

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

14th to 19th June, 2021

GEOGRAPHY

Q.1) Chidiya Tapu sometimes seen in news is located in:

- a) Lakshadweep
- b) Andaman & Nicobar
- c) West Bengal
- d) Maharashtra

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Chidiya Tapu in Andaman also known as Bird Island is located in Port Blair.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Which of the following states does not border Nagaland?

- 1. Mizoram
- 2. Arunachal
- 3. Manipur

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- Only three states border Nagaland: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur



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Q.3) Arrange the following countries from North to South:

1. Nicaragua
2. Guatemala
3. El Salvador

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- The correct order from North to South is – Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua

Source: [El Salvador](#)

Q.4) Arrange the following group of islands from North to South:

1. Cannanore
2. Amindivi
3. Minicoy

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

The correct order is -

- **Amindivi – Cannanore – Minicoy**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Arrange the following from North to South:

1. Solomon Sea
2. Bismarck Archipelago
3. Coral Sea

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

The correct order is

- Bismarck Archipelago
- Solomon Sea
- Coral Sea

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Q.6) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Galapagos Islands – Peru
2. Bougainville Islands – Papua New Guinea
3. Dodecanese islands – Italy

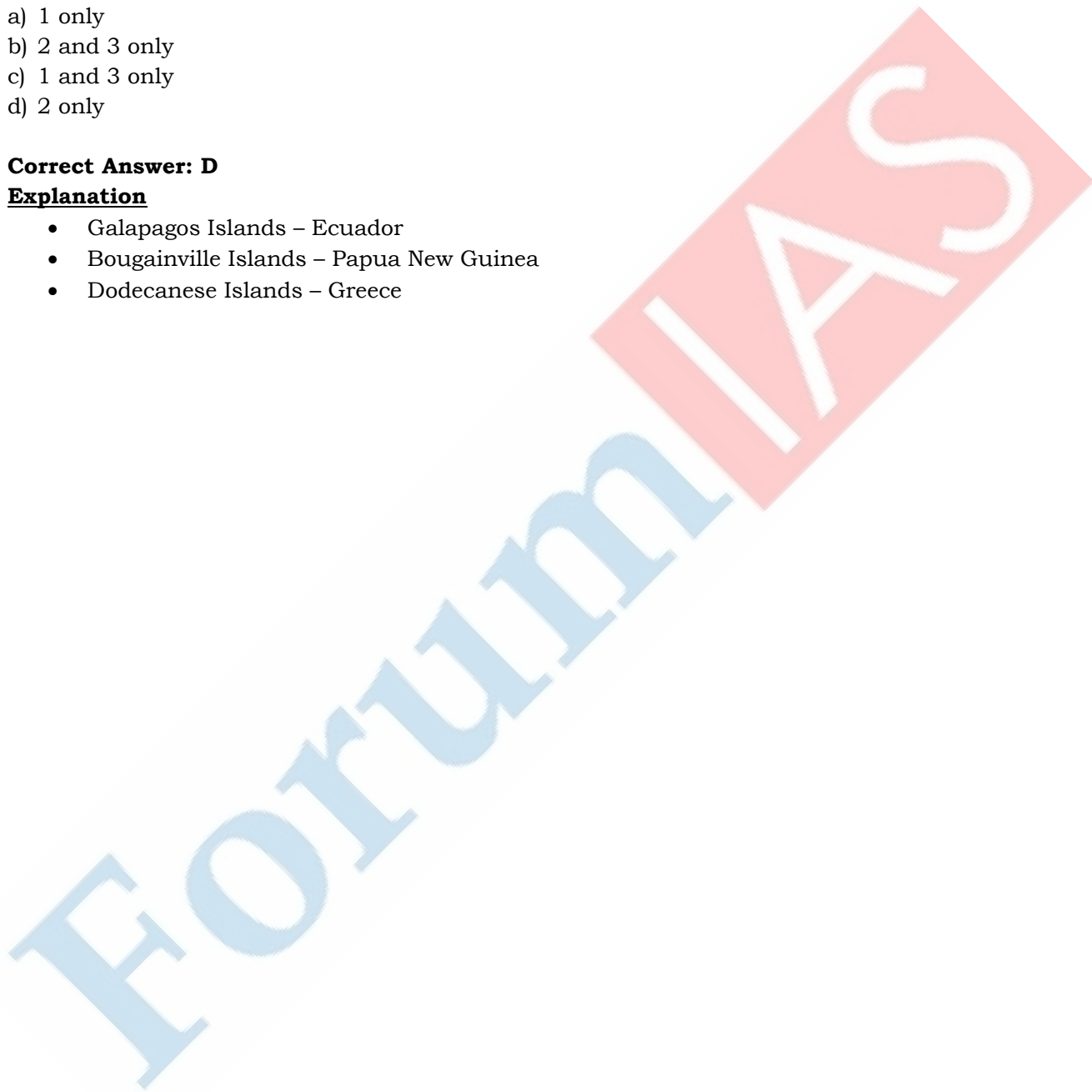
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- Galapagos Islands – Ecuador
- Bougainville Islands – Papua New Guinea
- Dodecanese Islands – Greece



