants that remain in the atmosphere for a much shorter period of time than carbon dioxide (CO₂). Though short-lived they have the potential to warm the atmosphere many times greater than CO₂.
- **Several short-lived climate pollutants** like black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and hydrofluorocarbons. These alone are responsible for up to 45% of current global warming.

Q.25) D614G, often seen in news, is a:

- a) Near earth object
- b) Mutation in SARS-CoV-2
- c) Potential superconductor
- d) Palaeolithic site

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- While novel coronavirus is undergoing many mutations, one particular mutation called D614G, according to a study, has become the dominant variant in the global COVID-19 pandemic
- When the virus enters an individual's body, it aims at creating copies of itself. When it makes an error in this copying process, we get a mutation.
- In this case, the virus replaced the aspartic acid (D) in the 614th position of the amino acid with glycine (G). Hence the mutation is called the D614G. This mutated form of the virus was first identified in China and then in Europe. Later it spread to other countries like the U.S. and Canada and was eventually reported in India.

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Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding **Venus**

1. Venus is the only planet in solar system that rotate from east to west (Clock wise).
2. Venus is the only planet in solar system that does not have any moon.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Venus** and Uranus are the only planets in solar system that rotate from east to west(Clock wise).
- Venus does not have any moons, a distinction it shares only with Mercury among the planets in the Solar System.

Read more: [Venus](#)

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding **Ivermectin**:

1. It is an anti-parasitic drug administered orally
2. It was removed from the WHO essential medicines list in the wake of COVID crisis

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a broad spectrum anti-parasitic agent administered orally to the patients
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is included in WHO essential medicines list for several parasitic diseases.

Q.28) Consider the following statements on **Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACC)**

1. These cells store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy
2. All the demand of the ACCs is currently being met through imports in India

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.

All the demand of the ACCs is currently being met through imports in India.

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To reduce that, the Cabinet has recently approved the proposal of **Department of Heavy Industry** for implementation of **the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** for 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage'. The scheme aims to achieve manufacturing capacity of Fifty (50) GigaWatt Hour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC.

Q.29) 'Iron Dome Interceptor' was some time seen in news. Which of the following country have that technology?

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

Correct Answer: D

About Iron Dome:

- **Iron Dome** is a short-range, ground-to-air, air defence system. It is developed by Israeli manufacturer Rafael Advanced Defense Systems with support from the United States.
- **Purpose:** It is used for countering rockets, artillery & mortars (C-RAM). It will also counter aircraft, helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles fired from distances of up to 70 kilometres.

How does Iron Dome work? The Iron Dome has three main systems. These systems will work together to provide a shield over the area where it is deployed, handling multiple threats

Other key Features:

- The missile is capable of being used in all weather conditions, including during the day and night.
- Israel claims the system has stopped thousands of enemy launches from hitting targets, with a success rate of more than 90%.

Read more: [Iron Dome](#)

Q.30) Consider the following statements on **Water Hyacinth**

1. It is an invasive aquatic plant
2. The plant act as a prime habitat for mosquitoes

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Water hyacinth is a free-floating and flowering invasive aquatic plant that originated from Amazon Basin, South America.
- **Effects of Water Hyacinth:**
 - **Water Hyacinth** interferes with boat navigation and prevents fishing, swimming and other recreational activities.
 - **The water hyacinth** may also clog intake pipes used for drinking water, hydropower or irrigation.

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- Moreover, it creates a prime habitat for mosquitoes that carry a variety of infectious diseases. So, water hyacinth is also considered a serious threat to biodiversity and human health

Read more: [Water Hyacinth](#)

Q.31) Consider the following statements about **Lumpy skin disease (LSD)**

1. The LSD is endemic to the regions Africa and parts of West Asia
2. There is no treatment for Lumpy skin disease virus
3. The disease is so far not recorded in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Lumpy Skin Disease is a **viral illness that causes prolonged morbidity in cattle and buffaloes.**
- It caused by **the poxvirus Lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV).**
- It spreads through mosquitoes, flies and ticks and also through saliva and contaminated water and food.
- There is no treatment for the virus, so prevention by vaccination is the most effective means of control
- **Affected Countries:**
 - LSD is endemic to Africa and parts of West Asia, where it was first discovered in 1929.
 - In Southeast Asia the first case of LSD was reported in Bangladesh in July 2019.
 - In India it was first reported from Mayurbhanj, Odisha in August 2019.
- Recently The Bihar government sounded an alert and issued an advisory about the likely spread of the disease.

Q.32) Utopia Planitia sometimes seen in news is a:

- a) A Lunar crater
- b) Volcanic region on Mars
- c) NASA's mission to Saturn
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- It is a northern lava plain on the planet Mars that was selected as the landing site of the U.S. Viking 2 planetary probe.
- China recently succeeded with its first planetary landing attempt, safely setting down the solar powered Zhurong rover on the surface of Mars

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Q.33) Yaogan Satellites belongs to which of the following countries?

- a) Australia
- b) The USA
- c) Russia
- d) China

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Yaogan is a series of Chinese reconnaissance satellites launched in the early 21st century.
- Purpose: The satellites will be used for electromagnetic environment surveys and other related technology tests.
- First Launched in: The first Yaogan 1 satellite was launched in the year 2006.
- Concerns: Western analysts suspect that these Yaogan satellites are equipped with synthetic aperture radar(SAR) for military reconnaissance purposes.
- Recently, China has successfully launched the eighth group of three Yaogan-30 satellites into orbit on a Long March 2C rocket.

Q.34) Protein–Antibody Conjugates (PAC) was seen in news sometimes. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) This is a new protein present in the Corona Virus
- b) This is a nanoparticle used in human genome sequencing
- c) This is a new drug for reducing the impact of Covid-19
- d) This is a new concept of therapy used for targeted drug delivery

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **This is a new concept** of combining two different approaches to drug delivery. Namely, Biological drugs and Antibody-Drug Conjugates(ADC). Both these methods combined to produce Protein–Antibody Conjugate or PACs. This PAC can be used for targeted drug delivery.
- **Protein-antibody conjugates(PACs)** are used for antibody-directed delivery of protein to specific cells.
- **This method ensures** the precise and effective delivery of drugs to specific cells. Hence, this method could have an impact on treating diseases like pancreatic cancer.

Read more: [Protein–Antibody Conjugates](#)

Q.35) Doomsday Surfing was seen in news sometimes. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is a large scale online hacking of important information on banking websites
- b) It is a wide scale posting of illicit content in internet
- c) It is the type of searching and scroll through bad news.
- d) It is a large-scale spreading of destruction of world.

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Doomsday Surfing refers to the tendency to continue to surf or scroll through bad news. The people will surf even though that news is saddening or depressing.
- Recently, many people are finding themselves continuously reading bad news about Covid-19 without being able to stop. The situation is worsening and even people are sacrificing their crucial sleep time or working hours in the process.

Q.36) Consider the following statements on Dengue

1. National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is the nodal agency for prevention and control of Dengue.
2. So far there is no vaccine available for Dengue.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is the central nodal agency for prevention and control of **six vector borne diseases** i.e. Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya in India.
- The NVBDCP functions under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The dengue vaccine CYD-TDV or **Dengvaxia** was approved by the US Food & Drug Administration in 2019. This is the **first dengue vaccine** to get the regulatory nod in the US.
- Dengvaxia is basically a **live, attenuated dengue virus**. The vaccine has to be administered in people of ages 9 to 16 who have laboratory-confirmed previous dengue infection and live in endemic areas.

Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding blood plasma:

1. It is the largest part of the blood
2. A bulk of plasma is just water
3. Helps to maintain proper pH in the body

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Plasma is the liquid portion of blood. About 55% of our blood is plasma, and the remaining 45% are red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets that are suspended in the plasma.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** Plasma is about 92% water. It also contains 7% vital proteins such as albumin, gamma globulin and anti-hemophilic factor, and 1% mineral salts, sugars, fats, hormones and vitamins.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Plasma serves four important functions in our bodies:
 - Helps maintain blood pressure and volume.
 - Supply critical proteins for blood clotting and immunity.
 - Carries electrolytes such as sodium and potassium to our muscles.
 - Helps to maintain a proper pH balance in the body, which supports cell function.

Q.38) Consider the following statements

1. While SARS-CoV-2 is the name of virus, N501Y is the name of its variant.
2. Both Virus and its variants are named by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. In February 2020, the ICTV re-christened what was then called the 2019 novel coronavirus as SARS-CoV-2, which stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. In November 2020, researchers in South Africa sequenced a new and more transmissible SARS-CoV-2 variant, which included an N501Y mutation that allowed the spike protein to bind more tightly to human cells.

Statement 2 is incorrect. the ICTV only names viruses at the species level and higher. So the process for naming variants begins much more informally among scientists—and will vary from pathogen to pathogen

Q.39) Blocktrack app was seen in news sometimes. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is a new application that presents fluctuations in majority of the crypto currencies.
- b) It is a new application to track the blocked roads and signals in real time using decentralised information.
- c) It is an app that aims to digitise healthcare information systems using block chain technology
- d) It is a blockchain based application to track illicit wildlife trade.

Answer: C

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras have developed a mobile app named “Blocktrack”.

About Blocktrack App:

- **Blocktrack** is a **blockchain**-based secure medical data and information exchange system for mobile phone applications.
- **Purpose:** The App aims to digitise healthcare information systems. At the same time the app will protect sensitive personal information and medical records by decentralising control and ownership of patient data using a blockchain-based innovation.

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Read more: [Blocktrack App](#)

Q.40) Consider the following statements on Mucormycosis or Black Fungus infection

1. It spread from people to people and between people and animals
2. It can affect different parts of the body, with different sets of symptoms.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Rajasthan government has declared Mucormycosis or black fungus as an epidemic and a notifiable disease.

- **Mucormycosis or Black Fungus** is a rare fungal infection. A group of molds called mucormycetes is the reason behind it, which is abundant in the environment.
- **Transmission:** It occurs through inhalation, inoculation, or ingestion of fungal spores from the environment. However, it does not spread between people or between people and animals.
- **Symptoms:** Mucormycosis can affect different parts of the body, with different sets of symptoms. Some common symptoms are face numbness, nose obstructions on one side, swelling in the eyes, or pain.

Read more: [Mucormycosis or Black Fungus](#)

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding Sentinel-1 mission:

1. Mission comprises of a constellation of two polar-orbiting satellites
2. It is a part of NASA's Copernicus initiative

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sentinel-1 mission is the European Radar Observatory for the Copernicus joint initiative of the European Commission (EC) and the European Space Agency (ESA). The mission is composed of a constellation of two satellites, Sentinel-1A and Sentinel-1B, sharing the same orbital plane.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Copernicus is a European initiative for the implementation of information services dealing with environment and security. It is based on observation data received from Earth Observation satellites and ground-based information.

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Q.42) Consider the following statements on **white fungus infections**

1. Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative in Covid-19 tests
2. White Fungus infection is deadlier than Black Fungus infection

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- This infection can be caused due to low immunity or if people come in contact with things that contain these moulds like water, etc.
- Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative; the infection can be diagnosed through CT-Scan or X-ray.
- As per experts on the subject, White Fungus is deadlier than Black Fungus as the infection not only affects the lungs but other parts of the body as well such as nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, private parts and mouth.

Q.43) Which of the following is/are primary aerosols?

1. Airborne dust
2. Sea salt particles
3. Vegetation emissions

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Aerosol sources are of two types -- primary and secondary. Primary aerosols are emitted directly as tiny particles, such as smoke from bush or forest fires, soot from burning fossil fuels in industries, vehicles, trains, airplanes, airborne dust and **sea-salt particles** produced when sea spray dries out.
- Secondary aerosols are produced from gaseous precursors. Chemical reactions in the air, converts the primary gaseous pollutants -- like sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide -- into gases with lower volatility, some of which condense into particulates. Sulphur dioxide pollution from power plants or other industries, converts into sulphate particles, for instance. **Emissions from vegetation** and marine organisms also form secondary aerosols in the atmosphere. The resulting product then nucleates to form new particles or condenses on pre-existing particles

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Q.44) Fifth domain, a term often seen in news, is related to:

- a) Blockchain
- b) Social Media
- c) Cyberspace
- d) Intellectual Property Rights

Correct Answer: C

Explanation Fifth Domain is the newest theatre of warfare – cyberspace – joining land, sea, air and space. But unlike the other domains, the conflicts in cyberwar are rarely military-on-military. Instead, nation-states, criminal organizations and terrorist groups are going after civilian populations and infrastructure.

Q.45) Geographical Indication (GI) tag is often seen in news. In this respect consider the statements below:

1. It is deemed to be a private property of the producers of the concerned goods till the duration of registration.
2. GI tags are covered under Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A geographical indication is a public property belonging to the producers of the concerned goods.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Articles 1 (2) and 10 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, geographical indications are covered as an element of IPRs. They are also covered under Articles 22 to 24 of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement

Q.46) Dipcovan kit was seen in news recently. Which of the following application the kit is used for?

- a) The kit helps to identify Black and White fungal infections
- b) The kit contains precautionary medicines against fungal infections
- c) The Kit is used in Covid-19 antibody detection.
- d) The Kit contains high protein healthy supplements

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- It is a **Covid-19 antibody detection kit**. It is developed by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The Dipcovan kit can detect both spike as well as nucleocapsid (S&N) proteins of SARS-CoV-2 virus with a high sensitivity of 97 % and specificity of 99%.
- The kit has a shelf life of 18 months.

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Q.47) The term 'Accommodation syndrome' recently seen in news, it is related to:

- a) Racial discrimination
- b) Financial inclusion
- c) Religious intolerance
- d) Child sexual abuse

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- Child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome (CSAAS) is a syndrome proposed by Roland C. Summit in 1983 to describe how he believed sexually abused children responded to ongoing sexual abuse. He said children "learn to accept the situation and to survive. There is no way out, no place to run

Source of the MCQ: [Article](#)

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding Kyasanur Forest disease

1. The disease primarily affects humans and monkeys.
2. There is no specific treatment for this disease.
3. A vaccine is available for this disease for use in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **The Kyasanur Forest disease** is caused by a Kyasanur Forest disease virus. The disease primarily affects humans and monkeys.
- **India:** The disease was first identified in the Kyasanur forest of Shimoga district in Karnataka during an investigation of monkey mortalities in 1957.
- **Symptoms:** The disease is characterized by chills, frontal headache, body ache, and high fever for five to 12 days with a case fatality rate of 3 to 5%.
- **Transmission:**
 - Rodents, shrews, and monkeys are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick.
 - Transmission to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most importantly a sick or recently dead monkey.
- **Diagnosis:** Diagnosis can be made in the early stage of illness by molecular detection by PCR or virus isolation from blood.
- **Treatment:** There is no specific treatment for KFD. A vaccine (Formalin inactivated KFDV vaccine) does exist for KFD and is used in endemic areas of India.
- Recently, a new point-of-care test has been developed for the rapid diagnosis of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD).

Read more: [Kyasanur Forest disease](#)

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Q.49) Agumbe often seen in news is a:

- A Near Earth Object named after a famous Indian scientist by NASA
- India's first indigenously developed semiconductor chip
- Deep underwater mammalian species discovered in Andaman Sea
- A newly recognized country in Africa

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Agumbe is a series of indigenously developed semiconductor chips launched by Bengaluru-based semiconductor manufacturing company Signalchip. These chips would be used in 4G/LTE and 5G NR Modem applications

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding Whiteflies

- Whiteflies are native to India.
 - These insects are beneficial for leaves and crops
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation : Statement 1 is incorrect. Whiteflies are invasive species. Most of the whitefly species are native to the Caribbean islands or Central America. India: Around eight types of whitefly species are found in India. The first invasive whitefly was reported from Kerala in 1995. These species are now distributed throughout India except Jammu & Kashmir.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Whitefly species reduce the yield and also damage crops. Hence, they are considered as invasive species. These insects excrete sticky honeydew and cause the yellowing or death of leaves.

Read more about [Whiteflies](#)

Q.51) Consider the following statements regarding Yellow Fungus infections

- This type of fungal infection generally does not occur in humans but in reptiles.
 - This type of fungus infection is less harmful compares to white and black fungal infections.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Yellow Fungus is also called mucor septic. It is a fungal infection that medical experts say generally does not occur in humans but in reptiles.
- Causes:**
 - Poor Hygiene

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- High levels of humidity beyond the 30-40% range
- Old food and improper disposal also contribute to the growth of the fungus.
- Excess use of steroids is also a possible reason in Covid-19 patients.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Symptoms of yellow fungus are laziness, loss of appetite, or no appetite at all and weight loss.
- Yellow fungus infection, unlike the two other infections, could be much more dangerous as it starts off internally. Thus, its diagnosis is very difficult.

Read more: [Yellow fungus infection](#)

Q.52) Consider the following statement regarding **Mercury**

1. Mercury is a naturally occurring element found in air, water and soil.
2. Minamata Convention protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

According to a recent study published in Nature Geoscience, Greenland's glacial meltwaters have unusually high levels of mercury.