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding EnVision Mission:

1. It is a joint mission led by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and NASA.
2. It is the first mission that will study Venus's atmosphere.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect:** EnVision is a European Space Agency (ESA)-led mission. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is working as a contributor.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is not the first such mission. There have been many before it. More recently, ESA's Venus Express orbited Venus from 2006 to 2014. Japan's Akatsuki Venus Climate Orbiter, launched in 2010, has been studying Venus atmosphere since 2015.

Q.2) SolarWinds, Hafnium, Nobellium and DarkSide were seen in the news recently. Which of the following correctly explains them?

- a) These are the recent cyber attacks that occurred in the world on civilian infrastructure
- b) These are new stars identified in distant galaxies
- c) These are a new type of semiconductor chips that use very little energy
- d) These are potential near-earth asteroid having high possibility to hit Earth in future

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **SolarWinds:** It was believed to be sponsored by Russia. It involved data breaches across several wings of the U.S. government, including defence, energy, and state.
- **Hafnium:** Aggressive cyberattack, by a Chinese group. It exploited serious flaws in Microsoft's software.
- **DarkSide:** Ransomware attack by Russia/East Europe-based cybercriminals. Attacked the Colonial Pipeline, the main supplier of oil to the U.S. East Coast, compelling the company to temporarily shut down operations.
- **Nobellium:** Russia-backed group. A phishing attack on 3,000 e-mail accounts, targeting USAID and several other organisations.

Read more: [Need of Strengthening Cyber Resilience of Civilian infrastructure](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Gas hydrates:

1. They belong to a class of compounds called clathrates.
2. Gases like methane, ethane, or carbon dioxide can all form hydrates

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

Both statements are correct

Gas hydrates are ice-like crystalline minerals that form when low molecular weight gas (such as methane, ethane, or carbon dioxide) combines with water and freezes into a solid under low temperature and moderate pressure conditions.

- They belong to a class of chemical compounds called clathrates which are ‘encaged’ compounds.
- Most gas hydrates are formed from methane (CH₄), which has led to the terms “gas hydrate” and “methane hydrate” often being used interchangeably
- Scientific interest in gas hydrates is driven mainly by its potential future role as an energy resource, and by the role of methane as a strong greenhouse gas and contributor to global climate change.

Q.4) Consider the following statements on New Shephard Rocket System

1. It is a reusable rocket system that has been designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the Karman line
2. It is developed by SpaceX corporation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **New Shephard** is a reusable rocket system that has been designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the Karman line – the internationally recognized boundary of space.
- **Built by:** The rocket system has been built by Blue Origin, space company of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.
- **Named after:** The rocket system has been named after astronaut Alan Shephard – the first American to go to space.

Read more: [New Shephard rocket system](#)

Q.5) Divine vessel has been in news recently. What is it?

- a) A Near-Earth Asteroid
- b) Military exercise b/w India & Germany
- c) Core module of a space station
- d) A deep-submergence vehicle

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- Heavenly Harmony or Tianhe is the first core module of the permanent Chinese space station Tiangong.

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- Read more [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **Neutrinos**

1. Neutrinos interact very strongly with all objects
2. These are considered as the second most abundant particles in the world, after photons

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanations:

Recently Scientists have shown that the geometry of space-time can cause neutrinos to oscillate.

- Neutrinos are mysterious particles, produced copiously in nuclear reactions in the Sun, stars, and elsewhere.
- These are the second most abundant particles in the world, after photons, or the light particle.
- Neutrinos interact very weakly with everything else – trillions of them pass through every human being every second without anyone noticing.