Key Findings of the study:

- **Researchers** found high concentrations of mercury in the water bodies fed by the Greenland Ice Sheet.
- **The mercury level** was almost ten times the volume of mercury found in normal rivers.
- **The mercury level** was also similar to that found in the polluted inland rivers of China.

About Mercury:

- Mercury is a naturally occurring metal found in air, water and soil.
- Mercury is considered by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of the top ten chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern.
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury and its compounds.

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.53) Mylab Coviself was seen in news recently. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is list of essential drugs provided to individuals for the Covid-19 treatment
- b) It is India's first Covid-19 self-testing kit approved recently by the ICMR
- c) It is world's first equipment to test whether a person has taken vaccine or not.
- d) It is a laboratory equipment that provides instant result for Covid-19 infections.

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- It is **India's first Covid-19 self-testing kit** approved recently by the ICMR.
- This means anyone can collect their own nasal sample and test it for SARS-CoV-2.
- Such a self-test kit was first approved in **the US** last November. Similar kits have been approved in **Europe and South Korea too**.
- It is Developed by MyLab Discovery Solutions, a Pune-based molecular company.
- It uses a rapid antigen test, in which a nasal swab sample is tested for the virus and gives results within 15 minutes.

Source: [Indian Express](#).

Q.54) Consider the following statements on **paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome (PIMS-TS)**

1. It is a rare condition associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection
2. The source of this syndrome is not known so far.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : C

Explanation:

- PIMS-TS is also known as a multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). It is a rare condition associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection that was first defined in April 2020.
- Caused by: It is not known what triggers the condition. But it is thought to be a rare immune overreaction that occurs in children approximately four to six weeks after mild or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Symptoms: It includes fever, rash, eye infection, and gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g. diarrhoea, stomach ache, nausea). In some rare cases, the condition can lead to multi-organ failure.
- Diagnosis: Currently, MIS-C is diagnosed based on symptoms together with laboratory tests that look for signs of inflammation in the body.
- Treatment: Treatments currently include anti-coagulation to curb blood clotting, IV immunoglobulin and anti-inflammatory drugs.

Read more: [paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome\(PIMS-TS\)](#)

Q.55) Consider the following statement on **Significant social media intermediaries** under the **Information Technology Rules, 2021**

1. Under the rules, Significant social media intermediaries include social media platforms that have a limited user base
2. Significant social media intermediaries should have a physical contact address in India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Under the IT rules 2021, Social media platforms are classified into **two categories**
 - **Social media intermediaries** – Platforms that have a limited user base.
 - **Significant social media intermediaries** – These are the platforms with a large user base.
- The **significant social media intermediaries** have to follow few additional measures like:
 - These platforms should **have a physical contact address** in India.
 - **Appointing a Chief Compliance Officer, Nodal Contact Person, and a Resident Grievance Officer in India.** All of them should be Indian Residents.

Read more: [Information Technology Rules, 2021](#)

Q.56) Consider the following statements regarding Biomass:

1. Biogas is produced when biomass from farms, gardens, kitchens, etc is subjected to Anaerobic digestion
2. Co-firing is an efficient way of converting biomass to electricity
3. Biomass is carbon-neutral

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Biogas is produced when bio-degradable organic materials/wastes such as cattle-dung, biomass from farms, gardens, kitchens, industry, poultry droppings, night soil and municipals wastes are subjected to a scientific process, called Anaerobic Digestion (A.D.) in a Biogas Plant
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Co-firing is a low-cost option for efficiently and cleanly converting biomass to electricity. It adds biomass as a partial substitute fuel in high-efficiency coal boilers.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Burning either fossil fuels or biomass releases carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas. However, the plants that are the source of biomass for energy capture almost the same amount of CO₂ through photosynthesis while growing as is released when biomass is burned, which can make biomass a carbon-neutral energy source.

Source: [Biomass](#)

Q.57) Amphotericin-B was some time seen in news. Which of the following correctly explains it?

- a) It is a new multi drug resistant bacteria identified in wild Snakes
- b) It is an anti-fungal medicine used for treating black, white and yellow fungal infections
- c) It is a new drug developed to treat severe conditions of Covid-19

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d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Antifungal drug Amphotericin-B is being considered as a primary treatment of yellow fungus. The same injection is being used currently to treat black or white fungus cases in the country.

Source: [Times of India](#)

Q.58) Consider the following statements on Biomass

1. These are organic material that comes from plants and animals.
2. Biomass power & cogeneration programme is implemented by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Biomass** is a renewable organic material that comes from plants and animals. It can be used as an energy source.

Page Break

- Biomass power & cogeneration programme is initiated by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The programme aims towards efficient utilization of biomass, bagasse based cogeneration in sugar mills and biomass power generation
- Recently, The Ministry of Power has decided to set up a National Mission on the use of Biomass in thermal power plants.

Read more: [National Mission on the use of Biomass in thermal power plants](#)

Q.59) Tutsi, a term often seen in news, is related to:

- a) Hamidian massacre
- b) Rwandan Genocide
- c) Israel-Palestine conflict
- d) Lebanon war

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Tutsi is an ethnic group, whose members live within Rwanda and Burundi
- The Tutsi formed the traditional aristocratic minority in both countries, constituting about 9% and 14% of the population, respectively. The Tutsis' numbers in Rwanda were greatly reduced by a government-inspired genocidal campaign (Rwandan genocide) against them in 1994, however

Source: [Rwandan genocide](#)

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Q.60) Consider the following statements:

1. Genetic modification (GM) technology allows the transfer of genes for specific traits between species.
2. GM Mustard is the only GM crop approved in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)** can be defined as organisms (i.e. plants, animals or microorganisms) in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination. Genetic modification (GM) technology allows the transfer of genes for specific traits between species.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Bt Cotton** is the only GM crop introduced in India in 2002. Bt brinjal was recommended for commercialisation in October 2009, after it completed regulatory evaluation in seven years, and is still under moratorium.

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Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q.1) Indian Navy has recently Launched Operation Samudra Setu-II, with which one of the following aims?

- a) To protect Indian waters from encroachment of any foreign ship
- b) To cooperate with US navy to contain Chinese maritime activities
- c) To protect Indian coastlines in Bay of Bengal from encroachment of Rohingyas
- d) To bring oxygen-filled cryogenic containers to India from abroad

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu-II.

- **The Indian Navy launched this** operation with the aim to bring oxygen-filled cryogenic containers to India from abroad.
- This is because the country is facing a severe shortage of medical oxygen in the wake of a massive spike in new Covid-19 cases.
- **As part of the mission, Seven Indian Naval ships, namely** Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa, and Airavat, are participating. These ships will carry shipments of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries to India.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **India accepting foreign aid for disasters**.

1. India in past has never accepted any foreign aid to tackle any disasters
2. Indian government at present is directly accepting gifts, donations, and aid from foreign nations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Indian Government is at present accepting gifts, donations, and aid from foreign nations. It is because India is facing a massive shortage of oxygen, drugs and related equipment amid a surge in Covid cases.

Foreign Aid to India:

- India is accepting foreign aid for the first time in 16 years. State Governments are also free to procure life-saving devices and medicines from foreign agencies.
- Earlier, India accepted aid from foreign governments several times. It includes Uttarkashi earthquake (1991), Latur earthquake (1993), Gujarat earthquake (2001), Bengal cyclone (2002) and Bihar floods (July 2004).
- However, this policy was changed 16 years ago. India refused to accept foreign aid after the Kashmir earthquake in 2005, Uttarakhand floods in 2013, Kashmir floods in 2014 and Kerala Floods in 2018.

Further, India is not directly accepting the foreign aid. First countries are delivering their aid to red cross in India, then India is accepting the aid.

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Large Area Certification Scheme** for organic certification

1. It is a part of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
2. The areas having chemical input usage history have to undergo a transition period to qualify as an organic land under this scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: A

Explanation:

Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under its flagship scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) has launched the Large Area Certification Scheme.

- **Purpose:** To provide a unique and quick organic certification to harness the potential land areas for organic products.
- **Under LAC**, each village in the area is considered as one cluster/group. Documentations are simple and maintained village-wise.
- **All farmers** with their farmland and livestock need to adhere to the standard requirements. After verification, they will get certified as a group. Once issued they don't need to go under conversion period. So, the farmers do not have to wait for 2-3 years for marketing PGS organic certified products.

Read more: [Large Area Certification Scheme](#)

Q.4) SUTRA model, recently seen in news, is used for which of the following?

- a) Screening of early-stage genetic diseases in plants
- b) Advanced cryptography employed in blockchain
- c) Research programmes for indigenous cattle
- d) Prediction of the trajectory of COVID cases in India

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

'Susceptible, Undetected, Tested (positive), and Removed Approach' (SUTRA) is a mathematical model devised by IIT scientists to predict active COVID cases in country. model uses three main parameters to predict the course of the pandemic.

- The first is called **beta, or contact rate**, which measures how many people an infected person infects per day.
- It is related to the **RO value**, which is the number of people an infected person spreads the virus to over the course of their infection
- The other two parameters are '**reach**', which is a measure of the exposure level of the population to the pandemic, and '**epsilon**' which is the ratio of detected and undetected cases

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):

1. NSAP is a centrally sector scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. It aims to provide financial assistance only to elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions.
3. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) is a sub-scheme of NSAP

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a centrally sponsored scheme
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It aims to provide financial assistance to the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions. It currently covers more than three crore people who are below the poverty line (BPL), including about 80 lakh widows, 10 lakh disabled and 2.2 crore elderly.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** NSAP has 5 components: Presently NSAP comprises of five schemes, namely:
 - Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
 - Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)
 - Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
 - National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
 - Annapurna

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP):

1. It grants organic farming certification through a process of third-party certification
2. Implemented by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
3. Organic products covered under the bilateral agreement with NPOP need not to be recertified for import in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:**
 - NPOP grants organic farming certification through a process of third-party certification.
 - It involves the accreditation programme for Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming etc.

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- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is implemented by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The NPOP standards for production and accreditation system have been recognized by the European Commission, Switzerland and USA as equivalent to their respective accreditation systems.
 - This enables India to export unprocessed plant products to these countries without the requirement of additional certification. NPOP also facilitates export of Indian organic products to the United Kingdom even in the post Brexit phase.
 - NPOP has also been recognized by the Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) for trade of organic products in the domestic market. Organic products covered under the bilateral agreement with NPOP need not to be recertified for import in India.

News: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1716297>

Q.7) UDID portal was sometimes seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is a new portal for registering medical oxygen demand by people
- b) It is an online portal for registering complaints against government officials
- c) It is an online portal to provide training for newly recruited public servants
- d) It is the portal that aims to create a National Database for Person with Disabilities

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: About UDID Portal:

- **Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities(UDID)** project is an initiative of the DEPwD. The project has been under implementation since 2016.
- **Aim:** The aim is to build a holistic end-to-end integrated system for Issuance of Universal ID & Disability Certificates for Persons with Disabilities. This ID will contain their identification and disability details.
- **Vision:** The UDID project aims to create a National Database for PwDs. Further, it aims to issue a Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) to each person with disabilities.

[Read More](#) -

Q.8) 'ID-Art' App was seen in the news recently. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is an app that identifies and recover the stolen cultural property and reduce smuggling of cultural property.
- b) This is an app for a virtual tour of Indian Archaeological sites during the Covid-19 times.
- c) This is an app consisting geographical locations of global Art museums
- d) This is an app of UNESCO to receive applications for recognising global heritage sites.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: INTERPOL has launched an app called 'ID-Art' to better protect cultural heritage.

- **'ID-Art' App** aims to help identify the stolen cultural property, reduce smuggling. The app also increases the possibility of recovering stolen works and artefacts.
- **INTERPOL's database:** The app enables users to get mobile access to the Interpol database of stolen works of art. Further, the user can be a law enforcement agency or a general public

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- **Stolen Works of Art Database:** More than 52,000 items registered as stolen in Interpol's "Stolen Works of Art" database. The app allows users to immediately cross-check an object among the database.

Read more: [ID-Art App](#)

Q.9) 'Offshore model' was seen in the news recently. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- This is a model to generate electrical energy away from land, especially in coastal areas.
- This a model of relocating of a company's business process to a country that is not in the same geographical region.
- This is a model that predicts the global offshore investments of corporate companies
- This is a model that calculates the tax value for corporates operating in low tax countries.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: In simple terms, it is the relocation of a company's business process to a country that is not in the same geographical region. For example, a company in the US might have the majority of its employees working in India or China due to various benefits. It is also called the Work from home model.

According to analysts, Indian Offshore Model will Dominate Global IT Sector for atleast a decade.

Q.10) PARIVESH portal, often seen in news, is related to:

- Management & clearance of environment projects
- Crimes against women
- Plant genomics and bioinformatics
- None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- PARIVESH = **P**ro-**A**ctive and **R**esponsive facilitation by **I**nteractive, **V**irtuous and **E**nvironmental **S**ingle-window **H**ub
- PARIVESH is a Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System for Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ clearances
- It has been developed in line with Digital India
- It automates the entire process of submitting the application and tracking the status of such proposals at each stage of processing.
- The system has been designed, developed and hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with technical support from National Informatics Centre, (NIC).

Q.11) Shuvuuia deserti is often seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- It is a new species identified in the desert areas of Rajasthan
- It is a nocturnal dinosaur that lived 70 million years ago
- It is the oldest fossil of Tiger identified in Artic region
- It is a new mummy identified in Egypt.

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Shuvuuia deserti small bird-like nocturnal dinosaur that lived 70 million years ago
- It was a pheasant-sized, two-legged Cretaceous Period dinosaur weighing about as much as a small house cat.
- It has an excellent night vision and superb hearing to hunt in total darkness.
- It lacks strong jaws and sharp teeth like many carnivorous dinosaurs
- It also has a bird-like and lightly built skull and many tiny teeth like the grains of rice

Q.12) Variants of Concern (VoC) & Variant of High Consequence were recently in news. In this respect, consider the statements below:

1. VoC is classified when there is clear evidence that prevention measures or medical countermeasures do not work on curbing the virus compared to other variants.
2. A variant of high consequence would require notification to WHO under the International Health Regulations

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** This is how Variant of high Consequence is classified, not VoC
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This is true. A variant of high consequence would require notification to WHO under the International Health Regulations, reporting to CDC, an announcement of strategies to prevent or contain transmission, and recommendations to update treatments and vaccines.

Read more: [VoC](#)

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding e-Sanjeevani:

1. It is a doctor to patient telemedicine system based on a hub & spoke model.
2. It is being implemented under Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre programme.
3. It provides home delivery of medicines to senior citizens.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a doctor-to-doctor telemedicine system
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a doctor-to-doctor telemedicine system being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme. It seeks to connect all 1,50,000 HWCs using the hub-and-spoke model by December 2022.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** No home delivery service is provided under e-Sanjeevani

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Read more: [e-Sanjeevani](#)

Q.14) Jal Jeevan mission has been in news recently. In this respect, consider the following statements:

1. It envisions to provide safe & adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2025.
2. It also provides potable drinking water to schools, health & wellness centers.
3. Sikkim became the first Har Ghar Jal state in the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** JJM aims to provide safe & adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all rural households
- **Statement 2 is correct:** JJM shall ensure potable drinking water security on long-term basis to every rural household and public institution, viz. GP building, School, Anganwadi centre, Health centre, wellness centres, etc.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Goa became the first Har Ghar Jal state

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA):

1. It is a statutory body under Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment
2. India has signed but yet to ratify the Hague adoption Convention

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** CARA is a statutory body under Ministry of Women and Child Development
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India has ratified the Hague Adoption Convention (Hague Convention on Protection of Children and cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption)

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding Drugs and Cosmetics Act

1. Under the Drug and Cosmetics Act, the regulation of manufacture and sale of drugs is primarily the concern of the Central authorities.
2. Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) aims to ensure the safety & efficacy of drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.
3. Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is a statutory body.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under the Drug and Cosmetics Act, the regulation of manufacture and sale of drugs is primarily the concern of the State authorities while the Central Authorities are responsible for approval of New Drugs, Clinical Trials in the country, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs, coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organisations and providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act
- **Statement 2 is correct:** One of the missions of CDSCO is to safeguard and enhance the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy and quality of drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** DTAB is highest statutory decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs in the country. It was constituted as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act,1940. It is part of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Q.17) Consider the following statements on **Conventions related to child**

1. India is a signatory to Hague Convention on Protection of Children
2. India is not a signatory to UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

India is signatory to both the conventions.

India became the signatory to the **Hague Convention on Protection of Children** and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoptions. **Central Adoption Resource Authority** was designated as the nodal agency to grant a no-objection certificate for all inter-country adoptions.

India is also a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: It provides a legal mandate of all authorities and courts to offer protection to children.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding **community transmission (CT):**

1. CT happens when new cases in last 14 days cannot be traced to those who have an international travel history
2. A cluster of cases classification entails a similar response from the health authorities as community transmission

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In general, the World Health Organization (WHO) uses the following categories to describe transmission patterns: sporadic cases, clusters of cases and community transmission.
 - **Sporadic cases** - small number of cases (one or more) that are either imported or detected locally;
 - **clusters of cases** - cases that are clustered in time, geographic location and or by common exposures;
 - **community transmission** - Community transmission simply means that the epidemic has become so widespread in a community that it gets difficult, if not impossible, to determine who is passing on the infection to whom. The source and chain of infections can no longer be established. Determining the chain of infections is key to the containment strategy that is being followed. Contact tracing, identification, testing and isolation of suspect cases are all dependent on establishing this chain.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Response in case of community transmission would be different. If cases were still a cluster, it would mean that the government ought to be prioritising testing, contact tracing and isolating to prevent further infection spread. CT, on the other hand meant prioritising treatment and observing advisories to stay protected.