Source: [PIB](#)

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WELFARE SCHEMES

Q.1) PENCIL Portal recently seen in news is related to:

- a) Elimination of child labour
- b) Reduction in neo-natal mortality
- c) Reporting of female foeticide
- d) Malnutrition in expectant mothers

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **PENCIL Portal** stands for Platform for **Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour**.
- **Purpose:** It is an electronic platform that aims at achieving the target of a child labour free society. For this aim, it coordinates actions of the Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society, and the public.
- **Nodal Ministry:** The portal is administered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- **Components:** PENCIL Portal has five components- Child Tracking System, Complaint Corner, State Government, National Child Labour Project, and Convergence.
- **Significance:** The portal has been launched for the effective implementation of the Child Labour Act and the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.
 - NCLP aims to eliminate all forms of child labour and rehabilitate them through education in Special Training Centres.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Adi Prashikshan Portal:

1. It has been developed by Ministry of Tribal affairs in collaboration with UNDP.
2. It will act as a central repository of all training programmes conducted under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

Which of the above statements 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:** Portal has been developed by Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with UNDP and Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)-Odisha.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It will act as a central repository for information on all training programmes conducted by Tribal institutions across the country under Adi Prashikshan-Training for Tribals initiative.

Source: [Article](#)

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **The Aspirational Districts Programme (TADP)**

1. The program is coordinated by Niti Aayog with the support from Central Ministries and the state government
2. The program ranks the districts based on their annual performance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The Aspirational Districts Programme (TADP)

- It was launched in 2018 to improve the socio-economic status of 112 aspirational districts across 28 states.
 - The selected districts were witnessing the least progress on certain development parameters, such as health and nutrition; education; agriculture, and water resources, etc.
 - These districts account for more than 20% of the country's population and cover over 8,600 gram panchayats.
- It is coordinated by Niti Aayog with support from Central Ministries and the State Governments.
- The **three core principles** of the programme are:
 - **Convergence** of Central & State Schemes, which brings together the horizontal and vertical tiers of the government.
 - **Collaboration** among citizens and functionaries of Central & State Governments, including district teams. This will enable impactful partnerships between government, market, and civil society.
 - **Competition** among districts driven by a spirit of the mass movement.
- The programme ranks districts based on **the improvement achieved month-on-month** through the Champions of Change dashboard (An online Dashboard).

Read more: [The Aspirational Districts Programme\(TADP\)](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Conversion therapy**

1. Conversion therapy is the scientific practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation.
2. Tamil Nadu is set to be the first state to ban 'conversion therapy' 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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Conversion therapy is the pseudoscientific practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation.
- In this therapy, psychological, physical, or spiritual interventions will be carried out for the members of the LGBTQIA+ community to change them heterosexual.
- Recently, the Madras High Court has banned the conversion therapy and issued guidelines for mainstreaming LGBTQIA+ community.
- Due to the recent judgement, Tamil Nadu is set to be the first state to ban 'conversion therapy' in India.

Read more: [Madras High Court guidelines for mainstreaming LGBTQIA+ community](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW):

1. It will be developed by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. Its data would be seeded with Aadhaar.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Ministry of Labour and employment shall be developing the database.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NDUW shall include the Building and other Construction Workers and Migrant workers. Database shall be seeded with Aadhaar. It will have details of name, occupation, address, occupation type, educational qualification, skill types & family details etc. for optimum realization of their employability and extend the benefits of the social security schemes to them.

Source: [Pib](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Deep Ocean mission:

1. Ministry of Science and Technology will be the nodal ministry for this mission.
2. It shall also focus on off-shore energy development.
3. An Integrated Mining System for mining Polymetallic Nodules from the central Indian Ocean shall also be developed.

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ministry of Earth Sciences shall be the nodal ministry for Deep Ocean Mission.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Studies and detailed engineering design for offshore Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) powered desalination plant are envisaged. This component will support the Blue Economy priority area of off-shore energy development.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** An Integrated Mining System will be also developed for mining Polymetallic Nodules from 6000 m depth in the central Indian Ocean. The exploration studies of minerals will pave way for the commercial exploitation in the near future, as and when commercial exploitation code is evolved by the International Seabed Authority, an UN organization.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)

1. Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry responsible for OFB
2. It is headquartered in Kolkata

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Explanation: The Union Government has approved a plan for Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) Corporatisation.

- **Ordnance Factory Board(OFB)** is an umbrella body of 41 Ordnance Factories.
- **Origin:** In 1775, British authorities accepted the establishment of the Board of Ordnance in Fort William, Kolkata. This marked the official beginning of the Army Ordnance in India.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It is currently a subordinate office of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- **Mandate:** It provides a major chunk of the weapon, ammunition, and supplies for Indian armed forces, paramilitary forces, and police forces.
- **Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal

Read more: Ordnance Factory Board

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **hallmarking jewellery in India**

1. Bureau of Indian Standards is the nodal agency for hallmarking jewellery
2. Currently, India hallmarks only gold and silver jewelleryes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Recently The government has announced the phased implementation of mandatory Gold Hallmarking of Jewelry, with effect from June 16, 2021.

- **The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS)** operates the gold and silver hallmarking scheme in India. It defines hallmarking as the accurate determination and official recording of the proportion of a precious metal(gold) in an article(Jewelry).
- **Hence, this means** that it will guarantee the purity or fineness of precious metal articles.
- **The Government of India** has notified two categories under the purview of hallmarking—gold jewelry and gold artifacts and silver jewelry and silver artifacts.
- **Therefore,** hallmarking in India is available for the jewelry of only two metals—gold and silver.

Read more: [Gold hallmarking](#)

Q.7) Safe Harbour Protection was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following Act facilitates Safe Harbour Protection?

- a) The Information Technology (IT) Act of 2000
- b) The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act of 2018
- c) The Extradition Act of 1962
- d) The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act of 2017

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology(MeitY), Twitter has failed to comply with the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021. This means the “Safe Harbour” Protection under Section 79 of the Information Technology (IT) Act is withdrawn for Twitter.

Section 79 of the Information Technology (IT) Act:

- **Section 79** of the Information Technology (IT) Act provides for the Safe Harbour protection to social media giants.
- **It says that any intermediary** shall not be held legally or otherwise liable for any third-party information, data, or communication link made available on its platform.
- **However,** the intermediary should not involve any way in initiating the transmission of the message in question, select the receiver of the transmitted message, and do not modify any information of the transmission.
- **This means that as long** as a platform acts just as the messenger carrying a message from point A to point B, it will be safe from any legal prosecution due to the transmission of a message. However, it should be without any interference with its content in any manner,

Read more: [Section 79 of the Information Technology \(IT\) Act](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding **River Ganga**

1. Namami Gange Programme is implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
2. River Ganga emerges from the mountains to the plains at Haridwar

Which of the above statements 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: C

Explanation:

- The headwaters of the Ganga called the 'Bhagirathi' are fed by the Gangotri Glacier and joined by the Alaknanda at Devprayag in Uttarakhand.
- Ganga emerges from the mountains to the plains at Haridwar.
- Namami Gange Programme:
 - Namami Gange Programme is an Integrated Conservation Mission to conserve the National River.
 - The program is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).

Source: [PIB](#)

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GEOGRAPHY AND AGRICULTURE

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Rare Earth Metals**

1. These minerals have unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties
2. Their exploration in India is conducted by the Bureau of Mines and the Department of Atomic Energy.
3. The United States of America holds more than 50% of their 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: A

Explanation: Rare Earth Metals

- There are seventeen metallic elements. These include the fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table and the scandium and yttrium (show similar physical and chemical properties to the lanthanides).
- They have unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties. So, they are used in many modern technologies, including consumer electronics, computers and networks, communications, health care, national defence, etc.
- China has over time acquired global domination of rare earth metals. At one point, it produced 90% of the rare earths the world needs. But now, the share of China has come down to 60%. The remaining is produced by other countries, including the Quad (Australia, India, Japan and the United States).
- **Exploration** in India is conducted by the **Bureau of Mines and the Department of Atomic Energy**.
- **Mining and processing** have been performed by the **IREL (India) Limited** (formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding GI tagged **Jardalu Mangoes**

1. This is one of the famous mango variety from Andhra Pradesh
2. It is considered as a safe fruit for diabetic patients and person having digestive problems

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Jardalu Mangoes:

- **Jardalu Mangoes** is grown in the Bhagalpur district of Bihar. It received the Geographical Indications(GI) certification in 2018.
- **The mango is famous** for its exclusive aroma, sweetness and other nutritional properties.

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- **It is rich** in fibre and enzymes that are highly beneficial to the abdominal muscles and digestive system.
- **Moreover**, Jardalu mango is also considered a safe fruit for even those who have been diagnosed with diabetes or have a poor digestive system.

Read more: [GI certified "Jardalu mangoes" from Bihar exported to the UK](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Aravalli range**

1. The Aravalli range is spread across the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.
2. Three major rivers in the range include Banas, Sahibi and Luni
3. Guru Shikhar Peak is the highest peak in Aravalli range

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Recently the Supreme Court of India has refused to stop the demolition of over 10,000 settlements encroaching on forests in the Aravalli range in Haryana's Faridabad district.

About Aravalli range:

- Aravalli Range is the oldest mountain range in India and one of the oldest mountain systems in the world.
- The Aravalli range is spread across the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.
- History:
 - The natural history of the Aravalli Range dates back to times when the Indian Plate was separated from the Eurasian Plate by an ocean.
 - Mining of copper and other metals in the Aravalli range dates back to at least the 5th century BCE, based on carbon dating.
- Rivers: The three major rivers and their tributaries flow from the Aravalli. Namely Banas and Sahibi rivers which are tributaries of Yamuna, as well as Luni River which flows into the Rann of Kutch.
- Highest Peak: Guru Shikhar Peak on Mount Abu is the highest peak in the Aravalli Range (1,722 m).