Read more: [community transmission \(CT\)](#)

Q.19) Consider the statements regarding District Skill Committees (DSCs):

1. DSCs function under the guidance of State Skill Development Missions
2. They are headed by the chairman of the Panchayat Samiti

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** District Skill Committees (DSCs) function under the guidance of State Skill Development Missions (SSDM). These DSCs play a key role in addressing the skill gap and assessing demand at the district level. DSC is composed of all the significant district development departmental officers.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The DSCs are headed by the District Collector.

Q.20) Consider the following statements on Horticulture

1. The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is being implemented as a part of the Green Revolution - Krishonnati Yojana.
2. In 2019-20, India recorded its highest ever horticulture production

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Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):

- The mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing the MIDH scheme since 2014-15.
- **Part of:** The scheme is being implemented as a part of the Green Revolution - Krishonnati Yojana.
- **Coverage:** The scheme covers fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops. The scheme also covers mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa.

Productivity of Horticulture:

- **Area and production** under horticulture crops during the years 2014 – 15 to 2019 – 20 has increased by 9% and 14% respectively.
- **During the year 2019-20**, the country recorded its highest ever horticulture production of 320.77 million tonnes from an area of 25.66 million hectares.

Read more: [Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture \(MIDH\)](#)

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding Integrated Child Protection Scheme:

1. Track Child has been established under provisions laid down by ICPS
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Track Child portal has been designed and developed adhering to the guidelines provided in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and Model Rules 2007 and the provisions laid down in the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented by Women and Child Development Ministry

Q.22) Which state became the first to establish cashless system for distribution of food grain?

- a) Kerala
- b) MP
- c) Sikkim
- d) Gujarat

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Gujarat became India's first state to establish a cashless system in its foodgrain PDS. The state government has installed Aadhaar enabled payment systems (AEPS) in around 17,250 fair price shops to ensure that those eligible for subsidized food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) only need their Aadhaar numbers to collect their rations

Q.23) SAMVEDNA helpline was established recently. Which of the following is the aim of this helpline?

- a) They help individuals to report officials about the oxygen cylinder requirement for patients.
- b) They help people to intimate health officials about the persons with Covid-19 symptoms living nearby
- c) They provide psychological and emotional support to the COVID-19 affected children
- d) They provide information to people regarding the nearby hospital, availability of bed, etc.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Children impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic are being provided telecounseling through SAMVEDNA.

About SAMVEDNA:

- **SAMVEDNA** stands for Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance.
- **Purpose:** It is a toll-free helpline number that aims to provide psychological first-aid and emotional support to the COVID-19 affected children
- **Provided by:** The tele-counselling is provided by the National Commission of Child Rights(NCPCR).
- **Number:** This tele-counselling service is available on a toll-free number 1800-121-2830. It is exclusive for children who are willing to talk and are in need of counselling.

Read more: [SAMVEDNA Helplines](#)

Q.24) Medicine from the sky project was launched by which of the following state?

- a) Delhi
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Telangana

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Recently Telangana government has selected 16 primary healthcare centres (PHCs) spread around Vikarabad area hospital for pilot testing the ambitious '**Medicine from the sky**', the first-of- its-kind project.
- The project involves delivery of medicines through multiple drones.
- Telangana government has collaborated with the World Economic Forum and HealthNet Global for implementing the project.
- The project aims to assess alternative logistics routes in providing safe, accurate and reliable pick up and delivery of health care items.

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Q.25) Which of the following is/are push factors behind migration of healthcare workers from India to foreign countries?

1. Low wages in India
2. Lack of health care educational Institutions in India
3. Migrant-friendly policies of OECD countries
4. Better Standard of Living in other countries

Answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

There is a difference between push and pull factors of migration. Brain drain of healthcare workers from India is happening due to both.

While 1 and 2 are push factors i.e., pushing workers towards other countries, 3 and 4 are pull factors, which attracts Indian health workers.

Push Factors

- **Low Wages**
- **Lack of government investment in health care**
- **Lack of health care educational Institutions**

Pull Factors

- **Access to advanced technology:** Developed countries offer better opportunities to pursue research in health care. Health care professionals also get access to advance technology, research facilities and even get higher scholarship amounts for their research.
- **Better standard of living and life quality:** Many developed and GCCs offer a higher salary, tax benefits, higher standard of living, etc. These act as a pull factor for Indian health care professionals.
- Developed countries adopted **migrant-friendly policies towards health care professionals** to retain them in their country

Q.26) Consider the following on **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**

1. These are model residential schools for Scheduled Tribes across India
2. Ministry of Human Resource Development is the nodal ministry for EMRS

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools(EMRS)** is a Government of India scheme for model residential schools for Scheduled Tribes across India.

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- **Nodal Ministry:** The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the year 1997-98.
- **Aim:** To impart quality education to ST children in remote areas. It will also enable them to avail themselves of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.
 - The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-around development of the students.
- Recently **The Ministry of Tribal Affairs(MTA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Microsoft to support the digital transformation of Tribal schools such as **Eklavya Model Residential Schools(EMRS)**.

Read more: [Eklavya Model Residential School](#)

Q.27) COVID19BWM App was recently seen in news. Which of the following reasons the app is used for?

- a) The app is used to track the bed availability in Covid-19 hospitals
- b) The app helps users to report black fungal infection
- c) The app is used to track biomedical waste generated during the Covid-19 treatment.
- d) The app helps individuals to report about mild covid-19 infections

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **COVID19BWM App:** It is an application launched by the Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) to track biomedical waste.
- It allows a generator of waste (urban local body in the case of home and hospital); the picker of the waste (transport of the ULB) and the waste treatment operator to feed in data so that COVID-19 biomedical waste can be tracked and monitored.
- Earlier the Supreme Court has made it mandatory for all municipal corporations and state pollution control boards to use the 'COVID19BWM APP' for tracking biomedical waste daily.

Q.28) National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) application is launched by government recently. Which of the following purpose the app is used for?

- a) The app helps to monitor Covid-19 disease trajectory in India
- b) The app aid Indian government to monitor government procurements in defence sector
- c) The app allows real-time attendance for MGNREGA workers at worksites
- d) The app permits government to monitor the NRI inflow into the country

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) application

- **NMMS App** permits taking real-time attendance of workers at [Mahatma Gandhi NREGA](#) worksites along with geotagged photographs.
- **Impact:** This will increase citizen oversight of the programme. It also enables the potential processing of payments faster.

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Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**

1. Setting up of new AIIMS-like Institutions is a component of the Yojana.
2. The scheme is implemented by Ministry of Human Resource and Development

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: About Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Nodal Ministry:** The scheme was announced in 2003 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Objective:** To correct regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services. Moreover, It will also augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- **Components:** The scheme has two components:
 - Setting up of new AIIMS-like Institutions and
 - Up-gradation of existing Government Medical Colleges /Institutions in a phased manner.

Total AIIMS established: Total of 22 new AIIMS have been announced so far the scheme

- 6 AIIMS are already functional at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur, and Rishikesh.
- 16 more AIIMS are approved by the Cabinet. Among them, 7 AIIMS, have started OPD facility and MBBS classes while in 5 AIIMS only MBBS classes have started.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI):

1. RCI maintains the Central Rehabilitation Register for qualified professionals
2. It is a statutory body
3. It works under the Ministry of Skill Development

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The mandate given to RCI is to regulate and monitor services given to persons with disability, to standardise syllabi and to maintain a Central Rehabilitation Register of all qualified professionals and personnel working in the field of Rehabilitation and Special Education. The Act also prescribes punitive action against unqualified persons delivering services to persons with disability.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rehabilitation Council of India has been set up as a Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament

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Statement 3 is incorrect: It works under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act:

1. It prescribes a maximum punishment of life imprisonment or death penalty
2. Act is gender-neutral
3. Burden of proof lies upon the prosecution

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Act prescribes a maximum punishment of life imprisonment or the death penalty. The Act provides a mandatory minimum punishment of three years.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** POCSO is gender neutral, meaning that crimes of this nature committed against children will be handled by this act regardless of the gender of the child.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Usually, in criminal cases, the burden of proof lies on the prosecution, and the guilt must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. Under POCSO, however, there is a presumption that a person who is prosecuted for an offence has actually committed the offence, unless the contrary is proved (Section 29). Instead of “innocent until proven guilty”, the court assumes that the accused is guilty once the prosecution lays the foundation of the case.

Source of the MCQ: [Article](#)

Q.32) DARPAN portal is related to:

- a) NGOs engaged in developmental activities
- b) Environment clearance for hydro-projects
- c) Resolution of complaints regarding GST
- d) Governance related problems

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- It is a platform that provides space for interface between Voluntary organisations/NGOs and key Government Ministries / Departments / Government Bodies, to start with.
 - Later it is proposed to cover all Central Ministries / Departments / Government Bodies.
- This is a free facility offered by the NITI Aayog in association with National Informatics Centre to bring about greater partnership between government & voluntary sector and foster better transparency, efficiency and accountability.
- The NGO-DARPAN started out as an initiative of the Prime Minister's Office, to create and promote a healthy partnership between VOs/NGOs and the Government of India.
- The Portal is managed at present by NITI Aayog

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Source of the MCQ: [Article](#)

Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding RFID/FASTag:

1. It has a passive RFID chip
2. Once it is affixed to a vehicle, it cannot be transferred to another vehicle.
3. FASTags are operated by National Payments Corporation of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A FASTag has what is called a passive RFID chip as it does not contain its own battery. It is energized only when the beam from the scanner strikes it. At a toll plaza, when a vehicle comes within a certain radius, the scanner is able to send out the signals and read the tag which means, the identification code of the vehicle
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The FASTag sticker is vehicle specific, hence, once it is affixed on to a particular vehicle, it cannot be transferred to another vehicle.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) through its subsidiary Indian Highway Management Company Limited (IHMCL) sells and operates FASTag.

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding Competition Commission of India:

1. It ensures freedom of trade in Indian markets
2. It is a statutory body

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Competition Commission of India has been established by the Central Government under the Competition Act 2002 (act was amended in 2007)

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding TRIFED:

1. It is mainly concerned with development of minor forest produce
2. It is a statutory body
3. It works under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It mainly undertakes two functions viz. Minor Forest Produce (MFP) development and Retail Marketing and Development (creating a sustainable market and create business opportunities for tribal people)
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was established in 1987, under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. Hence, it is a statutory body.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It works under Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Source: [Pib](#)

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding National Mission on Cultural Mapping:

1. It aims to establish a national cultural workplace portal as a common information sharing platform for all stakeholders
2. E-commerce facility will also be provided to artists for direct marketing

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mission will establish National Cultural Work Place (NCWP). The NCWP shall be a fully equipped cultural portal which will serve as common interaction work place for all stake holders including artistes, institutions, NGOs and Ministry of Culture.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mission aims at setting up e-commerce facility to provide various opportunities to artists for direct marketing, cutting out the middleman - empowering traditional occupational communities.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.37) National Food Security Act (NFSA) is frequently in news. In this respect, consider the following statements:

1. Under NFSA, transportation of food grains to designated depots in states/UTs is the responsibility of Centre
2. Periodic social audits are mandatory under NFSA
3. The act legally entitles all rural population to receive subsidised food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 and 2

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under NFSA, Centre is responsible for allocation of required foodgrains to States/UTs, transportation of foodgrains up to designated depots in each State/UT and providing central assistance to States/UTs for delivery of foodgrains from designated Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns to the doorstep of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs)
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under NFSA, social audit is mandatory to ensure transparency and accountability under TPDS.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Act legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System. About two thirds of the population therefore is covered under the Act to receive highly subsidised foodgrains.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.38) Consider the following statements on **social media companies**

1. They are defined as an intermediary under the provisions of the IT Act
2. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) have the power to regulate digital media companies in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Legally the social media companies are not considered as an intermediary. Under section 2W of the IT Act, the **definition of intermediary does not include Social media companies**. This section mentions Intermediaries like internet service providers, online auction sites, online marketplaces, etc. But the government **treats them as a intermediary**
- **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** have the power to regulate digital media companies in India.
- The present new IT rules are framed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY). But the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** have the administration power over the rules not MeiTY.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding **SeHAT OPD portal:**

1. It is a patient to doctor system for the serving & veteran armed forces personnel of all three Services.
2. Both e-Sanjeevani & SeHAT have been developed by CDAC

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** SeHAT OPD Portal aims to provide tele-medicine services to the serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families of the three Services.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Both portals have been developed by CDAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing).
 - e-Sanjeevani is a doctor-to-doctor telemedicine system being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme. It seeks to connect all 1,50,000 HWCs using the hub-and-spoke model by December 2022.

Source: [SeHAT](#)

Q.40) Which amongst the following can become a beneficiary under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme?

- 1. Sharecroppers
- 2. Tenant Farmers
- 3. Dairy Farmers
- 4. Self Help Groups

Select your answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1,2 and 4 only
- c) 1,2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The Kisan Credit Card(KCC) scheme was launched by the Government of India in 1998. It aims to provide adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs as indicated below:

- To meet the short term credit requirements for cultivation of crops;
- Post-harvest expenses and Produce marketing loan;
- Consumption requirements of farmer household;
- Working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture;
- Investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities.

Coverage: Small farmers, marginal farmers, sharecroppers, oral lessee and tenant farmers, Self Help Groups (SHGs) or Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) are eligible for availing benefits under the scheme.

In 2020, the government included the dairy farmers in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) programme.

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International Relations

Q.1) World Press Freedom Index is released by

- Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- World Justice Project
- Transparency International
- None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- India's rank: 142/180
- Released by:** Paris based Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- It has been published every year since 2002 by **Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders.**
- Based in Paris, RSF is an independent NGO with **consultative status** with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF).
 - OIF is a 54 French-speaking nations collective.
- The Index ranks countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists. However, it is **not an indicator on the quality of journalism.**
- The parameters include pluralism, media independence, media environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information.

Q.2) Competitiveness and Resilience Partnership, or CoRe is launched between the US and which of the following country?

- India
- Europe
- Australia
- Japan

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Competitiveness and Resilience Partnership, or CoRe was announced between US and Japan to support the funding of **new-age technologies.**

- The funding will be used for the deployment of secure 5G networks to build digital infrastructure in developing countries.
- Given the Chinese ambitions to dominate the development of new-age technologies such as **5G and quantum computing** the announcement of **CoRe is significant** as it act as a counterbalance to Chinese tech ambitions.

Q.3) World is facing a refugee crisis. Consider the following statements regarding 1951 Refugee convention:

- India is neither a party to the convention nor its 1967 Protocol.
- Convention defines a refugee's obligations to host countries.
- UNHRC serves as a guardian of the 1951 Convention.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a national refugee protection framework
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 1951 Refugee Convention is the key legal document that forms the basis of UNHCR's work. It defines the term 'refugee' and outlines the rights of the displaced, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them. The convention also defines a refugee's obligations to host countries and specifies certain categories of people, such as war criminals, who do not qualify for refugee status.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Correct answer is UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees), not UNHRC (UN Human Rights Council).
- **UNHCR** serves as the guardian of 1951 convention

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

1. Countries that have ratified the covenant are mandatorily obligated to take legislative measures to protect the rights enshrined in the treaty.
2. India is still not a state party to the covenant.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The United Nations International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) attempts to ensure the protection of civil and political rights. It was adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly on December 19, 1966, and it came into force on March 23, 1976. The International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the ICCPR and its two Optional Protocols, are collectively known as the **International Bill of Rights**.
- Countries that have ratified the Covenant are obligated to protect and preserve basic human rights and to take administrative, judicial, and legislative measures in order to protect the rights enshrined in the treaty and to provide an effective remedy.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India is a state party to ICCPR

Q.5) Consider the following terms associated with Refugees.

1. An asylum seeker is someone who claims to be a refugee but whose claim hasn't been evaluated.
2. A refugee is a person who fled his country due to the risk of serious human rights violations and persecution.

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Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct answer: C

Explanation:

Who is a refugee?

A refugee is a person who fled his country due to the risk of serious human rights violations and persecution there. These refugees have a right to international protection under the UN Refugee Convention and its protocol.

Who is an asylum-seeker?

An asylum seeker is someone who claims to be a refugee but whose claim hasn't been evaluated. An asylum seeker will turn into a refugee if the claim is evaluated and justified.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD) is a legal process used by governments or UNHCR (UN High Commission for Refugees) to determine the refugee status of an asylum seeker under international, national or regional law.

Who is a migrant?

Migrants are persons moving to another country not due to direct threat or persecution but due to improving their lives. Migrants can return home if they wish (But refugees and asylum seekers cannot).

Q.6) Baghdad Conference was some time seen in news. Which of the following correctly explains it?