Read more: [SC refuses to stay the demolition of settlements in "Aravalli range" in Haryana](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **Banana cultivation in India**

1. India is the world's leading exporter of Banana
2. Jalgaon Banana has received Geographical Indications(GI) certification

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, India exported Geographical Indications(GI) certified 'Jalgaon Banana' has been shipped to Dubai.

- **India** is the world's leading producer of bananas, with a share of around 25% in total output.
- **States:** Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh contribute more than 70% of the country's banana production.
- **Export of Banana:** Despite being a leading producer of banana, India's share is just 0.1% in the export market.

Read more: [Jalgaon Banana'](#)

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Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Vehicle Scrappage Policy**

1. Old vehicles will have to pass a fitness test before re-registration
2. Private vehicles that are more than 20 years will be scrapped under the policy.
3. Government commercial vehicles are completely exempted from the Scrappage policy

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: A

Explanation:

- The private vehicles older than 20 years and commercial vehicles older than 15 years, can be scrapped voluntarily. To run these vehicles on the road, a fitness certificate (FC) will be mandatory.
- Automated vehicle fitness centres belong to the government will issue certificates after conducting fitness tests.
- Each fitness certificate is valid for five years. After that vehicle will undergo another fitness test.
- If a vehicle fails the fitness test, the government will not provide renewed Registration Certificates (RC) for those vehicles. As per the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, driving a vehicle without an RC is illegal in India.
- Each vehicle is permitted to have three failures in the fitness test. After that, the vehicle might be forwarded to vehicle scrapping.
- Government commercial vehicles more than 15 years old will be scrapped.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Operation Olivia**

1. The operation aims to protect Olive Ridley turtles when they arrive at the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Operation Olivia** was launched by the Indian Coast Guard in the early 1980s.
- **Purpose:** The operation aims to protect Olive Ridley turtles when they arrive at the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December.
- Indian Coast Guards(ICGs) execute this operation. **As part of the operation, ICGs conducts** round-the-clock surveillance. Assets of Indian Coast Guards such as fast patrol

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vessels, air cushion vessels, interceptor craft, and Dornier aircraft are used in this operation to enforce laws near the rookeries (colony of breeding animals).

Read more: [Operation Olivia](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification(UNCCD)**

1. It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
2. India never hosted the Conference of Parties of UN CCD

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **UNCCD** is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. It was established in 1994. It has 197 parties.
- **Purpose:** It seeks to work towards maintaining and restoring land and soil productivity and mitigating the effects of drought.
- **India had for the first time** hosted the 14th session of the Conference of Parties(COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification(UNCCD) at Greater Noida in 2019.
- **The theme of the Conference** was 'Restore land, Sustain future'.
- **During the conference**, the Delhi Declaration was issued. The declaration called for better access over land and emphasised gender-sensitive transformative projects.

Read more: [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#)

Q.4) "**Bharitalasuchus tapani**" was seen in the news recently. Which of the following correctly explains it?

- a) It is a carnivorous reptile that lived 240 million years ago
- b) It is a new species of coffee plant discovered in the Andaman Islands
- c) It is a new bird species discovered in the Western Ghats
- d) It is a new snake species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Researchers from the Indian Statistical Institute had carried out extensive studies on rocks of the Yerrapalli Formation in Telangana during the mid 20th Century. During that time, they uncovered several fossils. By studying some of these fossils, the team has now provided information on one of the reptiles(**Bharitalasuchus tapani**).

Bharitalasuchus Tapani

- It is a carnivorous reptile that lived 240 million years ago.
 - **In the Telugu language**, Bhari means huge, Tala means head, and Suchus is the name of the Egyptian crocodile-headed deity.

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- **Named after:** The reptile has been named after palaeontologist Tapan Roy Chowdhury. For his contribution to Indian vertebrate palaeontology, and especially his extensive work at Yerrapalli Formation.
- **Genus:** The reptile belonged to a family of extinct reptiles named Erythrosuchidae.
- **Key Features:**
 - Bharitalasuchus Tapani were robust animals with big heads and large teeth, and these probably predated other smaller reptiles.
 - They were approximately the size of an adult male lion and might have been the largest predators in their ecosystems.

Read more: [Bharitalasuchus Tapani](#)

Q.5) Which of the following organisation recently released the **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India**?

- a) The United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD)
- b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- c) The Indian Space Research Organisation
- d) The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

Correct Answer: C

Explanations:

- It has been published by Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad.
- The Atlas provides state-wise area of degraded lands for the time frame 2018-19.
- It was released on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, observed on 17 June.