- a) It is conference between the Turkey and Armenian people
- b) It is a conference that established the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- c) It is a conference between Afghanistan government and Taliban to derive peace settlement
- d) This is a conference between Iran and Iraq to bring peace in the region

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries(OPEC):

- It is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960. Its founding members are Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- **Purpose:** To manage the supply of oil in an effort to set the price of oil in the world market. Further, it also aims to manage price fluctuations that might affect the economies of both producing and purchasing countries.
- **Members:** Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela
- **Secretariat:** Vienna, Austria.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding G7:

1. All G7 members are also a part of G20
2. Russia and Canada both are members of G7

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** All countries who are members of G7 are also a part of G20
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Russia is not a part of G7. Russia joined G7 in 1998. After this G7 was renamed as G8. But it was kicked out in 2014 after its annexation of Crimea. So now it's back to G7

Q.8) Which of the following joint exercises conducted between India and the UK

1. Exercise Indradhanush
2. Exercise Ajeya Warrior
3. Exercise Konkan

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

India and UK held the following bilateral exercises

- Exercise Indradhanush –Joint Air Force
- Exercise Ajeya Warrior - Joint military exercise
- Exercise Konkan - Joint Navy exercise

Q.9) Which of the following are the founding members of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

1. Iran
2. Iraq
3. Kuwait
4. Saudi Arabia
5. Venezuela
6. Oman
7. Yemen

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- OPEC was established in 1960 by its founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela

Q.10) Global Innovation Partnership is launched between India and which of the following countries?

- a) The USA
- b) The UK
- c) Australia
- d) Japan

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Global Innovation Partnership** has been launched by the Government of India and the UK.
- **Purpose:** The GIP will support Indian innovators to scale up their innovations in third countries. Thereby helping innovators to explore new markets and become self-sustainable.
- **Under GIP**, Indian entrepreneurs and innovators will receive seed funding, grants, investments and technical assistance. They will test, scale up and take innovative development solutions to select developing countries.

Read More: **Global Innovation Partnership**

Q.11) World Food Price Index is released by which of the following institution?

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- b) Hunger watch
- c) Agriculture and Biodiversity Community
- d) Sustainable Harvest International

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The **World Food Price Index** was released by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) .

According to the index, world food prices have increased for the 11th consecutive month in April. Further, the prices also hit their highest level since May 2014.

About World Food Price Index:

- **The index** was introduced in 1996 to help in monitoring the developments in the global agricultural commodity markets.
- **Purpose:** The index is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.
- **Commodities:** It consists of the average of five commodity group price indices. Such as cereal, vegetable, dairy, meat and sugar. Also, these five indices is given weightage based on the average export shares.
- **Base Year:** The Base Year for the index is 2014-16.

Read More: [Food and Agriculture Organization](#)

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Q.12) Women's World Banking Report is released by:

- a) IMF
- b) WB
- c) IBRD
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- The report is released by Women's World Banking Network. They partner with leading corporations to prove the commercial and social value of women's financial inclusion

Q.13) Christchurch Call to Action is often seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is an international action plan to achieve sustainable development goals
- b) It aims to address terrorist and violent extremist contents online
- c) It aims to create global awareness on Climate Change
- d) It is an international awareness initiative towards cyber security

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Christchurch Call to Action** was launched during the Online Extremism Summit in Paris, France in 2019. The summit was co-chaired by New Zealand and France.
- **Objective:** The Christchurch Call is a global pledge by member governments and technology partners. Under this, they work together to address terrorist and violent extremist contents online.
- **Named after:** The call is named after the New Zealand city. In Christchurch, 51 members of the Muslim community were murdered in a live-streamed terrorist attack in 2019.
- **Member Countries:** Seventeen countries originally signed the agreement. Another 31 countries signed the agreement later.
- **India:** India is one of the member countries.

Read more: [Christchurch Call to Action](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding Arctic Council

1. It is intergovernmental forum established by Ottawa Declaration
2. India is a 'member' in the Arctic Council

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **The Arctic Council** was formally established in 1996 by the **Ottawa Declaration**.
- **Purpose:** It is an intergovernmental forum for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States.

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- **Members:** The members of the Arctic Council include Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States.
- **Observer Status:** Since 2013, India enjoys 'Observer' status in the Arctic Council. Twelve other observer countries are Japan, China, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Spain, Netherlands, Singapore, and South Korea.

Q.15) “Nature in a Globalised World: Conflict and Conservation” report is released by which of the following Organisation?

- a) World Wide Fund for Nature
- b) Global Environment Facility
- c) World Nature Organisation
- d) International Union for Conservation of Nature

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN) has released a report titled “Nature in a Globalised World: Conflict and Conservation”.

Key Findings of the Nature in a Globalised World Report:

- Armed Conflicts have numerous negative effects on nature. These include:
 - Direct killing of wildlife for food or trade
 - Degradation of ecosystems as both a tactic and a consequence of war
 - Disruption of conservation, e.g. through attacks on protected area staff and other conservationists.
- Civil unrest and military exercises pose a risk to more than 200 Endangered species. This includes even the iconic species such as the Critically Endangered Eastern gorilla.

Read more: [Nature in a Globalised World Report](#)

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**

1. Under this, each person covered under the National Food Security Act(NFSA) will get an additional 5 kg of grains for free
2. Ministry of Finance is the Nodal Ministry

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **PMGKAY** was first announced in 2020 as a part of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package(PMGKP). It aims to help the poor to fight the battle against Covid-19.
- **Aim:** The scheme is aimed at providing each person who is covered under the National Food Security Act(NFSA) with an additional 5 kg of grains (wheat or rice) for free. This is given over and above their monthly entitlement
- **Duration of the Scheme:** The scheme was announced in 2020 for three months till July 2020. Later it was extended till November 2020.

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○ However, the scheme is functional once again. Under this new phase, around 80 crore beneficiaries would be covered for the months of May and June 2021.

- Its nodal Ministry is the **Ministry of Finance**.

Read more: [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana\(PMGKAY\)](#)

Q.17) Two State Solution is often seen in news. It is related to which of the following?

- a) North and South Korea
- b) Turkey and Syria
- c) Israel and Palestine
- d) China and Japan

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Two-state solution is encouraged between Israel and Palestine:

- It would create a sovereign Israel and Palestine. It would establish Palestine as an independent state in Gaza and most of the West Bank, leaving the rest of the land to Israel.
- It **has been the goal of the international community** for decades, dating back to the 1947 UN Partition Plan.
- The solution also identify a 1967 demarcation line known as the Green Line to partition Palestinian and Israeli land. It would also divide Jerusalem between the two states.
- Currently, India supports a **two-state solution** to the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Q.18) KNOMAD often seen in news is a:

- a) Global taxonomic database
- b) Policy approach to fight COVID
- c) Blockchain protocol
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- KNOMAD, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, is a brain trust for the global migration community.
- It is an open, inclusive, multidisciplinary knowledge partnership that draws on experts to create and synthesize knowledge for use by policy makers in sending, receiving and transit countries.
- KNOMAD works in close coordination with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the U.N. agencies working on migration.
- The World Bank has established a multi-donor trust fund to implement KNOMAD

Q.19) “Migration and Development Brief” report is released by which of the following Organisation?

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Human Rights Council
- d) International Organisation for Migration

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, the World Bank has released a report titled “**Migration and Development Brief, 2020**”.

Key findings:

- India has received the highest amount of remittances in 2020. This was followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, Egypt, Pakistan, France and Bangladesh.

About the report:

- **Prepared by:** The report is prepared by the Migration and Remittances Unit, Development Economics (DEC)- the premier research and data arm of the World Bank.
- **Aim:** The report aims to provide an update on key developments. Especially in the area of migration and remittance flows and related policies over the past six months.
 - The report also provides medium-term projections of remittance flows to developing countries.
- **The report is produced** twice a year.

Read More: [Migration and Development Brief](#)

Q.20) Which of the following countries does not border Armenia?

1. Syria
2. Azerbaijan
3. Iraq

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

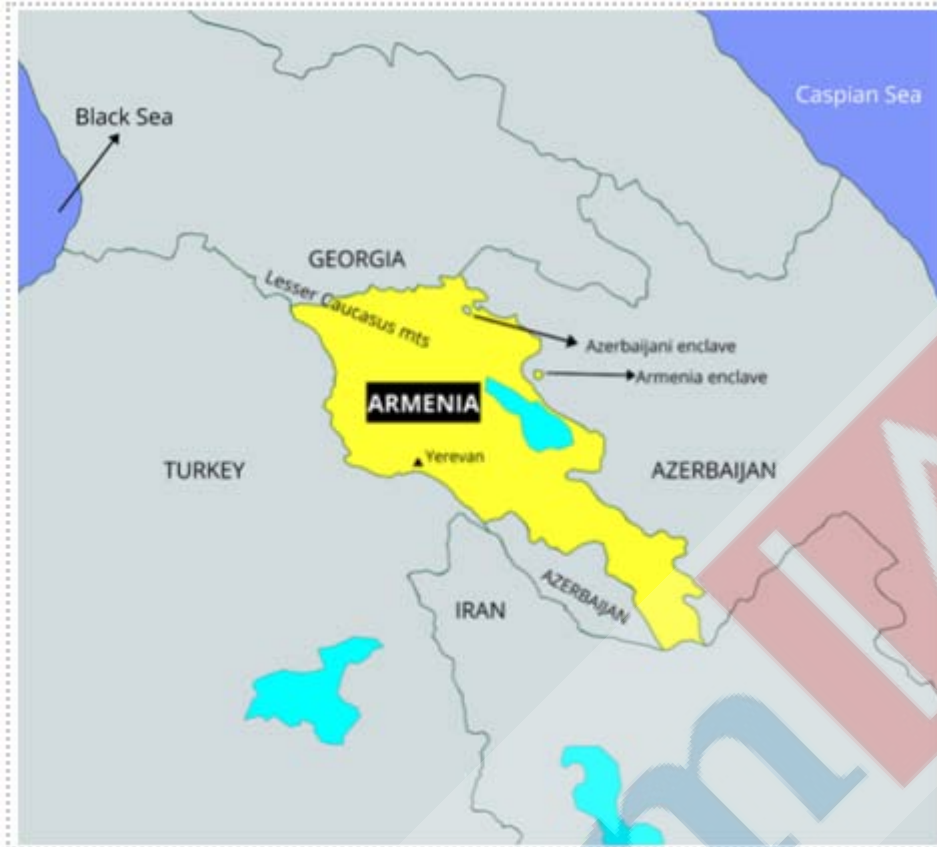
Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Bordering countries -

- Turkey
- Azerbaijan
- Iran
- Georgia

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Q.21) Houthis, a term often seen in news is related to:

- a) Israel
- b) Qatar
- c) Yemen
- d) Lebanon

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Houthis are a large clan originating from Yemen's north-western Saada province

Note: You can read more about the Houthi movement [here](#) and [here](#)

Q.22) Consider the following statements regarding Electoral bonds:

1. Companies or businesses are not allowed to subscribe to Electoral bonds
2. These bonds are available at regional branches of all scheduled commercial banks

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) **Only 1**
- b) **Only 2**
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) **None of the above**

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** These bonds can be bought by any Indian citizen or company incorporated in India from select branches of State Bank of India. The citizen can then donate the same to any eligible political party of his/her choice.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** These bonds are available with only State bank of India (SBI)

Q.23) Public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC) is often in news. In this regard consider the following statements:

1. Director-General of World Health Organization determines whether an event can be categorised as PHEIC.
2. Swine flu, polio and Ebola have all been declared as PHEIC in the past

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is defined as an extraordinary event that constitutes a public health risk to other States through the international spread of the disease and potentially requires a coordinated international response.
 - The responsibility of declaring an event as an emergency lies with the Director-General of the WHO and requires the convening of a committee of members.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** So far 6 PHEIC have been declared by WHO. These are:
 - H1N1 (Swine Flu)
 - Ebola (In 2014 in West Africa and In 2019 in Democratic Republic of Congo)
 - Polio
 - Zika
 - COVID 19

Q.24) Consider the following statements on Diplomatic Immunity

1. It is a privilege provided to diplomats in the country in which they get posting
2. Diplomats get immunity only from the civil cases
3. The home country of the diplomats has the power to waive off diplomatic immunity

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Diplomatic Immunity is a privilege provided to diplomats in the country in which they got posted. Generally, these privileges will be in the form of exemption from certain laws and taxes. This may be civil or criminal.
- **However, it is possible for the diplomat's home country** to waive immunity. But this can happen only when the individual has committed a 'serious crime', anything unconnected to their diplomatic role or has witnessed such a crime.

Read more: [Diplomatic Immunity](#)

Q.25) "Farzad B gas field" is located in which of the following country?

- a) Iraq
- b) Palestine
- c) Iran
- d) Saudi Arabia

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Farzad-B is an offshore natural gas field** located on the Iranian side of the Persian Gulf.
- **The gas field was discovered in 2008** by a consortium of three Indian companies led by the state-owned ONGC Videsh, Indian Oil Corporation and Oil India.
- **The gas field** holds 23 trillion cubic feet of in-place reserves. Of these about 60% is recoverable. It also holds gas condensates of about 5,000 barrels per billion cubic feet of gas.
- Recently, Iran has given the Farzad B gas field to a domestic gas producer. This is a setback for India's energy ties with Iran. As ONGC has been part of the ongoing cooperation of the Gas field.

Read More: [Farzad B gas field](#)

Q.26) Consider the following pairs

1. Operation Aman - Sri Lanka
2. Operation Cactus - Lakshadweep
3. Operation Crowsnest - Maldives

Which of the following pairs matched **incorrectly**?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, Indian Navy has decommissioned the INS Rajput at Naval Dockyard at Visakhapatnam after 41 years of service.

The destroyer ship participated in several important missions over the years including:

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- **Operation Aman** off the coast of Sri Lanka to assist the Indian Peace Keeping Force during Srilankan Civil War
- **Operation Pawan** for patrolling duties off the coast of Sri Lanka
- **Operation Cactus** to resolve hostage situation of the Maldives and
- **Operation Crownsnest** off Lakshadweep.

Read more: [INS Rajput](#)

Q.27) Rome Declaration was seen in news recently. In this regard which of the following statements is correct?

- a) It aims to reduce nuclear weapons among US and USSR
- b) The declaration aims to achieve universal access to digital tools
- c) The declaration aims to prevent future health crisis
- d) It aims to reduce industrial pollution globally to achieve Paris Climate Agreement targets

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **The Rome Declaration** was adopted at the Global Health Summit 2021.
- **Principles:** The declaration is made up of 16 mutually agreed principles. These principles aim at guiding joint action to prevent future health crises and to build a safer, fairer and more equitable and sustainable world.

Key Features of the Rome Declaration:

- **Support** and enhance the existing multilateral health architecture.
- **Promote** the multilateral trading system and global supply chains related to Health emergencies,
- **Enable** equitable, affordable, timely global access to high-quality, safe, effective prevention, detection and response tools.

Read more: [Rome Declaration](#)

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding BRICS Astronomy Working Group

1. The group was established along with the BRICS.
2. All BRICS members participated in the 7th meeting of BRICS Astronomy Working Group.
3. Group has recommended networking of telescopes in member countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Astronomy was established as one of five thematic science areas within BRICS at a ministerial meeting held in South Africa in 2014. Formed in: The BRICS Astronomy Working Group(BAWG) established in 2015.

Statement 2 is correct. 7th meeting of group witnessed participation from all five BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – with more than 50 participants, including researchers, academicians and government officials.

Statement 3 is correct. The BRICS Astronomy Working Group has recommended networking of telescopes in member countries and creating a regional data network.

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Q.29) Bantustan seen in news is related to:

- a) Syrian refugee crisis
- b) Israel-Palestine conflict
- c) Apartheid policy
- d) Yemeni civil war

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- A Bantustan was a territory that the National Party administration of South Africa set aside for black inhabitants of South Africa and South West Africa, as part of its policy of apartheid

Source: [Article](#)

Q.30) 17+1 initiative seen in news is a:

- a) Vaccine research and development alliance by WHO
- b) China-led forum including Central European countries
- c) A multilateral process led by Arctic nations
- d) Space exploration mission led by NASA

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **The 17+1 cooperation forum** is a China-led initiative founded in the year 2012.
- **Aim:** To expand cooperation between China and the Central and Eastern European (CEE) member countries. This is done through investments and trade for the development of the CEE region.
- **The initiative also focuses** on infrastructure projects such as bridges, motorways, railway lines and the modernisation of ports in the member states.
- **Significance:** The initiative is largely seen as an extension of China's flagship Belt and Road initiative (BRI).

Source: [17+1](#)

Q.31) Which of the following countries is/are a member(s) of BIMSTEC?

- 1. Myanmar
- 2. Indonesia
- 3. Thailand

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):** Headquartered in Dhaka, BIMSTEC is an inter-regional grouping that seeks to foster regional and economic cooperation among nations in the littoral and adjacent areas

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of the Bay of Bengal — India, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

Q.32) State of Global Climate report is released by:

- a) UNFCCC
- b) WMO
- c) UNEP
- d) IPCC

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- State of Global Climate report is released annually by World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Source: [Article](#)

Geography

Q.1) Equator passes through which of the following countries:

1. Peru
2. Ecuador
3. Colombia

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Equator doesn't pass through Peru



Q.2) Which of the following are the reason for frequent Earth Quake in North-Eastern India?