Source: [ISRO](#)

Q.6) Ghodazari Wildlife Sanctuary recently in news is in which state?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Haryana

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- Ghodazari Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife reserve established in 2018 in the Chandrapur district in Maharashtra.
- The sanctuary is considered a key region on the connecting corridor for the tiger migration between the Tadoba Andhari Tiger reserve and Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Lake:** Ghodazari lake is an important destination for native and migratory birds due to its undisturbed water body and abundance of food.
- **Fauna:** Tigers are the main attraction and reason behind the creation of the sanctuary. Other wildlife mammals and reptiles are also found in the sanctuary.
- **Flora:** The Sanctuary consists mainly of deciduous forest. It has an extensive distribution of teak, aish, Bamboo and other trees.

Source: [Article](#)

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Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the **Parliamentary Privileges**

1. These are the rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively.
2. None of the privileges is mentioned in the Constitution explicitly

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: Parliamentary Privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can “effectively discharge their functions”.

Article 105 of the Constitution expressly mentions two privileges. i.e., **Freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings.**

Apart from these, the **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**, provides for freedom from arrest and detention of members under civil process during the continuance of the meeting of the House or of a committee thereof and forty days before its commencement and forty days after its conclusion.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.2) Which of the following benefits will occur if a language has been included in the **Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?**

1. The language gets recognition from the Sahitya Akademi.
2. The Members of Parliament (MP) and Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) could speak that language in Parliament and State Assemblies, respectively.
3. The central government will provide two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in that language.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Benefits of placing language in 8th schedule:

- **Recognition** from the Sahitya Akademi.
- **Translation** of literary works into other languages.
- **Members of Parliament (MP)** and Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) could speak that language in Parliament and State Assemblies, respectively.
- **Option** to take competitive exams in that language. This includes all-India competitive examinations like the Civil Services exam.

Benefits of Classical language status:

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- **Two major annual international awards** for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages
- A **Centre of Excellence** for studies in Classical Languages is set up
- The University Grants Commission is requested to create, to start with at least in the Central Universities, a certain number of **Professional Chairs for the Classical Languages** so declared.

Read more: [Official Language Status for "Tulu Language" Demanded](#)

Q.3) Global Gender Gap Report is released by:

- a) WEF
- b) IMF
- c) ILO
- d) WB

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- It is released by World Economic Forum (WEF).
- The report is a measure of gender gap on four parameters: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements on the **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act**

1. Unlawful activity refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India.
2. Both the Indian and foreign nationals can be charged under the Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Recently, the Delhi High Court granted bail to student activists in a Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

- It is primarily an anti-terror law – aimed at more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations and for dealing with terrorist activities.
- It was promulgated in 1967 to target secessionist organisations. It is considered to be the predecessor of laws such as the (now repealed) Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) and Prevention of Terrorism Act(POTA).
- The Act assigns absolute power to the central government. It can declare an activity as unlawful, by way of an Official Gazette.
- The act has the death penalty and life imprisonment as the highest punishments.
- Under the act, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if the crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding National Council for Transgender Persons:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairman of the council.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect

- NCTP is a statutory body established under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment is the chairman of the council.

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding The Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules 2021:

1. They allow for both self-regulation by broadcasters and by self-regulating bodies of broadcasters.
2. Programme and advertising code is covered under these rules.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

Both statements are correct

- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Thursday amended the rules regulating Cable TV networks, providing for a “statutory” mechanism for complaints raised by citizens regarding any content broadcast.
- At present, there are over 900 TV channels that are required to comply with the Programme and Advertising Code laid down by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under the Cable Television Network Rules.
- The Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 provides for a three-level grievance redressal mechanism — self-regulation by broadcasters, self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the broadcasters, and oversight by an Inter-Departmental Committee at the level of the Union government.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) has been constituted by FSSAI
3. Diet4Life was initiated by FSSAI to help people understand about metabolic disorders

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: D

Explanation: All statements are correct

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act). FSSAI is an autonomous body. The administrative ministry for FSSAI is the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- "Codex India" the National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) for India, has been constituted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
- FSSAI has initiated "Diet4Life" to help people understand about metabolic disorders. It provides a comprehensive platform to parents, Health care professionals and parent support groups to adopt the right approach towards Inborn Errors of metabolism (IEM) management.
- Read more [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship Amendment Act(CAA)

1. The act applies to tribal areas of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam and Meghalaya
2. Under the Act, the central government may cancel the registration of Overseas Citizenship of India(OCI) card

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, Union Home Ministry invited citizenship applications under the Citizenship Amendment Act. But it faces the Supreme Court challenge. A recent petition filed in the Supreme Court said the government order "utterly discriminates and deprives a class of persons namely, the Muslims".

- The objective of the CAA is to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian — from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.
- Those from these communities who had come to India till December 31, 2014, facing religious persecution in their respective countries, will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.

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- The Act provides that the central government may cancel the registration of OCIs on certain grounds.

Exceptions:

- The Act does not apply to tribal areas of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam and Meghalaya because of being included in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution.
- Also, areas that fall under the Inner Limit notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, will also be outside the Act's purview.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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ART & CULTURE

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Yakshagana:

1. It evolved during Bhakti movement.
2. Performance under Yakshagana spans period from dusk till dawn.
3. Women are not allowed to participate in Yakshagana.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Yakshagana evolved as a dance form during the Bhakti Movement. Narahari Tirtha, a disciple of Madhvacharya, is said to be the first person to introduce Yakshagana in Udupi. He was also the founder of Kuchipudi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A traditional Yakshagana performance spans the period from dusk to dawn. Its stories are drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and other Hindu epics.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In earlier times women were not given the opportunity to participate in this system of tradition. For this reason, men were playing women role. Men used to lengthen hair and learned walking. Today women represent characters.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statement's regarding Humayun's Tomb

1. It is also called the 'dormitory of the Mughals'
2. It was built by Humayun for himself
3. It was the first garden tomb architecture in the Indian subcontinent.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Humayun's Tomb

- This tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent.
- The tomb inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal.
- It was built under the patronage of Humayun's son, the great Emperor Akbar.
- There are more than 150 Mughal family members buried inside the tomb. So, the tomb is also called the '**dormitory of the Mughals**'.
- It is an example of the charbagh (a four quadrant garden with the four rivers of Quranic paradise represented), with pools joined by channels.

Source: [Hindustan Times](#)

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding a Suyamariyathai marriage:

1. It can be conducted without Brahmin priests and Saptapadi.
2. Kerala is the first and the only state to legalise it.

Which of the above statements 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:** Suyamariyathai marriage or self-respect marriage is a wedding which does not consist of Brahmin priests, holy fire, saptapadi (seven steps) and mangalsutra.
 - One of the consequences of the Dravidian movement in Tamil Nadu was the passage of the Hindu Marriage (Tamil Nadu) (Amendment) Act, 1967, which was one of the first legislations passed by C.N. Annadurai upon becoming chief minister in 1967.
 - The amendment removed the requirement that Hindu marriages have to have been conducted in the presence of a Brahmin priest and involve the ceremonies of saptapadi.
 - Under the Amendment, suyamariyathai or “self-respect” marriages could be deemed valid if the couple exchanged rings, garlands, declarations of intent to marry, or by the tying of the thali (necklace), in the presence of friends or relatives.
 - This amendment was widely invoked in inter-caste marriages, free from ceremonies steeped in caste, and has even withstood constitutional challenges.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Tamil Nadu is the only state to legalise suyamariyathai marriages. In 1967, Former Chief Minister Annadurai legalised self-respect marriages in Tamil Nadu and it became an Act in 1968

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MISC

Q.1) Henderson Brooks report sometimes seen in news is related to:

- a) 1st estimation of poverty line
- b) 1984 anti-Sikh riots
- c) Seismic zonation of India
- d) Sino-Indian war of 1962

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- The Henderson Brooks-Bhagat report (or the Henderson Brooks report) is the report of an investigative commission, which conducted an Operations Review of the Indian Army in the Sino-Indian War of 1962.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Operation Brasstacks often seen in news was a:

- a) a humanitarian aid operation conducted in Yemen by doctors-without-borders.
- b) a pan-Indian anti-smuggling exercise to stop illegal export of antique artefacts.
- c) major combined arms military exercise of the Indian Armed Forces in 1986
- d) a global anti-money laundering effort by Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- Operation Brasstacks was a major combined arms military exercise of the Indian Armed Forces in Rajasthan state of India, that took place in 1986 until its execution in 1987.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Great Barrington Declaration sometimes seen in news is related to:

- a) alternative approach to the COVID-19 pandemic
- b) reducing the impact of land degradation
- c) Implementation of Universal Health Coverage
- d) Setting up of Bretton Woods Institutions

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- The Great Barrington Declaration is a statement advocating an alternative approach to the COVID-19 pandemic which involves "Focused Protection" of those most at risk and seeks to avoid or minimize the societal harm of the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Source: [Article](#)

Q4) Which of the following correctly defines the term Fragile five?