1. High presence of alluvial soil in the region
2. Increase in the use of high-technology equipment
3. Development projects in North East
4. Unscientific Buildings in the region

Answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1,2 and 3 only
- c) 1,3 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation Vulnerability of Northeast Region to Earthquake:

- **High Seismicity Level:** Northeast is located in the highest seismological zone. The Kopili Fault Zone is a seismically active area, so it falls into the highest Seismic Hazard Zone V. It is associated with collisional tectonics because the Indian Plate is subducting beneath the Eurasian Plate.
- **Nature of Soil:** Kopili fault zone and its neighbouring areas are characterized by alluvial soils. These alluvial soil have a higher potential of trapping seismic waves. Thus making the region the most earthquake-prone zone in North East India.
- **Terrain:** The region has a significant amount of mountainous terrain that demands explosions for building a tunnel, road, etc. infrastructure. This enhances the probability of earthquakes.
- **Untapped Potential:** The region has not seen robust development like the rest of India. Thus, a greater number of development projects like mining, dam construction, etc. in the region are under planning. It may enhance earthquake probability in the future.
- **High-technology equipment and tools:** There has been an increase in the use of high-technology equipment and tools in the manufacturing and service industries. This has made them susceptible to disruption even by moderate ground shaking.
- **Unscientific Buildings:** Many buildings in the cities of Shillong, Gangtok etc. are constructed on the sloping ground. That too by excavating some part of the hill.
- The open ground storey, heavy overhangs, heavy rooftops, and irregular plan shapes are common in buildings that make them seismically more vulnerable.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Galapagos islands is a double world heritage site, since both land and sea are protected.
2. Sangay volcano is a type of composite volcano.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a **double World Heritage site** (both land and sea are protected).
 - In 1978 UNESCO designated Galapagos as the first World Heritage site and the Galapagos Marine Reserve received the same status in 1998
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sangay volcano is a stratovolcano. Stratovolcanoes are also called as composite volcanoes. These volcanoes are characterized by a steep profile and periodic, explosive eruptions.

Q.4) Consider the following pairs

Puppets - State

1. **Kathputli** – Rajasthan
2. **Kundhei** — Karnataka
3. **Gombeyatta** — Odisha

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4. **Bommalattam** — Tamil Nadu

Which of the above pairs matched correctly?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Types of puppetries and state

- Kathputli – Rajasthan
- Kundhei — Odisha
- Gombeyatta — Karnataka
- Bommalattam — Tamil Nadu
- Putola Nach – Assam

Q.5) In which of the following states is Kamlang Tiger Reserve situated?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Manipur
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Sikkim

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

Recently, the white-bellied heron was spotted at Walong in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh. This is the first time the white-bellied heron was sighted at a height of 1,200 meters above sea level in India.

- It is one of the rarest birds in the world. At present, it is found only in Bhutan, Myanmar and the **Namdapha Tiger Reserve** in Arunachal Pradesh, India.
- But the bird has also recorded in the **Kamlang Tiger Reserve** in Lohit district in Arunachal Pradesh through camera trap images.

Q.6) **Xylophis Deepaki** was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is the new species of snake identified in South India
- b) It is a new strain of the Covid-19 virus
- c) It is a new soybean variety that provide more yields
- d) It is the new butterfly identified in Amazon forests

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- It is a new snake species discovered recently in Tamil Nadu.
- It is a tiny wood snake of just 20 cm length with iridescent scales.
- The species is named in honour of Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan. As he contributed in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes.
- **About wood snakes:** These are harmless and often found while digging soil in farms and under the logs in the Western Ghat forests

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Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to White-bellied Heron:

1. It is endemic to Andes mountain ranges
2. It is listed as critically endangered in IUCN-red list

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is one of the rarest birds in the world. At present, it is found only in Bhutan, Myanmar and the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh, India.
 - But the bird has also recorded in the Kamlang Tiger Reserve in Lohit district in Arunachal Pradesh through camera trap images.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is listed as **Critically Endangered (CE)** in the IUCN-red list and in Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 under **Schedule IV**

Q.8) Consider the following statements on the **Mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles** on the Odisha coast.

1. The Rushikulya river mouth is considered as the world's largest nesting beach for Olive Ridley Turtles
2. The Olive Ridley turtles in the past skipped the mass nesting on Rushikulya river mouth

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **The Rushikulya river mouth** is considered the second-biggest nesting site for Olive Ridley Turtles in India.
- The Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Odisha is considered the world's largest nesting beach for Olive Ridley Turtles.
- The mass nesting near the Rushikulya river mouth is likely to be missed in 2021. As the time for nesting is almost over.
- But this won't be the first time they won't come for mass nesting. In 2002, 2007, 2016 and 2019, the turtles had not shown up at Rushikulya.

Q.9) Andaman & Nicobar is an archipelago in Bay of Bengal. In that respect, arrange the following locations from North to South:

1. Great Nicobar
2. Car Nicobar
3. Little Nicobar

Select your answer from the codes given below:

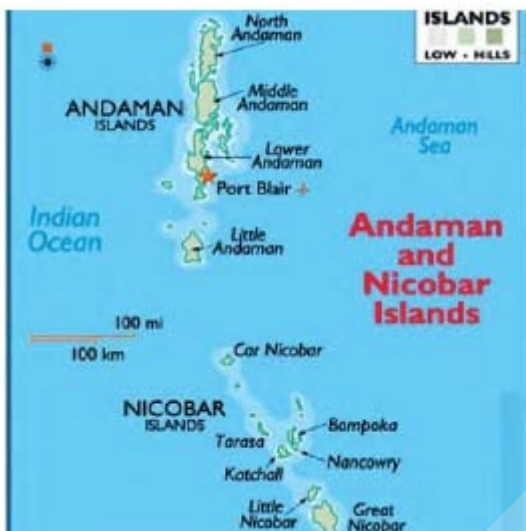
- a) 3-2-1

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation



Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Giant Leatherback Turtle:

1. Within Indian ocean they nest only in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
2. Listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN red list

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The largest of the seven species of sea turtles on the planet and also the most long-ranging, Leatherbacks are found in all oceans except the Arctic and the Antarctic. Within the Indian Ocean, they nest only in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the A&N Islands.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Their conservation status is Vulnerable (VU) in the IUCN red list

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding Pangolins

1. Pangolins are the world's most trafficked mammal
2. In India, Indian and Chinese Pangolins are kept under Schedule I of Wildlife protection Act
3. Both Indian and Chinese Pangolin are Critically Endangered

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Pangolins are the world's most trafficked mammal
- Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin and the Chinese Pangolin are found in India
- **Indian Pangolin:**
 - Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except in the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East. The species also occurs in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
 - **IUCN Status:** Endangered
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** under Schedule I.
- **Chinese Pangolin:**
 - It is widely distributed in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and the northeastern part of India.
 - **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Under Schedule I

Read more: [Pangolin](#)

Q.12) 10-degree channel lies between:

- a) North Andaman & Little Andaman
- b) Little Andaman & Middle Andaman
- c) Little Andaman & Car Nicobar
- d) Car Nicobar & Little Nicobar

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

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- It separates the Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands from each other

Q.13) Volcanic eruptions are witness frequently at various places. In this respect, consider the statements below:

1. Explosivity of an eruption is function of the composition of the Magma
2. More than the Lava flow, suffocation is the most common cause of death from a volcano
3. Volcanic emissions reaching the stratosphere can have a cooling effect on global temperatures

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** When the magma is runny and thin, gases can easily escape it. In such cases, the magma will flow out towards the surface. However, if the magma is thick and dense and gases cannot escape it, it builds up pressure inside resulting in a violent explosion.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** According to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the most common cause of death from a volcano is suffocation, making people with respiratory conditions such as asthma and other chronic lung diseases susceptible.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Volcanic emissions reaching the stratosphere can have a cooling effect on global temperatures.

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- The most significant climate impacts from volcanic injections into the stratosphere come from the **conversion of sulphur dioxide to sulphuric acid**, which condenses rapidly in the stratosphere to form fine sulphate aerosols
- The **aerosols increase the reflection of radiation** from the Sun back into space, cooling the Earth's lower atmosphere or troposphere.
- Bigger eruptions during the past century have caused a decrease in temperature of 0.27 degree Celsius or more on the Earth's surface for up to three years.

Q.14) Which of the following countries border the Mediterranean Sea?

1. Israel
2. Lebanon
3. Jordan
4. Cyprus
5. Syria
6. Turkey

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation



Q.15) Which of the following countries share land border with Israel?

1. Syria
2. Lebanon
3. Turkey
4. Egypt

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation



Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):

1. Scheme coverage extends to vegetables, fruits, tuber crops and bamboo
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** MIDH aims for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a centrally sponsored scheme. Government of India (GOI) contributes 60%, of total outlay for developmental programmes in all the states except states in North East and Himalayas, 40% share is contributed by State Governments. In the case of North Eastern States and Himalayan States, GOI contributes 90%.

Q.17) Kachin people was sometimes seen in news. Which one of the following countries they belong to?

- a) Palestine
- b) Myanmar
- c) Pakistan
- d) Russia

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, Protests against Myanmar's military government got intensified in the Kachin Hills.

- Kachin people are a confederation of ethnic groups. They inhabit the Kachin Hills in northern Myanmar's Kachin State. They also present in neighbouring Yunnan Province, China, and Arunachal Pradesh, Assam in Northeastern India.
- The term Kachin people is often used interchangeably with the main subset, called the Jingpo people in China

Q.18) Consider the following statement on Bonda tribe

1. They are one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India
2. They follow Matriarchal societal norms.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently 21 tribals across eight different **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** in Odisha have tested positive for Covid-19. Among them, two persons are from the Bonda tribe.

About Bonda Tribe:

- **Bonda tribes** are one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) found in Odisha.
- **Origin:** Bonda tribes are members of a group of Austro-Asiatic tribes. They are believed to be part of the first wave of migration out of Africa about 60,000 years ago. They are the first forest settlers in India.
- **Culture:** The Bondas have retained their identity and culture despite external interventions over the years.

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- **Occupation:** They are primarily forest dwellers. They perform hunting and foraging for food in the wild.
- **Matriarchal society:** The women prefer to marry men who are younger by at least 5-10 years. This is done because the men can earn for them when they grow old.

Read More: [Bonda Tribe](#)

Q.19) Consider the following:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Name</u>
1. Philippines	Baguio
2. South Pacific Ocean	Tropical Cyclone
3. Atlantic Ocean	Hurricane

Which of the above pairs is/are matched correctly?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Tropical cyclones are referred to by different names depending on where they originate in the world.

- Atlantic Ocean & Eastern North Pacific Ocean – **Hurricane**
- Western North Pacific Ocean – **Typhoon**
- South Pacific Ocean & Indian Ocean - **Tropical Cyclone**
- Australia - **Willy Willy**
- Philippine Islands – **Baguio**

Q.20) Consider the following statements on Cyclone Tauktae

1. It is developed in the Bay of Bengal
2. It is classified as a very severe cyclonic storm (VSCS)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- Only 1
- Only 2
- Both 1 and 2
- None of the above

Correct Answer: B

- **Cyclone ‘Tauktae’** name was suggested by Myanmar. Tauktae means a highly vocal lizard gecko.
- This cyclone has been classified as a very severe cyclonic storm (VSCS).
- The Cyclone has been developed in the Arabian Sea.
- This will also be the fourth cyclone in consecutive years to have developed in the Arabian Sea, that too in the pre-monsoon period (April to June)

Read more: [Cyclone ‘Tauktae](#)

Q.21) Which of the following countries border Red Sea?

1. Yemen
2. Djibouti

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3. Somalia
4. Egypt
5. Sudan

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation



6 countries border The Red Sea –

- Yemen
- Saudi Arabia
- Egypt
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Sudan

Note: If Gulf of Aqaba is taken as extension of Red Sea then two additional countries of Israel and Jordan also border it meaning a total of 8 countries.

Q.22) Sulawesi Island was seen in news recently. It's located in which country?

- a) Australia
- b) India
- c) Brazil
- d) Indonesia

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

A new Australian study has suggested that climate change may be accelerating the degradation of Pleistocene-era rock paintings located in the Sulawesi Island of Indonesia. It is the world's oldest cave art.

Read more: [Sulawesi Island](#)

Q.23) Lightning injuries are common during monsoon in India. In this regard consider the following statements:

1. DAMINI is an app that gives locations of current and impending lightning strikes around area of 40 sq.km
2. India Lightning report is published annually by ISRO
3. Frequency of lightning is more over land compared to oceans

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has a Lightning Location Network with about 48 sensors over various parts of the country and are connected to central processing unit at IITM, Pune.
 - This network provides exact information about lightning strikes and movement of thunderstorm path. Using this network, by IITM developed a Mobile App, DAMINI LIGHTNING.
 - This app gives exact location of current lightning strikes, probable locations of impending lightning around area of 40 sq.km and movement and direction of thunderstorm. It also lists precautionary steps to be taken during lightning and some general information on lightning.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The report is released by Earth Network. It is a company which operates the largest global hyperlocal weather network & provides companies with weather intelligence data to help automate decision-making. With over 1,800 sensors in over 100 countries, Earth Networks Total Lightning Network is the most extensive and technologically advanced lightning network in the world
- **Statement 3 is correct:** There is a higher frequency of lighting over land because solid earth absorbs sunlight and heats up faster than water; this means there is stronger convection and greater atmospheric instability, leading to the formation of thunder and lightning producing storms.

Q.24) Equator doesn't pass through which of the following countries:

1. Gambia
2. Ecuador
3. Colombia

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Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- Equator doesn't pass through Gambia while it does pass through Ecuador and Colombia.
- You can read more about these locations [here](#) and [here](#)

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP):

1. It aims to mitigate the effects of cyclones in coastal states and Union Territories only
2. ISRO is collaborating with Ministry of Earth Sciences to implement the project

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The objective of the NCRMP is to undertake suitable structural and non-structural measures to mitigate the effects of cyclones in the coastal states and UTs of India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will implement the Project in coordination with participating State Governments and the National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM).

Q.26) Arrange the following from left to right:

1. Arafura Sea
2. Coral Sea
3. Timor Sea

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

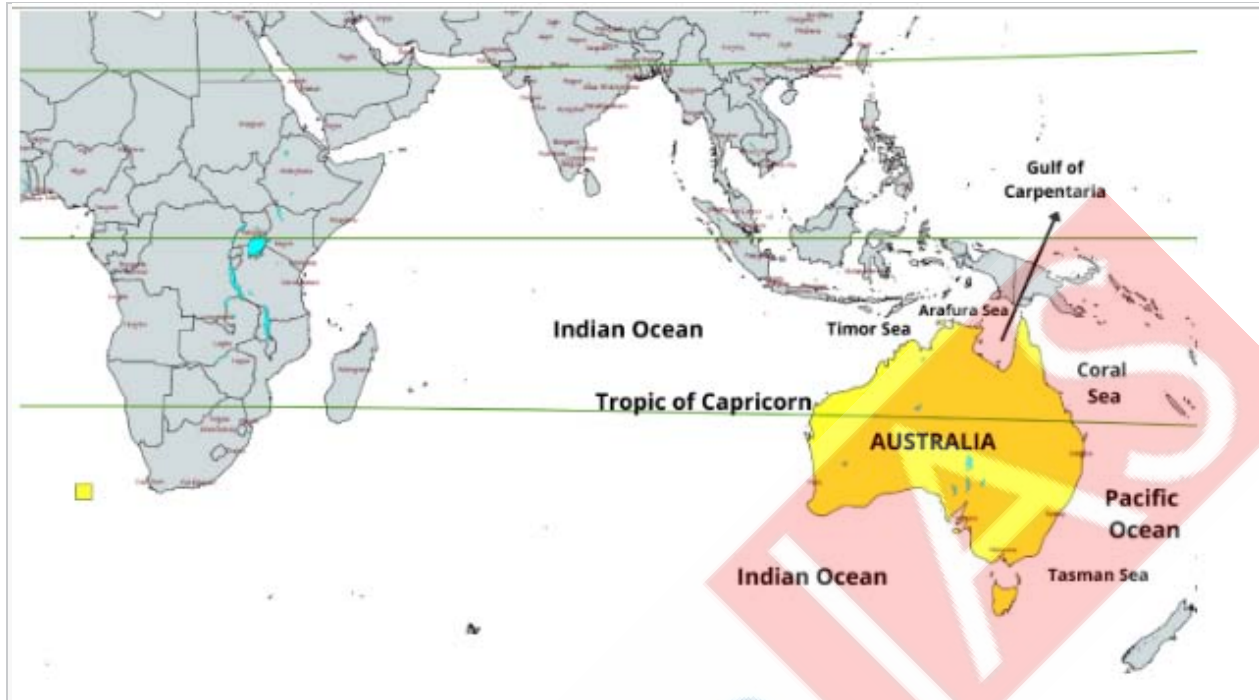
Correct Answer: C

Explanation

Correct order from left to right is –

- Timor Sea – Arafura Sea – Coral Sea

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Q.27) Which of the following country's submitted name has been chosen for Cyclone Tauktae?

- a) Iran
- b) Myanmar
- c) Indonesia
- d) Brunei

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- The cyclone names are given by countries on rotation basis in the region
- The RSMC New Delhi Tropical Cyclone Center is responsible to name the tropical cyclones that have formed over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea when they have reached the relevant intensity.

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WMO/ESCAP member countries	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bangladesh 	Nisarga	Biparjoy	Arnab	Upakul	Barshon	Raji
India 	Gati	Tej	Murasu	Aag	Vyom	Jha
Iran 	Nivar	Hamoon	Akvan	Sepand	Booran	Ana
Maldives 	Burevl	Midhill	Kaani	Odi	Kenau	Enc
Myanmar 	Tauktae	Michaung	Ngamann	Kyarthit	Sapakyee	Wei
Oman 	Yaas	Remal	Sail	Naseem	Muzn	Sac
Pakistan 	Gulab	Asna	Sahab	Afshan	Manahil	Shu
Qatar 	Shaheen	Dana	Lulu	Mouj	Suhail	Sac
Saudi Arabia 	Jawad	Fengal	Ghazeer	Asif	Sidrah	Har

Q.28) Consider the following statements:

1. Rises from Zemu glacier
2. Also known as lifeline of Sikkim
3. It is a right bank tributary of Brahmaputra

Which of the following river is being described in above statements?

- a) Teesta
- b) Manas
- c) Subansiri
- d) Dibang

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- The Teesta rises from Zemu glacier in Sikkim. The Teesta River drains the entire state of Sikkim and a part of Darjeeling Hills.
- It is known as the lifeline of Sikkim. The Teesta flows along a very deep gorge which divides north Bengal or the hills of Darjeeling into two parts-Tiger Hill range in the west and the Kalimpong Hill range in the east.
- It joins the Brahmaputra on its right-bank in Bangladesh.

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Q.29) Which of the following countries border Afghanistan?

1. India
2. Uzbekistan
3. Turkmenistan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

Countries bordering Afghanistan

- India
- China
- Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan
- Turkmenistan
- Iran
- Pakistan

Q.30) Arrange the following seas in anticlockwise direction:

1. Caspian Sea
2. Mediterranean Sea
3. Black Sea
4. Red Sea

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- Please refer [this](#) link for a detailed representation of all these seas on a map.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding Diammonium Phosphate (DAP):

1. Maximum retail price for urea is controlled by the government while it is decontrolled for DAP
2. Nitrogen is a majority component in DAP
3. Without DAP, plants cannot grow to their normal size or will take too long to mature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** While, the MRP for urea is controlled/fixed by the government, it is decontrolled for other fertilizers including DAP, MOP, etc.
 - The maximum retail price (MRP) of urea is currently fixed at Rs 5,378 per tonne or Rs 242 for a 45-kg bag. Since companies have to sell at this controlled rate (fixed MRP), the subsidy is variable. It means subsidy depends upon the market price or costing of Urea. Government has to pay the difference between controlled price and market price.
 - In other fertilizers, the government only gives a fixed per-tonne subsidy. This means the subsidy is fixed, while the MRPs are variable. Thus, MRP of **Decontrolled fertilizers is way above urea** MRP and attract lower subsidy. For some of the non-urea fertilizers, government launched nutrient-based subsidy or NBS scheme.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The fertilizer is high in phosphorus (P) that stimulates root establishment and development. It contains 46% P and 18% nitrogen (N).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Without DAP, the plants cannot grow to their normal size or will take too long to mature.

Source of the MCQ: [Article](#)

Q.32) Arrange the following from North to South:

1. Celebes sea
2. Banda Sea
3. Arafura Sea

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Correct order from North to South is: Celebes Sea – Banda Sea – Arafura Sea

Q.33) Very severe cyclone Yaas will soon hit north Odisha coast. It's has been named by which of the following countries?

- a) India
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Oman
- d) Indonesia

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The name 'Yaas' was suggested by Oman and refers to a tree with good fragrance and in English, the word is similar to Jasmine.

India has, so far, proposed the names Gati (speed), Tej (speed), Marasu (musical instrument in Tamil), Aag (fire), Jhar (storm), Ghurni (whirlpool), Vega (speed) and Neer (water).

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The next cyclone—after Yaas—is likely to be named Gulab, suggested by Pakistan.

Q.34) Arrange the following islands from left to right:

1. Sulawesi
2. Java
3. Kalimantan
4. Sumatra

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- Refer [this](#) link for a detailed representation of above islands on a map.

Q.35) Banni grasslands was seen in news recently. It is located in which of the following states?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Gujarat

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Maldhari community filed a case against the encroachment in the ecologically-sensitive Banni grassland in May, 2018. Recently, NGT has ordered to remove all the encroachments within six months from Gujarat's Banni grasslands. Also, the NGT directed a joint committee to prepare an action plan.

- Banni grassland is spread over 2,618 kilometre and account for almost 45 per cent of the pastures in Gujarat.
- It comprises 48 hamlets / villages organised into 19 panchayats, with a population of about 40,000.
- Two ecosystems, wetlands and grasslands, are juxtaposed in Banni.
- Maldhari community breeds Banni Buffaloes, a species endemic to the region. The buffaloes are adaptive to Kutch's hot weather conditions

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.36) Consider the following pairs regarding Geographical Indication (GI) certified products

Agricultural product : State

1. Navara Rice : Kerala
2. Jardalu mango : Bihar
3. Bydagi Chilli : Andhra Pradesh

Which of the above pairs is/are matched correct?

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

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Agricultural product : State

- Navara Rice : Kerala
- Zardalu mango: Bihar
- Bydagi Chilli : Karnataka

Recently Bihar government has partnered with the Department of Posts to supply "Shahi Lichi" and "Zardalu Mango" to the people at doorstep.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.37) Arrange the following in a clockwise direction:

1. Gulf of Suez
2. Dead Sea
3. Gulf of Aqaba
4. Sea of Galilee

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Please refer to [this](#) link

Q.38) The Kabini river is a tributary of which of the following river?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Cauvery River rises at Talakaveri on the Brahmagiri range in the Western Ghats in Karnataka and flows for about 800 km before its outfall into the Bay of Bengal.
- The important tributaries joining the Cauvery are Harangi, Hemavati, **Kabini**, Suvarnavathi and Bhavani.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.39) Louvre museum was seen in news recently. In which of the following country the museum is located in?

- a) Germany
- b) France
- c) The United Kingdom

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d) Australia

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- It is **the world's largest art museum**, based in Paris.
- It is also **the world's most visited museum**.
- It is **home to the Mona Lisa**, a classic that cultural organisations and art lovers across the world would love to exhibit.
- Recently **Laurence des Cars** has become **the first woman to be appointed the president of Louvre museum** in its 228-year history.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

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Polity

Q.1) Rule of speciality or Principle of Specialty was some time seen in news. Which of the following correctly explains it?

- a) It is one of the principle that governs the extradition of persons
- b) It is a rule that allows certain persons to have special rights in the management of company shares
- c) It is a rule of biology that governs the mutation of genes
- d) It is a rule in international relations that govern special relations with close allies

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Under the UK Extradition Act 2003, the Secretary of State makes a decision based on 3 things:

- Extradition shouldn't result in Death Penalty
- Rule of speciality must be followed post the extradition
 - **Rule of speciality or Principle of Specialty:** This states that the extradited person cannot be punished for any other offence but only for the offence for which he is being extradited. So, India cannot conduct a trial on Nirav Modi for any other pre-extradition offences.
- The fugitive is shouldn't have been extradited to U.K from another country

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the principle of non-refoulement:

- 1. This principle applies to all migrants at all times, irrespective of migration status.
- 2. It is a part of customary international law and hence, absolute.
- 3. The prohibition of refoulement is explicitly included in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under international human rights law, the principle of non-refoulement guarantees that no one should be re-turned to a country where they would face torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and other irreparable harm. This principle applies to all migrants at all times, irrespective of migration status.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The principle of non-refoulement forms an essential protection under international human rights, refugee, humanitarian and customary law
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Refoul means to refuse entry to a country and repatriate. Under international human rights law the prohibition of refoulement is explicitly included in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from En-forced Disappearance (ICPPED). In regional instruments the principle is explicitly found in the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention of Torture, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

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Q.3) Consider the following statement on Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act.

1. The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act was enacted on the State list.
2. State legislatures can enact a law on the left-over matters of RERA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act was enacted by Central government on two entries of concurrent list. Such as Contracts and the transfer of property. Being the concurrent list, the state government laws enacted prior to the enactment of the RERA becomes unconstitutional.

But the recent Supreme Court judgement on West Bengal Housing Industry Regulation Act (WB HIRA) mentions that if any areas have been left out in the central legislation, the state legislatures can provide cognate(related) legislation.

Read more: [Real Estate \(Regulation and Development\) Act](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements about **Reservation in India**

1. At present the maximum reservation provided by central government is within 50%
2. Centre alone has the powers to notify backward classes

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- In 1990, the government accepted the recommendations of the Mandal Commission and implemented it. By this, the **reservation in India raised to 49.5 per cent.**
 - 22.5% reservation for SCs and STs (7.5% for STs, 15% for SCs)
 - 27% reservation for the OBCs
- The government under the **103rd Constitution Amendment Act, 2019** again provided a 10% reservation for the EWS in India. The Act also amended Article 15 and 16 correspondingly.
- So at present, the total reservation stands at 59.5 per cent. Few State governments also provide the reservation over and above 59.5 per cent. **(Statement 1 is wrong)**
- The Supreme Court recently declared the Maratha reservation law as unconstitutional. The judgement also upheld the constitutional validity of the 102nd Amendment Act, the **President alone has the power to notify backward classes** from now on. Further, the **Central List will now be the “only list” for the SEBC.** This means that the **Centre alone is empowered to identify SEBC from now on.**

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Q.5) Justice M.G. Gaikwad committee was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following is correctly describes the committee?

- It is a committee that recommended reservation for Maratha community
- It is a committee that recommended the Covid-19 containment plan to contain second wave
- It is a committee that recommended reforms to resolve pending cases in Judiciary
- It is a committee that recommended steps towards gender equity in judiciary

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Maharashtra government appointed a nine-member Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission headed by Justice M.G. Gaikwad. The commission recommended reservation for the Marathas in 2018.

In 2018 itself, the Maharashtra government enacted a law, it provides 16 per cent reservation to the Maratha community in jobs and admissions. But recently the Supreme court held that as unconstitutional.

Q.6) Patent is a powerful Intellectual Property Right. In this respect, consider the following statements:

- A process patent allows for manufacturing of a patented product by modification of the process.
- India's Intellectual Property regime has moved from process patenting to product patenting in pharma sector

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- Only 1
- Only 2
- Both 1 and 2
- None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- Statement 1 is correct:** A product patent ensures that the rights to the final product is protected, and anyone other than the patent holder can be restrained from manufacturing it during a specified period, even if they were to use a different process. A process patent enables any person other than the patent holder to manufacture the patented product by modifying certain processes in the manufacturing exercise
- Statement 2 is correct:** India moved from product patenting to process patenting in the 1970s, which enabled India to become a significant producer of generic drugs at global scale, and allowed companies like Cipla to provide Africa with anti-HIV drugs in the 1990s.
 - But due to obligations arising out of the TRIPS Agreement, India had to amend the Patents Act in 2005, and switch to a product patents regime across the pharma, chemicals, and biotech sectors.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding federalism in India

- India is considered as a federal state with subsidiary unitary features
- The term 'Federal' does not figure anywhere in the constitution

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- Only 1
- Only 2

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- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: According to Australian Constitutional expert K.C. Wheare Indian constitution is “quasi-federal”. He also clarifies that the “Indian Union as a unitary state with subsidiary federal features rather than a federal state with subsidiary unitary features.” The term 'Federal' does not figure anywhere in the constitution

Q.8) Product and Process are types of which Intellectual Property?

- a) Patents
- b) Copyrights
- c) Industrial Design
- d) Geographical Indication Tag

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About Patents and Intellectual Property:

- A patent is a type of intellectual property right. It is an exclusive right granted by a government to an inventor for a limited, pre-specified time.
- It provides an enforceable legal right to prevent others from copying the invention.

Types of Patents:

- Product Patent: No person can manufacture the patented product without the consent of the patent holder even if he/she uses an alternative process.
- Process Patent: Under this only the process is protected. A person can manufacture the patented product using an alternate process.

Type of regime in India:

- India moved from product patenting to process patenting in the 1970s. This enabled it to become a significant producer of generic drugs at global scale.
- It allowed companies like Cipla to provide Africa with anti-HIV drugs in the 1990s.
- However due to obligations arising out of the TRIPS Agreement, it had to amend the Patents Act in 2005. This made a switch to a product patents regime across the pharma, chemicals, and biotech sectors.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in India**.

1. In the Lok Sabha election, the MCC applies to both the Union and the State Governments.
2. During the Assembly elections for a state, the Union government cannot introduce new schemes specific to that state

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Model Code of Conduct (MCC) will come into operation from the date the election is announced by the Election Commission.

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- MCC prohibits using official resources for electoral activities, announcing financial grants, new schemes, etc on the party in power.
- In the Lok Sabha election, the MCC applies to both the Union and State Governments.
- During the Assembly elections for a state, the Union government cannot introduce new schemes specific to that state
- For bye-elections, the application of MCC is similar and restricted to the District concerned

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “**Simultaneous Elections**” in India

1. India never had a simultaneous election since its independence.
2. India needs to amend certain provisions of Constitution to bring Simultaneous elections at present

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- India had concurrent elections **for the first two decades after independence**. The first general elections held simultaneously to Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of the States **in October 1951**.
- The upcoming elections were also simultaneous one with few exceptions.
- To implement one nation one election the following Articles of Constitution and legislations have to be amended.
 - a. Clause (2) of Article 83 provides for the **terms of Lok Sabha** (five years from the date appointed). Similarly, Article 172(1) regards the **term of Legislative Assemblies**.
 - b. Articles 85(2)(b) and 174(2)(b) provides for the **dissolution of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies** respectively.
 - c. Further, the Indian constitution has **no provision for extension** of the term unless a proclamation of Emergency is in operation.

Q.11) Mashelkar committee, seen in news sometimes, is related to:

- a) Spurious drugs
- b) Prison reforms
- c) Higher education
- d) Police reforms

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- The Government of India constituted an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar to examine all the aspects regarding the regulatory infrastructure and the extent and problem of spurious / substandard drugs in the country.
- It submitted its report in 2003

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Q.12) Consider the following statements on **National Cadet Corps**

1. H. N. Kunzru Committee led to the formation of National Cadet Corps
2. It is the world's largest uniformed youth volunteer service organization
3. Its gender ratio is higher than any other uniformed organization

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanations: National Cadet Corps (NCC)

The NCC was formed in 1948 on the recommendation of the H. N. Kunzru Committee [1946].

Significance of NCC-

- NCC is the world's largest uniformed youth volunteer service organization.
- The NCC cadets undergo basic military training at various levels and as well as academic curriculum basics related to the Armed forces and their functioning.
- Its gender ratio is higher than any other uniformed organization in the world. With female cadets responsible for one-third of the number.

Recently, The UGC has forwarded the proposal to universities to introduce NCC as an elective subject in the curriculum.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding **Tribunals in India:**

1. Original Constitution contained implicit provisions regarding establishment of tribunals
2. Appeals against the orders of an Administrative Tribunal shall lie before the Division Bench of the concerned High Court

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Original Constitution had no provisions for establishment of tribunals. The 42nd amendment Act 1976 added a new part XIV – A to the Constitution. This part is titled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two articles 323A dealing with administrative tribunals and 323B dealing with tribunals for other matters
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As a result of the judgement dated 18 March 1997 of the Supreme Court, the appeals against the orders of an Administrative Tribunal shall lie before the Division Bench of the concerned High Court.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding **Sedition law in India:**

1. Supreme Court upheld the validity of the Sedition Act in the Kedarnath Singh Vs State of Bihar case
2. Criticism of the government policies automatically qualifies as sedition

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3. Before independence, Bal Gangadhar Tilak referred to sedition as the prince among the political sections of the Indian Penal Code

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Constitution Bench of Supreme Court upheld the validity of Sedition Act in Kedarnath Singh vs State of Bihar 1962 case. But Supreme Court stated that persons can be charged with sedition only if there is incitement to violence in his speech or writing or an intention or tendency to create disorder or disturbance in law and order.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sedition charge is valid only against actions that incite violence. that express strong disapproval of 'the measures of the Government, with a view to obtain their desired modifications by lawful means, **without** exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, **do not** constitute an offense under this section.'
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** This statement was made by Mahatma Gandhi after he was tried under Section 124A of IPC on the charge of "exciting disaffection towards the government established by law in India" because he had written against the colonial rule on Rowlatt Act & Jallianwala Bagh massacre. He said: "*Section 124-A under which I am happily charged is perhaps the prince among the political sections of the Indian Penal Code designed to suppress the liberty of the citizen. Affection cannot be manufactured or regulated by law.*"

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Central government is to be consulted when a state wants to create a new district
- 2. The renaming of a state requires Parliamentary approval under Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Centre has no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones. States are free to decide. The Home Ministry comes into the picture when a State wants to change the name of a district or a railway station. The State government's request is sent to other departments and agencies such as the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Geographical Survey of India Sciences and the Railway Ministry seeking clearance. A no-objection certificate may be issued after examining their replies.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** The renaming of a state requires Parliamentary approval under Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution, and the President has to refer the same to the relevant state legislature for its views.