- a) group of tropical countries under increased risk from global pandemics
- b) a category of mammalian species under immediate threat of extinction
- c) emerging market economies too dependent on unreliable foreign investment
- d) least developed island nations under risk of submergence due to global warming

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- The Fragile Five is a term coined by a Morgan Stanley financial analyst in 2013 to represent emerging market economies that are too dependent on unreliable foreign investment to finance their growth ambitions.

Source: [Article](#)

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Small Island Developing States (SIDS):

1. It includes both UN and Non-UN member states
2. The geographical regions in which SIDS are limited to Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** are a distinct group of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of UN regional commissions that face unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities.
 - **Maldives** is one of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- **They were recognized** as a distinct group of developing countries in June 1992 at the UN Conference on Environment and Development.
- **The geographical regions** in which SIDS are located are the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the AIS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea).
- **The Barbados Programme** of Action was produced in 1994 in order to assist the SIDS in their sustainable development efforts.
- **The United Nations Office** of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) represent this group of states

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

1. The aim of the organisation is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means
2. The organisation is established based on Washington Treaty
3. It is headquartered in New York.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, the NATO Summit was held recently in Brussels. During the summit, countries agreed to step up their collective defence against threats from all directions.

- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO)** also called North Atlantic Alliance is an intergovernmental military alliance.
- **Formed in:** NATO was formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty.
- **Members:** It consists of 30 countries from North America and Europe.

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- The most recent member state is North Macedonia, included in NATO in 2020.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.
- **The mandate of NATO:** NATO's purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means

Read more: [NATO Summit 2021](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements on Taiwan-China Conflict

1. China considers Taiwan as part of its territory. But Taiwan considers itself a sovereign country.
2. Taiwan accepted the 'one country two system' policy of China.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently China has flown 28 fighter jets towards the self-ruled island of Taiwan. Taiwan has called the Chinese action the largest incursion to date.

- **China and Taiwan** had separated during the China civil war in 1949.
- **However, China** still considers Taiwan as part of its territory to be taken control of by force if necessary. But Taiwan considers itself a sovereign country.
- **The relations between** China and Taiwan started improving in the 1980s.
- **China had put forward** a formula known as "one country, two systems". Under which Taiwan would be given significant autonomy if it accepted Chinese reunification.
 - **This system was established** in Hong Kong to be used as something of a showcase to entice Taiwanese people back to the mainland.
- **However, Taiwan rejected** the offer. But it did relax rules on visits to and investment in China.

Read More: [Taiwan-China conflict and India's stand on it](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF):

1. It was created by UN Security Council (UNSC).
2. UNDEF relies entirely on the voluntary contribution from governments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** UNDEF was created by UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan in 2005 as a United Nations General Trust Fund to support democratization efforts around the world.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** UNDEF subsists entirely on voluntary contributions from Governments; in 2020, it reached almost 210 million dollars in contributions and counts

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more than 45 countries as donors, including many middle- and low-income States in Africa, Asia and Latin America

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the "Children and Digital Dumpsites" report

1. The report provides a link between informal e-waste recycling activities and health outcomes in children.
2. It is released by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The World Health Organization (WHO) in its recent report "Children and Digital Dumpsites" has underlined the risk that children working in informal processing are facing due to discarded electronic devices or e-waste.

Key highlights of the report:

- There are as many as 18 million children (as young as five years) and about 12.9 million women work at these e-waste dumpsites every year.
- The e-waste from high-income countries are getting dumped in the middle- or low-income countries for processing every year.

Source: [Down to Earth](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA):

1. It has consultative status with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
2. It aims to increase society's ability to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older people

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation: Both statements are correct

- The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) is an international nongovernmental organization which was founded in 1997 and has consultative status with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- Acknowledging the diversity of culture, background, and life style of the world population, INPEA aims to increase society's ability, through international collaboration, to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older people in whatever setting it occurs, so that the latter years of life will be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation

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Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the Permanent Court of Arbitration:

1. It has an observer status with UN.
2. It is the only principal organ not located in New York.
3. Its rulings are binding in nature

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** PCA has an observer status with United Nations.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the only principal organ of UN not located in New York.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Its rulings are binding in nature although it has no power to enforce them.
- Read more [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN):

1. The concept of LDN emerged from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).
2. LDN initiative has been enshrined under Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
3. It envisions a world where human activity has a neutral, or even positive, impact on the land.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **All statements are correct:** The concept of LDN emerged from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012. LDN responds to an immediate challenge: intensifying the production of food, fuel and fiber to meet future demand without further degrading our finite land resource base.
- In other words, LDN envisions a world where human activity has a neutral, or even positive, impact on the land.
- The UNCCD Secretariat launched a new initiative: Land Degradation Neutrality, which has been enshrined in the SDGs as target 15.3 on achieving a land degradation neutral world by 2030.

Source: [Article](#)