Q.16) Consider the following statements on **Legislative Council**

1. The Parliament can abolish a Legislative Council or create it by simple majority
2. Legislative assembly of the concerned state has to pass a resolution by a special majority

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Both the statements are correct.

Recently West Bengal government has decided to set up a Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad).

- For setting up the Council, Legislative assembly of the concerned state has to pass a resolution by a special majority
- The Parliament can abolish a Legislative Council or create it by simple majority
- Six States having a Legislative Council: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka.

Q.17) Which of the following is/are features of a federal polity?

1. Written Constitution
2. Rigid Constitution
3. Supremacy of the Constitution

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

All of the above are features of a Federal Polity

- **Written Constitution:** It specifies the structure, organisation, powers and functions of both the Central and state governments and prescribes the limits within which they must operate. Thus, it avoids the misunderstandings and disagreements between the two
- **Rigid Constitution & supremacy of Constitution:** The division of powers established by the Constitution as well as the **supremacy of the Constitution** can be maintained only if the method of its amendment is rigid. Hence, the Constitution is rigid to the extent that those provisions which are concerned with the federal structure (i.e., Centre-state relations and judicial organisation) can be amended only by the joint action of the Central and state governments.

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Q.18) Which of the following rights is/are a part of Article 21 of the Constitution of India?

1. Right to family pension
2. Right to sleep
3. Right to travel abroad

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- Supreme Court in its various judgements has declared all of the above rights as part of Article 21
 - Right to family pension
 - Right to sleep
 - Right to sleep
 - Right to free legal aid
 - Right to health
 - Right to Shelter
 - Right to livelihood
 - Right to fair trial etc
- Please refer to Article 21 under Fundamental rights chapter in Laxmikanth's polity book for a detailed list of these rights.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding Lok Adalats

1. Lok Adalats are judicial Bodies.
2. Any case pending before the Court cannot be referred to the Lok Adalat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, it is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

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Statement 2 is incorrect.

Nature of Cases to be Referred to Lok Adalat

1. Any case pending before any court.
2. Any dispute which has not been brought before any court and is likely to be filed before the court.

Provided that any matter relating to an offence not compoundable under the law shall not be settled in Lok Adalat.

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Economics

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Repo Rate (RR):

1. A cut in Repo rate supports economic growth
2. Reverse Repo Rate is generally lower than repo rate

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is the interest rate at which the central bank of a country lends money to commercial banks. Hence, a decrease in RR means money is infused into the economy which makes lending cheaper thereby encouraging enhanced borrowing. This leads to economic growth.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Reverse Repo is the interest rate paid to commercial banks when they deposit their excess funds in the central bank or when the central bank borrows money from them. At a given point in time, the reverse repo rate provided by RBI is generally lower than the repo rate. While repo rate is used to regulate liquidity in the economy, reverse repo rate is used to control cash flow in the market.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

1. State Governments have the power to negotiate FDI directly with overseas banks/institutions
2. The approval for FDIs is decentralised in India

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Centre encourages states to negotiate loans / FDI directly with overseas banks/institutions. Such initiatives have helped some states in their economic development and reduced their financial dependence on the Centre. For example, Gujarat Government in 2014 set up international desks independently in the USA, China, Japan for facilitating FDI inflows
- Even many states are negotiating with foreign investors, they do not have the power to bring FDI into their state. In India, the approval for FDIs is centralised. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) being the nodal Ministry for FDI approvals.

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding sovereign debt rating:

1. It assesses the ability of government to pay back debt after considering economic, market and political risks
2. A lower level of rating allows the country to borrow at low rates

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

• **Statement 1 is correct:**

- International agencies evaluate the credit worthiness of national governments, assessing their ability to pay back debt after considering economic, market and political risks.
- These ratings are a kind of forward assessment of a nation's ability to meet its financial obligations in time and in full.

• **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Credit ratings focus only on a single aspect of credit, the ability of the borrower to ensure timely payment of interest and principal. A higher level of rating would imply lower risk, allowing the country to borrow at low rates as opposed to one with lower rating.

Q.4) Consider the following statements on **Social Stock Exchanges (SSE)**

1. It allows investors to invest in select social enterprises or social initiatives.
2. In India, there is no such Stock Exchanges has been set up so far.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

• **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** is a platform that allows investors to invest in select social enterprises or social initiatives.

- **Social Enterprise** is a revenue-generating business. The primary aim of social enterprise is to achieve a social objective such as providing healthcare or clean energy.

• **Aim:** To help social and voluntary enterprises to raise capital in form of equity or debt or a unit of the mutual fund.

• The proposal to set up SSEs in the country was first floated during the Union Budget in 2019.

• **In 2019, SEBI constituted** a group under the chairmanship of Tata group veteran Ishaat Hussain.

• **In 2020, SEBI again** set up the Technical Group(TG) under Harsh Bhanwala, ex-Chairman, NABARD. This time for getting further expert advice and clarity on SSE. That committee submitted its report recently.

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Q.5) Which of the following will likely cause an increase in India's forex reserves?

1. Fall in crude oil price
2. Increase in foreign travel
3. Depreciation of rupee

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Fall in crude oil prices** will bring down the oil import bill, saving the precious foreign exchange. India has to shell out money in dollars whenever it imports crude oil. So, whenever there is a fall in prices of crude oil, government has to pay less thereby resulting in reduced oil import bill. This will lead to increase in forex reserves.
- **Increased foreign travels:** Foreign travel shall result in dollar outflows as people will spend dollars during their international travels.
- **Depreciation of rupee:** This will lead to increased exports resulting in increased dollar inflows.

Q.6) Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat' report is released by which of the following Organisation?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) National Payments Corporation of India
- d) Securities and Exchange Board of India

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat' report was jointly released by the NITI Aayog and **Mastercard**

- The report identifies challenges in accelerating **Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI)** in India.
- The report also provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens.

The recommendations Include:

- For market players, it is critical to **address the gap on the demand side** by creating user-friendly digital products and services. For example: **FASTag**.
- **Strengthening the payment infrastructure** to promote a level playing field for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** and banks.
- **Digitizing registration and compliance processes** and diversifying credit sources to enable growth opportunities for **MSMEs**.

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Q.7) Consider the following statement regarding **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**

1. It is a Non-Banking Financial Company(NFBC) with Reserve Bank of India(RBI).
2. It is the only dedicated institution for financing Renewable Energy (RE) & Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency(IREDA)** is a Mini Ratna Enterprise of the Government of India. It was founded in 1987.
- **Purpose:** IREDA promotes, develops, and extends financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- **Registered under:** IREDA has been notified as a Public Financial Institution under Companies Act,1956. It is registered as Non-Banking Financial Company(NFBC) with Reserve Bank of India(RBI).
- **Motto:** IREDA's Motto is "Energy for Ever."
- **Significance:** It is the only dedicated institution for financing Renewable Energy (RE) & Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in India.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding inflation:

1. Headline inflation measures overall inflation in the economy
2. Under flexible inflation targeting RBI uses core CPI inflation is used as a target rate for inflation

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, including commodities such as food and energy prices (e.g., oil and gas)
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under flexible inflation targeting RBI uses headline CPI inflation instead of core CPI inflation.
 - **Core inflation** is the change in the costs of goods and services but does not include those from the food and energy sectors. This measure of inflation excludes these items because their prices are much more volatile.

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Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Purchasing Managers Index (PMI):

1. It indicates business activity in manufacturing, agriculture and services sectors.
2. RBI prepares and then releases it on a monthly basis
3. A value above 50 indicates business expansion

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** PMI or a Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity -- both in the manufacturing and services sectors. It is a survey-based measures that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** For India, PMI is prepared by a Japanese firm Nikkei and compiled by Markit Economics. For US, PMI is prepared by The Institute of Supply Management (ISM)
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A value above 50 indicates expansion in business activity while a value below 50 indicates contraction in economic activity

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme

1. The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act
2. The SGB bonds can be sold immediately like physical gold.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- The capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted. But, the interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act
- The time period of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option in 5th, 6th and 7th year. So, the bonds cannot be sold immediately like physical gold. This is one of the drawbacks of investing in SGB scheme.
- Bonds can be used as collateral for loans.

Recently the Government of India, decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds in six tranches from May 2021 to September 2021

Read more: [Sovereign Gold Bond \(SGB\) scheme](#)

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Q.11) Consider the following statement on **SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing) Fund**

1. It provide relief to developers that require funding to complete a set of unfinished projects.
2. It has been set up as a Category-II AIF (Alternate Investment Fund) registered with SEBI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The government of India's SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing) Fund has completed its first residential project in Mumbai.

- **SWAMIH Fund** is a government-backed investment fund set up in the year 2019.
- **Purpose:** The fund was formed to provide relief to developers that require funding to complete a set of unfinished projects. Consequently, it will also ensure the delivery of homes to the home-buyers.
- **Type:** The fund has been set up as a Category-II AIF (Alternate Investment Fund) debt fund registered with SEBI.
- **Investment manager:** The Investment Manager of the Fund is SBICAP Ventures, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI Capital Markets. This in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the State Bank of India.
- **Sponsor:** The Sponsor of the Fund is the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India.

Read more: [SWAMIH Fund](#)

Q.12) Which of the following will shall cause a decrease in inflation?

1. Buying of g-sec by RBI
2. Increase in CRR
3. Encouraging savings

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Buying of g-sec means liquidity shall be injected in the economy by RBI
- Increase in CRR means banks will have to keep more money under reserve requirements now resulting in decreased money supply in the economy -> decrease in inflation
- Encouraging savings results in lesser money in the economy -> decrease in inflation

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Q.13) Bimal Jalan Committee seen in news is related to:

- Measures to address the NPA problem in banks
- Framework for reforming APMCs
- Reviewing the Extant Economic Capital Framework of the RBI
- Preventing stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

RBI, in consultation with the Government of India, had constituted an Expert Committee to Review the Extant Economic Capital Framework of the Reserve Bank of India (Chairman: Dr. Bimal Jalan)

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the FDI inflows in Financial Year 2020-21

- Maharashtra remained the top recipient of FDI
 - Computer software and hardware remained as the top sector in terms of FDI inflow.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently Commerce Ministry released the data on the FDI (Foreign Direct Investment Inflow) in India for the Financial Year 2020-21.

Key highlights of the data:

- India** has received an FDI of \$81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21. This is 10% higher than \$74.39 billion received in 2019-20.
- The Largest Source of FDI:** Singapore remained the largest source of FDI in India for the third consecutive year with a share of 29%. It was followed by the US with a 23% share and Mauritius with 9%.
- Saudi Arabia is the top investor** in terms of percentage increase during FY21. It invested \$2.8 billion in comparison to US\$ 89.93 million reported in 2019-20.
- States:** Gujarat was the top recipient of FDI among states with a 37% share of total FDI equity inflows. It was followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka with 27% and 13%.
- Sectors:** Computer software and hardware emerged as the top sector in FY21 with around 44% of the total FDI equity inflow. It was followed by construction and infrastructure-related activities at 13% and services sector with 8%.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.15) Which one of the following statements is incorrect?

- FDI limit in the Insurance Sector has increased to 74% from 49%.
- In Print Media, FDI is prohibited in India
- 100 per cent FDI is permitted in the defence sector.
- In Coal Mining 100% FDI is permitted under automatic route.

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Correct Answer : B

Explanation Option b is incorrect. 26% FDI is permitted in print media under government route.

The Finance Ministry notified the Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules, 2021. These rules will apply to all insurers irrespective of the stake held by the foreign partner. These rules will give an effect to increased FDI limit in the Insurance Sector to 74% from 49%. [Read more](#)

In Coal Mining 100% FDI is permitted under automatic route.

In defence sector 100 per cent FDI is permitted. Centre allowed up to 74% FDI in defence sector under automatic route and above that under government route.

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the monetary policy framework of India:

1. Reserve Bank of India has the legislative mandate to operate the monetary policy framework of the country.
2. The inflation target to be set by the Reserve Bank in consultation with Scheduled Commercial Banks, once in every five years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. In May 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.

The amended RBI Act explicitly provides the legislative mandate to the Reserve Bank to operate the monetary policy framework of the country.

The framework aims at setting the policy (repo) rate based on an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation; and modulation of liquidity conditions to anchor money market rates at or around the repo rate. Repo rate changes transmit through the money market to the entire the financial system, which, in turn, influences aggregate demand – a key determinant of inflation and growth.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The amended RBI Act also provides for the inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.

The Centre has decided to retain the inflation target of 4%, with a tolerance band of +/- 2 percentage points for the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI for the coming five years; April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2026.

Q.17) Consider the following statements with reference to **Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)**.

1. It buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks only.
2. ARCs are constituted under The RBI Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution. They will buy the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions.

(Statement 1 is incorrect)

They will clean up the balance sheets of banks and financial institutions. This helps banks to concentrate on normal banking activities.

Legal Basis: Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**

Regulated by: ARCs function under the supervision and control of the Reserve Bank of India.

ForumIAS

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Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statement regarding **Bamboo**

1. Bamboo can tolerate extreme conditions than most plants.
2. The National Bamboo mission was launched by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Bamboo can tolerate extreme conditions than most plants. For instance, Bamboo was actually the first plant to re-green after the atomic blast in Hiroshima in 1945.

The National Bamboo mission was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Objectives of the mission:

- **To increase the area under bamboo plantation** in non-forest Government and private lands. This is to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change.
- **To improve post-harvest management** through the establishment of innovative primary processing units. These units were particularly located near the source of production, primary treatment, and seasoning plants, and market infrastructure.
- **Further, to promote product development** at micro, small and medium levels and feed bigger industry.
- **To rejuvenate** the underdeveloped bamboo industry in India.

Read more: [National Bamboo Mission](#)

Q.2) **HakkiPikki Tribe** is related to which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Karnataka
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- The HakkiPikki tribes are semi nomadic tribal people. They have **four clans** namely the **Gujrathioa, Kaliwala, Mewara and Panwara**.
- They speak many **south Indian languages** such as **Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam** along with **Vagribooli** which is similar to **Guajarati**.
- The HakkiPikki, meaning **“bird catchers”** in Kannada.
- It is a **Scheduled Tribe** in Karnataka.
- **Origin and History:**

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- The origin of HakkiPikki tribal communities has a rich history and is said to be an ancestral relation with the legendary **Ranapratap Singh**.
- The HakkiPikki tribal community are a **Kshatriya or warrior tribal community** who had to migrate to southern India after their defeat with Mughal kings.
- Recently, some people of the **HakkiPikki** Tribe survived Covid-19 pandemic.

Q.3) Kam Sorai, often seen in news, is a:

- a) Folk ritual of Garo tribe
- b) A medicinal plant
- c) Ancient tribal deity
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- Kam Sorai or Purple moorhen is a resident bird of Deepor Beel Wildlife sanctuary.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Eichhornia crassipes

1. It affects marine life by causing a decline in aquatic oxygen availability
2. It's also known by the name of Bengal Terror

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Eichhornia crassipes is also known as Water Hyacinth. It is a free-floating aquatic plant native to South America and is considered as an invasive alien species.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It grows rapidly and can form thick layers over the water. These mats shade out the other aquatic plants. Eventually, these shaded plants die and decay. The decaying process depletes the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. As oxygen levels decline, many fish are unable to survive. Hence, often the waters below water hyacinth masses witness the absence of life.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Water Hyacinth is also referred to as the Bengal terror. This is because of its effect on the local ecology and lives of the people.

Q.5) Bambusa balcooa was sometimes seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) It is a new turtle species identified in Western Ghats
- b) It is a bamboo species that has high strength
- c) It is a traditional farming practice practised among tribal people of Assam
- d) It is an eco-friendly water conservation mechanism that convert saline water as drinking water.

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Bambusa balcooa** is also known as Female Bamboo is a tropical clumping bamboo. It is native to Northeastern India. It is also spread in the regions of Indo-China.
- **Uses:**
 - **This bamboo species** is often used as a food source in scaffolding, for paper pulp or wood chips.
 - **The length and strength** of Bambusa balcooa make it a useful material for the construction industry.
 - **Furthermore, it is a drought-resistant species** with low rainfall requirements. It can reach yields upwards of 100 metric tons per hectare.

Q.6) Consider the following statements on **Red Eared Slider Turtles**

1. It is an invasive turtle species.
2. It is native to the Southern United States and northern Mexico
3. People keep the Red-Eared slider turtle as pets.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **The red-eared slider** is a semi-aquatic turtle belonging to the family Emydidae.
- **Origin:** They are native to the Southern United States and northern Mexico. But they are found in other countries as well because they are famous as pets.
 - People keep the Red-Eared slider turtle as pets. They release them in natural water bodies after they outgrow an aquarium, tank, or pool at home.
- **Invasive Species:** These turtles are considered one of the world's worst invasive species. This is because they grow fast and virtually leave nothing for the native species to eat.

Read more: [Red-Eared Slider turtle](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **Project Elephant:**

1. It is a centrally-sponsored government scheme
2. Elephant has been declared as a national heritage animal of India
3. Singhbhum was the first elephant reserve

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Project Elephant was launched by the Government of India in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Elephant was declared as a national heritage animal of India in 2010
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The very first elephant reserve or elephant sanctuary was the Singhbhum Elephant Reserve of Jharkhand.

Q.8) Asian gracile skink was seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

1. These are lizard species that has smaller legs in comparison to typical lizards
2. These are highly venomous

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: A new species of an Asian gracile skink has been discovered recently at Western Ghats.

- **Skinks** are lizards belonging to the family Scincidae, a family in the infraorder Scincomorpha.
- **Features:** Skinks are characterized by their smaller legs in comparison to typical lizards. They are mostly found in a variety of habitats except for arctic and subarctic regions.
- **Behaviour:** Many species of skink does digging and burrowing.
- **The skinks are also non-venomous.** They resemble snakes because of the inconspicuous limbs and the way they move on land.

Read more: [Asian Gracile skink](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements

1. Melting of icebergs will increase the sea level
2. Melting of Glaciers in ocean will not increase the sea level

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Melting of iceberg will not lead to a sea-level rise because it was part of a floating ice shelf. It is just like a melting ice cube doesn't increase the level of the water in the glass.

This makes the icebergs different from glaciers or ice sheets. Glaciers or ice sheets found on land, and they raise global sea levels when they break off into the ocean and melt.

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Q.10) Consider the following statement on **Snow Leopard**

1. Snow Leopard is an indicator species
2. It is a State animal of Himachal Pradesh.
3. HimalSanrakshak is a community volunteer programme launched by the Government of India to protect Snow leopards.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Snow leopards:** It lives in the mountainous regions of central and southern Asia.
- **Range Countries:** Snow leopard is found in 12 range countries namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- **India:** The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh constitute snow leopard Habitat range in India.
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Significance:** Snow leopard is the State animal of Himachal Pradesh.
- **Indicator species:** The Snow Leopard (also known as Ghost of the mountains) acts as an indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem in which they live. It is because of their position as the top predator in the food web.
- **HimalSanrakshak:** It is a community volunteer programme launched by the Government of India to protect Snow leopards.

Read more: [Snow leopard](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):**

1. It calls to prohibit the utilization of genetic resources for our own benefit.
2. It is a legally binding treaty

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Convention was signed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. It is a legally binding treaty dedicated to promoting sustainable development.
 - **Objectives:**
 - conservation of biological diversity,
 - sustainable use of the components of biological diversity

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- fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a legally binding treaty.

Source of the MCQ: [Article](#)

Q.12) Protected Planet Report is released by which of the following organisation?

- United Nations Environment Programme and International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- World wildlife Fund and World Nature Organisation

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Released by:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- **Purpose:** The report takes stock of measures taken to fulfil the aims of Aichi Target 11. Aichi Target 11 called for protecting 17% of Earth's land and 10% of its marine environments by 2020.
- **Key Findings:**
 - **Increase in Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM):** As many as 82% of countries and territories register an increase in the share of protected areas and OECM since 2010.
 - **Since 2010, protected areas** covering almost a million square kilometers have been added to the global network. This area is greater than the land area of the Russian Federation.
 - **Over the 10-year period, the greatest growth** in protected areas and OECMs has been in marine and coastal areas. Around 68% of the current network's area is less than 10 years old.

Read more: [Protected Planet Report](#)

Q.13) Govind Pashu Vihar National Park was seen in news recently. In which of the following state the park is located?

- Gujarat
- Himachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Uttarakhand

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently, the Uttarakhand High Court has reprimanded the State government for stopping some Van Gujjar families on their way to Govind Pashu Vihar National Park. The court held that their right to life is being violated by the authorities.

- The Van Gujjars, the nomadic pastoral community of the Uttarakhand Himalayas
- They pursue seasonal migration from the Terai-Bhabar and Siwalik region of Uttarakhand to the higher bugyals in the Western Himalayas in summer and vice versa in winter.

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About Govind Pashu Vihar National Park:

- It is located in the Uttarkashi district of the state of Uttarakhand. The park lies in the higher reaches of the Garhwal Himalayas.
- It was declared as a National Park in the year of 1990.
- The **Har-ki-dun valley** within the park is a known spot for trekking. Similarly, the **Ruinsara high altitude lake** is also popular as a tourist destination.
- The park creates an upper water catchment of **River Tons**. This river is a significant tributary of Yamuna River

Source: [Down to Earth](#)

Q.14) Consider the following paragraph

It is a national park located in Odisha. After Sundarbans, it is India's second-largest mangrove forest in India. It is said to house 70% of the country's estuarine or saltwater crocodiles. It is also a Ramsar site of UNESCO.

Which of the following national park is described in the paragraphs?

- Mukurthi National Park
- Simlipal National Park
- Galathea National Park
- Bhitarkanika National Park

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Mukurthi National Park – Tamil Nadu

Simlipal National Park – Odisha

Galathea National Park – Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Bhitarkanika National Park – Odisha

Recently Cyclone Yaas caused fell down of nearly hundreds of trees in Bhitarkanika. The government is assessing the loss of fauna.

Source: [Down to Earth](#)

Q.15) TK Vishvanathan committee seen in news is related to:

- Right to privacy
- Hate speech
- Prison reforms
- Tele medicine

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- The panel was formed after Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, was scrapped by the Supreme Court in 2015.
- You can read more about the committee [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding De-notified tribes (DNT):

1. The term includes all those communities which were once notified under the Criminal Tribes Acts of the British government
2. A majority of De-notified and nomadic communities are primarily patriarchal.

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3. Kalelkar commission recommended that criminal tribes should be called de-notified communities

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The term 'De-notified Tribes' stands for all those communities which were once notified under the Criminal Tribes Acts, enforced by the British Raj between 1871 and 1947. These Acts were repealed by the Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were "De-Notified". A few of these communities which were listed as de-notified were also nomadic.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Like most of the communities in India, large majority of De-notified and nomadic communities are primarily patriarchal.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The first Backward Class Commission was appointed in 1953 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Kakasaheb Kalelkar. This Commission suggested that the erstwhile 'Criminal Tribes' should not be called 'Tribes' nor should the names 'Criminal' or 'Ex-Criminal' be attached to them. They could be called 'Denotified Communities'.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.17) Which of the following statement defines doctrine of colourable legislation?

- a) A legislature can't legislate something indirectly, if it's not possible to do so directly
- b) No law shall be passed against any caste, colour, creed, race, sex or religious sect
- c) Any legislation against the basic structure of the Constitution will be ultra vires
- d) Any proposed law should have a clear purpose and statement of reasons

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- The Doctrine of Colourable Legislation says that what cannot be done directly, should also not be done indirectly. The doctrine is used in the cases to determine questions of competency to enact a law when a legislature oversteps its conferred power and legislate upon something indirectly which it can't do in a direct manner.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.18) Equator doesn't pass through which of the following country?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Democratic Republic of Congo
- c) Colombia
- d) Malaysia

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

Equator passes through 13 countries, 3 continents and 3 water bodies.

- **Asia:** Maldives, Indonesia, Kiribati (Oceania)

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- **Africa:** Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia
- **South America:** Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil
- **Water bodies:** Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean

Try and locate these on Atlas.

Q.19) Bogorad syndrome was in news recently. It is related to:

- a) Yellow fever
- b) Celiac disease
- c) Bell's Palsy
- d) Aortic Aneurysm

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Bogorad syndrome (crocodile tear syndrome):** It is a medical condition in which patients who are recovering from Bell's Palsy shed tears while eating or drinking.
- Bell's Palsy is a rare condition in which facial muscles suffer from a temporary weakness or paralysis. It is the result of compression or swelling of a nerve that controls the facial muscles, and can be caused by a viral infection.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. A primarily tribal herdsmen community
2. Famous for breeding Banni buffaloes
3. Their name means keeper of the animal stock

Which of the following tribe is being talked about in above statements?

- a) Angami
- b) Maldhari
- c) Khasi
- d) Gaddi

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Maldharis** are a tribal herdsmen community in Gujarat, India. The literal meaning of Maldhari is a keeper (dhari) of the animal stock (mal).
- **The Maldharis** have lived in the Gir National Park, in the Banni Grasslands Reserve area, for the past thousand years.
- **They have co-existed** with the lions which the Gir National Park was created to preserve, for these thousand years.
- **Maldhari** community breeds Banni Buffaloes, a species endemic to the region. The buffaloes are adaptive to Kutch's hot weather condition.

Source: [Maldhari](#)

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History

Q.1) Consider the following paragraph

He visited Ireland and made Irish nationalist Alfred Webb to serve as the President of the Indian National Congress. He published a daily newspaper Jnanaprakash. He served as Secretary of the Deccan Education Society. He is the Political mentor to both Mohammed Ali Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi

Which of the following personality is described in the above paragraph?

- a) Mohammed Ali Jinnah
- b) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- c) Mahadev Govind Ranade
- d) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently Indian PM paid tributes to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary. He was born on 9 May 1866

Contributions of GK Gokhale:

- He visited Ireland and made Irish nationalist Alfred Webb to serve as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1894.
- He published a daily newspaper Jnanaprakash.
- He served as Secretary of the Deccan Education Society.
- In 1905, he founded the Servants of India Society. The Society trained people to be selfless workers so that they could work for the common good of the people.
- He was also elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1905 in Banaras session.
- Gokhale was instrumental in the formation of the Minto-Morley Reforms of 1909, which eventually became law.
- Gokhale was a mentor to both Mohammed Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi even wrote a book called, 'Gokhale, My Political Guru'.

Q.2) Mongolian Kanjur was seen in news. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- a) These are sacred words of Lord Buddha in Mangolia
- b) These are Mangolian temple belongs to Buddhism
- c) These are Magolian form of Jainism practised today in the region
- d) These are religious sanctions practised in Mangolia

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Mongolian Kanjur** is a Buddhist canonical text that has 108 volumes. It is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia.
- **Meaning:** In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.

The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). Recently the Ministry announced that the reprinting of about 100 sets of Mongolian Kanjur will be completed by next year.

Read more: [Mangolian Kanjur](#)

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Q.3) Consider the following statement on **National Mission for Manuscript**

1. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts is the nodal agency for this mission,
2. A National Database is created under the Mission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **The National Mission for Manuscripts** was established in February 2003, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India.
- **Objective:** It aims to unearth and preserve the vast manuscript wealth of India. This will help India to connect its past with its future. It also helps to connect India's memory with its aspirations.
- **National Nodal Agency for the Mission:** Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.
- The Mission set up a web-based **National Database of Manuscripts** with information on 2.7 million manuscripts.

Q.4) Consider the following statements on **Basavanna**. Which of the following statements are **not correct**?

- a) He lived during the reign of the Kakatiya Dynasty
- b) He introduced new public institutions such as the Anubhava Mantapa
- c) He conducted Sharana movement towards egalitarianism
- d) He spread social awareness through his poetry known as Vachanas

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Basavanna was a philosopher, statesman, Kannada poet and a social reformer during the reign of **the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka**.
- Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanas.
- He introduced new public institutions such as **the Anubhava Mantapa** (or, the "hall of spiritual experience"). This Mantapa welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in open.
- He developed and inspired a new devotional movement named **Virashaivas, or "ardent, heroic worshippers of Shiva"**. This movement shared its roots in the ongoing Tamil Bhakti movement, particularly the Shaiva Nayanars traditions, over the 7th- to 11th-century.
- He conducted **Sharana movement** towards egalitarianism. The movement attracted people from all castes, and like most strands of the Bhakti movement. The movement is produced a corpus of literature, the vachanas, these unveiled the spiritual universe of the Veerashaiva saints. This movement is too radical for his times.

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Q.5) Consider the following pairs

Site : Place

1. Hire Bengal megalithic site : West Bengal
2. Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat : Madhya Pradesh
3. Temples of Kanchipuram : Tamil Nadu

Which of the following pairs are matched correctly?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Archaeological Survey of India has submitted nine sites for their inclusion in the tentative list of UNESCO. Recently the UNESCO has accepted six of the nine sites.

The six Indian sites included in the [UNESCO](#) Tentative list are:

- Ganga ghats in Varanasi, UP
- Temples of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu.
- Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh,
- Maratha military architecture in Maharashtra
- Hire Bengal megalithic site in Karnataka and
- Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh.

Read more: [Tentative list of UNESCO](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. Morley-Minto reforms established council of states at national level
2. Government of India act 1935 set up bicameral legislatures in Indian provinces

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Montagu-Chelmsford reforms of 1919 set up councils of states at national level
- **Statement 2 is correct:** GOI Act 1935 led to the establishment of bicameral legislatures in Indian provinces

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding tentative list of UNESCO?

1. World Heritage Committee will select the sites in each and every country
2. To become world heritage site a site has to be included in the tentative list first.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: To include a site into tentative list of UNESCO

- **Firstly**, If a state considers a **monument/site has cultural and/or natural heritage** of outstanding universal value and therefore **suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List**. Then the state prepares a list of such sites and sends it to UNESCO. The UNESCO after preliminary inspection accepts/rejects the monument and form a tentative list.
- **Secondly**, a position on a country's tentative list does not automatically tender that site with world heritage status.
- **Thirdly**, it is mandatory to put any monument/site on the Tentative List (TL) before it is considered for the final nomination dossier.
- **Fourthly**, the sites will remain on the tentative list for a year, after which the government will decide which one of them to push for in their final dossier to UNESCO.
- **Lastly**, the tentative list is extremely important. This is because the **World Heritage Committee** cannot consider a nomination for the World Heritage List unless the property has already been included on the State party's tentative list.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding National Archives of India

1. It is the nodal agency for implementation of the Public Records Act
2. Abhilekh Patal is an initiative of NAI to make its records publicly accessible
3. It works as an attached office under Archaeological Survey of India

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** National Archives of India is the nodal agency of Government of India for the implementation of the Public Records Act, 1993 and the Public Records Rules, 1997 made under the Act
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Abhilekh Patal Portal for Access to Archives and Learning is an initiative of NAI to make its rich treasure of Indian Archival Records available to one and all at the click of a button.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It works as an attached office under Ministry of Culture

Q.9) The Tinkathia System is associated with which of the following events?

- a) Ahmedabad Mill Strike
- b) Champaran Satyagraha
- c) Revolt of 1857
- d) Quit India Movement

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Tinkathia was the system under which the native peasants of Champaran (Bihar) were forced to cultivate three kathaa Indigo out of every 20 kathaa (Bigha) of land. A Bigha is a popular land holding in Bihar and it is little less than an Acre.

The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 was aimed to address the concerns of indigo planters. They were compelled to grow Indigo and charged with high taxes.

Q.10) Which of the following explanation represents **Reclining Buddha** in Buddhism?

- It represents his first Sermon in Saranath
- It represents the Buddha during his last illness, about to enter Parinirvana.
- It represents the birth of Buddha at Lumbini
- It represents the enlightenment of Buddha at Bodhgaya

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: India's largest statue of the **Reclining Buddha** was to have been installed at Bodh Gaya. But, due to Covid-19 India called off the ceremony.

- A reclining Buddha statue or image represents the Buddha during his last illness, about to enter Parinirvana.
- Parinirvana is the stage of great salvation after death that can only be attained by enlightened souls.
- The Buddha's death came when he was 80 years old, in a state of meditation, in Kushinagar in eastern Uttar Pradesh
- The Reclining Buddha was first depicted in Gandhara art. It peaked during the Kushana period from the first to the fifth centuries AD.
- The largest Reclining Buddha in the world is the 600-foot Winsein Tawya Buddha built in 1992 in Mawlamyine, Myanmar

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.11) **Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Abhiyan** was seen in news recently. Which of the following is the main objective of the program?

- It is a nationwide cultural awareness programme
- It is a database on demography of cultural assets and resources
- It is a nationwide Artist Talent Hunt/Scouting Programme
- It is a training programme for school dropout women in traditional skills

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Abhiyan is a part of **National Mission on Cultural Mapping**

About National Mission on Cultural Mapping:

- The mission was proposed in 2015 but was officially approved in 2017.
- It seeks to envision and address the necessity of **preserving the threads of rich Indian Art and Cultural Heritage**. It also aims to convert the vast and widespread cultural canvass of India into an objective cultural mapping.
- Under this Mission, there are three important objectives as follows:
 - To undertake the cultural mapping (i.e. database of cultural assets and resources) via running a nationwide cultural awareness programme called

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Hamari Sanskriti Hamari Pahchan Abhiyan (National Cultural Awareness Abhiyan).

- To run a Nationwide Artist Talent Hunt/Scouting Programme called **Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Abhiyan**
- Lastly, to establish a **National Cultural Working Place** (NCWP) portal. It would be a Centralised Transactional Web Portal with a database and demography of cultural assets and resources including all art forms and artists.

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